



HOE VALLEY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Carers

Hopefully this letter finds you and your families both safe and well. The following information is to raise your awareness of two issues that Surrey Police have highlighted as possible areas of increased concern during lockdown.

County Lines

This is a growing form of criminal activity that exists nationally and regionally across Surrey. It is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs from urban areas into rural areas. The leaders of these gangs are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults, often without them realising it, to move (and store) drugs and money. They use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons. Whilst in lockdown children may be more susceptible to being groomed and coerced as they could be less supervised when online, on their phones or out exercising.

If you have any concerns about a young person or have any information regarding County Lines contact Surrey Police on 101.

For more detailed information, including possible signs of involvement please access the link below.

The Children's Society - children's charity

www.childrensociety.org.uk/what-is-county-lines

Neighbourhood Watch - Voluntary crime prevention movement

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/crime-prevention/reducing-risk-toolkits/youth-isolation-toolkit/youth-isolation-0>

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is threatening behaviour or violent acts carried out by one person towards another in romantic or family relationships. It can take many forms, but may involve one or more of the following:

- Physical abuse - the use of violence or the threat of it towards someone.
- Sexual abuse - forcing someone to have sex or making them carry out sex acts they don't want to do.
- Emotional abuse - repeated controlling behaviour, threats or nasty comments towards someone.

- Financial abuse - control over someone's property or how they use their money.

Further details of these and other types of domestic abuse can be found on the [Surrey Against Domestic Abuse](#) website. Apart from worries about the virus, money and job security, there are likely to be rising tensions in some families having to live on top of one another at home.

For some, this will prove more challenging than for others. Should you need any support the following helplines and organisations can be of assistance:

24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline: [0808 2000 247](tel:08082000247)

Your Sanctuary: [01483 776822](tel:01483776822)

Surrey Domestic Abuse Services: [01483 898884](tel:01483898884)

The Hideout

<http://thehideout.org.uk/>

National Centre for Domestic Abuse

<https://www.ncdv.org.uk/>

Support for potential perpetrators

The Respect Phone line is a confidential helpline, email and web chat service for perpetrators of domestic violence looking for help to stop. They help male and female perpetrators, in heterosexual or same-sex relationships. Partners or ex-partners of perpetrators, as well as concerned friends and family and Frontline Workers are welcome to get in touch for information, advice and support. They can be contacted on [0808 8024040](tel:08088024040)

It is free from landlines and mobile phones within the UK and your call will not appear on itemised bills. You can also call free from BT pay phones.

Please look out for yourselves and others during this difficult time and should you feel that things are not right always ask for help - there is plenty out there.

Stay safe



Ms S Borra

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