

County Council Update
from County Councillor Anne Wight
March 2018

Freight Strategy Consultation

The next phase of the Freight Strategy Consultation will run from 26 February until 9 April, 2018. Please encourage as many residents as possible to participate, as their contributions and viewpoints are essential to ensuring that Bucks County Council and Transport for Bucks gets this strategy right to create the best possible outcome for our residents.

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/mgConsultationDisplay.aspx?ID=6356>

Dagnall Roundabout

Phil Lain has confirmed that the arrows are meant to be installed on Dagnall Roundabout next week.

Temporary Traffic Lights on Lower Icknield Way, Marsworth

Starting on 5 March, 2018 works will begin to replace the expired traffic signal equipment on Canal Bridge, Lower Icknield Way in Marsworth. These works should be finished by 23 March, 2018. A day time road closure is anticipated from 9:30 am – 15:30 between 12th March until 23rd March in order to provide safe working space due to the width of the road and bridge. There will be a diversion route in place, and there will be advanced notice road signs warning drivers of the closure to be placed, as well as letters and email to the relevant parish councils and district councilors.

Safe in Bucks Consultation

A short consultation questionnaire from our Communities Cabinet Member, Noel Brown, can be found on the link below and will help us evaluate your priorities for making Buckinghamshire a safer place to live. Please let us know your views!

<https://www.research.net/r/safeinbucks>

Next Local Area Forum Meeting

Due to adverse weather conditions last week, the LAF had to be postponed. It will now be held at 7 pm on 19 March at Mentmore Village Hall.

National CSE Awareness Day - helping to keep children safe from exploitation

Pledge your support and know the signs of abuse to help keep all children safe against child sexual exploitation – that's the call from Buckinghamshire's Safeguarding Children Board to mark National CSE Awareness day on Sunday 18 March.

National CSE Awareness day aims to highlight the issue of child sexual exploitation by

encouraging everyone to think about, spot the signs and speak out against all forms of child exploitation and abuse.

You can show your support for the national campaign via social media by writing a personal pledge on your hand, taking a photo and posting it to your facebook, twitter, instagram or other social media account using the hashtags #HelpingHands and #CSEDay18. Search the hashtags to see examples.

Child sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse that happens when a child or young person is tricked or forced into doing something sexual in return for things like attention, money, drugs, gifts or alcohol. It is illegal, although young people might not always see it that way, because they are groomed and manipulated by their abusers. Over time, abusers can manipulate a child to do things they think they are enjoying or things they are ashamed of. By the time the child realises there is something wrong, they can feel trapped and be too frightened or ashamed to tell anyone.

Safeguarding Board partners are running an information stall at Friars Square shopping centre in Aylesbury on Monday 12 March between 3pm and 5pm to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation, giving the public advice on how to spot warning signs and how to report concerns about a child.

Fran Gosling-Thomas, Chair of Buckinghamshire's Safeguarding Children Board said: "We are pleased to support this very important campaign in Buckinghamshire. Grooming and sexual exploitation can happen to any child or young person, both in real-life face to face situations and online, with online grooming playing an increasingly large part in exploitation. The safeguarding of our children and young people in Buckinghamshire is everyone's responsibility, and it is essential that people stay alert to the signs of child sexual exploitation so that we can all play our part in helping to keep children safe."

A parent of a Buckinghamshire child affected by child sexual exploitation is urging people to ensure they are well-informed: "Several years ago, my child was a victim of abuse through child sexual exploitation. In 2018, this abuse is still happening, in Bucks.

"In the time it's taken me to write these words, how many children across Buckinghamshire are being directly affected by this form of abuse? It's all our communities' responsibility to educate themselves, understand the process of grooming and where we see it occurring, report it so a child does not have to suffer a moment longer. These children could be anyone's child. Mine, yours, a family member, your child's best friend from school, anyone.

"Child Sexual Exploitation isn't going to go away by itself – we have to act and work together to make it go away. All our children deserve a future free from abuse or exploitation. Only working together as a whole community can we make that happen."

Warren Whyte, Buckinghamshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Children's Services, says the National Awareness Day is an ideal opportunity for people to show their support and understand more about child exploitation in order to help others: "It can be very difficult for children and young people affected by CSE to recognise what has happened to them. It's crucial that we are all aware of the warning signs of child sexual exploitation - the more we all understand, the better we are able to protect children.

"Our message is simple: if you see something that doesn't seem right, say something. Contact our Children's Social Care team, or talk to someone about it. It may be nothing but it may also save a child from becoming a victim of exploitation.

"Tackling child sexual exploitation remains a priority for the County Council - we pledge that we will listen to you, we will support you and we will act."

Buckinghamshire's Safeguarding Children Board is a collaboration of agencies who work with children and young people in the county, and includes Buckinghamshire County Council, the four district councils, Thames Valley Police, Barnardo's R U Safe, and health organisations. Together, they run a partnership CSE awareness campaign, 'RUWise2it?' which provides parents and the public with information on how to spot the signs of exploitation and how to report concerns. Visit www.RUWise2it.co.uk to find out more.

Find out more about National CSE Awareness Day at www.stop-cse.org

How to get help or report a concern:

If you are concerned about a young person you can contact the First Response Team (Children's Social Care) on 0845 460 0001 or 01296 383962 or email: secure-cypfirstresponse@buckscc.qcsx.gov.uk

If you think a child or young person is in immediate danger call 999. Alternatively contact your local police on 101 who will have a dedicated team you can talk to about child sexual exploitation.

Buckinghamshire also has a countywide 'R-U-Safe?' service for young people run by Barnardo's, which is able to offer advice and support to any young person worried about these issues. Email: rusafe@barnardos.org.uk, text 07546 075 638 or visit www.barnardos.org.uk/rusafebucks

ChildLine also offers support directly to children and young people – contact them on 0800 1111 or visit their website www.childline.org.uk