Children can’t always tell someone if they are being abused or neglected.

But you can.

ACT ON YOUR CONCERNS.
If it is an emergency, call 999.
If you’re worried, or need advice, call Social Work on 01383 441177 or out of office hours call 03451 55 00 99.

But I don’t think I have any proof?.....
Don’t wait until you’re certain.
Don’t think “it’s none of my business”.

What will happen next?
When you contact a professional about your concern, unless the child is in immediate danger, they will make some initial enquiries before taking action. They will check whether the child is known and what information is held.
All information will be treated seriously and acted upon. This may lead to immediate action or a more planned response.

www.fifechildprotection.org.uk
The 2B Heard! Young People’s Group

‘2B Heard!’ is Fife’s young people’s group for looked after children and care leavers. The group holds regular meetings which provide a platform for the voices of young people to be heard on things that are important to them and their peers. The members hope that they can influence positive change in the services and agencies that support children and young people who experience care. The group has been assured by members of the Corporate Parent Board that their views will be listened to and acted upon.

The group meet weekly, early evening at the Argos Centre in Kirkcaldy. Their discussions and activities are broad but currently they are focusing on ‘what being in care should look like’, in preparation for a large Corporate Parenting Board event taking place in June. These discussions will be linked to a media project which will involve them in the production of a short film. This film will highlight what it is like for children and young people who have been in the care system.

Group meetings are relaxed and informal with the focus on being creative in how their views are expressed. The group are also looking forward to future projects such as working on the possible creation of a secure web page where other Looked After children and young people can have a virtual platform from which to express their views. They will also be looking at how children and young people can express their thoughts on the plans which are in place for them.

The group are very keen to expand membership and as such would invite any child or young person, carer or worker, who reads this to contact their development worker Kerri Yorkston at: kerry.yorkston@fife.gov.uk or call: 01592 583251 to find out more about the group, how to join it or if you know of a young person aged 14 to 21 years who might be interested. Kerri is more than happy to meet to discuss the group in more detail.

GenerationZ.eu

GenerationZ.eu is a European Commission funded blog for young people that tackles problems arising from growing up in a connected world.

Generation Z is the term used to describe the “connected generation” - the first generation to have grown up entirely in a world connected by the World Wide Web, social networking and instant messaging.

The latest blog post focuses on internet Filters, cyberbullying legislation and online extortion. You can keep up to date with the blog on Facebook, Twitter and Google.

A new portal with internet safety advice for parents has been launched on 13 May by the four biggest Internet Service Providers in the UK - BT, Sky, Virgin and TalkTalk as part of the Government’s push on the use of parental controls in the home.

Internet Matters offers advice and practical information to parents either by issue (cyberbullying, grooming, privacy and so on), type of technology (social media, mobile, gaming etc) or by age.
Fife Council’s Foster for Fife campaign: I do. We do. Could you foster for Fife? aims to reach out to people from all walks of life who all have one thing in common - they care about Fife’s children.

There are a number of materials available for partner organisations, foster carers, colleagues and the media to download to help support the campaign and spread the word. These are all available at: www.fifedirect.org.uk/forsterforfife.

Branded pens, badges and DVDs of our foster carers talking about fostering are also available on request. Pop up stands can be booked for displays.

Please get in touch if you think you can help support the campaign in some way, distributing postcards and posters in your local area, talking to people about fostering, contributing case studies, being the face of the next stage of the campaign, taking part in drop in sessions/events or a different way of reaching out to people.

Service manager Rae Ormiston said: “We are hopeful that the campaign will raise awareness of the need for more foster carers in Fife. Our existing carers have been hugely supportive of the campaign and several have been involved at all stages of its development. This is really important as they are our strongest ambassadors and we want to attract more people like them.”

Contact: clare.horisk@fife.gov.uk for more information.

Private Fostering

Private fostering is the term used when a parent places a child under school leaving age in the care of someone else who is not a close relative or officially approved foster carer for a period of more than 28 days.

If you think that you might be, or are soon to be, a private foster carer, or if you are a parent who intends to place your child in someone else’s care, by law you must inform Fife Council. They will then make the necessary enquiries for the child’s wellbeing and can provide advice and support to help you make the right choices or provision for the child. They will also advise you how they will proceed.

To contact Fife Council about private fostering arrangements call 03451 55 55 55 ext 470699 or email: sw.familyplacementduty@fife.gov.uk
Stop it Now

www.stopitnow.org.uk/scotland.htm is the national programme for the prevention of child sexual abuse. In Scotland the project is funded by the Scottish Government’s National Strategy for Survivors of Childhood Abuse (Survivor Scotland).

The site www.parentsprotect.co.uk is a useful resource of information, guidance and resources. Its online learning programme enables you to work through the issues at your own pace and aims to give you the information you need about child sexual abuse.

Call the Stop it Now! free, confidential helpline (0808 1000 900) for advice, support and information or email: help@stopitnow.org.uk

Child Rescue Alert

Child Rescue Alert is a system designed to alert the public, as quickly as possible, to an abduction or other high risk child disappearance. An Alert can be sent directly to individuals – for example by text message (SMS) - and reach many more people through broadcast media such as television and digital billboards.

Child Rescue Alert is the responsibility of CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) and is managed in partnership with the charity Missing People. When a child goes missing in the UK, anyone who has subscribed to the free service will be alerted, increasing the chances of a safe return of the child and/or the opportunity to identify and apprehend the perpetrator.

To register your details, visit:
http://cra.azurewebsites.net/register/index

LGBT Youth Scotland, in partnership with the Fife Cultural Trust and Kirkland High School have produced a short 7 minute film titled ‘Silence helps Homophobia’. The film is available at:

www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/shh

MindEd.org.uk is an online e-learning resource providing simple, clear guidance on children and young people’s mental health, wellbeing and development to any adult working with children, young people and families.

Child Poverty

More needs to be done to help children from the poorest families do well at school, according to a new report.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) said the attainment gap remained "persistent and significant". The report is available at:

Cyberbullying

The Anti-Bullying Alliance and Childnet International have created new guidance for teachers and other professionals around cyberbullying and children and young people with SEN and disabilities. For more information visit: www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk
**Child Assessment Pathway**

During the last year a multi-agency working group has been meeting to develop a pathway which supports both single and multi-agency early interventions where a child has been identified as requiring support. This work has been fully supported by both the Getting It Right Working Group and the Child Protection Committee. The group, chaired by Dougie Dunlop, Head of Service, Child & Family Social Work Service, have developed a Child Assessment Pathway which includes guidance and associated tools for use within both NHS Fife and Education Services. These tools include materials to support the assessment of risk by Named Persons.

The group recognised that early identification of both needs and risks, and where necessary, early intervention through a Getting It Right approach, is central to any developments. They further acknowledged that risk assessments are an integral feature of any intervention to ensure that positive outcomes are achieved for vulnerable children and young people. Given this, the group took full account of the National Risk Framework to Support the Assessment of Children and Young People published in November 2012 (Scottish Government, 2012). This Child Assessment Pathway and Guidance paper is the outcome. The Pathway outlines a Getting It Right approach to addressing unmet need and identified risks where Named Persons identify or receive information that would indicate concerns around a child or young person. The approach is further supplemented by agreed single agency Risk Assessment Tools which are available to Education and Health staff.

The pathway is set firmly within the context of GIRFEC and SHANARRI focussing on early intervention and assists broader assessments relating to the needs, risks and strengths pertaining to a child ie: from initial concern through to any child protection issues being identified. The pathway was piloted in 3 pathfinder areas across Fife and understanding of and use of the pathway was evaluated. This work has informed the finalised guidance and documentation. The multi-agency group has agreed to roll out the pathway incrementally across Fife whilst continuing to evaluate in pathfinder areas. It is hoped that the pathway will be fully rolled out by Autumn 2014. If you wish further information on the guidance and documentation this is available on the Child Protection Committee website: www.fifechildprotection.org.uk. Click on the 'Information and Advice for Practitioners’ link.

**Wednesday After School Group**

Barnardo’s CAPSM (Children Affected By Parental Substance Misuse) supports children (0-12) and their families throughout Fife where there are current or past substance misuse issues. This team is funded by Fife ADP to intensively support families to look at reduction in the impact of parental substance misuse alongside improved parenting, improved relationships, improved confidence and resilience and access to support services.

Recently the CAPSM team have started a Wednesday After School Group for all the children currently supported by the service and for those who may want continued support once the intensive service has exited from the family. The group provides a consistent approach weekly for children where activities are provided to give them life skills, coping strategies and new experiences. Art, Gardening, Outdoor Play and Yoga are amongst the weekly activities as well as the very popular snack time which gives the children time to catch up with each other as they start to form friendships within the group.

Currently the children attending are 7-10 years old and the group runs during term time, and may also include tailored holiday sessions should this be a gap in provision for the children who are attending. The children are transported by the team from all areas of Fife to attend in Glenrothes each week. The weekly approach is the same and with a consistent staff team which allows the children to feel safe in a familiar environment each week. This is often the basic item missing for children where substance misuse has impacted on their childhood, where each day is different and unpredictable. For further information regarding the CAPSM service please get in touch with Barnardo’s on 01592 265294.
**Child Sexual Exploitation: A Cause for Concern**

The sexual exploitation of children and young people is often a hidden form of child sexual abuse, with distinctive elements of exploitation and exchange. The sexual exploitation of children and young people under eighteen might involve exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people might be coerced, manipulated, forced or deceived into performing and/or others, performing on them, sexual activities in exchange for receiving some form of material goods or other entity (for example, food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, gifts, affection).

Child sexual exploitation can occur through use of technology without the child’s immediate recognition, for example, being persuaded to post sexual images on the internet or through mobile phones without immediate exchange of goods, money or gain. In all cases those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being mainly characterised by the child or young person’s limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

In some cases, the sexual activity may just take place between one young person and the perpetrator (whether an adult or a peer). In other situations a young person may be passed for sex between two or more perpetrators or may be subject to organised exploitation (often by criminal gangs or organised groups).

During the next two years the Child Protection Committee will be actively working on a number of areas related to child sexual exploitation, in the context of child sexual abuse. A Working Group has been set up by the Child Protection Committee and will in the first instance be looking at the scale of this in Fife and what activity all partners are currently undertaking to support children and young people who are or may be exploited. In addition the Child Protection Committee’s annual conference, to be held in November, will focus on this key area. Further information about our work on this, and the conference will be made available in due course.

Pleasure vs. Profit is a set of resources challenging porn culture and providing the facts about the industry behind the images. It explains how sexualisation and pornography affect young people in Scotland.

The website: zerotolerance.org.uk/pleasurevsprofit includes a short film which exposes how the porn industry manipulates young people’s natural curiosity about sex, and in doing so jeopardises their ability to explore their sexuality in a healthy way and at their own pace.

The website also includes an information pack, developed by the Women’s Support Project with support from Zero Tolerance, which provides ideas on how to challenge 'porn culture'. To order a DVD of the film and information pack email: info@zerotolerance.org.uk

**Childnet Film Competition**

The Childnet film competition is open for young people between the ages of 7-16 to create short films with online safety messages for their peers and specifically around what a better internet means to them. Find out more information at: www.childnet.com/resources/film-competition/2014 including posters and competition packs. Closing date is 20 June.
Pleasure vs. Profit is a set of resources facts about the industry behind the images. It explains how sexualisation and Kirkcaldy High School won the prestigious COSLA Chairman’s Award for an innovative teenage pregnancy initiative. The school introduced a regular sexual health drop-in service, delivered by the school nurse team, which engages with local specialist services to provide counselling, and emergency and long lasting contraceptive support. Young people’s longer term attitudes to sexual health have also been addressed through a hard hitting and intensive sex and relationships education programme. This scheme is effectively reducing teenage pregnancy and improving sexual health, resulting in a 40% reduction in the under 16 pregnancy rate across the school’s catchment area.

Police Scotland internet safety film

A Police Scotland You Tube film raises awareness amongst young people to consider carefully what they post and share through their social media platforms. Search YouTube for ‘See teenagers react to their private posts being made public.’

Mental Health Selfies

Sam Carvalho, who runs free advice website ‘Stand up and stay strong’ is calling for young people to send in pictures of themselves holding up pieces of paper inscribed with the mental health conditions that have affected them or someone close to them. Any pictures which are sent in as part of Sam’s Big Mental Health Project will be made into a video and released on social media via his website. Visit: www.standupstaystrong.com/project/ for more information.

High school wins top award

Kirkcaldy High School won the prestigious COSLA Chairman’s Award for an innovative teenage pregnancy initiative. The school introduced a regular sexual health drop-in service, delivered by the school nurse team, which engages with local specialist services to provide counselling, and emergency and long lasting contraceptive support. Young people’s longer term attitudes to sexual health have also been addressed through a hard hitting and intensive sex and relationships education programme. This scheme is effectively reducing teenage pregnancy and improving sexual health, resulting in a 40% reduction in the under 16 pregnancy rate across the school’s catchment area.

How would you change the internet?

The European Commission are gathering ideas from young people about how to make the internet better. The site: https://tricider.com/en/brainstorming/1TTZ5?wicket:pageMapName=wicket-0 is for young people to post ideas, debate them, and vote for the most important issues. The proponents of the most voted ideas will be invited to present them to policy makers and industry in November at the Safer Internet Forum in Brussels. The deadline for ideas is 1st June.
Anonymity Apps

Some new messaging apps such as Whisper, Secret, Confide and Yik Yak now give people different spaces to share secrets anonymously online.

Just as a Sat Nav uses Global Positioning System (GPS) data to locate where you are in your car, these apps use the same data, the time from your smartphone, to identify your physical location and share anonymous posts from people who are nearby (typically within a 5 mile radius) or to show you anonymous ‘secrets’ from your friends list.

This makes the service all the more unique to each person which might attract some younger users. What started out as apps for American college campuses to share inside jokes has moved to high schools, where the apps have been used for cyberbullying or sexual harassment.

As with other anonymous messaging services such as Ask.fm, the new apps highlight similar risks around seeing posts or receiving replies which contain harmful or harassing content.

Advice on online bullying can be found at:
- www.bullying.co.uk/cyberbulling
- www.childline.org.uk/bullying

Training

Child Protection training continues to be well subscribed with many of the courses available holding a waiting list. In order to ensure that we provide as many people as possible with the opportunity to participate in training we would ask all agencies and services to ensure that where staff are unable to attend that they cancel their attendance as soon as possible by phoning us on 01592 583251 or email: fife.childprotection@fife.gov.uk

A recent evaluation of training demonstrated that participants found all the training to be positive and valuable to their day to day working practices. The comments provided through our evaluation forms reflected this:

‘Good trainers, good materials, good case studies, good resources. Thanks!’

‘It has been good to meet other professionals from different agencies and to hear their opinion’

‘Really well presented - the day went very quickly’

Training information is available on our website:
www.fifechildprotection.org.uk
Click on the ‘Inter-agency Child Protection Training Courses’ link and click ‘Inter-agency Training Courses currently available.’