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10 June 2025

Dear Headteacher,

## Child exploitation and online harm video resources

Education plays a critical role in early intervention and crime prevention, and as the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley, I am committed to supporting schools in crime prevention awareness and building long-term trust between young people, their communities, and policing.

I will shortly be sharing my Education Strategy with you, which aims to achieve a consistent and informed approach to youth engagement by Thames Valley Police with the support of my office. In advance of that I am pleased to share some current activity - two short videos that have been commissioned by the Violence Prevention Partnership (VPP) which sits within my portfolio:

- Child Exploitation (opens in YouTube)
- Online Harm (opens in YouTube)

You will be aware of the prevalence of crimes affecting young people across the country including child exploitation and online harm and it is the VPP's mission to prevent these events from occurring by educating parents, carers and those working with young people.

The videos have been prepared using subject matter experts and the lived experience of victims. They have been funded through the Violence Prevention Partnership and compliment awareness training the VPP offer for professionals and those working with young people.

Whilst the videos are relevant to anyone working with young people, they have been designed to be Thames Valley generic and primarily aimed at parents and carers of school aged children.

I would be grateful if you were able to circulate these links to parents and teachers through your existing school communication channels. We will be sharing the videos more widely to Thames Valley residents through the media and our online communication channels in mid-June.

I hope you will agree that the videos are an excellent platform to raise awareness in the community and can offer guidance to parents and carers who may have concerns about their children or young people in their care.

In addition, I would like to take the opportunity to remind you of the free <u>Stay True to You</u> resources developed by the VPP last year. Stay True to You is an evidence led approach, available for any parents and adults working with young people, supporting positive conversations and helping young people make their own, good choices.

If you have any queries about the videos or other resources, or would like further information on the training offered by the Violence Prevention Partnership, please email Christopher.ward@thamesvalley.police.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Barber

Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley