

VSH Update

Season's greetings from Pearson Publishing!

December 2017

“ Welcome to the December edition of the **VSH Update**. This month sees the release of two new CPD resources that help Virtual School teams provide safeguarding and pastoral support to the young people in their care. ”

Rachel Maton, Editor

New release: **Understanding Street Gangs**

We have just released *Understanding Street Gangs*, a short course helping adults working with children understand gang culture, exploitation and child sexual exploitation (CSE). This course gives staff an insight into the world of gangs, allowing them to support and protect young people and spot the warning signs that a young person is at risk.

Understanding Street Gangs covers the language gangs use, the structure of gangs, the activities they partake in and warning indicators to look out for. It gives advice about safeguarding procedures and resources to help identify young people at risk. It also provides links to useful websites and reading material.

Understanding Street Gangs is now part of your *CPD Library*. For more information, visit www.pearson.co.uk/understanding-street-gangs.



Anti-bullying publications continue to grow



Recently we have released several new resources to *MyLibrary* about bullying. These are now complemented by *Beat Bullying*, a CPD course suitable for Virtual School teams, teachers, carers and adults working with children. It helps them understand why and how bullying occurs, and how to effectively discuss bullying issues with children.

Beat Bullying also contains 14 poems, stories and plays that adults can use with children to help them think about bullying. Many children who are unwilling to discuss their situation may identify with fictional characters, and these resources can stimulate discussion about how you should respond to bullies, how anyone can be the victim of bullying and the problem with ignoring when others are being bullied.

Beat Bullying provides examples of how these resources can be used, in groups or individually, and each one can be downloaded and distributed among your young people.

Beat Bullying is available as part of the *CPD Library*. For more information, visit www.pearson.co.uk/beat-bullying.



CreativeMe: Call for submissions

After a huge success last year, we are once again calling for submissions for the *CreativeMe* competition, which was launched in October. *CreativeMe* is an exciting writing competition celebrating the creativity of all children and young people in care. Entrants can submit poems and short stories on any theme or topic, and winning entries will be published in an interactive anthology available through **nimbl**. Winners will receive a book token and certificate.

If you're a Virtual School Head, simply download the **poster**, add your email address in the space provided and distribute to your young people. Once you start receiving competition entries, forward them to Hannah at h.rose@pearson.co.uk.

Last year *CreativeMe* had a great response, with 50 entries from Virtual Schools all over the country. The 14 runners up were published in the Creative Voices anthology, and the awards ceremony in conjunction with Coram Voice was hosted by *Doctor Who* star Peter Capaldi.

See www.pearson.co.uk/creative-voices for more information about last year's anthology and to see a preview. It is also available to download for free on the **App Store** and **Google Play**.



A growing community

Virtual schools now using *MyLibrary*:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| • Barking & Dagenham | • Dudley | • Merton | • Staffordshire |
| • Barnet | • Durham | • Middlesbrough | • Stockport |
| • Bexley | • East Riding | • Milton Keynes | • Suffolk |
| • Birmingham | • East Sussex | • Newham | • Surrey |
| • Bournemouth | • Gateshead | • Norfolk | • Sutton |
| • Bracknell Forest | • Gloucestershire | • North Lincolnshire | • Tameside |
| • Brent | • Greenwich | • Northumberland | • Telford & Wrekin |
| • Brighton & Hove | • Hackney | • Oldham | • Thurrock |
| • Bromley | • Hammersmith & Fulham | • Oxfordshire | • Torbay |
| • Buckinghamshire | • Hampshire | • Pembrokeshire | • Tower Hamlets |
| • Cambridgeshire | • Harrow | • Peterborough | • Wakefield |
| • Camden | • Havering | • Plymouth | • Walsall |
| • Cardiff | • Herefordshire | • Poole | • Waltham Forest |
| • Central Bedfordshire | • Hillingdon | • Portsmouth | • Wandsworth |
| • Cheshire East | • Hounslow | • Reading | • West Berkshire |
| • Cheshire West & Chester | • Isle of Wight | • Rochdale | • Westminster |
| • City of London | • Islington | • Sandwell | • West Sussex |
| • Cornwall | • Kensington & Chelsea | • Sheffield | • Wiltshire |
| • Coventry | • Kent | • Slough | • Windsor & Maidenhead |
| • Croydon | • Kingston upon Hull | • Solihull | • Wokingham |
| • Cumbria | • Lambeth | • Somerset | • Worcestershire |
| • Darlington | • Lancashire | • Southampton | |
| • Derby City | • Leicester City | • Southend | <i>New additions</i> |
| • Doncaster | • Lewisham | • Southwark | • Isle of Wight |
| • Dorset | • Luton | • St Helens | |

Find out more

Contact Jacquie at Pearson Publishing to make an order, request a brochure or arrange a free visit from us. You can also find out more at: www.pearson.co.uk/virtual-schools.

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