

# Learner Newsletter

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### SAFEGUARDING: COUNTY LINES

County Lines is a form of criminal exploitation where urban criminal gangs force children/ young people to store and transport drugs or money to more suburban, rural or coastal towns. It's against the law and is a form of child abuse. It happens in all parts of the UK, including Wales.

Urban gangs use dedicated mobile burner phones or deal phones. Each phone may be used for sending bulk text messages offering a particular special deal to addicts. Once orders are placed by addicts, dealers are sent to make the delivery and collect the cash.

It's attractive to children/ young people due to the money, clothes or status this may confer, but many people get coerced into it against their will. This may include vulnerable young people who may be homeless, in the care system, or drug users. Modern slavery, human trafficking and sexual exploitation also play a part in County Lines.

County Lines gangs work through a system of loyalty, violence and fear and the gangs embed a trusted member in their target town who oversees the shipment of drugs.

Gangs sometimes take over a house or flat of a drug addict as a base for their operations.

The National Crime Agency estimates there are around 100 or more so called County Line networks trafficking drugs into Wales and sending the money back to gang leaders in areas such as London, Birmingham, and Liverpool.

During 2020, over 100 people have been arrested in Cardiff alone. Signs that a young person /child may be involved in drugs and County Lines include: Change in appearance, including bad hygiene, new friends, extra money, clothes, arrogant behaviour, and self harm, going missing from school, and staying away overnight and at weekends.

Having a second phone or a burner phone and receiving an excessive number of texts/calls.

For more information visit the website: <https://county-lines.co.uk/>. To report any incident or concern anonymously contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. If anyone has any safeguarding issues, then please contact one of our Safeguarding team by email, and then we will call you back:

Karen Smith: email: [karen@cadcentreuk.com](mailto:karen@cadcentreuk.com)

Linda Thomas: email: [linda.thomas@cadcentreuk.wales](mailto:linda.thomas@cadcentreuk.wales)

## WELSH CULTURE

**1st May** - 1st May-May Day is an ancient spring festival, traditionally celebrated with maypole dancing.

**3rd May** - Bank Holiday

**6th May** - **Don't forget to Vote in the Senedd elections on 6th May. Make your voice heard.**

**14th May- DYLAN DAY**-A new annual day of celebration in the name of Wales' most famous literary son, Dylan Thomas. It marks the date Under Milk Wood was first read on stage at The Poetry Centre in New York in 1953

**15th May-Tafwyl 2021 Online**-Normally Cardiff Castle is the venue for this event, but for 2021 events will take place online.

**26th May-6th June-Hay Digital 2021**- The Hay Festival goes online for 2021. Attending Hay Festival Digital 2021 online is completely free and couldn't be easier .

**29th May-HowTheLightGetsIn online**-The world's largest philosophy and music festival, HowTheLightGetsIn, has gone digital.

**If you're out and about in May, check out the Wales Coast Path. 870 miles of coastal paths and see heritage site, churches, castles. See Visit Wales website for virtual tours.**

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

### Covid-19 - Lateral Flow Testing

The return to face-to-face learning has now started, but will be prioritised with assessment, tests, vulnerable learners and essential visits first. Our delivery method will be a blended learning approach with a mixture of remote and face-to-face visits.

Lateral Flow test kits have been given to the assessors and have to be carried out twice a week so the assessors can continue visiting their learners in the workplace.

Assessors will also request any health & safety documentation, including your Covid-19 Risk Assessment that is required prior to the assessor visiting your workplace. If you have any questions, then please contact your assessor.

**BLODAU**

“Blo-die”

**FLOWERS**



**WELSH WORD OF THE MONTH**

**NORTH WALES: 01248 670039**

**SOUTH WALES: 0808 2000 129**



## Merthyr Tydfil's remarkable turnaround from 'Covid Capital of the UK'

At the very start of the second peak in November 2020, Merthyr Tydfil held the unwanted title of 'Covid Capital of the UK'.

But worse was to come. At its peak, a week before Christmas, Merthyr Tydfil recorded a whopping 1,349 cases per 100,000 which led to record numbers of people taking up hospital beds with the virus.

In an interview on December 30, 2020, Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board's medical director, Dr Nick Lyons, said intensive care capacity across the region's three hospitals was full, leading to some patients being transferred to other units across south Wales.

Compounding the problem was severe staff shortages, with as many as 12% of all Cwm Taf employees absent either due to self-isolation, contracting the virus themselves, or having other illnesses.

Even the Ysbyty'r Seren field hospital, based in Bridgend, was "very close" to being unable to take on new patients due to staffing problems.

"The goodwill and the amazing commitment of our staff giving up their holidays, their leave, and coming back for extra shifts has enabled us to continue to deliver care as we would want to," said Dr Lyons at the time.

"I'm constantly inspired, awed, and humbled by our staff. Touring the sites over the Christmas holiday I've seen tears, I've seen people overwhelmed by the size of the task, but above all I've seen the commitment to their patients and to each other. They have gone beyond what's reasonable to ask of them."

As the weeks progressed, Merthyr Tydfil began to experience a significant drop-off in infection rates thanks to a new lockdown and the beginning of the vaccine roll-out.

Fast forward a few weeks and the county is now recording only 3.3 cases per 100,000 population. That's the lowest rate in Wales ahead of areas like Ceredigion (5.5), Pembrokeshire (4) and Conwy (3.4) which have avoided the worst of the crisis.

### NOTABLE DATES

**1st May– May Day. Ancient Spring festival.**

**3rd May– Bank Holiday**

**[6th May-Don't forget to Vote in the Senedd elections on 6th May. Make your voice heard.](#)**

**16th May-National Children's Day in the UK. All about a healthy childhood and protecting the rights and freedoms of children.**

**19th May-National Numeracy Day. Annual celebration of the importance of numbers, to promote the improvement in numeracy skills.**

**20th May-World Bee Day. To raise awareness of how important bees are in pollinating, and their contribution to sustainable development.**

**31st May-Spring Bank Holiday**

## National Sun Awareness Week

### 3rd May to 9th May 2021

Raising awareness of the dangers of excessive sun exposure and how to avoid sunburn and skin cancers.

Sunshine is not all bad – it helps the body produce vitamin D which is important for helping your kid's bones to grow and stay strong, as well as helping to prevent osteoporosis later in life. While sunburn may be unpleasant and uncomfortable, it can also lead to skin cancer.

Sun Awareness week is held each May in the UK.

Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the UK and rates have been climbing since the 1960s. Sun damage which starts in childhood can lead to skin cancer later in life.

Sun Awareness Week is supported by the British Association of Dermatologists (BAD) and the British Skin Foundation (BSF) and aims to get the message out about skin protection to prevent skin cancer happening.

Here are BAD's tips for protecting yourself in the sun.

### Sun Protection Tips

1. Spend time in the shade during the sunniest part of the day when the sun is at its strongest, which is usually between 11am and 3pm in the summer months
2. Avoid direct sun exposure for babies and very young children.
3. When it is not possible to stay out of the sun, keeping yourself well covered, with a hat, T-shirt, and sunglasses can give you additional protection.
4. Apply sunscreen liberally to exposed areas of skin. Re-apply every two hours and straight after swimming or towelling in order to maintain protection.

So there you have it – keep covered up, stay out of the sun at the hottest time of day and don't be stingy with the sun cream!

### MULTI FAITH

**1st May-May Day**

**2nd May-Pascha/Easter-Christian (orthodox)**-Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

**8th May-LAILAT-UL-QADR [Shi'a] THE NIGHT OF POWER** -This commemorates the night in 610 CE when the Prophet Muhammad received his first visit from the angel Jibril.

**9th-15th May-Christian Aid Week**

**12th May-End of Ramadan-Muslim**

**13th May-Ascension Day (40th day after Easter)-Christian**

**23rd May-Pentecost-Christian**

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