

RNN Group | Safeguarding Newsletter

| DECEMBER | 2021

Hate crime

'Any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic.'

There are five centrally monitored strands of hate crime:

- race or ethnicity
- o religion or beliefs
- sexual orientation
- disability
- o transgender identity

For more information watch a short video clip, be warned it isn't pleasant viewing Hate crime - nationwide campaign



 $124,\!091$ hate crimes were recorded by the police in England and Wales

9% increase compared with the previous year - racially motivated hate crime increased by 12%

Increases in police recorded hate crime driven by improvements in crime recording, certain trigger events and raised public awareness

Types of offences:

52% of recorded hate crimes were for public order offences;

40% for violence against the person offences;

5% criminal damage/arson offence



Reporting a hate crime

You can report a hate crime online or call 101 to speak to the police.

Call 999 if you're reporting a crime that's in progress or if someone is in immediate danger. Report online here

If you do not feel comfortable reporting directly to the police, there are organisations who can make a report of hate crime on your behalf.

Witnesses, as well as victims, can report a hate crime. https://hatecrime.campaign.gov.uk/



It's not just offensive, it's an offence!

Advice to help you understand the risks and support your child if they've been sending, sharing or receiving nude images.

What do we mean by sharing nudes and semi-nudes?

Sharing nudes is when someone sends a naked or semi-naked image or video to another person. Sharing nudes is sometimes called 'sexting', however this term is often used by young people to talk about sharing sexual messages and not imagery.

Young people can send nudes using phones, tablets and laptops and can share them across any app, site or game, including during a livestream. It could include sharing them across devices using offline services like Airdrop or Bluetooth.

Why do young people share nude images or videos?(Tab content expanded)(Tab content expanded)(Tab content expanded)

Reasons why children and young people may send nude or semi-nude images or videos to someone include: Peer pressure, being blackmailed, harassed or threatened, being groomed or coercion, to increase their self-esteem, to explore or prove their sexuality, feeling like they 'owe' their boyfriend or girlfriend and being made to feel guilty if they don't, being in a relationship with someone and fully trusting them, they're in a long distance or online relationship and want to have sexual relationship, as a dare or joke.

For more advice and guidance visit www.nspcc.org.uk



The death of Conservative MP Sir David Amess, who was stabbed multiple time in October, led to the Counter Terrorism Police arresting a 25-year-old male. Incidents like this are a reminder of the importance of reporting anything suspicious. If you've seen or heard something that could potentially be related to terrorism, trust your instincts and report it. Your actions could save lives. It only takes a moment to make a report online – follow this link Report online now

In an emergency, or if you need urgent police assistance, you should always dial 999.

You can also report suspicious activity by contacting the police in confidence on 0800 789 321.

For information about the types of behaviours that need reporting visit the ACT FAQ's

How to access support

The Safeguarding Team is made up of a number of people from Student Support, Additional Learning Support and the Progress Tutor teams, for more information on who is available on your site and up to date information please visit the Safeguarding section on the college websites.

Members of the Safeguarding team can be contacted via <u>safeguarding@rnngroup.ac.uk</u>, by speaking to a Progress Tutor/ Tutor or visiting reception.

Spiking

Traditionally 'Spiking' is a term that refers to somebody adding something to your drink (such as alcohol, drugs or both) without that person being aware. Almost 200 drink spiking incidents have been reported to police forces across the UK over the past two months, the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) said on Friday (22nd October). The NPCC said there have been 198 confirmed reports of drink spiking in September and October across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, plus 24 reports of some form of injection Any reports of 'Spiking' is concerning and in addition to the traditional reports of 'Drink Spiking' (which is by far the most common form of 'spiking') we are hearing of reports of people being 'spiked by injection'.

What is drink spiking?

Drink spiking is when someone has added something, for example, alcohol or drugs, to your drink, without you knowing. This may affect the way you act or how you behave. Drink spiking is illegal, even if the person affected is not attacked or assaulted. It can result in a prison sentence of up to 10 years for anyone found guilty of doing this.

Why would someone spike my drink?

There are many reasons; the most common are:

- amusement (for a laugh)
- theft
- rape or sexual assault.

What symptoms will I have if my drink is spiked?

This will depend on:

- the type and amount of drug or alcohol used
- how much alcohol you have had to drink
- if you are taking medication (drugs)
- your body size and age.

Symptoms can develop within 5 - 20 minutes and last for up to 12 hours. The drugs used often make you feel sleepy, weak and reduce your ability to defend yourself. You may not be aware of what is going on around you or what is happening to you.

Common symptoms include:

- dizziness
- difficulty in walking
- confusion, especially the next day or after waking up
- nausea (feeling sick) or vomiting (being sick)
- hallucinations (seeing things which are not there)
- tiredness
- visual problems, for example, blurred vision
- paranoia (a feeling of fear or distrust of others)
- amnesia (loss of memory) especially about things that have happened recently.

High doses of some drugs used to spike drinks can cause problems with your muscles, a coma (a very deep unnatural sleep) and death.

Will I be able to tell if my drink is spiked?

It is hard to tell if your drink has been spiked. The drugs are usually tasteless, odourless (no smell) and have no colour so you would not usually know. What should I do if I think my drink has been spiked?

If you begin to feel drunk after having only a small amount or no alcohol, or you think your drink may have been spiked, you should:

- get help from a friend you trust, a relative or a senior member of staff if you are in a club or pub
- go to a place of safety as soon as possible; but only go home with someone you totally trust. If you are with people you do not know, contact a trusted friend or relative to come and take you home and look after you. If you start to feel very sleepy, vomit or have hallucinations, you should visit your GP or local Accident and Emergency Department immediately.

You should also contact the police as drink spiking is illegal. The police may ask for a sample of your blood or urine to test, to find out if drugs have been used. It is important you are tested as soon as possible if you think your drink was spiked as most drugs leave your body within 12 - 72 hours.

How can I try to prevent my drink from being spiked?

You should:

- not leave your drink unattended and keep an eye on friends' drinks
- drink from a bottle rather than a glass if you can. It is more difficult to spike a drink in a bottle; keep your thumb over the opening.
- keep your drink in your hand at all times
- never accept a drink from someone who you do not know or trust
- not share, swap or drink any left over drinks

For more information visit - https://www.talktofrank.com/news/spiking