# CDOP Briefing Paper 8: May 2017

This paper captures points of interest that have arisen via communications from within the National CDOP Network since our last CDOP meeting:

# Nappy Sack Stakeholder Event – 3 April 2017 – BEIS London

There have been 16 reported child deaths in the UK to date that have been linked to Nappy Sacks and in West Sussex there has been one case recorded where a Nappy Sack was regarded as a significant factor, if not the actual cause of the death. Derbyshire CDOP have experienced 3 deaths of babies due to Nappy Sacks and have been working closely with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA), the British Retail Consortium (BRC) and Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to try and raise awareness amongst manufacturers and retailers of these products and identify ways in which risks can be reduced and future deaths prevented. On 3 April 2017 a Stakeholder meeting was held in London which was attended by over 20 representatives from the industry, including retailers, a parent who had experienced a loss due to a Nappy Sack and Trading Standards. CDOPs were represented by the Chair of the Derbyshire CDOP and the CDOP Officer from West Sussex. The meeting explored the way in which the product is manufactured and packaged, consumer requirements, costs of production, warnings on products and national guidance on standards. The main outcomes of this meeting were: an agreement that further research was required, that there should be clearer and consistent warnings on products and there was a commitment from the group that a Code of Practice would be developed and introduced for the production of Nappy Sacks in the future.

Point of interest: There have been no recorded deaths of children associated with Nappy Sacks in the rest of Europe, this is an emerging issue in the UK only. Apparently the reason for this is because Nappy Sacks simply aren’t used elsewhere in Europe.

# The Blue Whale Challenge

On 30 March 2017 an email was sent out by Pan Berkshire CDOP to all Southern Region CDOPs, informing the network about a serious self-harming “game” that had been supposedly led to a large number of suicides in Russia and France. It was also claimed that there had already been recorded suicides here in the UK, related to the Blue Whale challenge website, particularly in the South.

Further research with colleagues across the southern CDOP network has raised doubt now about the truth of these claims as no CDOPs have recorded any deaths connected to this site.

There is a strong body of evidence that suicide, particularly amongst younger people, can be contagious, and just hearing that this sort of challenge may exist could encourage some young people to seek it out, or look for something similar.  The advice from our Lead Officer for the West Sussex suicide prevention steering group is to NOT instigate any proactive communications about this, at this time.  The Lead has also spoken with the SE Public Health Lead for suicide prevention and she in turn has contacted the National Lead and Thames Valley Police to discuss a clear response for local areas.  There is still some uncertainty about the level of truth in this challenge and what effect, if any, it has actually had.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Wednesday 1st November 2017**

**Surrey, Sussex and Kent CDOP Learning Event (incl Brighton and Hove and Medway)**

**Venue: East Surrey Hospital, Post Graduate Lecture Theatre**

Aim: For Surrey, Sussex and Kent CDOP’s to explore ways of how we can work better together, learn from each other and look at the way forward with the upcoming changes to CDOP nationally.

Proposed outline for the day includes:

   Dr Peter Sidebotham - The National Picture

   Dr Tim Fookes - Care pathways across Surrey, Sussex and Kent

   Presentation on Public Health Data across Surrey, Sussex and Kent.

   Individual CDOPs sharing good practice

Numbers restricted to 15 members per CDOP

Cost: £10 per person

**Registration link will be sent in August 2017.**

Maggie Pugh, CDOP Officer

May 2017