

Welcome to the first edition of the Safeguarding Bulletin as Initio Learning Trust. At Initio Learning Trust, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility and our top priority. Anyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play. This termly Safeguarding bulletin provides information on any recent safeguarding news as well as providing you with key details around a range of safeguarding issues.

## Parental Conflict

### What is it?

Disagreements in relationships are totally normal and not necessarily problematic when resolved constructively. However, when parents are entrenched in conflict that is frequent, intense and poorly resolved it is likely to have a negative impact on the parents and their children. This impact is serious and can have lifelong implications for children just in the same way that domestic abuse can too. Constructive or destructive conflict is about disagreeing. How and if they can work out a way to find resolution is what shapes the health of a relationship. It's normal in a healthy relationship to argue.

Harmful parental conflict is a pattern of damaging behaviour that can include:

- Shouting and aggressive arguments
- Not speaking to each other regularly or for long periods
- Being disrespectful
- Letting issues linger rather than sorting things out.

Causes of parental conflict can be due to financial strain, housing issues, health difficulties, work issues, custody and substance misuse.

Parental conflict should not be confused with domestic abuse which is an incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence, in the majority of cases by a partner or ex-partner, but also by a family member or carer.

### How parental conflict impacts on children

Evidence shows that frequent, intense and poorly resolved conflict between parents can place children at risk of:

- negative outcomes, even when parents sustain a positive parent-child relationship
- having problems with school and learning.
- Negative peer relationships
- Physical health problems

Mental health and wellbeing challenges.

This short video from the Early Intervention Foundation explains about the [impact of parental conflict on children](#)



### Further Reading

**Gov.uk** – advise on what is parental conflict.

See it Differently – has produced digital content to support parents and carers work through different conflict scenarios – [find out more.](#)

**Cafcass resources and support for parents and carers**

*Children can readjust well to parents separating. It is the conflict that harms*

## Vaping among teens

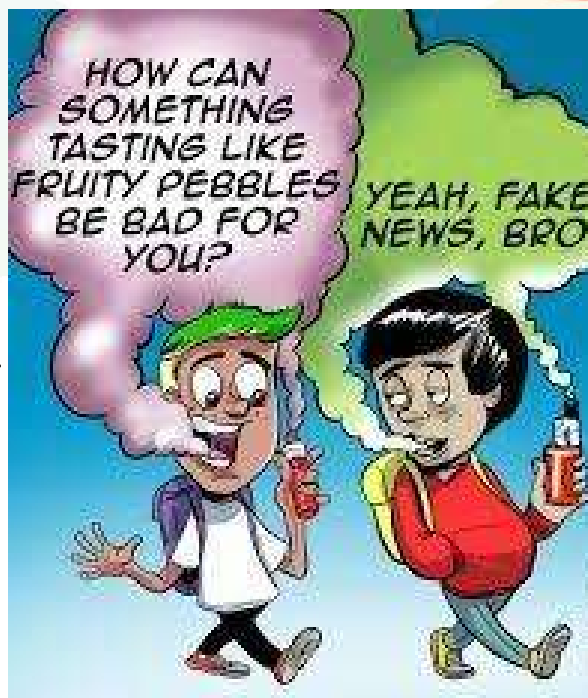
E-cigarettes or 'Vapes' are increasingly popular among teenagers who have never been smokers.

It has been reported that children as young as 10 have accessed illegal and unregulated vaping products, despite the laws in the UK preventing those under 18 from buying these products.

It is estimated that 1 in 10 teens are currently vaping, there are concerns about the health implications. Whilst vaping is considered by many to be substantially less harmful than smoking it is not without significant risk. E-cigarettes have not been around long enough to know the risks of long-term use.

Doctors have said that children are being targeted by e-cigarette firms, with bright packaging, exotic flavours and enticing names.

The government has launched a call for evidence to identify opportunities to reduce the number of children accessing and using vapes.



[FYI investigates – Kids who Vape 20 minute video](#)



FYI is the BAFTA award winning weekly news show for young people from Sky Kids

### Further Reading

[Youth vaping: call for evidence.](#)

[Use of e-cigarettes among young people in Great Britain](#)

[Ash.org](#)



## Online Safety



### The Dark Web Explained - Think UK Now

Take a look at this five-minute video from the National Crime Agency which explains what the dark web actual is. The video has been created in collaboration with the children's Society and has been developed with professionals in mind, and is not suitable for youth viewing.

[The Dark Web Explained](#)

A professional's fact sheet can also be accessed [here](#).



*We would welcome any feedback on our safeguarding bulletin, please email any comments to Kelly Overhill – Trust Safeguarding officer*

[koverhill@initiolearning.org](mailto:koverhill@initiolearning.org)