

Think Family: Tackling Exploitation and Modern Slavery

ELFT staff from all across London, Bedfordshire and Luton came together on 31 January at ELFT's 'Think Family' Safeguarding Conference in Bethnal Green to share learning about Safeguarding both adults and children.

Modern Slavery

A speaker from the charity Unseen UK spoke about modern slavery. The term Modern Slavery encompasses slavery, servitude, human trafficking to exploit someone, and forced or compulsory labour. The speaker spoke about who can be a victim, what methods of control can be used on a victim, what questions to ask potential victims and when to call the Unseen Helpline. She stressed that healthcare staff were in a unique position to identify potential victims of modern slavery and suggested questions to ask to gain a clearer understanding.

County Lines

A speaker from Empower, Safer London, spoke about County Lines explaining how young people and vulnerable adults can be easily drawn into selling drugs and being exploited by sophisticated criminals. County lines involves a gang usually made of young men from a large urban area travelling to smaller locations (such as a county town) to sell Class A drugs. Violence is used to establish and secure the drug line and to remove competition.

Staff also had an opportunity to attend workshops on Female Genital Mutilation, Prevent, Domestic Abuse and Thinking Family around Parental Substance Misuse. Feedback from staff was that it was a useful and stimulating day which has increased their knowledge and equipped them to watch out for signs of exploitation.