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**•             Hoax E-mails to schools**

You may be aware of recent bomb hoax emails being sent to a large number of schools in the UK. These emails are suspected to have been sent by an online group calling themselves Apophis Squad.  It is suspected that this group is also linked to other cyber activity, including Ransomware and DDOS attacks.

Due to educational establishments being the target of the bomb hoax campaign, we would like you to be extra vigilant when dealing with emails. Please DO NOT open emails if you are unsure about the source, and also DO NOT open attachments within emails, unless you are sure it comes from a trusted source.

It would assist us to know if you have been, or suspect you have been, contacted by Apophis Squad in any form. Where possible, it would benefit our investigation to capture evidence from victims that have confirmed infections, including relevant logs and statements where necessary.  We ask that in the first instance any contact or infections are reported to Action Fraud (www.actionfraud.police.uk<http://www.actionfraud.police.uk>) referencing this Alert.

Please notify your local police on 101.

Teenager arrested over schools hoax bomb threats

17 May 2018 – National Crime Agency

A teenager has been arrested over hoax bomb threats sent to thousands of schools.

The 18-year-old is the third teenager to be arrested over a recent spate of malicious communications sent to schools in the UK and US.

He was arrested on suspicion of making threats to kill, blackmail and malicious communications.

National Crime Agency officers arrested the suspect yesterday at the home he shares with his family in Andover, Hampshire.

NCA senior investigating officer Marc Horsfall said: “The series of bomb threats caused huge worry and inconvenience to thousands of innocent people.

“Anyone thinking that law enforcement doesn’t take such offences very seriously should really think again.

<http://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/crime-threats/cyber-crime/cyber-crime-preventing-young-people-from-getting-involved>

Cyber Security Challenge UK has developed a working partnership with the NCA to produce free teaching resources to help parents and teachers across the UK to raise awareness of the issue of cyber crime amongst young people.

<https://www.cybersecuritychallenge.org.uk/education/schools/parents>

**•             Upcoming Events**

National Alcohol & Drugs Education Conference 2018

Thurs 21st June 2018 - Liverpool John Moores University

Evidence-based best practice in alcohol and drugs education: empowering young people to make healthy choices in the classroom and beyond.

A day for professionals to hear from leading experts on the latest research on alcohol and drugs prevention, attend a choice of workshops on evidence-based programmes and receive planning and evaluation advice for effective PSHE.

On 21st June 2018 two charities, The Alcohol Education Trust and Mentor, are bringing together a group of experts to showcase evidence-based and effective good practice that can be used in education and youth settings across the UK for alcohol and drugs education and prevention.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/national-alcohol-drugs-education-conference-2018-tickets-42321982188>

Halton Young People’s Safeguarding Conference 2018

Tuesday 26th June 2018

9.30am – 3.30pm

The Bridge Suite, Select Security Stadium, Widnes

HSCB are pleased to invite you to attend the first Halton Young People’s Safeguarding Conference.  This event is one whereby young people from Halton are hosting a day where they present to professionals on areas that are pertinent to them about safeguarding.  This is an excellent opportunity to hear what affects young people, directly from the young people themselves.

Places are limited and can be secured via the training booking service on the training page of the Halton Safeguarding Children Board website:  <http://haltonsafeguarding.co.uk/training/>

Nicola Noon

Safeguarding Children in Education Officer

Children’s Safeguarding & Quality Assurance Unit / iCART

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**•             Community Awards 2018 - Entries are now open!**

These annual awards celebrate best practice in diversionary work and champion work in the community that challenges and changes people for the better – be it with children; women; mental health programmes or restorative approaches.  The awards recognise projects and organisations whose work and practice is delivered above and beyond normal service delivery.

The award categories include:

•         Women                                   •         Policing and adults

•         Policing and children              •         Restorative Approaches

•         Liaison and diversion             •         Residential care

•         Criminal Justice Champion    •         Organisation of the year

We want to hear about outstanding diversionary schemes working up and down the country.  Do you know of any projects which you think we should be considering?

Further information can be found at [www.howardleague.org/community-awards/](http://www.howardleague.org/community-awards/)  Deadline for the awards is Tuesday 24 July 2018.

**•             Cheshire Youth Commission – Get Involved**

Youth Commission are currently recruiting young people to join the Cheshire Youth Commission on Police and Crime – an exciting initiative partnership with the Police and Crime Commissioner, David Keane.

The Cheshire Youth Commission allows young people to support, challenge and inform the work of the Police & Crime Commissioner and Cheshire

The Youth Commission is aimed at young people who live in Cheshire, Warrington and Halton aged 14-25 years who want to make a difference to their community.

They are looking for a diverse group of young people from different backgrounds and life experiences to take part, including those who have direct experience of the criminal justice system.

You can download the application documents from the link below:

<https://www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/what-im-doing/get-involved/cheshire-youth-commission/>

Please contact this address with any queries or email your application forms back by 20th July 2018 to

[ali@leaders-unlocked.org](mailto:ali@leaders-unlocked.org)

Thank you for taking the time to read this bulletin, which I hope you have found useful.

Amy

**PC 3262 Amy Fletcher  Police Youth Engagement Co-ordinator**

Safer Schools and Young Persons Partnership

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