NOTES

Shetland Public Protection Committee

NHS Shetland

POLICE SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe

CONTACT NUMBERS

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PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT AND YOU

Questions and answers for children and young people

On *7th November 2020*, the law on physical punishment is going to change.

From that date, physical punishment will be against the law in Scotland.

What is physical punishment?

Physical punishment has lots of meanings. It can mean smacking, skelping, slapping and pinching. But there isn't a set list.

What's happening on 7th November 2020?

On 7 November 2020, the law on physical punishment is going to change. From that date, physical punishment will be against the law in Scotland. " Law" just means rules. It's a special name for rules for a country. This law change means that physical punishment won't be allowed in Scotland.

Is this about all physical punishment?

Yes, it's about all physical punishment. Physical punishment has lots of meanings. But from 7 November, none of it will be allowed

Why is the change happening?

Physical punishment isn't good for you. So this is about making you safe and happy. Lots of people have already stopped using physical punishment, so the change is actually already happening!.

Who decided to make this change?

In Scotland, changes to the law are made by the Scottish Parliament. The Scottish Parliament has 129 members. It's their job to talk about the law, and they decide if they want to make changes to the law. So, the Scottish Parliament agreed to this change in the law.

Do I need to do anything?

These questions and answers are just to let you know about this change. The change is all about you. So we wanted to let you know about it.

Who can I talk to about this?

If you're worried, it can be good to talk. You can talk to an adult that you trust. That person might be a teacher, or a nurse or police officer. Or you can call Childline for free on 0800 1111.