

### **More than 2500 calls to ChildLine from Norfolk last year**

The NSPCC is asking local people to support its ChildLine service after the latest figures show that 2600 landline calls were received from children and young people in Norfolk last year.

Calls from landlines only represent a quarter of the actual number of calls ChildLine receives nationally. The majority of calls are made using mobile phones but the charity is unable to record them by geographical area. ChildLine also runs an online service that has more than 100,000 users nationally.

In addition to calls from children and young people themselves, the NSPCC also runs a helpline for adults where they are concerned about the welfare of a child. Last year, the NSPCC made 297 referrals to the police and social services in Norfolk as a direct result of these calls. Following the release of these figures, the charity is urging local people to get involved and volunteer some time to help raise much needed funds.

Local fundraising manager, Christian Morris, said: "We all like to think that the abuse and neglect is something that doesn't happen in our local towns and villages but sadly these figures show that our services are needed. ChildLine is here for every child 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year. We have some wonderful supporters fundraising for us in this region and we hope more people will read this and offer to help us make a real difference to vulnerable local children."

The top reasons for children calling Childline last year included problems with family relationships, bullying, physical abuse and sexual abuse.

Christian Morris, continued: "Our volunteers are at the heart of our fundraising events and we are always looking for more supporters, whether it is helping at an existing event or developing a new fundraising opportunity with friends and forming a new local NSPCC support group.

