

Press Release



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ONLINE NANNY LOTTERY PUTS CHILDREN AT RISK

Matching parents with nannies at the click of a button is compromising children's safety, according to the Association of Nanny Agencies (ANA).

Over the last year there has been a sharp rise in the number of online nanny directories springing up on the internet, offering parents and nannies free and easy access to childcare databases.

Belinda Hay, Chairman of ANA, said: "It may seem like a cheap and convenient way for busy parents to find childcare but often matches are made according to proximity of postcode between the parent and childcare provider. There are no face-to-face meetings and often very few checks are done to verify the childcare providers' experience, qualifications, references or suitability for the families in question.

"Choosing a nanny for your child is one of the most important decisions you'll ever make. It can't be done safely at the click of a button.

"At ANA we are committed to driving up safeguarding standards by establishing a professional code of conduct for all nanny agencies. We also work with leading child protection bodies to make sure our procedures continue to set the standard for the industry.

"If parents are looking for a nanny or nanny agency, they can rest assured that an ANA-approved agency meets the highest standards of professional childcare excellence. ANA membership is proof that the agency is reputable and committed to delivering quality childcare services. This includes a commitment to thoroughly vetting every nanny on its books through face-to-face meetings and rigorous reference and paperwork checks including CRB checks. ANA members also comply with legal, insurance and data protection responsibilities."

The growing ANA network enables members to freely share good practice and remain up-to-date on regulations and legislation through regular meetings and correspondence. ANA is also now planning to improve its new members' services by providing more accessible support and information and by introducing more member benefits including discounted insurance and legal services.

To find out more, visit ANA at www.anauk.org.

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