



**Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Board**

**On Line Safety Strategy**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Author/s</b>	<b>Amendments</b>	<b>Signed off by</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Review Date</b>
1.	Karen Barden Acting Head of Child Protection		DSCB 10/03/2017	28/02/2017	
2.	Karen Barden Acting Head of Child Protection			11/03/17	28/03/2020

## On Line Safety Strategy

### 1. Introduction

1.1 Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Board takes its statutory role seriously to ensure that all member agencies co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. This strategy links with other activities carried out on behalf of the DSCB in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Neglect.

1.2 Whilst the growth of the internet, social networking and electronic technologies generally opens up a world of exciting opportunities for many children and young people with access to information, and social networking offered by increasingly mobile platforms that are simple to use it also offers risks and challenges to children and young people the likes of which have never been faced before. Although many children and young people are very competent in using such technologies, children, young people, their parents and carers should have as much knowledge as they can on the risks to help them to better be protected. Parents and carers require guidance and support and should not feel penalised for trying to protect their children.

1.3 Virtually all children and young people will have some form of access to the internet and may access it from as early as 3 or 4 years old. Patterns of use of the internet are continually changing as both new technologies and new ways of using it emerge. Children and young people are at ease with and confident in their use of technology and may have considerably more skill and knowledge than their parents, teachers or any of the other adults in their lives. Children and young people, however, can be at greater risk and be less aware of how to stay safe on line than adults. Specific risks include:

- Children and young people being groomed online (including by both adults pretending to be young people and other young people) with the aim of exploiting them sexually
- Inappropriate (e.g. threatening or abusive) images of children and young people being uploaded, distributed and traded on photo and video sharing websites
- Children and young people may readily access inappropriate websites and images online, either intentionally or accidentally
- Images of an intimate nature being sent to others (known as sexting) and being circulated to a wider group
- Children and young people being bullied via social networking sites and messaging services
- Encouragement of harmful behaviours e.g. by pro-anorexia and self-harm social media contacts and websites
- Gang culture may have an online component, where threats of violence and control may be posted on line
- Children and young people acquiring potentially harmful substances online e.g. New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), commonly known as legal highs
- Radicalisation of children and young people to become involved in violent extremist ideologies through the internet and social media
- Children and young people being vulnerable to economic exploitation

1.4 Available data shows the rapid growth of electronic internet based media and communications with the potential for children and young people to be exposed to an ever increasing pressure to be 'online' with adverse impacts on their social and emotional wellbeing.

1.5 This Strategy focuses on how the DSCB will ensure that children and young people stay safe online. Appropriate use of electronic communication by staff is covered by other protocols and procedures and agencies are expected to have appropriate or acceptable use policies in place for their employees, volunteers and anyone else having contact with children and young people.

## **2. Vision**

2.1. Through the delivery of this strategy the DSCB aims to ensure that:

- Children and those who care for them in Derbyshire are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to safeguard themselves online and avoid causing harm to others and will know where to go to for help if they have concerns.
- Adults who work with children in Derbyshire are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to safeguard children in their online activity.
- Work with children across agencies reflects the growing prominence of the virtual world in children and their family's lives
- There is a shared, demonstrable understanding of the rights, responsibilities and expectations of all concerned in keeping children safe online.
- Those who work with and care for children and children themselves are aware of the additional online risks and vulnerabilities associated with child exploitation and trafficking, and radicalisation, and are aware of how to identify the signs and prevention activities.

2.2 Parents and carers also need to be equipped to help young people stay safe online by:

- Learning about the safe use of technologies;
- Recognising and managing the potential risks associated with online activities;
- Behaving responsibly online;
- Knowing whom to go to with concerns

## **3. Principles**

3.1 This strategy acknowledges that advances in technology should be welcomed and celebrated, and that children and those who care for them are a valuable source of knowledge and insight into the potential benefits, risks and responses.

3.2 The following principles underpin the strategy and all agencies will need to operate within them:

- The safety and welfare of the child is paramount
- Children should be safeguarded in virtual communities as robustly as they are in real communities
- All DSCB member agencies have a responsibility to contribute to the safety of children
- There should be a focus on education, prevention and disruption
- Work is more effective when delivered in partnership with children, parents, families and carers
- Safeguarding is supported by collaboration and communication between agencies

#### 4 **Risks**

4.1 The risks to children and young people are various and include but are not limited to:

##### Content (child/young person as recipient)

- Commercial (adverts, spam, sponsorship, personal information)
- Aggressive (violent/hateful content)
- Sexual (pornographic or unwelcome sexual content)
- Values (bias, racism, misleading information or advice)

##### Contact (child/young person as participant)

- Commercial (tracking, harvesting personal information)
- Aggressive (being bullied, harassed or stalked)
- Sexual (meeting strangers, being groomed)
- Values (self-harm, unwelcome persuasions)

##### Conduct (child/young person as actor)

- Commercial (illegal downloading, hacking, gambling, financial scams, terrorism)
- Aggressive (bullying or harassing another)
- Sexual (creating and uploading inappropriate material)
- Values (providing misleading information or advice)

4.2 This strategy provides the Online Safety framework for member agencies and partners to work with children and young people, together with their parents or carers, in order that they can be safe when online or using technologies.

4.3 Being safe online is not simply a matter of technology and its use, therefore this strategy, supporting procedures and guidance encourages a comprehensive approach to on line

safety. This works alongside the programme of education which develops and sustains safe on-line behaviour or children and their families.

## **5. Strategic Aims**

5.1 The aim of this document is to create a basis on which children and young people have the knowledge and support to work with a safe electronic environment where they can learn, explore, socialise and enjoy themselves.

5.2 The key focus of the strategy is to meet the needs of children and young people in Derbyshire. It is essential that all agencies safeguard children and young people online and support them by promoting safe and responsible online behaviours from the earliest point and work to empower children to manage online risks. Agencies should involve parents and carers to understand and use the support and advice available to them

5.3 Some groups of children and young people are considered more vulnerable to harm than others. This may include children in care, children from families facing multiple disadvantage, disabled children, children with special educational needs and disabilities, young offenders and children growing up in deprived areas. Children who are not in education, children isolated, including unaccompanied asylum seekers. It is important that we recognise this vulnerability of particular groups of children and target support to help reduce these risks.

5.4 This support could be provided within universal settings or through more specialist services. Unfortunately, some children and young people will be harmed online and it is important that we respond to this need so that they are able to receive appropriate and timely support in response to this whether it is for the short or long term.

5.5 Three key strands of our strategy are based on the national strategy: Prevention, Protection and Prosecution and Diversion as outlined below: under which support and education to children and young people and their carers is fundamental:

### **Prevention**

- Raising the awareness of children and young people about the online risks and how they can protect themselves and behave responsibly towards others.
- Raising the awareness of all staff, paid and unpaid, working with children and young people about what online safety is and how they can support children and young people to protect themselves
- Helping parents and carers in their responsibility to monitor support and protect children and young people
- Supporting partner agencies and the wider voluntary and community sector engaging and working with children and young people to develop online safety policies and skills

- Harness the knowledge of young people in developing strategies and responding to new developments of online opportunities and behaviour.

### Protection

- Building online safety skills within the workforce involved in work with children and young people
- Encouraging the use of filtering software to protect children and young people and help minimise risk of exposure from inappropriate content.
- Ensure that policy and procedure keeps pace with development in both technology and software to access the internet
- Supporting children and young people who may be especially vulnerable to online exploitation
- Signposting to advice and training where staff and carers have to deal with an online safety issue
- Providing appropriate assessment and intervention programmes for young people and adults who have been involved in online behaviour which poses a risk to others and may involve criminal offences

### Prosecution and Diversion

- Actively pursue offenders of online abuse of children and young people, including disruption activity, consistent with the Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy (locally, nationally and internationally)
- Encourage a proportionate response and provide education and advice as necessary for children and young people who circulate self-taken images through social media or other routes
- Respond appropriately to children and young people conducting online abuse against other young people, having regard that some may be both victims and perpetrators of online abuse
- Respond to safeguarding concerns and protect children's and young people from potential online risks by means of accessing social media platforms in order to adequately assess risk

## 5.6 Partnerships

5.6.1 Effective safeguarding of young people requires a partnership approach. Both Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Boards have e-safety action plans in place and agencies should ensure that they comply with expectations of those plans. To ensure that young people are safe from online abuse and exploitation agencies need to work together to:

- Identify e-safety leads within their organisation or setting;
- Ensure that an up to date e-safety strategy/policy is in place;
- Ensure that there is an awareness of risks posed to young people on line;

- Ensure that technological measures to protect young people are in place (e.g. filtering software) whilst recognising the limits of these actions as technology develops (e.g. increasing availability of low cost 4G smartphones and tablets);
- Contribute to future strategy development and action planning, as technology and associated behaviours change over time.

5.6.2 In addition some agencies have specific roles and responsibilities to protect young people online.

- Schools should equip young people to stay safe online and develop an awareness of the risks
- to have a policy framework and knowledge within the staff group to respond to issues as they arise
- Local Authority Children's Services – to respond in high risk situations where young people need to be protected
- Police – to prosecute perpetrators of abuse where appropriate
- Youth Offending Service – to assess and intervene with young perpetrators of online abuse where the behaviour is high risk or criminal
- Probation Service – to assess and intervene with adult perpetrators of online abuse where the behaviour is criminal
- Public Health – to promote safe and healthy lifestyles
- Health Service – to promote healthy lifestyles and to respond to e-safety issues where young people need protecting

## **6 Monitoring and Reporting**

6.1 The Safeguarding Board will have an up to date Action Plan outlining the specific tasks being undertaken to ensure that the strategy is being implemented effectively. Progress against the Action Plan will be reported to the Board at least six monthly. Barriers to the implementation of the Action Plan should be escalated to the Board for resolution. The Board should explore ways in which on line safety can be identified, quantified and incorporated into Board performance and quality systems

## **7 Needs analysis**

7.1 As far back as 2008 the major issues were set out in the 2008 report 'Safer children in a digital world' by Dr Tania Byron, which recognised that although children and their parents enjoyed their use of the internet children were worried about the following things:

- That they might come across something rude or scary
- They might experiences unwelcome contact from other users including cyber bullying
- How others, including siblings behaved online
- Parents' worried about things like:
- They did not always understand how to use the technology or how to manage the technology as well as, or better than their children

- Parents and teachers regard inappropriate contact on the internet as one of the online risks for children
- The time children were spending online including online gaming

## 7.2 More Recent data

The Ofcom report on internet safety measures cited the following:

*“In May 2015, the London Grid for Learning published its report: Young people and e-safety: The results of the 2015 London Grid for Learning e-safety survey<sup>16</sup>, based on an online survey of children in years three to nine who used the internet”.* Some key findings were:

- Among online 7-year-olds, 44% said they had their own device for going online, rising to 80% of online 15-year-olds.
- Four in ten (39%) online 7-16s said that they parents did not know what they did online “always” or “most of the time”.
- Six in ten (59%) online 7-16s said they used social media sites. Girls (30%) were more likely than boys (17%) to use them, while boys were more likely than girls to say they used YouTube (34% vs. 24%).
- One in five of the sample (22%) said they had been bullied online, and one in ten said they had bullied others. Boys were more likely than girls to say they had bullied others (14% vs. 10%), and the games console or mobile were the devices most likely to be used for bullying.
- Eight per cent of online 12 year olds, and 15% of online young people aged 14 said they played 18+ games. Boys were twice as likely as girls to say they did this.
- Sixteen per cent of the sample said they had seen things online that had made them feel uncomfortable or worried.
- Mobile phone ownership increases dramatically with age from one in eight 5-6 year olds, to three in ten 7-8 year olds, and three in five of those aged 9-10. At the start of secondary school, nine in ten children have a mobile phone, rising to almost all 15-16 year olds (CHILDWISE Monitor 2015).
- Young people asked in a survey in January 2017 said the biggest dangers to social networking were, Fake Profiles at 57.89% followed by Grooming at 42.11% (Derbyshire Youth Council)

## **Appendix**

References and Links:

Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Board [www.derbyshirescb.org.uk](http://www.derbyshirescb.org.uk)

Ofcom Strategies of parental protection for children online Dec 2015  
[https://www.ofcom.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/31754/Fourth-internet-safety-report.pdf](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/31754/Fourth-internet-safety-report.pdf)

Childwise [www.childwise.co.uk](http://www.childwise.co.uk)

CEOP [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk) [www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com](http://www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com) [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

Internet Watch Foundation [www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)

EU Kids Online [www.kidsonline.net](http://www.kidsonline.net)

NSPCC [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk) [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

UK Safer Internet Centre [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

Childnet International [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)

Internet Matters [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)

The Parent Zone [www.theparentzone.co.uk/](http://www.theparentzone.co.uk/)

Information Commissioners Office [www.ico.gov](http://www.ico.gov).

The Facts/ Safety Net/ Protecting our Children's Innocence Online [www.safetynet.org.uk](http://www.safetynet.org.uk)

Byron Review <http://tinyurl.com/byronreviewDfE>