



Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Boards

E-Safety Strategy 2015

1) Definition of e-Safety

E-Safety is a term which encompasses both the internet and other ways in which young people communicate using electronic media e.g. smart phones, tablets and gaming consoles. It means ensuring that children and young people are protected from harm and supported to achieve the maximum benefit from new and developing technologies, whilst minimising risk to themselves and others.

The aim is to protect young people from adverse consequences as a result of their use of electronic communication, including from accessing inappropriate content, harmful material, bullying, inappropriate sexualised behaviour or exploitation.

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) National and Local Context

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

3) Vision

All children and young people in Derby and Derbyshire will be equipped with the knowledge to safeguard themselves online. This will include:

- Learning about the safe use of technologies;
- Recognising and managing the potential risks associated with online activities;
- Behaving responsibly online;
- Recognising when pressures from others in the online environment might threaten their personal safety and well-being;
- Developing effective ways of resisting pressure;
- Knowing whom to go to with any concerns.

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

All people who work with children and young people in Derby and Derbyshire will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to safeguard children at risk through online activity. This will include:

- Complying with relevant professional conduct standards;
- Accessing training in the safe use of technologies;
- Recognising and managing the potential risks associated with online activities;
- Understanding and conforming to local procedures;
- Behaving responsibly online;
- Knowing whom to go to with any concerns.

Appropriate systems and services will be in place to identify, intervene and divert people from sexual exploiting, abusing or cyber bullying children in Derbyshire.

All children and young people who have been the subject of indecent images, sexual exploitation or cyber bullying will be protected from further abuse and given an appropriate level of support.

4) Aim of the Strategy

Derby and Derbyshire SCBs and partner agencies will work together to ensure young people are safe on line through a three strand strategy of Prevention, Protection and where necessary Prosecution.

Prevention

- Awareness raising of young people of the risks online and how they can protect themselves and behave responsibly towards others
- Helping parents and carers in their responsibility to monitor, support and protect young people online
- Supporting agencies and settings that work with young people to develop e-safety policies and skills
- Harnessing the knowledge of young people in developing strategies and responding to new types of online behaviours

Protection

- Building e-safety skills among the workforce, foster carers, volunteers and anyone else working with young people
- Where feasible encouraging the use of filtering software to protect young people from inappropriate content
- Ensure that policy and procedure keeps pace with developments in both technology and software to access the internet
- Supporting children and young people who may be especially vulnerable to online exploitation
- Providing access to expert advice where staff and carers have to deal with an e-safety issue
- Providing appropriate assessment and intervention programmes for young people and adults who have been involved in online behaviour which is either criminal or poses a significant risk to others

Prosecution and Diversion

- Pursue and prosecute perpetrators of online abuse of children and young people consistent with the joint Safeguarding Board's Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy
- Take a proportionate response to the prosecution of young people who send self-taken intimate, but illegal, images through social media or other routes (sexting)

- Respond appropriately to children and young people conducting online abuse against other young people, recognising that some young perpetrators may be simultaneously both victims and perpetrators of online abuse

5) Partnerships

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.

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

- Schools
 - to 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) Links with Other Strategies

There may be an e-safety dimension to a wide range of young people's issues, many of which are covered by other strategies and procedures. These include:

- Preventing and tackling bullying;
- Young people going missing;
- Suicide and self-harm;

- Trafficking;
- Sexual abuse and violence;
- Radicalisation and violent extremism;
- Substance misuse;
- Gangs.

There is also in place a joint Boards' Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy and each Board has CSE Action Plan. The most serious e-safety incidents often include a Child Sexual Exploitation dimension and should be dealt with as such.

New types of risky online behaviours are continually emerging and strategy leads and policy authors should take account of e-safety when producing new material.

7) Monitoring and Reporting

Each Safeguarding Board should 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 plans should be reported to the respective Boards at least annually. Barriers to implementation of the action plan should be escalated to the Board for resolution. The Boards should explore ways in which e-safety activity can be identified, quantified and incorporated into Board performance and quality systems.