



The Internet and Young People

What's the problem???



Real Life and On Line Life



- When communicating via the internet and mobile phones, young people tend to become less wary and talk about things far more openly than they might when talking to someone face-to-face.
- It is important that all adults are aware of the potential dangers to young people and are able to protect them from harm. This means knowing the warning signs, both on and off line and knowing where to get help if you spot something that doesn't seem right.



Causes For Concern!

- Online Grooming: Persons communicating and forming a 'friendship' with the intention of meeting young persons in the 'real world' in order to radicalise, extort or sexually abuse. Chatrooms and Social Networking sites are common places for such behaviour. Young people are encouraged to give personal details, go to private chatrooms or use a webcam.
- Cybersex: Encouraging young people to hold sexual conversations, perhaps leading to pressure to engage in and talk about sexual behaviour
- **Not every young person is involved, but, EVERY young person is at RISK**

How does grooming work online?



- Grooming is about building a relationship with a child in order to later abuse them. This can be far easier online.
- Games, social media, live streaming platforms and chatrooms enable people to make contact with children to try to groom them.
- They can create multiple online identities and even pretend to be children and young people to trick real children into chatting and sharing.

How does grooming work online?



- They can find out a lot about individual children before they make contact by looking at the things the child has posted
- Using this information they can target children who are particularly vulnerable and carefully plan what they will say and show an interest in.
- They can also contact lots of children very quickly in the hope that one will respond.

What is happening?



- Has someone you have only met online messaged you with inappropriate sexual comments, asked you to send them sexual photos and/or videos, or perform sexual acts via webcam? Is this person asking you to keep your contact secret, threatening to post the photos or videos of you on the internet or share them with your friends and family if you don't send more or pay money?
- This is a crime. It is called online sexual coercion and extortion.

People may become victim because of their.....



- Vulnerability, either on a relational level or on a technical level
- Absence of or poor parental control
- Openness to oversharing, including self-generated sexual material;
- Significant amount of time spent online every day
- Over use of social networks and other means of online communication, especially through mobile devices
- Tendency to befriend strangers online;
- Relaxed approach towards sexualised interactions/communications online;
- Lack of technical knowledge (use of strong passwords etc)

Video Clip 1



Say No! - A campaign against online sexual coercion and extortion of children

You Tube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ttHYODhenY>

Signs a young person maybe the target of on-line grooming:



- Spending increased amount of time on the internet
- Becoming increasingly secretive – particularly around their use of technology
- Closing doors and hiding screens when someone enters the room
- Not being able to talk openly about their on-line activity
- Agitated behaviour when answering their mobile and needing to take calls in private
- Leaving the family home for periods of time without explanation about where they are going
- Increased amounts of time talking secretly with new online friends

Other signs that something may be wrong!



- Not wanting to be alone with a particular adult or young person
- Sudden, unexplained personality changes and mood swings, becoming sad or withdrawn but wont say why.
- Outbursts of anger and irritation
- Self harm



'Sexting' – What is it??

Making, sending, receiving or distributing sexualised images of persons under the age of 18. It is a criminal offence!!

What can I do??:

- Talk to your child about the consequences
- Remind them that once an image is sent, there is no getting it back
- Once posted on-line they no longer have control over it. It could end up anywhere and seen by anyone
- Help them understand they are responsible for their own actions

Think.....Pause.....Send????



- What could happen to it? - Once you press send an image is out of your control. It could be posted anywhere on the internet
- Who might see it? - Do not send anything you wouldn't want your parents, teachers or good friends seeing
- What are the risks? - Even if you use a webcam or 'Snapchat', the person can take a screen shot in seconds
- Who are you sending to? - Do you know who is receiving it. Are they who they say they are???

Criminal Consequences



- S160 Criminal Justice Act 1988 - Creates an offence of possessing an indecent photo of a child under 18 years
- S1 Protection of Children Act 1978 - It is an offence to take, make or distribute an indecent image of a child under 18 yrs
- Penalty, 6 months in prison and a fine
- Restrictions on employment, education, travel etc
- Even if not convicted, disclosable on DBS checks
- Future employers may 'Google' you ahead of any interview

What are the consequences?



- Criminal Record
- Massive implications in relation to career choice (shows on enhanced DBS checks even if not convicted!)
- Travel barring – USA, Australia, New Zealand etc
- Potential issues re accessing some University Degree courses
- Family and friends (embarrassment, shunned by community, relocation)

Keep Children Safe On-Line



- When purchasing a new technology item, ask what internet safety devices are available. Install software that can filter inappropriate material and allows you to monitor their on-line activity
- When children are young, place the computer where you can always see the screen. This may help when they get older being less secretive
- Allow young people to enjoy time on the internet, but, encourage off-line activities with family and friends
- Teach them not to give out personal information on-line (name, address, phone numbers, school details etc) Encourage use of nicknames instead and the checking of security settings

What can we do?



- Take an interest in their on-line world just as you would in their off-line one. Discuss which sites they use, encourage dialogue
- Educate wise use of the internet, encourage them to question information they receive and become critical users
- Let them know even if they have said or done things that they are embarrassed about, they can still talk to you. **WE ALL MAKE MISTAKES!!!**
- Ensure your children understand the dangers of meeting up with someone they have only met on-line. (Tell someone where you're going, go with a friend, etc)

Video 2



- WHAT IS KAYLEIGH'S LOVE STORY?

It is a film made by Leicestershire Police about aspects of the last 13 days of the life of 15-year-old Kayleigh Haywood. The Leicestershire schoolgirl was groomed online by Luke Harlow, a man she had never met, before being raped and murdered by his next door neighbour Stephen Beadman. Leicestershire Police have made the film available to all police forces to help raise awareness of the dangers of speaking to people who you don't know online.

[Your Tube video: Kayleigh's Love Story \(rated 15\)](#)

Communicate with young people



- Explain to them the dangers associated with communicating with unknown people online, sending photos, or engaging in other risky online behaviour.
- Let them know that they can come to you without fear of reprisal, and that you have a genuine interest in their safety and online activities. Those exploited through these crimes are victims, no matter what they did or how they responded to the threat.
- Every young person is at potential risk, however not all young people will become involved in these activities.

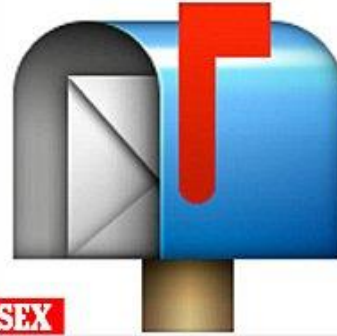
Emoji's



X-RATED



BREASTS



SEX



BOTTOM



ORGASM



PENIS



Where can I get help????



To report concerns about a young person's safety on-line:

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP)

www.ceop.gov.uk

(A single point of contact for the public, law enforcers and the communications industry to report targeting of children on-line. Offers advice and information to parents and potential victims of abuse 24hrs a day. The site also allows internet users to make reports about suspicious online behaviour to law enforcement agencies)

To seek confidential advice re harmful sexual behaviour online:

Stop It Now! Helpline Call 0808 1000 900

Email help@stopitnow.org.uk www.stopitnow.org.uk

(A helpline which gives advice to adults re sexual thoughts, feelings and behaviours toward children)

Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)

www.iwf.org.uk

(An anonymous site to report suspected illegal content to combat child abuse images on-line)

Where can I get help????



To find safety information:

Parents Protect!

www.parentsprotect.co.uk

(This site contains info re protecting children from sexual abuse, including on-line abuse)

UK Safer Internet Centre

www.saferinternet.org.uk

(This site contains advice on how to use the internet and new technologies safely and responsibly as well as a range of practical resources, news and events focussing on the safe and responsible use of the internet and new technologies)

Childline: 0800 1111

www.childline.org.uk