

Safeguarding in a cyber enabled society

Steve Crocker, Director of
Children's Services

National picture

1 in 3 internet users are children



Source: Livingstone, S., Carr, J. and Byrne, J. (2015) [One in three: internet governance and children's rights \(PDF\)](#). Ontario: Centre for International Governance Innovation

Almost **1** in **4** of 8 to 11 year old and **3** in **4** of 12 to 15 year olds
has a social media profile



Source: Ofcom (2017) [Children and parents: media use and attitudes report \(PDF\)](#)

Around **1** in **8** young people have been **bullied on social media**



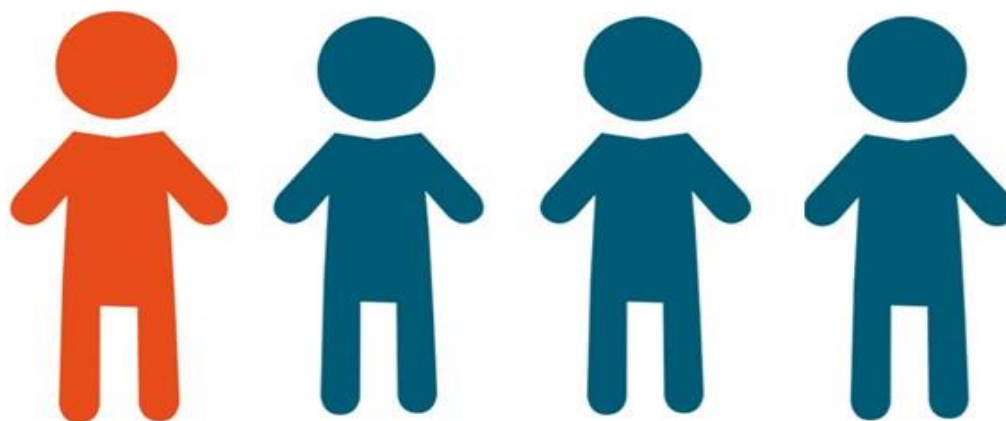
Source: Ofcom (2017) [Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes Report \(PDF\)](#)

3 in 4 parents have looked for or received information or advice about how to help their child **manage online risks**



Source: Ofcom (2017) [Children and parents: media use and attitudes report \(PDF\)](#)

Almost **1 in 4** young people have come across **racist or hate messages online**



Source: Livingstone, S. (2014) [Net children go mobile: the UK report: a comparative report with findings from the UK 2010 survey by EU Kids Online \(PDF\)](#)

There were over **2,100 counselling sessions** with young people who talked in **Childline** about online **child sexual exploitation (CSE)** in 2016/17



Source: Bentley, H. et al (2017) [How safe are our children? The most comprehensive overview of child protection in the UK 2017](#)

In 2016, the Internet Watch Foundation identified **over 57,000 URLs** containing child sexual abuse images



Source: Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) (2017) [Annual report 2016 \(PDF\)](#)

IW Children's Survey 2018

Access to internet

- 97% primary and 99% secondary respondents have access to the internet at home
- 66% primary respondents stated that an adult always knows what they are looking compared to only 35% of secondary respondents

Social Media

- 25% of Year 10 females said they speak to people on line they do not know in real life
- 11% of secondary respondents have given personal details on line to people they did not know
- 46% of Year 10 females have been asked for pictures of themselves on line
- 36% of female Year 10 respondents had been asked online to meet up with someone they did not know

Hampshire Police data 2017-18

- 12 child victims of online exploitation on the IOW
- 14 offences
- 10 of these offences are classified as sexual offences

Case Study – Child A

- Referral received from Police, a 17 year old girl -disclosed that she had been groomed online to send explicit images.
- Disclosure that she had been sending the images over a period of 4 years to a male who resided outside of the country
- Initially she had been unaware that she was being groomed - she thought she was talking to someone who she considered a friend
- As the 'friendship' developed she had been asked to send explicit images of herself
- She was then blackmailed for further images, by the male stating he would share the ones he had

Safeguarding response

- Assessment undertaken, including sexual exploitation risk assessment (SERAF)
- Multi-agency plan developed
- Support provided by social care throughout Police investigation (internal investigation-unfortunately perpetrator unable to be identified)
- Barnardo's-U-Turn -supported understanding of grooming process, stay safe work, delivered further emotional support-access to counselling
- Parental support/education in understanding risk regarding online abuse

Case Study – Child B

- Mother contacted Police - her teenage daughter had gone missing, had heard rumour that she had gone to meet an adult male that daughter had met online

Safeguarding response:

- Police were able to confirm sighting of child with adult male
- Proactive police and multi-agency response Child B was located on the mainland where she had been abandoned by the male
- Male was eventually apprehended and arrested.
- Investigation concluded Child B had been groomed online by adult male who intended to sexually exploited her
- Investigation completed, support plan put in place which included support through Treetops and Stay Safe work delivered by Barnardo's U-turn.

Example of interventions/support on Isle of Wight

- SERAF (Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Form)
- METRAC - multi-agency conference which considers cases where children at risk of child sexual and criminal exploitation and ensures effective plans in place
- Annual 'CSE day' events
- Alice in Wonderland campaign – Hampshire Police
- Barnardo's U-Turn, use NSPCC's Share Aware campaign around social media, CEOP resources
- Real Love Rocks - Barnardo's CSE prevention programme
- Social workers also utilise a wide variety of online resources and tools to support them in their work with children and families
(<http://www.socialworkerstoolbox.com/help-keep-children-safe-online-guide-for-parents/>)

Safeguarding in the Future?

- Use of mobile technology, freeing SW to spend time working with children and families
- Improved communication with children and families –skype, Whatsapp...what's next?
- Debates on predictive safeguarding systems-- what happens to professional judgement?
- Self care models in medicine-how could that technology be used in Children' Services



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