
**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – INTERNET SAFETY
TASK AND FINISH REVIEW GROUP**

Purpose of the Report

1. To report the decision of Cabinet following its consideration of the final report of the Internet Safety Task and Finish Review Group.

Summary

2. The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 9th November, 2009 established a Task and Finish Review to examine internet safety in order to make appropriate recommendations to Cabinet regarding the provision of internet safety advice to all children, young people, parents and carers.
3. All Members of the Scrutiny Committee were invited to attend a Task and Finish Meeting held on 16th November, 2009.
4. The final report of the Task and Finish Review Group was considered by the Scrutiny Committee at its Special Urgent meeting held on 23rd November, 2009, and the Committee supported and endorsed the recommendations of the Task and Finish Review Group, and referred them to Cabinet for consideration.
5. Cabinet considered the final report, together with comments from the Director of Children's Services, detailed in **Appendix 1**, at its meeting held on 1st December, 2009 and resolved that :-

The following recommendations be endorsed and supported to ensure the provision of internet safety advice to all children, young people, parents and carers :-

- (i) That e-safety be part of the school curriculum and it be included in the work of schools within Darlington.
- (ii) That continuous improvements be made to education on e-safety and reviewed appropriately.
- (iii) That every child be made aware of a named person within their school or public internet access site (college, library, community centre etc) to whom behaviour believed to be unacceptable or frightening can be reported and that appropriate advice and assistance will be given. This information should be available as a reminder as each young person logs onto the computer (pop-up screen).
- (iv) Appropriate message on e-safety to be distributed to every household (via a Council publication and/or website message) providing all residents with advice and information and a named officer at the Council with whom they may raise

questions or concerns.

- (v) Parental workshops to be made available to all who care for children in our community, content of which would be based upon suggestions from parents/carers themselves. This could be gauged on the answers to a brief questionnaire in the Town Crier or other means of communication (with recommendation 13).
- (vi) As a means of educating the wider community that varied text relating to e-safety 'pop up' at log on on all publicly provided computers in Darlington.
- (vii) To hold a Safer Internet Day to coincide with European E-Safety Day held each year and this academic year held on 10th February, to involve all sectors of the community in its preparation (especially encouraging the involvement of young people and the Children's Forum and the most vulnerable in our Darlington community).
- (viii) That work be undertaken to ensure that our Looked After and Fostered Children have the e-safety advice and supervision whilst out of the school environment that they may require, with appropriate pastoral care to reinforce this advice.
- (ix) To call on all relevant parties within the Darlington community (including the Council, Children's Trust, Police, Community Partnerships, School Community etc) to establish an e-advisory committee where we can map the work that is currently done to deliver a safer internet and where we can respond to the e-safety needs of our citizens in a co-ordinated, efficient and effective way

Recommendations

6. That the comments of the Director of Children's Services and the response from the Cabinet be noted.

Paul Wildsmith
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Background Papers

Final report of the Internet Safety Task and Finish Review Group.
Report to Cabinet held on 1st December, 2009.

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has implications for Crime and Disorder.
Health and Well Being	The recommendations in the report support the Council's approach to ensuring the well being of children and young people.
Sustainability	There are no issues relating to Sustainability which this report needs to address.
Diversity	There are no issues relating to Diversity which this report needs to address.
Wards Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Ward is considered to be minimal.
Groups Affected	The impact of the report on any Group is considered to be minimal.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The report contributes to the delivery of the objectives of the Community Strategy in a number of ways through the involvement of local elected members contributing to the Aspiring Darlington Theme Group.
Efficiency	The Work Programmes are integral to scrutinising and monitoring services efficiently (and effectively), however this report does not identify specific efficiency savings.