
**SAFEGUARDING IN THE DIGITAL WORLD
(E-SAFETY)**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To raise members' awareness of the need to keep children and young people safe when using the internet, email, mobile phones and other digital technologies.

Summary

2. The use of digital technologies (eg computers and the internet) offer almost endless positive educational and social benefits to young people, but unfortunately there are risks, too.
3. One of the key risks of using the internet, email or chat services, is that young people may be exposed to inappropriate material or be tempted to disclose personal information.
4. The threat of physical danger is perhaps the most worrying and extreme risk associated with the use of the internet and other technologies, and is probably the risk most reported by the media.
5. In recognition of the risks and dangers presented by electronic communication in 2006 the Government set up the the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre.
6. Three officers have so far been trained as trainers by CEOP. One from the eLearning Team, One from the Children's Safeguarding Team and a Police Officer.
7. The eLearning Team, part of School Improvement and Development, is coordinating training for teachers and practitioners working with young people to deliver a programme of awareness raising using materials developed by CEOP.

Recommendation

8. That this report be accepted.

Background Papers

No Background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

**Murray Rose,
Director of Children's Services**

S17 Crime and Disorder	Prevention and detection of child abuse (physical and sexual)
Health and Well Being	Staying Safe on Line
Sustainability	N/A
Diversity	N/A
Wards Affected	ALL

Groups Affected	ALL
Budget and Policy Framework	N/A
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	N/A
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This report promotes the Safer Darlington theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

9. The internet is integral to the lives of children of all ages. It opens up new opportunities and is now an essential part of their every day world whether they are using it for homework, to talk and share materials with their friends or for a multitude of other uses that are legitimate and beneficial in so many ways.
10. Protecting young people (and adults) properly means thinking beyond the traditional school environment. Where once the desktop computer was the only way to access the internet, now many mobile phones and games consoles offer broadband connections.
11. Young people may be working online in school, at home or in an internet cafe. They may have personal devices not covered by network protection and therefore the emphasis should be on getting everyone to **understand the risks** and act accordingly.
12. Children and young people using school based computer systems are well protected by sophisticated filtering and blocking apparatus provided as part of the LA's internet provision. In schools they are protected from accessing material that is illegal, pornographic, hateful or violent in nature or those that encourages activities that are dangerous or illegal; or those that are just age-inappropriate or biased.
13. Increasingly young people have access to their own technology which is independent of school-based systems – mobile phones, smartphones, personal digital assistants (PDAs) games consoles and computers – many of which are able to access the internet.
14. Children and young people freely communicate using fashionable websites such as 'Facebook', 'MySpace' etc. Often young people, innocently, disclose personal information to their new 'friends' in cyberspace unknowing who that 'friend' really is. When meetings over the internet turn into 'real' meetings children and young people become extremely vulnerable and can become the prey of sexual predators.
15. CEOP is part of UK police and is dedicated to protecting children from sexual abuse wherever they may be. That means building intelligence around the risks, tracking and bringing offenders to account either directly or with local and international forces and working with children and parents to deliver our unique their ThinkuKnow educational programme.
16. A programme has begun to ensure that by the end of the year every one of our secondary schools will have a 'ThinkuKnow' trainer who will lead a training programme for young people in their school.
17. CEOP have developed further materials aimed at younger children and a programme to introduce these materials to our primary phase children is planned for 2009 once trainers

have been trained by CEOP.

Outcome of consultation

18. No consultation was required in the preparation of this report.
