

01 Background



Online Safety (formerly known as 'e-Safety') is a term used to cover a broad, continually developing and sometimes complex agenda around the online aspects of risks including Child Sexual Exploitation, Sexting, Bullying, Radicalisation, Gaming, Inappropriate Content and undoubtedly, the impact of Social Media – it is a **Safeguarding issue where technology is involved.**

As children interact with the online world at an increasingly younger age, appropriate discussions as early as possible are very important. Equally, Online Safety also applies to adults and professionals, from keeping us safe, upholding expected professional standards of conduct (both inside and outside of the work environment) through to setting positive examples as role models for our C&YP.

Why it matters 02



Unlike previous generations, we cannot adequately consider the safeguarding and wellbeing of Children & Young People without considering their relationship to technology. Equipping our C&YP with the skills and confidence to recognise the potential risks will help them to develop into confident and resilient users of the online environment – online safety is a skill for life that will continue to support them into adulthood.

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Questions

Does your organisation address Online Safety as part of its Safeguarding provision?

Do you understand your professional obligations and codes of conduct?

Being professionally curious - do you routinely consider online aspects in your day-to-day role?

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Information

Knowledge versus Wisdom - adults and professionals often cite children's affinity for technology versus their own perceived lack of knowledge as a major barrier to having discussions about staying safe in the online world.

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What to do

Do not be put off by the technology (remember it remains Safeguarding). Ensure you are child-centric in your approach – what may not initially appear to be a significant concern to an adult could be a life-changing issue for a child.

Use the information and guidance available on the LSCB's Online Safeguarding website www.lancashire-safeguarding.org.uk/online-safeguarding

in associated policies and procedures? Ensure you are up-to-date - has your team received training? Has the designated Online Safety lead attended the annual LSCB Online Safety Briefings for professionals held in January each year?

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Whilst C&YP may appear to have more Knowledge about the online environment, they will not necessarily possess the associated Wisdom that comes through life experience. Being careful what we share as adults is also important – with the best of intentions, sharing an unverified story, particularly those picked up from Social Media, can have the opposite effect to that intended. Ask the experts – make use of C&YP's affinity for technology to improve your own knowledge. Understand escalation options before they arise – are these clearly addressed



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