

Online Safety Strategy

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EAST RIDING SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

STRATEGY

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The East Riding Safeguarding Children Board takes seriously its statutory role to ensure that all member agencies co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in the East Riding of Yorkshire and to ensure that they are effective in doing so.
- 1.2 The rapid growth of the internet, social networking and of electronic technologies generally has opened up a new world of exciting opportunities for many children and young people. Through the internet and mobile technology it is possible for them to have access to almost unlimited information worldwide, to be entertained and, through social networking sites to contact and socialise with other young people. Alongside the benefits there are also significant risks, and whilst many children and young people are very competent in using such technologies, their knowledge, as well as their parents/carers of the risks should be strengthened.
- 1.3 The risks to children and young people are various but the East Riding Safeguarding Children Board is committed to ensuring that children and young people are kept safe from a range of dangers, including but not limited to:
- Sexual Exploitation
 - Bullying, including cyber based or prejudiced based bullying
 - Impact of technologies on sexual behaviour
 - Radicalisation and Extremism
 - Substance Misuse
 - Self-Harm
 - Eating Disorders
- 1.4 This strategy provides the Online Safety framework for member agencies of the ERSCB together with other partners and organisations to work with children and young people, together with their parents or carers, in order that they can be safe when online or using technologies.
- 1.5 Being safe online is not simply a matter of technology and, as such, the strategy, and accompanying procedures and guidance document encourages a comprehensive approach to on line safety in which children and young people are kept safe by sound policies that inform technical standards. It sits alongside a programme of education which develops and sustains safe on line behaviour. This document will be monitored by the ERSCB to ensure that it remains relevant to its aims as information technology changes and evolves.

2 Strategic Aim

- 2.1 The aim of this document is to provide all children and young people in the East Riding with a safe electronic environment where they can learn, explore, socialise and enjoy themselves. Three key action strands run through the strategy namely, Prevention, Protection and Prosecution or Diversion as outlined below:

Prevention

- Raising the awareness of children and young people about the online risks and how they can protect themselves and behave responsibly towards others

- Raising the awareness of all staff, paid and unpaid, working with children and young people about what online safety is and how they can support children and young people to protect themselves
- Helping parents and carers in their responsibility to monitor, support and protect children and young people
- Supporting ERSCB partner agencies and the wider voluntary and community sector engaging and working with children and young people to develop online safety policies and skills
- Harness the knowledge of young people in developing strategies and responding to new developments of online opportunities and behaviour.

Protection

- Building online safety skills within the workforce of ERSCB agencies and the voluntary sector and wider community in the East Riding involving work with children and young people
- Encouraging the use of filtering software to protect children and young people and help minimise risk of exposure from inappropriate content.
- Ensure that policy and procedure keeps pace with development in both technology and software to access the internet
- Supporting children and young people who may be especially vulnerable to online exploitation
- Providing access to expert advice and training where staff and carers have to deal with an online safety issue
- Providing appropriate assessment and intervention programmes for young people and adults who have been involved in online behaviour which poses a risk to others and may involve criminal offences

Prosecution and Diversion

- Actively pursue offenders of online abuse of children and young people, including disruption activity, consistent with the Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy (locally, nationally and internationally)
- Encourage a proportionate response and provide education and advice as necessary for children and young people who circulate self-taken images through social media or other routes
- Respond appropriately to children and young people conducting online abuse against other young people, having regard that some may be both victims and perpetrators of online abuse
- Respond to safeguarding concerns and protect children's and young people from potential online risks by means of accessing social media platforms in order to adequately assess risk.

- 2.2 The implementation of this strategy, along with the accompanying procedures and guidance, will be monitored through the ERSCB Online Safety Group which will report to the ERSCB on a regular basis.
- 2.3 The strategy will be reviewed annually and the ERSCB will receive an annual report from the Online Safety Group.
- 2.4 The Strategic Action Plan for Online Safety in the East Riding is arranged in the following areas.

3. Embedding the Online Safety Procedures and Guidance in the Wider Work of the ERSCB

3.1 The Online Safety procedures and guidance is rooted in the wider work of the ERSCB, and firmly embedded in the business planning process, thus ensuring alignment with the work of all ERSCB Sub Groups in order to have maximum impact across the East Riding of Yorkshire.

3.2 As part of this process, the ERSCB Online Safety Group has responsibility for applying the following criteria to monitor the effectiveness of the Procedures and Guidance, including relevant data gathering.

- The number of ERSCB partner agencies with:
 - An Acceptable Use Policy
 - An Online Safety Lead Officer
 - An accredited internet service provider
 - An Online Safety Awareness and Training Plan in place
- The number of online safety incidents reported (it is expected this number will increase as awareness is raised)
- An assessment of the response to incidents through reports from the Sub Group members and selected case studies.

4. Review of the Strategy

4.1 While the procedures and guidance will be reviewed, along with relevant data at every meeting of the Online Safety Sub Group, there will be a full review of the Online Safety Strategy in January 2017. Annual reviews will be necessary in order to reflect the changes in technology, along with national and local trends in the key areas of risk outlined in Paragraph 1.3.

Agreed by East Riding Safeguarding Children Board: 15 April 2016

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