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Finding out about local e-safety issues

The smart way to get the information you need

Consulting with children and young people

It's easy to try and second guess what e-safety issues are facing children and young people in our care. But nothing beats asking them directly and finding out what they're really thinking and feeling.

Consulting with local youngsters will give you a clear understanding of the issues you need to address in your action plan. It can also give you insights into how best to tackle the issues (and promote the benefits of technology).

Regular consultation will also provide a useful performance indicator for measuring the effectiveness of your e-safety strategy.

This guidance will help you work out the easiest way to consult locally on e-safety issues.

Getting started

There's no need to reinvent the wheel. Find out about existing consultations carried out among children and young people, including peer group consultations. You'll find it easier if you can adapt or link in with one or more of these existing opportunities.

Know what you want

Knowing what information will be useful to you will help you work out what to ask.

Use existing formal channels

Keep down costs and effort by adding a couple of e-safety questions to an existing consultation.

i Did you know...

2.5m

8-17 yr olds have a profile on a social network¹

2 out of 5

7-16 yr olds have internet access in their room²

Over 1/3

of secondary students have received sexual messages³

Approach existing youth groups

Tap into existing consultation processes at local youth, sports, community or voluntary clubs and groups.

Consider an informal chat

Ask about internet use and issues whenever you're chatting informally with children and young people.



Your next steps

Speaking the same language

Can u txt spk? It's important to learn how children and young people communicate. For instance, ask if they've ever been cyberbullied and they'll probably say 'no'. Ask if they ever get nasty messages on their mobile and chances are they'll say 'yes'.

Focusing in on issues

It's better to focus on one topic at a time, eg bullying by mobile phones, not every e-safety issue under the sun. If you need help identifying a key area, get young people into a focus group. They will tell you what you need to focus on and may even help you write the questions.

Making data collection easier

Think how people can give their opinion. A, B, C, on a scale or open-ended answers? A mix of quantitative and qualitative data is good. But try to keep it simple so it's easier to make sense of all the responses.

Involving parents and carers

Asking the same (or similar) questions to parents and carers lets you share and compare answers. They will be different! Having discussed the issues with both parties, you'll know what advice parents and carers give children. And what advice children want them to give.

Collating and sharing information

Once you have all your information, every member of the subgroup needs to own it and ACT ON IT within their respective agency. Also share the results with people who contributed, with other institutions and with peers, via the LSCB Safeguarding online community forum.

Want help or ideas from your peers?



For hints and ideas from other LSCBs who've done this, log on to the private LSCB Safeguarding online community forum:

<http://collaboration.becta.org.uk/community/safeguarding/lscb>

Need a reminder of log in details? Email Becta.

What's on the forum?

Discussion section

Take a look at the discussion threads to see what other members have posted about surveys and consultations. You can also follow the hot topics being discussed among e-safety leads. And add your own comments.

Ofcom update

If you want national statistics to benchmark against, check out the 'Ofcom update' in the Discussion section.

New questions

If you want some ideas about specific consultations, or anything else, set up a new question and follow your own discussion thread.

Any questions? Please contact:

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