Safe in East Sussex

In Focus: Young People Cyberbullying, Online Safety and Exploitation

July 2017

In this edition:

What is cyberbullying?

Types of cyberbullying

Facebook & Twitter and mental health'

Internet Safety Strategy

Young gamers & online abuse

Community Safety Education Programme 2017/18

Building Digitally Resilient Communities 2018

Exploitation of children by county lines

Increase in UK child exploitation

SOC Toolkit

Digital Drug Dealers

Useful websites

East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership will be focusing on serious organised crime over the next couple of years.
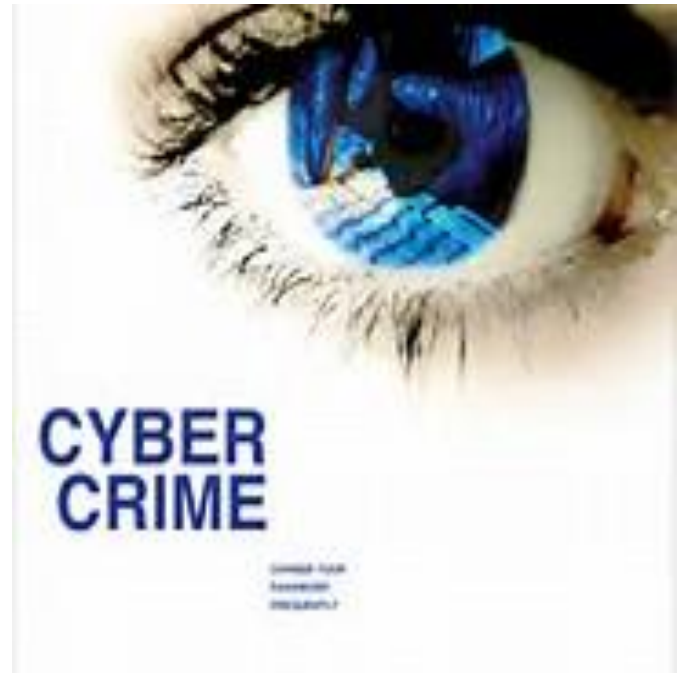
This work includes:

Cyber crime with a focus on cyber bullying and online safety.

Cyber crime isn't a victimless crime and is taken extremely seriously by law enforcement.

Offences can include cyber bullying, cyber stalking, online fraud and theft and hacking. Crimes such as child grooming and sex offences can also be facilitated through cyber means.

Vulnerable young people being exploited and recruited by organised crime groups. We will be exploring further opportunities for partners to engage in early preventative work in relation to County Lines, organised crime and the exploitation of young people.

This newsletter provides further information about these areas in more detail and goes some way to highlight the risks posed to young people, why they are important issues to address, what we are planning to do and how we are working with various partners.

The East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership is supported by the Safer East Sussex Team, made up from Community Safety staff from Sussex Police and East Sussex County Council

DITCH THE LABEL
YOUR WORLD. PREJUDICE FREE.

What is Cyberbullying?

Cyber bullying is the use of technology to harass, threaten, embarrass, or target another person and can include bullying via text message, instant messenger services, social network sites and email, as well as via images or videos posted on the internet or spread by mobile phones.

Some types of bullying are illegal and should be reported to the Police. These include harassment and intimidation over a period of time including calling someone names or threatening them, making abusive phone calls, and sending abusive emails or text messages and anything involving hate crimes.

Cyberbullying differs from traditional forms of bullying in that the identity of the perpetrator is often hidden from the victim by creating a false identity. The anonymity of the internet allows young people to adopt a more aggressive persona than they may express in real life.

Lack of supervision is a unique feature of cyberbullying which has worrying consequences for the victim. Although social networking sites and chatrooms are making some effort in regard to security and protection of their members by policing potentially offensive conversations and making it easier to report abuse online, it is unclear how effective these measures are in reducing the effects of cyberbullying on victims.

Furthermore, email communication and text messages are difficult to monitor. Alongside this, many young people have computers in their bedrooms with the potential to hide their behaviour from parents or siblings, which may worsen their behaviour. Unlike victims of traditional forms of bullying who are able to escape from the torments of the face-to-face bully once they are at home, cyberbullying victims do not have that option. Cyberbullies take advantage of the fact that the majority of young people use technology on a regular basis which provides them with the opportunity to harass their victim at any time and in any place, hence they are likely to feel imprisoned in their own homes, with no 'safe place' to go.

Ditch the Label – Annual Bullying Survey 2016

Published annually in collaboration with schools and colleges, The Annual Bullying Survey is the largest benchmark of bullying in the United Kingdom. The survey gathers the opinions and experiences of young people who are currently studying in high schools and colleges nationwide.

Ditch the Label surveyed 8,850 young people aged 12-20 in partnership with schools and colleges from across the country and their free report has thousands of the latest bullying statistics and fully explores the reasons why young people bully others

Of those who reported bullying, 6 in 10 had experienced bullying online. It is essential that schools and colleges take cyberbullying seriously and treat it on the same level as other bullying issues. Teachers should proactively monitor the potential signs of cyberbullying as they can be less obvious than verbal or physical bullying in the classroom.

With the increase of social networking sites, online activity and messaging apps, cyberbullying is on the increase. In the survey 47% of young people who took the survey have received nasty profile comments and 62% have been sent nasty private messages via smartphone apps. This is very worrying as it shows how cyber bullying is on the increase.

Over half of young gamers experience abuse

Research carried out with young online gamers by anti-bullying charity **Ditch the Label,** has revealed that 57% of those surveyed had been victims of bullying online when playing games. Other key findings include the following:

- 22% said they had stopped playing a game as a result

- 47% said they had been threatened in an online game.

- 38% said they had been hacked within a game.

- 74% said they would like the issue to be taken more seriously.

- 29% said bullying and trolling did not affect their enjoyment of online games

Half of the survey's respondents said they thought that human moderation would contribute to a reduction in bullying.

The research covered approximately 2,500 12 – 25-year-old members of Habbo – the virtual hotel platform.

A 16-year-old told the BBC that he had experienced bullying since the age of 10, including regular death threats. He now accepts it as an everyday occurrence, but at an earlier age he was led to wonder who were the perpetrators and what they were trying to achieve.

 Ditch the Label has now launched a global campaign to try to tackle the problem in partnership with EA Games

Ditch the Label and Habbo's full report can be downloaded here: https://www.ditchthelabel.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/InGameAbuse.pdf

Unfortunately there are many ways of bullying someone online and for some it can take shape in more ways than one. Some of the types of cyber bullying are:

➢ **Harassment** - This is the act of sending offensive, rude, and insulting messages and being abusive. Nasty or humiliating comments on posts, photos and in chat rooms. Being explicitly offensive on gaming sites.

➢ **Denigration** – This is when someone may send information about another person that is fake, damaging and untrue. Sharing photos of someone for the purpose to ridicule, spreading fake rumours and gossip. This can be on any site online or on apps. We even hear about people altering photos of others and posting in online for the purpose of bullying.

➢ **Flaming** – This is when someone is purposely using really extreme and offensive language and getting into online arguments and fights. They do this to cause reactions and enjoy the fact it causes someone to get distressed.

➢ **Impersonation** – This is when someone will hack into someone's email or social networking account and use the person's online identity to send or post vicious or embarrassing material to/about others. The making up of fake profiles on social network sites, apps and online are common place and it can be really difficult to get them closed down.

➤ **Cyber Stalking** – This is the act of repeatedly sending messages that include threats of harm, harassment, intimidating messages, or engaging in other online activities that make a person afraid for his or her safety. The actions may be illegal too depending on what they are doing.

➤ **Exclusion** – This is when others intentionally leave someone out of a group such as group messages, online apps, gaming sites and other online engagement. This is also a form of social bullying and a very common.

http://www.bullying.co.uk/cyberbullying/what-is-cyberbullying/

Cyberbullying and the Law

There is no legal definition of cyberbullying within UK law. However there are a number of existing laws that can be applied to cases of cyberbullying and online harassment, namely:

- Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994
- Malicious Communications Act 1988
- Communications Act 2003
- Breach of the Peace (Scotland)
- Defamation Act 2013

Guidelines issued by the Crown Prosecution Service in Dec 2012 explain how cases of cyberbullying will be assessed under the current legislation. Download the 'CPS Guidelines' here http://www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/social_media_consultation.pdf

The Defamation Act 2013 came into force on 1st January 2014. To read the act and for more information click here http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2013/26/contents/enacted

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Facebook and Twitter 'harm young people's mental health'

A recent Poll of 14- to 24-year-olds shows Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat and Twitter increased feelings of inadequacy and anxiety.

The Royal Society for Public Health who undertook the survey with the Young Health Movement found that four of the five most popular forms of social media harm young people's mental health, with Instagram the most damaging, according to research by two health organisations.

The findings follow growing concern among politicians, health bodies, doctors, charities and parents about young people suffering harm as a result of sexting, cyberbullying and social media reinforcing feelings of self-loathing and even the risk of them committing suicide.

Instagram has the most negative impact on young people's mental wellbeing, a survey of almost 1,500 14- to 24-year-olds found, and the health groups accused it of deepening young people's feelings of inadequacy and anxiety.

The survey concluded that Snapchat, Facebook and Twitter are also harmful. Among the five only YouTube was judged to have a positive impact.

The four platforms have a negative effect because they can exacerbate children's and young people's body image worries, and worsen bullying, sleep problems and feelings of anxiety, depression and loneliness, the participants said.

https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/may/19/popular-social-media-sites-harm-young-peoples-mental-health

Ensuring the UK becomes the safest place in the world for young people to go online

Ministers have begun work on a new **Internet Safety Strategy** aimed at making Britain the safest country in the world for children and young people to be online.
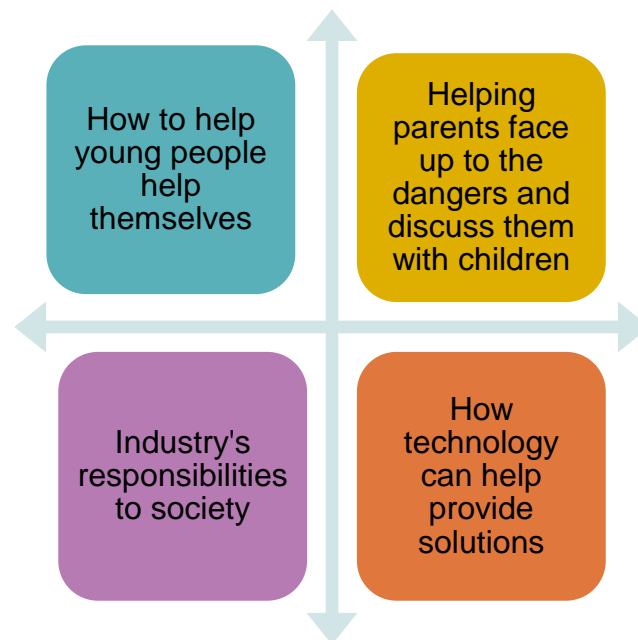
Culture Secretary Karen Bradley is leading the new cross-Government drive on behalf of the Prime Minister – with a green paper expected in the summer.

A report has been commissioned to provide up to date evidence of how young people are using the internet, the dangers they face, and the gaps that exist in keeping them safe. Sonia Livingstone is leading this work together with Professor Julia Davidson and Dr Jo Bryce, on behalf of the UK's Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) Evidence Group.

Ministers will also hold a series of round tables in the coming weeks with social media companies, technology firms, young people, charities and mental health experts to examine online risks and how to tackle them.

The work is expected to centre on four main priorities:

How to help young people help themselves

Helping parents face up to the dangers and discuss them with children

Industry's responsibilities to society

How technology can help provide solutions

The focus will be on preventing children and young people from harm online and making the internet a safer place.

East Sussex Community Safety Education Programme

NEW for Schools and Colleges

Community Safety Education and Awareness is currently very patchy and inconsistent with various agencies offering projects and sessions with schools on an ad-hoc basis. This is often confusing to schools and other education providers in knowing where and who to contact for various support and input. Resources are becoming fewer and we need to collaborate much more in order to offer a good quality preventative programme.

The East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership will be bringing various partners together to develop a directory of Community Safety Education for East Sussex. This directory pulls together, for the first time, a variety of programmes and workshops which are currently being offered by a range of agencies and organisations and focus on different strands of community safety and personal safety such as cyberbullying and preventing extremism. Over time we envisage that this will develop and extend to incorporate a wider range of partners.

Joining up in this way enable us to source funding for future projects, as well as offer a good programme of prevention and awareness to Schools and other organisations under one umbrella. The new directory will be available from September 2017.

Part of this directory includes a profile of risk for schools to help them identify what education and prevention programmes could be more relevant for their learners.

The aims of the programme are:

- To develop good quality preventative education and to collaborate with partners on the wider Community Safety Education and Awareness work in relation to risk, harm and threat to vulnerable young people.

- To offer a current, modern and creative programme to young people on personal safety and community safety which is well planned and co-ordinated.

- To provide a programme which provides up to date information and provides clear and factual advice and support on relevant and topical areas.

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Building Digitally Resilient Communities

Safeguarding Children in a Digital Age

The Safer Communities Partnership will be partnering with Priority 1-54 and other partners early in 2018 to highlight how children's lives are becoming increasingly digital as they spend more time online, but as the digital world continues to evolve, the threats presented to children's safety intensify.

The conference is under development and we hope to hear from some of the country's leading experts on safeguarding children online, hear first-hand from local projects and offer practical workshops to professionals and young people. A graffiti workshop will also offer a more creative element to the conference using urban art and graffiti to enable young people to creatively explore their online experiences and e-safety concerns. Further details about the conference will be announced in the early Autumn. The conference will be an opportunity for delegates to:

- Understand children and young people's internet and social media use, and how it impacts on their safety and wellbeing
- Examine the importance building digital resilience in children and young people
- Evaluate the nature and extent of cybercrime amongst young people
- Develop young people's skills to think critically about extremist content online in order to prevent radicalisation and extremism
- Hear first-hand from young people about their involvement in the Digital Leaders: Shaping Lives, Changing Futures project
- Hear first-hand about the Home Office funded Think: Protect: Connect to support young people with autism spectrum conditions from online radicalisation and extremism
- Understand the current climate of cyberbulling and how best to educate children, prevent cyberbulling incidents, and support young victims
- Explore the theme for Safer Internet Day 2018

Exploitation of children by 'county lines'

The National Crime Agency (NCA) published a second report, in November 2016, on the drug distribution model known as 'county lines'. 'County Lines' is a national issue which involves the exploitation of vulnerable young people and adults by violent gang members in order to move and sell drugs across the country. The gangs recruit vulnerable people, often children, to act as couriers and to sell drugs. The report identifies the exposure to harm children may face from these gangs and encourages authorities to safeguard rather than prosecute affected children.

http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/753-county-lines-gang-violence-exploitation-and-drug-supply-2016/file

Whilst there is no official definition, typical county lines activity involves a gang (usually made up of young males) from a large urban area travelling to smaller locations (such as a county or coastal town) to sell class A drugs, specifically crack cocaine and heroin. They may challenge an existing group from the local area or another county lines enterprise, which often causes incidents of violence.

Prosecutors are now being encouraged to consider all available charges when considering a prosecution in connection with 'County Lines' offending and where they are sure that they have evidence of deliberate targeting, recruitment and significant exploitation of young and vulnerable people they are encouraged to consider bringing charges under the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 provides a statutory defence for victims of child trafficking and slavery accused of certain offences.

It states that a child will be not guilty of an offence if:

- **The person does that act as a direct consequence of them being, or having been, a victim of slavery or a victim of relevant exploitation, and a reasonable person in the same situation as them and having the relevant characteristics would do that act"**
- **Human trafficking is defined as a person "arranges or facilitates the travel of another person ("V") with a view to V being exploited."**

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Increase in UK child exploitation

The National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime (2017), which presents emerging trends in trafficking, abuse and exploitation of children in the UK, warned that the scale of trafficking, including the number of victims and offenders, is "likely increasing steadily", with more victims being recruited online.

The report recognises the growing issue of exploitation across "county lines". A key feature of this trend is the persistent and systematic exploitation of vulnerable persons, including children as young as 12, by gangs to transport, store and distribute drugs in county markets. Victims are also vulnerable to sexual exploitation.

Grooming to elicit illegal images of children and child sexual exploitation and abuse videos is also escalating, according to the report, which has the potential to increase the number of abusive images in circulation.

Vulnerable young people being exploited and recruited by organised crime groups is a priority for the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership and our focus this year will be to explore further opportunities for partners to engage in early preventative work in relation to County Lines, organised crime and the exploitation of young people.

What can professionals do?

Early identification is paramount to safeguarding young and vulnerable people and identifying and tackling gang/group exploitation. A collaborative, multi-agency approach is the best way for professionals to safeguard young people.

Information sharing by key stakeholders such as housing, schools, missing/return home interviews, care/fostering and other frontline practitioners is absolutely key to effective identification and risk management.

Some indicators for professionals to mindful of are:

- Young people going missing and travelling to seaside or market towns
- Money, clothes or accessories which they are unable to account for
- An increase in possession with intent to supply offences outside your area
- Matrix nominals being stopped outside your area (local police will hold this data)

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Government announces further funding to tackle gang related violence

The Home Office is providing almost £100,000 new funding to tackle the issues around gang violence. This funding will allow the expansion of local area reviews and targeted support offered as part of the government's ongoing commitment to Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation (EGVE).

The funding will enable a further 15 local area reviews to be conducted in regions who are experiencing gang related issues to assess their resilience and help address the issues they face. Once the areas which will be reviewed are selected, an expert team will help local authorities and their partners map gang problems in their area, review how effectively they deal with it, and make recommendations to help improve their response.

Local areas will also be able to benefit from tailored follow on support to help them implement the suggested changes and do more to tackle the issue of gangs. This could include developing multi-agency action plans to tackle county lines, training and support, and help to develop relevant town and city centre safeguarding measures. The funding will also support several regional strategic reviews to identify a common framework that the police, Police and Crime Commissioners and partners can agree to effectively tackle the damage caused by county lines gangs.

County lines drugs markets are now operating 24 hours a day, the NCA said. "Returns from 2016 indicate a considerable increase in law enforcement awareness of the use of children … 80 per cent of areas saw the exploitation of children by gangs."

Possible glimpses of this appeared in the Freedom of Information returns: the 14-year-old boy arrested by British Transport Police in Eastbourne, East Sussex, in connection with 15 wraps of cocaine and a brown powder thought to be heroin; the 15-year-old girl arrested in Bedford in November on suspicion of supplying cocaine, who was "processed on behalf of another force". For the gangs, it means, according to NCA figures, an average of £2,000 a day for every county lines operation they set up.

http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/gangs-children-child-drug-dealers-class-a-aged-12-eight-youngest-arrested-young-younger-heroin-crack-a7826551.html

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Serious Organised Crime Toolkit

This interactive toolkit will form part of the East Sussex Community Safety Education Programme but is also freely available for practitioners to use.

Deterring young people from becoming involved in serious and organised crime is a key priority of the Serious and Organised Crime Strategy. To support this work, the Home Office, in partnership with the police and the voluntary sector, have developed an interactive toolkit for those who work with young people. The toolkit seeks to make young people aware of the dangers of this type of crime and how they could be groomed to take part so they recognise these dangers and know when to seek help.

The toolkit includes:

- A short video for frontline staff outlining what serious and organised crime is;
- A short, hard-hitting film ('Consequences') for at-risk young people aged between 11-18 years old; and
- A discussion guide practitioners can use with the short film to run interactive sessions.

The toolkit provides information for practitioners working with young people to help them:

- understand why young people get involved in serious and organised crime
- understand how organised criminals operate
- spot risks and identify when young people need support
- help young people at risk to access the support they need

You can access the toolkit here:
http://infed.org/mobi/soctoolkit/

Stacey Dooley goes undercover in the growing criminal world of Britain's digital drug dealers.

Using fake profiles on Instagram, Snapchat and the new 'Tinder for Teens' app Yellow, she reveals how easy it is for children and young teens to get their hands on Class A drugs via seemingly unmoderated and unprotected social media platforms.

By decoding a little-known-about secret drug code that's reliant on emoji symbols to hide what's being said, Stacey is able to meet and confront face to face these digital dealers, with one of them admitting to her he is only 15 years old.

Stacey then gains access to the gang leaders' of one of Britain's largest drug outfits, who rely upon these social media savvy youngsters to push their illegal business through the popular teen apps. They reveal to Stacey that approximately two-thirds of their trade now comes through social media transactions and the fast paced communication style of these platforms means they can sell up to £22,000 worth of cocaine in only a couple of hours.

As this downloadable danger gathers pace, recreational drugs and recreational apps are on a collision course. Stacey asks are these global social media giants doing anything to tackle this illegal trade on their servers and protect the millions of young people and children all across the country who spend hours on these platforms every day. You can watch the programme here:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0581cdx

Useful Cyber Scams Self Help Websites 2017

Identity Theft *(check for email addresses sold on the dark web)*
https://haveibeenpwned.com/

Check Your Router / Wireless Router / Modem ('Shields Up') (+ Password Checker)
www.grc.com

Is it a Hoax or a Scam?
www.hoax-slayer.com *{running since 2003} or* http://www.snopes.com/

Report Fraud to Action Fraud – UK
www.actionfraud.police.uk or Tel: 0300 123 2040

Cyber Awareness
www.cyberaware.gov.uk

Stop Online Advertisers Tracking You *{without your prior or express permission}*
Firefox browser – add 'Lightbeam' *{monitors who is tracking you on a graphic map}*

- www.snipca.com/22368 *{add to Firefox / install / click on 'Lightbeam' top left}*
  + Firefox browser – add 'Privacy Badger' *{checks for your prior permission}*
  or Chrome browser - add 'Privacy Badger'

- www.eff.org/privacybadger {click here /install or add extension / click on badger icon / Settings / Filter settings to see a personal list / traffic light colours indicate 'allowed' / 'allowed without cookies' / blocked}{move sliders if web sites then do not display correctly}{also acts as an Ad Blocker √}
  Internet Explorer / Firefox / Chrome – add 'Ghostery'

- www.snipca.com/22413 {click add to Internet Explorer / Run / Install / Donation – your choice / block advertising trackers} {will auto update

The Sussex Neighbourhood Watch Federation, a Registered Charity, is the democratically elected umbrella organisation for Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) across Sussex. They are affiliated to the Neighbourhood & Home Watch Network (NHWN), the largest voluntary movement within the UK. They are the only national charity where communities protect themselves and others through sharing crime prevention advice and delivery of community messaging. Neighbourhood Watch is no longer just about preventing burglary, but about preventing serious and organised crime, cyber scam awareness, promoting safety and community resilience.

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