

# EALING'S CONTEXTUAL SAFEGUARDING CHAMPIONS NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Raise awareness. Share learning. Together we can make a difference.

## Quote of the month:

*"Don't be in a hurry to condemn because he doesn't do what you do or think as you think or as fast. There was a time when you didn't know what you know today."*

Malcolm X

## Welcome to the November edition of our newsletter.

This month's content includes a look at the risk of online harm to young people as well as shout outs for outstanding colleagues. Wishing you an awesome month ahead, Cat, Catherine, Shannon and Suzy.



## Online Safety

Hi it's Catherine here. Earlier this year Cat and I had the privilege of being trained as ambassadors to deliver the Think U Know CEOP training alongside our colleague, **Debbie Burrows**, (Head of Hanwell Children's Centre / HAF Project Manager). We would like to send a massive shout-out to Debbie who has run this training on her own for more than 10 years!

For those who are not familiar with CEOP, they are the Child Exploitation and Online Protection unit within the National Crime Agency. CEOP are committed to tackling child sexual abuse and exploitation (CSAE), both online and offline, using a child-centred approach.

Different agencies sit within CEOP and work together to tackle child sexual exploitation and abuse.

There has been a rise in the number of children and young people who have been harmed online in Ealing. During the COVID 19- lockdowns children and young people around the world spent more time online which may have contributed to this increase.

We want to encourage professionals to look out for/sign up to upcoming CEOP training - the next training will be on Friday 25th February - to support their knowledge and understanding around online harm. It can also act as a refresher for those who have attended the training in the past given how quickly online technology and trends move on.

The training covers how to report to CEOP, the different types of opportunities and risks the internet presents, what online sexual abuse is and the impact it can have, nude selfies and risks when nude selfies are shared. We also go through the free resources that Think U Know offer to professionals, carers/parents and children/young people who may have been effected by online harm.

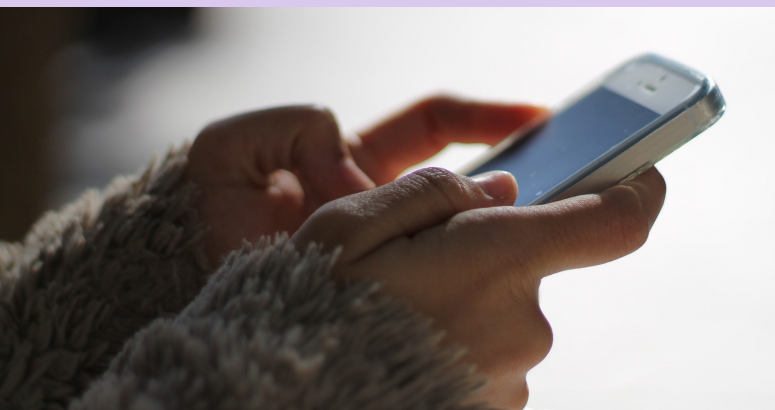
We look forward to seeing at the next training.



## Young people's views on online harm

Alongside this newsletter we have attached a piece of recent research that was conducted by Dr Faith Gordon (Australian National University) and commissioned as part of The Social Switch Project (co-delivered by charities Catch22 and RedThread). The research focussed on gaining a better understanding of children and young people's views and opinions about the impact of online harm and possible solutions to ensure that Children and young people can safely thrive online.

A key finding was that more than 70% of young people reported seeing content online that they found concerning, including violent and explicit content. However, only 40% of young people report harmful content to the platforms they are using. Research recommendations included social media platforms taking more responsibility and to be held to account for inaction.



## Online Safety Bill

The UK government are currently developing an Online Safety Bill which aims to establish a new regulatory framework to tackle harmful content online. The [bill](#) should help to underpin the work being done to minimise online harm to children and young people we are seeking to safeguard:



## Direct work tool

Hi everyone it's Shannon. One form of extra-familial harm that is a regular theme amongst cases we hear about is online risk, whether this is sharing inappropriate images, chatting to older people online, accessing inappropriate websites or bullying others via social media. There are tools that can be used to explore online safety, including online safety agreements, which can be used to negotiate and implement rules such as how long a young person can be online. You can find templates for this online.

One tool that can be used with young people is similar to the risk activity tool that was shared in a previous newsletter but with a focus on online risk.

To use this tool, you need the printout along with red/orange/green pens. It involves asking the young person to rate if they deem the statement low (green), medium (orange) or high (red) risk. No answer is incorrect but this is a helpful way of highlighting insight a young person has into online risk and can help determine what further support is required. This tool helps young people make informed decisions about their actions online and encourages them to speak about worries they may have or may be facing as well as identifying risks that they might not have been aware of.

Please see attached to the newsletter an example of how the tool can be used along with a blank tool for ease of access.

Try this out with your young people and please let us know how it goes – send your feedback to [cschampions@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:cschampions@ealing.gov.uk)



### November Shout-Outs

This month Leaving Care worker, **Karen Lett**, supported by her Team Manager, **Dave Hall**, undertook some excellent work with a care leaver who is at risk of exploitation.

Although statutory processes end once a young person turns 18, the risk of them experiencing harm continues. Care leavers, who are typically living away from their families and are likely to have experienced significant challenges in their lives already, can be especially vulnerable to harm from people seeking to exploit them.

Karen and Dave together demonstrated an understanding of risk indicators of extra-familial harm and a willingness to understand the young person's perception of their own situation as well as the potential pitfalls of any actions that were not carefully considered. They also considered practical steps that could help their young person to be safe and reached out for support from the Contextual Safeguarding Team when appropriate. Very well done to you both.

We also wanted to give a special mention this month to Contextual Safeguarding Core Champion and Senior Social Worker, **Shannon Upton**, who has been appointed as Ealing's third Contextual Safeguarding Advisor. Shannon's new job represents a loss to MAST Adolescent who will miss her considerable skills, knowledge and endless support to colleagues in that team. However, we know that Shannon will be a fantastic asset to vulnerable young people in Ealing in her new role. She is a very welcome addition to the Contextual Safeguarding Team. Congratulations Shannon!

### Vulnerability Screening Tool

Ealing's Contextual Safeguarding Team provides consultative support for all Ealing professionals who are seeking to help a young person who may be at risk of harm from outside their family.

If you have concerns about extra familial harm for a young person you are working with please complete the Vulnerability Screening Tool on Mosaic or if you don't have access to Mosaic you can request the Word template via [vulnerabilitiestool@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:vulnerabilitiestool@ealing.gov.uk). You can also email the team for a consultation and the duty worker will aim to get back to you within one working day.

### Ealing's Contextual Safeguarding Champions Network

Ealing's Contextual Safeguarding Champions Network is next due to meet at 11am on Thursday 16 December. Benefits of membership include access for you and your team to our Contextual Safeguarding Resource document as well as information about the latest extra-familial risk themes for the borough.

If you are interested in joining, please [get in touch](#).

### Contact

Ealing's Contextual Safeguarding Core Champions are:

**Suzy Grihault:** Operations Manager, Youth Justice Service

**Catherine Imobeke:** Contextual Safeguarding Advisor, Contextual Safeguarding Team

**Shannon Upton:** Senior Social Worker, MAST Adolescents Team

**Cat White:** Contextual Safeguarding Advisor, Contextual Safeguarding Team

If you have any questions about this newsletter or the Contextual Safeguarding Champions Network, [please email us](#) and one of the team will get back to you as soon as possible.

