

Safeguarding Week | WEDNESDAY | Digital Safeguarding

Bracknell Forest Safeguarding Board News



Bracknell Forest Safeguarding Board

The focus for Wednesday is:



Digital Safeguarding

Over the past couple of years, an increasing proportion of our lives from has moved online. We want to use today to share best practice in relation to how we can create safe cultures in our online activity and the communities we access virtually.

Introduction to digital safeguarding

[Ann Craft Trust](#) provide an introduction to digital safeguarding and describe it taking steps to stay safe online. They have a number of digital safeguarding resources for adults, those delivering youth work, those with learning disabilities, people who have been abused online, online scams, guidance for sport organisations when delivering activities online and more.

Some people may be at greater risk online e.g. those with physical disabilities or illnesses, care leavers, people with mental health difficulties, those with addictions, homeless people, abuse survivors, those in poverty, ex-offenders, ex-service personnel, minority groups, etc.

There may be a greater exposure to particular online risks for certain groups, e.g. a third of LGBTQ+ people experience online hate crime; and for a number of reasons (including lack of staff awareness and lack of education), young people with learning disabilities can be more susceptible than others to online grooming and child exploitation.

[The Children's Society](#) describes online exploitation as when someone online uses their power to make a child do sexual or criminal things, either online or offline. Online grooming is when someone tricks and makes friends with a child online, often to exploit them, sexually or criminally. Young people can get further help and support from [Childline](#).



Online Scams

Scams can be difficult to recognise, but there are things you can look out for [Citizens Advice Bureau](#) has an online scams helper to get advice that's specific to the situation. They also have tips on how to protect yourself online.

Digital Services

You don't need to be an expert in IT to understand the basic principles of digital safeguarding. A webinar from [AVA Project](#) is still available and helps explain the basics we all need to know. The AVA project also have a digital resource pack which was updated in Spring 2021 providing information for anyone to be aware of when working online.

[Unicef](#) has tips for practitioners and what to include in a risk assessment when engaging with children and young people online.

[Girl Guiding UK has a free e-learning course](#) which takes about 20 minutes to complete and provides practical examples of different scenarios and how to protect yourself and young members online.



Online Hate

[Stop Hate UK](#) describes online hate as sharing hateful messages about individuals, groups and communities which can cause people to feel isolated, depressed and scared about what people are saying about them. Even more harm occurs when other people agree, 'like' or share the posts. Evidence indicates that sharing of hateful attitudes online can motivate people to commit harmful acts in the real world.

You can use an [online form to report](#) hate crime and online hate material or report it to your local police via 101.

HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS



CONSIDER THE SOURCE

Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.



READ BEYOND

Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?



CHECK THE AUTHOR

Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?



SUPPORTING SOURCES?

Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.



CHECK THE DATE

Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.



IS IT A JOKE?

If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.



CHECK YOUR BIASES

Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.



ASK THE EXPERTS

Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.

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