Safeguarding of children
and vulnerable adults

Resource for organisations delivering activities and services for young people online

All Paul Hamlyn Foundation (PHF) funded organisations, individuals and projects that work with children and young people or vulnerable adults are required to have a safeguarding policy and active procedures in place. You can view our safeguarding policy here.

Since COVID-19 pandemic many organisations have explored forms of online delivery to support children and young people, schools, family groups and other individuals. In tandem with developing online approaches, organisations should ensure their safeguarding policies continue to cover the complex challenges that can arise from online engagement. All schools and colleges will have robust policies and procedures in place to support and protect the whole learning community. These will be in line with the Department for Education’s (DfE’s) statutory guidance on [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024 (with specific reference to online safety from page 38)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66cef97ca7256f1cd83a89a3/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2024.pdf). The considerations and resources below will help your organisation to establish a culture which safeguards both staff and participants online. Your organisation should understand these requirements and model these procedures before it embarks upon any digital development.

# Considerations

## Online safety should appear within your organisation’s safeguarding policy.

## Assess your policies and procedures as your digital provision grows. If online provision is a substantial part of your programme consider having a stand-alone online safety policy.

## Include an escalation plan in your policy (i.e. know what to do if an incident arises).

## Consider having a named individual within your organisation with responsibility for online safety.

## Ensure all staff understand your policies/procedures. Extend this to participants if synchronous activities/online activities are planned

## Ensure you are GDPR compliant

## Keep up to date by using the widely available free resources and materials.

# Resources

## Policy Templates

[Online Safety Compass](https://360groups.org.uk/) produced by South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL), the organisation leading on online safety mark for schools, this free auditing and benchmarking tool is designed specifically for organisations working with children and young people. Choose which parts of the tool are relevant to your organisation, assess your current provision and fill in the gaps.

## Policy Templates

From NSPCC

* [Policy templates](https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/templates/example-safeguarding-policy-statement)
* [Sample policies](https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1601/safeguarding-policy-statement-example.pdf)
* [Free resources and guidance](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/)

## Policy, resources and updates

[The UK Council for Internet Safety](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-council-for-internet-safety) (UKCIS), part of Department for Education, Home Office, and Department for Science, Innovation and Technology is a collaborative forum through which government, the tech community and the third sector work together to ensure the UK is the safest place in the world to be online. Keep an eye on their website for news, resources and updates.

## Live streaming

* Livestreaming from Zoom to Twitch from [UK Safer Internet Centre.](https://saferinternet.org.uk/online-issue/livestreaming-2)
* Livestreaming and video apps from [NSPCC.](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/livestreaming-online-video-apps/)

## General advice

* [Internet Matters](https://www.internetmatters.org/) - independent charity working in partnership with Google, Meta and others to provide guidance and support for parents and carers. Content covers screen time, online abuse, pornography, misinformation, cyberbullying and more.
* [ParentZone](https://parentzone.org.uk/) produces resources and materials supporting organisations, schools and families to deal with issues amplified by the internet in and beyond online safety. ParentZone is a good source of information for family focused organisations.
* [NSPCC weekly newsletter](http://nspcc.org.uk/caspar)  keep abreast of safeguarding issues by signing up.

## Helpline

[Professionals Online Safety Helpline](https://swgfl.org.uk/helplines/professionals-online-safety-helpline/?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjwoJa2BhBPEiwA0l0ImKw8BErU1gcG37jQh-igN6Ilglservm5zXR17rU4TqIgjJSVtvdDyxoC74MQAvD_BwE) - run by SWGfL, this helpline is for anyone working with young people with an online safety issue they, or children/ young people in their care may face.

## Reporting abuse

CEOP, part of the National Crime Agency, helps keep children and young people safe from sexual abuse and grooming online. It’s website features many useful resources. In addition, its [reporting service](https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/Get-help/Reporting-an-incident/) can be used by adults, parents, worried friends or young people themselves. CEOP works in collaboration with all relevant agencies and services.

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