

APPENDIX A:

ACTION PLAN – Recommendations from Scrutiny Panel Digital Safeguarding - Sexting and Youth Produced sexual Imagery.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Community Safety & Leisure Scrutiny Panel recommends to the Executive:
 - a) That the support of the Regional Ofsted Leads for Safeguarding and Education are enlisted to ensure that the best practice findings outlined in the report are taken on board and promoted amongst all schools in Middlesbrough as follows:-
 - That all schools in Middlesbrough employ CEOP ambassador trained staff to routinely deliver digital safeguarding presentations to children.
 - That schools produce a bespoke version of the *Sexting in schools and colleges: responding to incidents and safeguarding young people (August 2016) document* based on the best practice example provided by a Middlesbrough Primary School. (Appendix B)
 - That children and young people be provided with a 3 point plan of 'what to do if this happens to me'.
 - That teachers, parents, carers and professionals working with children and young people are provided with a quick and easy reference method on how to respond to any incidents.
 - That due attention is given to the Local Children's Safeguarding Board's quarterly newsletter.
 - That schools listen to children and young people regularly to ensure they are aware of the most up to date information in respect of sexting taking place in the school / wider community.
 - That the 'Digital Leaders' Program is promoted in all schools across the town.
 - That the use of drama be used (as with Chelsea's Choice) to deliver information to parents directly by children and young people in Middlesbrough.
 - b) That in readiness for the introduction of new statutory "Relationship and Sex Education" in September 2019 schools, sixth forms and colleges are proactively encouraged to take advantage of the resources available and sign up to the Council's "Respect Yourself" and "Why Risk it Programme".
 - c) That all schools in Middlesbrough be actively encouraged to sign up to receive a regular digital parenting magazine and attend the Digital Safeguarding Network Forum.
 - d) That an alert system be set up to immediately inform safeguarding staff of trends / apps / online crazes that could pose a danger to young people, which staff should be made aware of (similar to the way in which alerts are sent out to professionals who work in drug and alcohol services to alert them of specific dangers).

- e) That a publicity campaign to raise awareness for parents, carers, teachers and other professionals working with young people on how to set safety and privacy controls on the most popular social network sites, apps and live streaming services be undertaken to further protect children and young people in Middlesbrough.
 - I. Many staff employed by the Council have children and grandchildren aged between 4 – 18 years old and getting the message out to staff around protecting their child's digital footprint, understanding the latest apps, learning how to use parental controls is as important as teaching young people about the dangers involved in new risk taking behaviours.
 - II. That the CEOP and the thinkyouknow website be regularly promoted via the Love Middlesbrough magazine and the Council's digital media platforms.
- f) That a bi-annual event be hosted on 'Digital Safeguarding/Digital Resilience' in an effort to increase awareness, share best practice and provide an opportunity for statutory agencies in Middlesbrough to share knowledge and experience in addressing these challenges.
- g) That training on 'Digital Safeguarding' be included in the Local Children's Safeguarding Board's (LCSB) and School Governors annual training programme in an effort to further strengthen knowledge and awareness.
- h) That all schools in Middlesbrough are fully supported to ensure that they have links from their main school websites to CEOP, the NSPCC and a digital parenting magazine to enable parents to access trusted advice directly from their child's school website.
- i) That a public safety campaign by Middlesbrough Council and Cleveland Police similar to that used by Leicestershire / West Yorkshire Police to warn young people, both girls and boys, about the dangers of speaking to people they don't know online be developed and rolled out. The possibility of undertaking this work in partnership with the NSPCC, O2, Vodafone or BT could be explored particularly in respect of working with parents to help them understand and protect their children from online abuse.
 - a. That innovative ways in which to reach parents through the public safety campaign as a targeted demographic be explored - including the use of social media and the purchasing of reach on Facebook.

Departmental Response:

This idea will be explored further at the Digital Safeguarding Network Forum

- b. That the idea of children signing a contract with their parents / carers when receiving / upgrading their mobile phone to work out the rules on how the device is to be used and what can / cannot be accessed be promoted.
- j) That Cleveland Police's Economic and Cyber Crime unit's presentation on indecent imagery and the impact it has on children be provided to all elected Members.
- k) That the panel receive an update on 'Digital Safeguarding – Sexting' in 6 months' time.