Nominet REACH – Digiwise

Ralph Jordinson – Risk and resilience coordinator
Louisa Jefferson - Digital policy apprentice

- *Elevating young peoples' voice to influence the services affecting their digital access.*

- *Purpose of the report is to develop a policy / best practice document for children looked after and children leaving care online access.*

- *Care experienced young people have invaluable insight which is currently under-used in relation to digital and online safety policy development.*

Progress so far

a) Employed an apprentice who has care experience

b) Project lead and the apprentice have been trained in *Impact Measurement and Management* and developed a '**Theory of Change**' and young person **blog**.

c) Consulted with young people and established the survey name: '*Digiwise*'

d) Formed a Steering Group to advise on key issues

e) Developed an action plan which drives the project

f) Hosted a care leavers football match and consultation event at Middlesbrough Football Community Foundation

g) Designed and implemented a consultation survey for young people with care experience

h) Designed a consultation survey for Foster Carers, Residential Workers and Social Workers.

i) Is in the process of undertaking all consultation in g) and h) above

Survey early findings

Early indications from the young peoples' survey shows:

- 100% are accessing the internet

- 93% access 1 or more social media account as their main activity

- 60% of the young people surveyed are going online for more than 8 hours per week,

- 87% are using their smartphone as the main device to access the internet, but choosing their own data plans over the residential home internet connection, this is because they have unlimited access data plans (this potentially poses a risk if there are no filters or controls enabled)

- 60% of young people surveyed reported that they had seen the sale of drugs on their social media

- 33% had requests to send youth produced sexual imagery (Indecent images)

- 73% had seen fake news reports

Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) backed tool, UKCIS Digital Passport is a new innovative communication tool to help children and young people with care experience to explore their online lives and help keep them safe in online spaces (risks outside of the home).

It has three parts which should all be used together:
- Digital Passport: An introduction
- Digital Passport: For adults and carers
- Digital Passport: For children and young people

Talking regularly about their digital lives with a trusted adult is a key way to help keep children and young people safe online. The Passport provides structure and resources to support professionals in having those conversations.

Foster carers survey

- The project will continue with a survey for Foster Carers, Social Workers and Residential Workers.

- This will identify key skills gaps in their knowledge and their experiences of young people accessing online spaces in their care.

- This professionals survey is with our consultation portal and expected to be live by end of January 2022, the findings will also inform the final policy.

- The next update for this board will be in June/July 2022.

Considerations:
To support promotion of
UKCIS Digital Passport

- One outcome of the project so far has been the introduction of Foster Carers to introduce the UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS) Digital Passport (government backed)

- Provides structure and safer conversations, for both the child and the carer. It allows children to express their feelings, hopes and interests and to talk about all digital focused issues why these are important.