Going online can expose children to unwanted and potentially dangerous experiences including cyberbullying, sexual harassment, grooming, child sexual exploitation and radicalisation. 17% of 8-11s and 29% of 12-15s who go online say that they have seen found something online worrying and nasty. 45%of 12-15s have seen hateful comments online in the last year. 1/10 12-15s have found something of a sexual nature online that made them feel uncomfortable. 12% of 12-15s say they have been bullied on social media.

2. Why it matters

E-Safety is a term which encompasses not only the internet, but other ways young people communicate using electronic media, e.g. smart phones, gaming consoles, tablets. The amount of time children spend online has more than doubled in a decade. Tablet ownership is higher than smartphone ownership up to the age of 10, then between the ages of 12-15 83% of children own a smartphone. The main usage of these smartphones for children is social media.

1. Background

E-Safety

Live and Learn Sports

Safeguarding Children

Partnership 2020

A drawing of a cartoon character

Description automatically generated

A research survey of 1,559 UK teenagers, published by childnet in December 2017, found that:

In the last year almost a third of girls aged 13-17 (31%) have received unwanted sexual messages online from their peers, 11% of boys. Over half of UK teenagers have witnessed their peers circulating nude or nearly nude images of someone they know.

3. Information

Further Research:

Ofcom: children and parents media use & attitudes report 2017.

Children’s online activities, risks & safety : research review 2017.

Internet watch foundation

UK safer internet centre.

7. What to do =

RSCB

Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board –

7-minute Briefing

Do I have sufficient understanding of children’s use of digital media and key current research findings?

Do I keep my own information private on social media?

Do I understand the role of CEOP?

Do I know how I should respond to any social media requests from children or young people that I wor with?

6. Questions

26% reported that they had received sexual comments on a photo they posted of themselves in the last year. Emerging research suggests that some young people are less relsilient to online risks, including children who suffer physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse or neglect. Girls are more likely to offer positive reinforcement to their peers online then boys.

5. Information

12% said that their boyfriend or girlfriend had pressured them to share nude images in the last year, with girls being more likely to report this 14% than boys 7%. 23% have witnessed young people secretly taking sexual images of someone and sharing them online, also known as ‘creep shots’ while 8% have admitted they had done this in the last year.

4. Information