

# New technology benefits and dangers

‘NCH Safeguarding Unit aims to promote, support and develop Safeguarding practice across the organisation’



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# New technology benefits and dangers

- UK Office of National Statistics show that in the second quarter of 2003, 12 million households had access to the internet.

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# New technology benefits and dangers

- This is 48% of all households, the rate of growth has been massive.
- Households with children are more likely to have internet access.
- In 2002 the British Educational and technology Agency showed that 68% of 5-18 have internet access.
- In 2003 over 99% of all schools had access to the internet.

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# New technology benefits and dangers

- In 2003 a Nielsen's rating study showed that in the UK 4.5 million under 18's regularly used the internet, with fast growth in the under 12's.
- This is the highest use in Europe.

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# New technology benefits and dangers

- Need to think how many young people use the internet when thinking about risks.
- Need to consider the risks of not having access to the internet.
- Use of the internet had great advantages.
- It is likely that it improves educational outcomes.

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# New technology benefits and dangers

- It offers recreational opportunities.
- It can connect people (especially young people) to their communities, especially where they are geographically dispersed.
- It can offer increased opportunities for confidential counselling.
- However there are risks associated with the use of the internet for young people.

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# New technology benefits and dangers

- They may be targeted by those who would want to sexually offend against them, with a view to a meeting taking place.
- There are some patterns of “grooming” that have been identified.
- These include spending time getting trust.
- Saying that they are a young person, when they are an adult.

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# New technology benefits and dangers

- Sending a phone to a young person.
- Buying phone cards for young people.
- May be offender from another country.
- Often use chat rooms, and then move from open to one to one.
- Often tell young people not to repeat their conversations.

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# New technology benefits and dangers

- Young people may be used in the production of child sex abuse images.
- It is likely that the internet has exposed children and young people to a wider range of unsuitable material.
- It is not clear what the effects of this might be, parental responsibilities are likely to increase in this area.
- Young people may experience inappropriate material such as violent material, race hate, fraud and inappropriate information about illegal drugs.

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# New technology benefits and dangers

- Young people may also be bullied or be offended against, via the internet by other young people.
- When thinking about the internet, it is useful to think of it as a "city".

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# New technology benefits and dangers

- LSCB's role.
- Where internet is used to abuse children “working together” arrangements apply.
- Raising awareness of internet issues is in non-statutory guidance.

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# New technology benefits and dangers

- What is bullying via mobile phones?
- One or more unwanted text messages.
- Use of camera phones to intimidate or embarrass.
- Stealing identity.
- Mobiles mean bullying is brought into the home.

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# New technology benefits and dangers

- 97% of 12-16 year olds have a mobile (mobile youth 2004).
- 20% of 11-19 year olds have experienced some sort of digital bullying.
- 14% by mobile text message.
- 5% in internet chat room.
- 4% via email.

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# New technology benefits and dangers

- For 50% of those bullied the event took place in school or college.
- 17% at weekends.
- 21% after school or college.
- 6% in school or college holidays.

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# New technology benefits and dangers

- 1 in 10 said they had felt uncomfortable and embarrassed by a camera photo someone had taken of them.
- 17% felt that the image had been sent to someone else.
- Approximately 8 million young people own a camera phone.

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# New technology benefits and dangers

- 73% said they had been bullied by some one they knew.
- 28% told no one.
- 41% told a friend.
- 24% told a parent.
- 14% told a teacher.

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# New technology benefits and dangers

- Of those who told no one about bullying.
- 31% said because it wasn't a problem.
- 12% because there was no they wanted to tell.
- 11% because they didn't think it would stop the bullying.
- 10% because they didn't know where to go.

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# New technology benefits and dangers

- Of those who told no one.
- 23% thought being able to contact someone who was an expert in bullying would help.
- 15% said that knowing there was a staff member in their school or college would help.
- 13% said that knowing there was a website for these issues would help.

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# New technology benefits and dangers

- Are other environments where bullying and abuse can take place.
- These include social networking sites.
- NCH's experience recently shows the distress this can cause to young people.
- It is Important that solution are not just technical ones.

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# New technology benefits and dangers

- Group Exercises
- Spend 5 minutes discussing how the internet and other new technologies are dealt with (in your school) in the curriculum/information to parents.
- Spend 5 minutes listing 3 things you would want to develop in your school in these areas.

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