



# SOCIAL MEDIA AND ONLINE SAFETY- POINTS TO CONSIDER ?

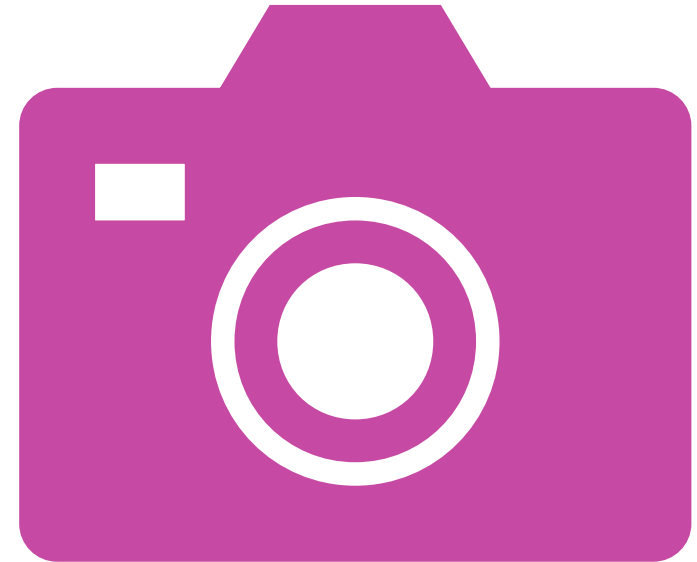
Challenging assumptions .....

Chris Freestone. 11.9.23

Dialogue

# Thinking about the team and yourself ?

- Do you have a clear picture / understanding of social media- just because we may have a Facebook , Instagram, Tik Tok presence doesn't mean to say that we do.
- Is there a need for some training?
- Support anxiety , lack of understanding in the adults
- Presence of a S/M champion to keep everyone briefed and up to date ?
- Is this in your induction as an enhanced area in safeguarding ?



# Does everyone understand privacy features?

- There are a range of privacy features and parental controls you can set up on social media accounts.
- These often include preventing unwanted contact from strangers and limiting the exposure of posts.
- Consider what restrictions work best for your family (home), ensure age restrictions are adhered to, develop understanding within the household of safer internet use and consider how privacy features could be lifted as time goes on.
- (UK Safer Internet Centre)



# Are the team , are you confident in discussing this with young people?

This in terms of :

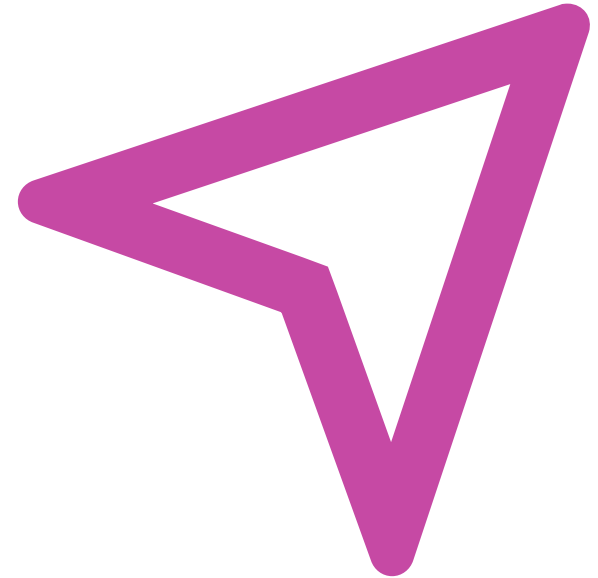
- health and well-being/rules / boundaries/options of things to do when stepping away
- on line safety
- cues and strategies for keeping safe
- cues and strategies for dealing with difficult situations
- staff being knowledgeable and available to young people. Saying “don’t do that “ , “social media is a scary place to be “ , “the world would be better off without it” – not useful ! Very much the adult response.

**SOCIAL MEDIA IS A KEY PART OF A YOUNG PERSON’S WORLD , NOT AN INTERMITTENT ELEMENT.**



# Having somewhere to go or someone to go to ....resources for the team and young person to use.

- <https://swgfl.org.uk/assets/documents/facebook-checklist.pdf>
- <https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/instagram/>
- <https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/netflix-checklist/>
- <https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/snapchat/>
- <https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/tiktok/>
- <https://d1xsi6mgo67kia.cloudfront.net/uploads/2021/10/conversation-starters.png>
- SWGfL is a great resource amongst others.



# Social media is :

- So what is it ? Can everyone define and describe it- adults and young people?

Can be great !

A lot of the time, social media is a positive place where users support each other.

## Benefits of Social Media

- 1.Available and accommodating to most audiences
- 2.Can promote positivity and healthy expression
- 3.An accessible platform to connect with others
- 4.An instant platform for news and global awareness



# Social media is :

BUT>>>>>

Harmful and offensive content may be

1. Seen across platforms

2. Can be used to promote misleading information  
Can promote unhealthy expectations and

3. Pressure for young people

4. Can impact digital wellbeing if not managed  
correctly

Have you taken both angles into account ?



— **WHAT MAY BE THE  
RISKS?**





# Just some of the issues- a rapidly moving area. Do staff understand these ?

Fake online profiles

Scamming

Misinformation

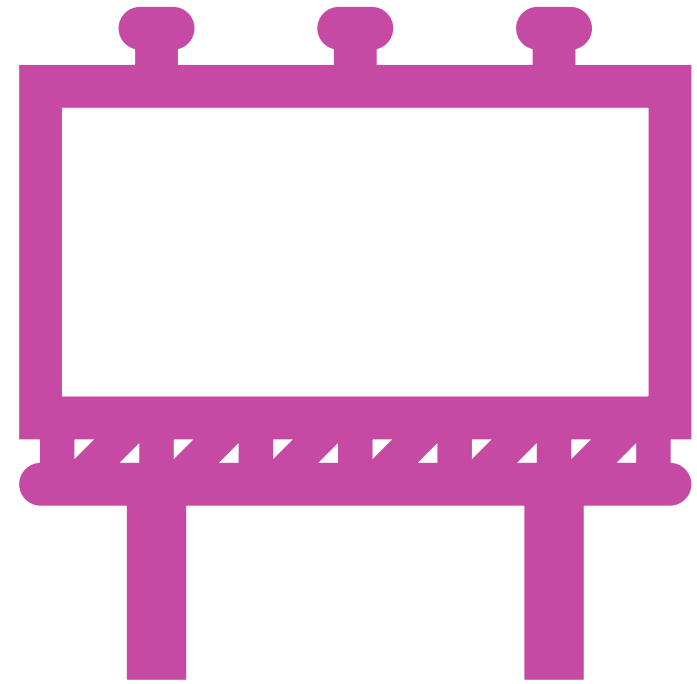
Fake ads

Fraud

Radical/harmful content

Grooming

Radicalisation



# Thoughts :

- <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/social-media-how-to-use-it-safely>
- [reportharmfulcontent.com](https://reportharmfulcontent.com)
- [https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11\\_18/](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11_18/)
- <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/online/social-networking/>
- using two step verification ?
- do staff and young people understand the potential use and impact of their digital footprint?
- can staff and young people spot fake accounts?



# Like all things...

- Social media can be a wholly positive experience . From a safeguarding perspective you may need to think about and baseline the level of knowledge held by the adults- social media is NOT going to disappear!
- Don't assume the children know more than the adults- they may appear to , but the keeping safe elements may be difficult for them to comprehend- as children and adolescents this may have been in their lives for a long period of time and is a key part of that.
- The focus to support them in keeping safe starts with the adults holding a comprehensive understanding of how important social media is to our children and young people and how we can help them to hold a balanced and more safe approach.



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# Any...

- Thoughts ?
- Reflections ?

My thanks Chris

