



Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board E-Safety Strategy

<i>Reference number</i>	2010-09
<i>Approved by</i>	Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board
<i>Date approved</i>	09 January 2012
<i>Version</i>	1.0
<i>Last revised</i>	
<i>Review date</i>	January 2013
<i>Category</i>	
<i>Owner</i>	HSCB Chair
<i>Target audience</i>	Herefordshire Public Services and its Partners, in accordance with Section 13(3) of the Children Act 2004

1. Introduction

1.1 The Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board takes seriously its statutory role to ensure that member agencies co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in Herefordshire and to ensure that they are effective in doing so.

1.2 The rapid growth of the internet and of electronic technologies has opened up a world of exciting opportunities for many children and young people. Through the internet and mobile technology it is possible for young people to have access to almost unlimited information worldwide, to be entertained with films and music and, through social networking sites to contact and socialise with other young people. However alongside the benefits there are also risks, and while most young people are very competent in using these technologies, their knowledge and understanding of the risks is often very low.

1.3 The risks to children and young people are various: being exposed to inappropriate content; being groomed by someone who wants to abuse them; being bullied on line or via mobile technology; blackmailed; of having their identity stolen; and of being the subject of fraud. Children and young people

need to be protected from these risks and they need to be helped to develop the skills to keep themselves safe when they are on line.

1.4 This strategy has been written to provide the E-Safety framework for member agencies of the HSCB and other agencies and organisations who work with children in order that the children and young people of Herefordshire can be safe when they are on line or using ICT technologies. The strategy recognises that being safe online is not just a matter of technology but that a comprehensive approach to e-safety is required, in which children and young people are kept safe by sound policies that inform technical standards, alongside a programme of education for them and their carers which develops and sustains safe on line behaviour. The strategy will be monitored by the HSCB to ensure that it remains relevant to its objectives and so that it can develop as the information technologies change and evolve.

2. E-Safety Strategy

2.1 The aim of the E-Safety Strategy is to provide all children and young people in Herefordshire with a safe electronic environment where they can learn, explore, socialise and enjoy themselves.

2.2 The implementation of the strategy will be monitored through the Steering Group which will report to the HSCB on a regular basis.

2.3 The strategy will be reviewed by the HSCB annually The HSBC will receive an annual report from the monitoring group.

2.4 The strategy action plan for E-Safety in Herefordshire is arranged in the following main areas -

3. Policies

3.1 All of the E-Safety strategy needs to have a foundation of agreed policies that direct agencies, professionals, parents and young people in the safe use of the internet.

3.2 These policies must include:

- Acceptable use policies
- Internet filtering policies
- Procedure for reporting incidents including an incident flow chart

3.3 These will need to be interpreted into E-Safety policies that can be applied to schools and other agencies who work directly with children.

3.4 Access to the internet needs to be through equipment and connections that will allow for a good level of protection, filtering, and

professional/parental control. This strategy will establish what the standard should be and how agencies and individual families can enable this.

5. Education

5.1 Technical measures alone will not keep children and young people safe. There will need to be a comprehensive education and training for professionals, parents and young people to learn about the risks of the internet and about the behaviours that are needed to stay safe online. This will be centred on schools in the main, but not exclusively, and will provide training/information sessions to teachers and other professionals, parents and to children and young people.

6. Supervision /Monitoring

6.1 Once measures are put in place it will be necessary to monitor their effectiveness and be prepared to alter and update them as changes emerge in the internet. This will happen via the Policy & Practice Sub Group initially.

7. Organisation and Accountability

7.1 Each agency that forms part of the HSCB that has a direct link with children will be expected to designate an E-Safety Officer – (HSCB E-Safety Officer: Martin Lakeman, Head of Public Protection, West Mercia Police). Each E-Safety Officer will need to signpost and advise staff in their agency on e-safety issues, identify training needs and ensure that incidents are dealt with according to the incident flow chart, and provide annual returns regarding all incidents, including bullying, to the HSCB Business Unit.

7.2 Each school and service or agency that works directly with children and young people will need to identify an E-Safety Officer who will have the responsibility for promoting and co-ordinating the E-Safety Policy for that part of the agency. These E-Safety Officers will be required to carry out the same functions as set out for HSCB member agencies.

8. Policies

8.1 All HSCB agencies will need to consider the E-safety issue within their organisation and how the various elements i.e. acceptable use policies; use of mobile technologies etc will impact upon their staff and business operations.

The policies to guide safety will include -

8.2 Acceptable Use Policies

Acceptable use policies (AUP) promote responsible use of the internet by ensuring that users are responsible and safe, that they are not exposed to

any damaging material and that systems are protected from accidental or deliberate misuse. They will apply to professional staff, volunteers and children and young people.

8.3 Agencies should;

- Periodically review and update their AUP
- Ensure that every user (children, young people & parent where applicable) has read and signed the AUP to say they accept the policy
- Ensure educators, leaders, carers and users are aware of how to report incidents
- Provide advice and guidance to parents on how to protect their child at home.

8.4 **Develop model policies (using best practice examples)**

The WMnet website (<http://www.wmnet.org.uk/21.cfm>) has templates, toolkits and links to relevant bodies such as CEOP. There is also a link to the South West Grid for Learning where there is support through exemplar documentation that will assist organisations to develop a comprehensive E-Safety policy. These can be adapted and modified as appropriate for each school. The school E-Safety Policy can be adapted as a template to be used by HSCB and other agencies. In addition, the SWGfL template policy has been adapted into a template for Herefordshire Schools. This is available to all schools subscribing to *Hands on Support* for ICT through the Learning and Achievement Service and can be found through the Herefordshire Schools VLE

8.5 **Child Protection Policy**

The child protection policy will address any incidents of misuse that are also abusive. They will include:

- Child sexual abuse images
- Adult material which potentially breaches the Obscene publications act
- Criminally racist material
- Other criminal conduct, activity or materials

8.6 This policy will be a part of the child protection procedures and any incident that is considered to be abusive will be investigated according to the child protection and/or allegations management procedures.

9. Infrastructure

Produce a register of Internet access locations

9.1 Through an audit, produce a register of locations where Herefordshire Public Services (HPS) either directly or indirectly provides Internet access which can be used by children and Young People, (excluding schools).

Security software

9.2 Each agency in the Herefordshire area needs to review the security software currently available on its site and install suitable security to ensure the safety of its users.

9.3 A review of what filtering products (if any) other establishments including, Youth Centres, Libraries, Further Education and Health within Herefordshire currently have will need to be undertaken by these establishments.

Age related filtering and blocking

9.4 Agencies and organisations will need to establish their own filtering and blocking criteria that meets the minimum requirements set out by the HSCB. Standard default settings will be advised by Herefordshire ICT but each establishment must determine which sites they will block and which sites will be allowed to be viewed by certain age groups.

Spam filtering and blocking

9.5 As above but for schools, ICT systems will be managed in ways that ensure that the school meets the e-safety technical requirements outlined in the schools e-safety and e-security policies and acceptable use policy and in line with the policies of Herefordshire ICT Services (to whose infrastructure the school is connected).

10. Education

10.1 The education of children and young people, their parents and carers and the professionals that support them is an essential part of the E-Safety Strategy. As stated above e-safety is not just a technological issue and the education of children and young people in developing the behaviours that will keep them safe when they are online, is a key preventive measure.

10.2 There will need to be a comprehensive education programme which will be available to all who need this to establish the basic principles of e-safety. In addition there will need to be specific training to particular groups of children and young people in a rolling programme.

10.3 The areas suggested for delivery to parents, children and young people are

1. Schools
2. Youth Service
3. Children in Care
4. Further Education Colleges
5. Training providers
6. Libraries
7. Children Centres
8. Health Clinics/Visitors
9. Voluntary Organisations

(Agreement on phasing in this specific training and the priority order sought)

Children and young people

10.4 The majority of children and young people will be educated about issues of e-safety through their schools. The education they will receive will be part of their general education in order that the habits of good practice will become part of their behaviour when they are using the internet at school and will therefore promote safe behaviour when out of school.

Parents and carers

10.5 There will be a number of parent information evenings that will be available to all parents to inform them about e-safety and provide straightforward, accessible guides.

Professionals

10.6 There will need to be specific training for designated E-Safety Officers and teachers in order that they will be able to promote the e safety programme to their students and parents.

10.7 Information sessions for foster carers and professionals working with children and young people will also need to be provided via the HSCB Multi-agency Safeguarding training programme and/or WMnet

10.8 In addition to this programme there will be the following actions -

Consultation with children and young people

10.9 Children should be made aware of the issues of e-safety through PSHE and other means, and should be provided with opportunities to express their views and concerns. Agencies need to consider opportunities to involve and consult with children and young people through the development of e-safety policies, school events, Youth Centres, Stakeholder events and Youth Groups.

Promotion of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre

10.10 A national campaign is in place to provide an easy and accessible means of reporting incidents and concerns. HSCB supports this campaign and will seek to ensure that all Herefordshire's child accessible computer desktop screens display a shortcut to the 'Think U Know' site.

Extended schools and community development

10.11 Consideration should be given to the development of volunteer schemes to match the expertise of industry to the needs of parents and communities as part of the extended schools agenda, especially as learning may take place under the supervision of external organisations.

Monitoring and auditing implementation

10.12 On an annual basis, the Designated E-Safety Officers will be required to undertake an audit of their e-safety policies etc and provide returns on incidents to HSCB. The HSCB will receive a collated audit report from all agencies.