



The  
Marie Collins  
Foundation

# Meeting the needs of children abused online – what would you do?

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Be the change you want to see

# The Marie Collins Foundation

## **Our vision**

All children who suffer sexual abuse via the internet and mobile technologies, and related offline abuse, are enabled to recover and live safe and fulfilling lives

## **Our Aim**

To ensure that the response to children and their families who have suffered harm via the internet and mobile technologies is based on sound, evidence based practice

## **Our Principle:**

If you place the needs of the child victim and their family at the centre of any investigation or professional intervention you are likely to better safeguard the child and to achieve a proportionate and appropriate response within the criminal justice system

# The MCF

The MCF works in partnership with police, health, children's services, NGOs, education personnel, industry members, government departments and those working in the legal profession and judiciary across the UK and internationally. We

- offer direct services to children and their families affected by abuse online
- provide training for professionals
- work alongside those assisting children in their recovery,
- influence national policies and strategies regarding appropriate responses to children harmed online
- participate in research initiatives to better inform evidence-based practice
- engage the media in responsible and informed debate.

# Scale of the problem

- Unknown BUT
- Grown exponentially over the past 10 years
- Historical – truth drug
- Children are doubly silenced regarding disclosure

# Features of the new technology which facilitate the sexual exploitation of children

- Easily accessible
- Hidden activity
- Eases communication – both on a national and international level
- It's quick
- Disinhibits
- Acts as a conduit between ATP – Trafficking – Abuse online
- Joined up thinking
- 2010
  - Growth, sexualisation of children (Popadopolous review), children's views of online/offline, divide between children and adults re: knowledge and workings of New technology

# Young people's communication online - the devices and platforms they use

- Internet,
- Cell phones, smart phones
- Tablets
- Games
- Desk tops
- Lap tops
- Audio visual materials – such as digital cameras
- LBSs – location based services
- SNS
- Television
- Record and upload videos
- *Video chat (SKYPE), SNS messaging, e mailing, texting*
- Apps

# Five key considerations

- Young people's communication online – normalisation, language, image exchange, initial engagement, societal sexualisation
- Discovery v disclosure – why report it? Discovery by someone else rather than disclosure. See the signs/ask the questions
- Grooming – Is it different? If so in what way?
- Impacts – never underestimate the impact of disclosure/discovery on the victim and their family. Victim impacts – next slide
- Resolution

# Characteristics of the impact of online CSA

- Non-resolution
- Lack of control
- Rational paranoia
- Shame and embarrassment
- Guilt
- Implications for assistance with recovery
- Relating online behaviours to offline
- “It’s not so much what was done to me but what it did to my head that matters.....”







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Click: Path to Protection  
Course outline  
From Discovery to Recovery

# CLICK: Path to Protection training modules

- The CLICK: Path to Protection training programme consists of three modules to meet the needs of the differing roles held by safeguarding professionals
- 1. THINK: Path to Protection – for first responders
- 2. ACT: Path to Protection – for those staff responsible for investigation and ongoing intervention
- 3. MANAGE: Path to Protection – managers of staff involved in investigations and interventions

# Global Protection Online Network

- In March 2019 the Marie Collins Foundation was awarded funding from the End Violence Against Children global fund for period 2019-2022
- The funding will support
  - the development of a Global Protection Online Network
  - Targeted interventions with priority countries

# Global Protection Online Network

**Within the global context we will develop and manage a secure online platform for the use of bone fide safeguarding professionals. This platform will**

- Enable sharing of best practice by colleagues globally
- Provide an advice resource
- Provide access to the most recent research
- Provide training materials and templates for relevant policy, legal and practice guidance developments.
- **Date for platform launch – December 2019/January 2020**

# Global Protection Online Network

## **The targeted intervention with priority countries will include:**

- Working with country agencies to support the development of national infrastructures
- Assistance in developing models for intervention based on best practice
- Guidance on developing national policies, practice and appropriate legislative measures
- Training to upskill safeguarding professionals and practitioners
- Support to develop robust and internationally rigorous service responses for victims of CSEA

**Get this date in your diary**

**International conference hosted by BT**

**From discovery to recovery: online sexual abuse of children – meeting the needs of children and their families**

**17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

**BT Centre London**

**BT Tower**

**To get more details and book a place email**

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Thank you for listening

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