



Young people and the internet - an overview of the risks and responses to them

how to make the internet and
online technologies safer for
children and young people

John Carr

UK Children's Charities' Coalition on Internet Safety





Not only but also.....

- Convergence is happening now
- The internet is becoming ubiquitous
- TVs, phones, PDAs, games consoles and many other devices are becoming internet enabled
- This is no longer about laptops or big boxes with big screens in the corner of the room
- "Any place, anytime anywhere"
- Issues affecting children intersect with other enduring security problems on the internet



The Risks

- Content
- Contact
- Commerce
- Addiction



Content

- Illegal
 - child pornography – sex abuse images
 - obscene
 - racist



Content

- Age inappropriate or undesirable e.g.
 - pornography
 - suicide and other sites promoting self-harm
 - drugs
 - violence
 - historical revisionism
 - racist and xenophobic



Contact

- Bullying
- Sexual predators
 - Adults
 - Other children and young people
- Otherwise unsuitable people e.g. football hooligans
- Privacy issues – especially around social networking



Commerce

- Scams - phishing
- Sensitive or confidential information



Addiction

- Overuse
- Sometimes indicates another problem



Responses to risks – Part One

- Education and awareness
 - Children and young people themselves
 - Parents, grandparents, guardians, in loco parentis
 - Teachers, Governors and education authorities
 - The media
 - Local law enforcement



Responses to risks – Part Two

- Technical
 - Filtering and blocking
 - Monitoring
 - Reporting
 - Verification and authentication tools



Responses to risks – Part Three

- Law enforcement
 - Improved technical proficiency
 - Locally, nationally and internationally
 - New laws and new institutions where necessary
 - Harmonisation of laws and improved co-ordination
 - April 2006 – 95 countries did not have specific laws on child pornography
 - April 2006 – 27 countries did not provide for computer facilitated offences



Responses to risks – Part Four

- Governmental and Inter-Governmental
 - G8 & Interpol
 - European Union: Safer Internet Programme, and self-regulatory codes
 - UN – ITU - IGF
 - Treaties
 - Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.
 - Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime.
 - EU Council Framework Decision on combating the sexual exploitation of children and child pornography.
 - Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and child abuse.



Responses to risks – Part Five

- Industry
 - Technical measures
 - Policies and procedures
 - Education and awareness
 - CSR programmes
 - Enforcement
 - Co-operation e.g. The Financial Coalition on Child Pornography
 - Hotlines

Self-regulation in the UK



- Internet Taskforce on Child Protection
 - Formed in 2001 following public outcry
 - Several cases of sexual predators had received huge media coverage, plus enormous increase in child pornography in circulation



Self-regulation in the UK

- Codes of Good Practice
 - Moderation of Interactive Services for Children
 - Guidance for Search Service Providers
 - Using Real Life Examples Involving Children
 - Web based services
 - Social Networking and User Generated Content
 - Kitemark for filtering products
 - Mobile Phone Content
 - Location services

The End

