

E-Safety

Parent Carer Sounding Board Meeting December 2009 Oxford City

40 parents and carers from across Oxfordshire attended including:

Foster carers, fathers, parent governors, parents from the local Black and Asian communities, and new African migrant families, parents with drug, alcohol and mental health issues, parents who have been through the looked after system, young parents and parents of children with additional special needs, and physical disabilities.

Members of the Oxfordshire Childrens Safeguarding Board attended and other senior managers from health, Thames Valley Police and the Voluntary Sector, to listen and respond to parents' and carers' voices.

Aim of the day

- a) To hear from parents and carers from diverse groups about their concerns regarding cybersafety:
- b) to explore what local services can do and what families themselves can do



Key Findings and Issues

Fear and ignorance of the internet

“You don’t know what you don’t know”

“its like this pernicious juggernaut coming towards us, and we have no idea what it holds”

Schools must communicate with all families:

“We don’t have a computer at home, my son goes to his friends and the library, or uses his phone. I don’t receive the school newsletter because I don’t have internet at home”

“English is my second language; my children know far more than I do, my oldest daughter taught me to speak English, I cannot read and write, so anything they send home from school I can’t read. I am really worried about the information I am missing.”

Parents need Cybersafety information and workshops:

“How do they advise children and young people not to give too much away on the internet, if I knew that I could be saying the same thing at home”

Reporting Concerns

“we really need to raise awareness of cybersafety within our communities, through campaigns, word of mouth”

Computer clubs for parents so that they can understand how to use the internet safely, and support their child to do this too:

“How do they control mobile phone access to the internet, my sons and his friends are always filming things on the phone and then suddenly I overhear its on the internet – how does that happen? I really am out of touch with this!”

Raise awareness of the extra vulnerability of disabled children and young people:

“my son has Aspergers and will use the internet as his comfort zone, he can make friends there, it is his own private world.”



Parental responsibility, the balance between trust and responsibility:

“I have no idea what my daughter does on the internet, she shuts it down if I approach”

“children know far more about the internet than we do”

Support around parenting to build trust:

“how to build that trusting relationship, so you can be talking regularly with your child on what they are doing on the internet, without them resenting you for it!”



Proposed actions and next steps

Parents / Carers

- 1 All parents and carers attending agreed to request an E –safety workshop in their school and encourage other parents to attend.
- 2 Parent / Carers offered to send OCSB contact details of religious and voluntary community groups that would like to have some training on how families can use the internet safely.
- 3 Communities will work to raise awareness on the vulnerability of certain groups of isolated and vulnerable young people, such as children with additional special needs, to ensure vigilance from the community and schools.
- 3 Ensure information is available for parents and carers on E-Safety in various formats.
- 4 Utilise and train local community group leaders on how to be safe on the internet and they can then communicate that message to those families who do not engage easily with the school, such as parents and carers who have English as a second language, or those who cannot read or write.
- 5 OCSB should propose to the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit that there needs to be available on their website some very simple guidance for parents and carers: “What to do if you are worried”, this could then be adapted locally.

Proposed Actions for Oxfordshire Childrens Safeguarding Board

- 1 Ensure all schools’ (including special schools) governing bodies are aware of the availability of E-Safety Training.
- 2 Ensure all schools across the county have a lead teacher responsible for E-Safety.
- 6 OCSB should support parents and carers in producing a strong simple campaign to keep families aware of the importance of using the internet safely.
- 7 The Executive Member for Children Young People and Families suggested investigating the possibility of undertaking a schools audit on work they currently do on cyber safety and raising awareness with parents and carers.
- 8 Children and Families Services suggested sending information to all social work teams on Cyber safety.



CEOP to clarify what Internet Service Providers can do for families, for example deleting photos, closing an account down, taking criminal action, and feedback to PIN.

- 9 Parenting support from The Parenting Development team, how to manage the balance between trust and responsibility.
- 10 The Participation and Play Team will feedback outcomes to PIN.

Evaluation of the day

“ It was so good to be in such a big group of parents and carers that come from such different back grounds and communities, but we all had the same fears and ideas. (Asian Parent)

It is quite amazing to see all these big wigs here, I really didn't expect that, they showed real commitment and concern. I think they understand and respect our concerns (Parent from Oxford City)

This is a Participation and Play publication. It will be sent to Oxfordshire County Council OSCB and CYP Trust Board. Participation and Play coordinates the Parents and Carers Sounding Board. The lead contact for the Sounding Board is Toni Bremble. For a full report please email:

toni.bremble@oxfordshire.gov.uk
or call (01865) 256 671

