Online Child Abuse

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A little something that made me smile.

Victim Identification Officer

My name is Martin Webster and I am the Victim ID officer for Lancashire Constabulary. I work on the Online Child Abuse Investigation Team (OCAIT) at Police Headquarters, Hutton, Lancashire.

Each force has a Victim ID Officer and our role within the force is to identify and safeguard victims of online child abuse.

A victim is any child under 18 who has sent an indecent image of themselves, and once sent to another person the child is deemed to have lost control of that image.

I have visited a couple of schools as part of my role and have been really pleased to meet you, however, I became conscious that I possibly have some information from various sources that may be of benefit to you in your roles.

I have direct links with NCA CEOP and work closely on the Child Abuse Image Database (CAID). This database has a large collection of indecent images, some of which contain identified victims. All forces in the United Kingdom, including the NCA use CAID.

Once an image is taken it is given a unique reference known as a HASH which is effectively its own DNA.

There are a number of things we can do together to try and eliminate the potential effect on victims when they lose control of the indecent images they have sent. Some of those are detailed in the newsletter.

I hope this newsletter is of benefit and if need to contact me please do not hesitate. My working days are Monday – Thursday.

07958 790 152

martin.webster@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

How do I get Indecent Images of Children (IIOC) removed from social media?

One of the real difficulties I recently came up against was trying to get an IIOC removed from Facebook.

I recently attended a Conference in West Yorkshire Police and learnt that the UK Safer Internet Centre runs a Professional Helpline 0844 381 4772. They can help get IIOC removed from social media sites and they have access to lots of the social media providers.

They informed us that recently they were able to remove an image for an organisation from Instagram within 11 minutes.

This has been of great help to me and I hope if you weren't aware that it might be of some help should a child inform you that they have done this.

Nest Lancashire

Nest Lancashire is funded by Lancashire's Police and Crime Commissioner and provides victim services, a website and helpline. This would be the first port of call for victims.

http://nestlancashire.org/

You can find out exactly what they do by clicking this link.

http://nestlancashire.org/what-we-do/
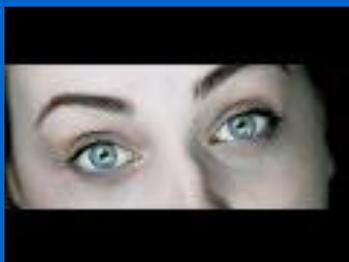
Other Useful Contacts/organisations.

www.parentsprotect.co.uk

www.internetmatters.org

www.breckfoundation.org

There is a very good video available on You Tube called Kayleigh's Love Story – this is a true story and has been made by Leicestershire Police. Kayleigh was groomed online and was murdered after meeting the male she had been communicating with. Click the link below.
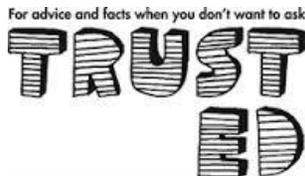
http://www.trusted2know.co.uk/?s=kayleigh

Lancashire Police have created a short video regarding the dangers of Online gaming – it's really good and aimed mainly at boys.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X72VofJwrHs

Trust Ed

Lancashire Police have a dedicated young person's website. www.trusted2know.co.uk

On it you will find lots of useful resources, news stories and videos specifically aimed at children 11-16, on subjects including alcohol, drugs, abuse, e safety and bullying.

They can also follow us on Facebook @Trusted2Know and Snapchat @Trusted2know.

Support for Child Victims of Crime

Embrace gave a talk at the Online Child Abuse conference in West Yorkshire, and I have since referred victims of Online Child Abuse to them.

They provide emotional support services and are the only charity in the UK working to offer emotional support to children aged 8 – 18 and their families so that they can cope, recover and move forward with their lives.

They aim to provide counselling without the need to wait, and can match a child up with the right person, in the right place and with the appropriate support.

They can provide one 2 one counseling, telephone counselling and webcam counselling support.

Any professional working to safeguard children can refer in to embrace. They can be contacted on 0845 60 999 60 or via email, **support@embracecvoc.org.uk** .

Their website is **http://embracecvoc.org.uk**.

martin.webster@lancashire.pnn.police.uk   T: 01772 416266   M: 07958 790152

Trends and Statistics

The latest websites/social media apps that are concerning concern are:

musical.ly is a video social network app for video creation, messaging and live broadcasting. User can create 15-second videos and choose sound tracks to accompany them. This has been known to be used by Paedophiles and is becoming increasingly popular.

Oovooo is being used by children as young as 9 years old this too is a video chat and instant messaging app.

Omegle is an anonymous webcam chat site which users don't need to register on or provide any proof of age. We have seen a dramatic increase in the number of youngsters tricked by paedophiles into believing they are watching a pretty young girl/boy, when in fact it is a video being played.

Chatstep is also starting to report more cases of IIOC and this appears to be another social media app that is becoming more popular. It allows users to create their own rooms, or join already created public rooms.

Yikyak is an app that has already been banned in 130,000 schools in the US. It has been described by one Dr in the US as "the most dangerous form of social media I have even seen" It is totally anonymous and allocates a symbol to each user which cannot be traced back.

<u>Figures</u>

- 4 in 10 3 & 4 year olds now use tablets at home.
- 79% of children use the internet at home and 64% of them in their bedroom. 49% of children using Facebook have friends of friend's profiles. The average user has 338 friends; by selecting friends of friend's profiles they are increasing their audience from 338 to 114,244.
- Research by the NSPCC suggests there is an increasing number of 9, 10 and 11 year olds sexting, and that primary schools and parents are reluctant to discuss the issue with children that age.

The National Crime Agency CEOP has produced the above website which has lots of useful information available for children of all ages. It also has lots of information for parents and professionals.

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/

Internet Slang

Are you up with the latest terminology?
www.internetslang.com is a great site. Below are some of the latest ones I have been made aware of.

GNOC   – Get Naked on Camera

CODE 9   – Parent Around

CODE 99 – Parent Gone

dp   - display picture

PIR   - Parent in Room

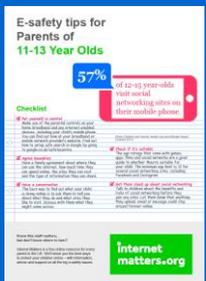THOT   - That whore over there.

Useful documents

The UK Safer Internet Centre has various leaflets which are really helpful.

Particularly some checklist guides for the most popular social media apps like Facebook and Twitter. An example of one is in the banner to the left.

These can be obtained via **www.swgflstore.com** you can order up to 100 free, apart from the Facebook ones. These however can be downloaded as a PDF.

www.internetmatters.org has a really good site, and you can access PDF versions of posters which give E-Safety tips for parents of differing age groups. These can be found under the advice sections. Examples of some of the leaflets you can get are on the left hand side in the banner.

Child Abuse Image Database (CAID) – How can you help?

Did you know that if you are aware that a child has sent IIOC of themselves to another user, as well as contacting the UK Safer Internet Centre to get the images removed from the social media site, you should refer the incident to me?
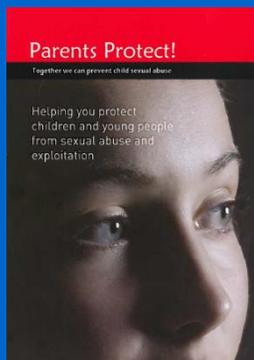
The reason for this is that I can get that image onto CAID to help prevent it being distributed further.

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) spend a lot of their time scanning the internet using the hash values from CAID to help in getting images off the internet.

By working together we can support that young person and try to prevent their image being shared further.

We also have a policy of not criminalising children who send IIOC and instead treat them very much as the victim.

Stop it Now – Lucy Faithful

The Lucy Faithful foundation not only offer support to adults worried about having thoughts towards children, they provide anonymous online modules to help abusers/potential abusers.

They have lots of resources and support for victims and professionals too. Their website is **www.stopitnow.org.uk**. One of the leaflets providing advice for parents is on the banner to the left hand side.

martin.webster@lancashire.pnn.police.uk   T: 01772 416266   M: 07958 790152

Ineqe Group Ltd

I recently attended a one day training course provided by the Ineqe Group. The course was titled Safeguarding in a Digital World, for professionals, and as part of the course I was given some Safer Social Networking Activity Pack (SSNAP) Cards.

I have found these cards really good as they can be used in groups and give children hands on experience at looking at social media profiles and identifying the dangers of having unsafe settings or posting certain pictures etc.

I have found it to be really beneficial and I have shown a couple of CSE leads how they work.

This training is available at lots of locations in the UK, throughout the year. Please contact Ineqe group for further details.

I really hope you have found this newsletter helpful and not too overloaded.

At a recent conference I attended headed by Chief Constable Simon Bailey of Norfolk Constabulary who is the national police lead for CSE. It was clear he felt that the only way we are going to be able to tackle this increasing threat is to work in partnership and educate children and parents.

If I can be of any further help please do not hesitate to contact me.