

11 May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Support for Protecting Children Online

I am writing to reach out to all parents/carers and youth engagement professionals across the East Riding, Hull, North and North East Lincolnshire.

The lockdown has created many new pressures within society or exacerbated those already existing. One area we can't afford to overlook is the impact that this situation is inevitably having on our children. From the absent routine of going to school, structured learning and support from teachers, to accessing healthy school meals and seeing their friends – all are being felt by children across the country.

Whilst parents will, of course, be doing all they can to support their children throughout this period of uncertainty, we must be mindful that many children who have access to them, will have increased the time they are spending on mobile phones, devices and gaming portals.

With increased use, the risk for young people also increases and I am contacting you to introduce the unique package of support we have in the Humberside Police Force area and highlight the material available.

Not In Our Community and children 11+

Not In Our Community (NIOC) is an anti-grooming campaign, funded by the PCC, that works to help young people protect themselves and friends against grooming leading to sexual and criminal exploitation. NIOC co-creates media with the help of young people, including those who have actually suffered through involvement. This media includes films, photo stories, interactive challenges, plays, lesson plans, Q&As etc.

Originally focused to educational settings, a new 'home learning' page has been created on the Not In Our Community site. We have identified 3 key films for young people aged 11+ and a 6-part series suitable for viewers aged 15+. All are supported by downloads of questions and activities to help both parents and children to process key learning points such as: different types of grooming and exploitation, how to spot the warning signs in the lives of people you know and how to get help.

Please see the material accompanying this letter and visit www.notinourcommunity.org/home-learning for access to films and more information.



Younger Children

With reports that nearly half of children aged 5-10 own a mobile phone, this increased threat isn't only towards our older children. Further information on the heightened risks along with advice on measures to protect your child can be found in the material accompanying this letter. Please help me to spread this as widely as we can.

Further support during lockdown

In addition to the resource available above, information is also available nationally;

- The Government has created a hub of support for parents and carers to help keep children safe online.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online>

This covers topics including: child sexual abuse, radicalisation, sexting (youth-produced sexual imagery), cyberbullying, age-inappropriate content and parental controls, suicide content and support for children.

- Thinkuknow is an education programme from the National Crime Agency's CEOP Command.

Thinkuknow have created a page to support parents during COVID-19. Each fortnight they release new #OnlineSafetyAtHome activity packs with simple 15 minute activities you can do with your child to support their online safety.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/>

- The NSPCC have a page that provides tips and advice for parents and carers focused on needs throughout COVID-19 and that has a section on online safety;

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/>

I hope this information is useful for yourself and your family. Please help by forwarding this letter and materials to other parents to help us alert as many as we can to these risks and the resources we have available to educate and to support.

Yours Sincerely


Keith Hunter
Police and Crime Commissioner

