**Paul Hamlyn Foundation
Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults**

*Resource for organisations delivering activities and services online*

All Paul Hamlyn Foundation (PHF) funded organisations, individuals and projects that work with children and young people or vulnerable adults are required to have a safeguarding policy and active procedures in place. You can view our safeguarding policy here.

PHF understands that in response to the COVID-19 pandemic many organisations are exploring moving to forms of online delivery to support children and young people, schools, family groups and other individuals in these challenging times. However, if this is a new development for your organisation, you should check that your safeguarding policies are fit for purpose to cover the complex challenges that can arise from online engagement.

All schools and colleges will have robust policies and procedures in place to support and protect the whole learning community. These will be in line with the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance on Keeping Children Safe in Education (see page 96 'Online safety') and the new interim guidance[1] published on 27 March 2020 to support schools 'in keeping children safe including online during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic'.

The considerations and resources below will help your organisation to establish a culture which safeguards both staff and participants online. Your organisation should understand these requirements and model these procedures before it embarks upon any digital development.

**Considerations**
- Online safety should appear within your organisation's safeguarding policy.
- Assess your policies and procedures as your digital provision grows (consideration should be given to having a separate online safety policy).
- Consider having a named individual with responsibility for online safety.
- Include an escalation plan (i.e. know what to do if an incident arises).
- Ensure all staff understand your policies/procedures. Extend this to participants if synchronous activities are planned (i.e. consider having acceptable use agreements for all involved covering the dos and don'ts).
- Ensure you are GDPR compliant, particularly if you are storing contact details.
- Keep up to date by using the widely available free resources and materials.

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[1] This interim safeguarding guidance is under review and will be updated.

**Resources**

**Online Safety Strategy**

[Online Compass](#) **is a good starting point for organisations to benchmark their current practice.** Produced by South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL), the organisation leading on online safety mark for schools, this auditing tool is designed specifically for youth and other organisations and groups working with children and young people. Choose which parts of the tool are relevant to your organisation, assess your current provision and fill in the gaps. NB the links to resources within the toolkit are currently being updated. For templates/materials see below.

**Policy Templates**

[NSPCC](#) - Acceptable Use and policy templates plus lots of free resources and guidance for families and others to use with young people.
NSPCC - [sample Online Safety Policy](#) from the NSPCC child protection in sport unit.

**Apps, Networks and Games - Risk and Opportunities**

[NetAware](#) - produced by NSPCC, this site reviews all the latest apps, social networks and games that are doing the rounds. The site features the potential risks of each service/app, provides guidance for appropriate use and highlights the official age rating.

**Streaming and remote teaching**

- Safeguarding advice on remote teaching and streaming from [UK Safer Internet Centre](#).
- Safeguarding advice on remote teaching and streaming from [NSPCC](#).

**General Advice**

[Internet Matters](#) - independent charity working in partnership with BBC, Google, BT and others to provide guidance and support for parents and carers. Content covers screen time, online abuse, pornography, cyberbullying and more.
[ParentInfo](#) - produced by [ParentZone](#) in partnership with [Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (CEOP)](#), this website covers all the issues amplified by the internet in and beyond online safety. It's a good source of information for family focused organisations.

**Policy, resources and updates**

[The UK Council for Internet Safety](#) (UKCIS) is a part of [Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport](#), the [Department for Education](#) and the [Home Office](#) and is a collaborative forum through which government, the tech community and the third sector work together to ensure the UK is the safest place in the world to be online. Keep an eye on their website for news, resources and updates.

**Helpline**

Professionals Online Safety Helpline - run by SWGfL, this helpline is for anyone working with young people with an online safety issue they, or children/ young people in their care may face.

**Reporting Abuse**

CEOP, part of the National Crime Agency, helps keep children and young people safe from sexual abuse and grooming online. Its reporting service can be used by adults, parents, worried friends or young people themselves. CEOP works in collaboration with all relevant agencies and services.

Updated 7 April 2020