

Welcome to the 5th newsletter of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety

## Working group chairs appointed

We are delighted to announce that Chairs for each of the council's working groups have been appointed by Ministers. Each Chair will facilitate the work of the group, harnessing the breadth of expertise that exists amongst the membership. The Chairs and their groups are as follows:

### Industry standards (name subject to change):

Chaired by **Amanda Jordan**, Chair and co-founder, Corporate Citizenship

Group aim: To develop clearer common standards (in the form of codes of practice or other guidelines) that are adopted, monitored and consistent with EU partners and are widely recognised as good practice

### Better education:

Chaired by **Niel McLean**, Executive Director, Becta

Group aim: To ensure that children, families and the children's workforce have access to consistent and comprehensive support and information that improves their knowledge, skills and understanding of internet safety

### Video games:

Chaired by **Brian Leonard**, Retired Director at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, previous roles included responsibility for the Byron Review

Aim: To ensure that children and young people have a safer gaming experience and parents are aware of the issues, and support mechanisms around gaming.

### Public information and awareness:

Chaired by **Clive Michel**, Head of Communications and Public Awareness, Child Exploitation & Online Protection (CEOP)

Group aim: To develop a comprehensive and joined-up public awareness campaign on internet safety for children and families based on consistent messages which forms the basis of the one stop shop for all aspects of internet safety

The first meeting of each working group is now being planned and this newsletter will carry regular reports of progress. In addition the council's website (<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/ukccis/>) will shortly include more details of the groups' work and also discussion forums so that all council members can contribute.

## Update from the Executive Board

The second meeting of the Executive Board was held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2009 and chaired by Baroness Delyth Morgan MP and Alan Campbell MP.

Board members discussed a number of topics including:

- An outline scope for the Child Internet Safety Strategy;
- how the council might address the needs of vulnerable groups, and
- details of the council's research strategy

Further details of these discussions and all other board business are included in the note that accompanies this newsletter.

## The importance of ICT – Internet safety in schools

Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills) has recently published a comprehensive new report on the importance of ICT in primary & secondary schools. The report draws on evidence found between September 2005 and July 2008 in 177 maintained schools in England, as well as other visits to schools where good practice was identified.

The very great majority of the schools visited taught their pupils and students about the risks associated with using the internet. However, very few of the schools evaluated the effectiveness of this teaching and very few had recorded the incidents they had dealt with where students' safety had been compromised.

[Read the full report here](#)

## Beatbullying launches CyberMentors

Beatbullying, the UK's leading bullying prevention charity is tackling the UK's cyberbullying epidemic head-on with the launch of CyberMentors [www.cybermentors.org.uk](http://www.cybermentors.org.uk) on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, the first nationwide online peer-mentoring social networking site.

For the first time, young people suffering at the hands of cyberbullying can seek immediate help and advice from other young people who will be trained as CyberMentors. Initially over 700 CyberMentors will offer advice and support, but in time this number will grow to over 300 thousand. In severe cases where someone could be in immediate danger, the mentor will refer it to a Beatbullying cyber counsellor, who will take appropriate action to protect the individual from further attacks.

At the launch, Prime Minister Gordon Brown said:

“Cyberbullying is the most common problem experienced by young people on the internet, so I am delighted that Beatbullying is taking a lead in training more than 3,000 CyberMentors to take its successful peer mentoring programme into schools and to establish it online.”

## An indecent profit

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre hosted a two day pan-European conference on the commercial distribution of child abuse images at Lancaster House in London at the beginning of March.

The conference highlighted how removing websites and blocking access to these commercial sites are tactics currently employed by hotlines, law enforcement and internet service providers alike to combat the distribution of child abuse images. However, this is not a panacea to the problem. With increasing web hosting and server 'hopping', blocking mechanisms and block lists have a positive, but limited effect on tackling this problem as the criminal often moves the website to a new URL. In addition, even payment processes are being exploited in this activity and whilst online payment may be virtual, there is someone very real who is drawing cash from accounts and benefiting from the misery of the children in those images.

By bringing together delegates from across Europe to share good practice and intelligence, agencies can continue to develop effective solutions that will help to prevent these horrific crimes against children.

## Know IT All for Primary schools is launched

To coincide with European Safer Internet Day, children's internet charity Childnet International launched a new set of education E-safety resources for Primary schools. The interactive resources have been designed to empower all school employees at Primary level to better understand, tackle and teach e-safety issues to children.

The resource - developed through funding from the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA), Becta and the UK Council for Child Internet Safety, and with support from CEOP - includes a unique learning SMART animation especially designed for young children. The content and animation can be viewed at [www.childnet.com/kia/primary](http://www.childnet.com/kia/primary)

The new resource was warmly welcomed by Professor Tanya Byron:

"I'm delighted that this engaging resource has been created for primary school teachers who will greatly appreciate the practical and simple advice and begin to integrate this topic into the curriculum. Young children will love the 3D SMART animation and I strongly commend Childnet's approach of involving children in this production and hope that schools will now use this resource to really support pupils to better protect themselves online."

## Agreement reached on European social networking guidance

In February, 17 leading web firms signed for the first time a European agreement to improve the safety of under-18s who use social networking sites. These include Arto, Bebo, Dailymotion, Facebook, Giovani.it, Google/YouTube, Hyves, Microsoft Europe, Myspace, Nasza-klaza.pl, Netlog, One.It, Skyrock, StudiVZ, Sulake/Habbo Hotel, Yahoo!Europe, and Zap.lu.

The use of social networks has grown over the past year by 35% in Europe and is expected to more than double to 107.4 million users by 2012. To make sure that social networks continue to grow, young users need to feel safe when expanding

their networks or sharing any personal information. The agreement signed today in Luxembourg at the Safer Internet Day organised by the European Commission will empower teenagers to deal with potential risks they may face online, like cyberbullying or revealing personal information.

This is a good example of effective self-regulation that the council here in the UK will look to build upon in the future.

[Read more here](#)

## Getting in touch

The secretariat is also interested to your views and you can contact us at [ukccis.secretariat@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ukccis.secretariat@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk).