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**E-Safety Policy**

This policy should be read alongside Trans4m’s policies and procedures on child protection and safeguarding.

**The purpose of this policy statement**

Trans4m works with Young People as part of its activities. These include: children and young people from the age of 14-19 and up to 24 if they have an “Educational Health Care Plan” (EHCP), we offer training in our training centre delivering vocational and classroom based courses. The purpose of this policy statement is to:

* ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is paramount when adults, young people or children are using the internet, social media or mobile devices
* provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to online safety
* ensure that, as an organisation, we operate in line with our values and within the law in terms of how we use online devices.

The policy statement applies to all staff, volunteers, children and young people and anyone involved in Trans4m’s activities.

**Legal framework**

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. Summaries of the key legislation and guidance are available on:

Key legislation and guidance are available on:

* online abuse learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/online-abuse
* bullying learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/bullying
* child protection learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system

**We believe that:**

* children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
* children should be able to use the internet for education and personal development, but safeguards need to be in place to ensure they are kept safe at all times.

**We recognise that:**

* the online world provides everyone with many opportunities; however it can also present risks and challenges
* we have a duty to ensure that all children, young people and adults involved in our organisation are protected from potential harm online
* we have a responsibility to help keep children and young people safe online, whether or not they are using Trans4m’s network and devices
* all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
* working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people’s welfare and in helping young people to be responsible in their approach to online safety.

**The 4 Cs of online safety**

An important step in improving online safety at Trans4m is identifying what the potential risks might be. KCSIE groups online safety risks into four areas: content, contact, conduct and commerce (sometimes referred to as contract).2 These are known as the 4 Cs of online safety.

Content

Content is anything posted online - it might be words or it could be images and video. Children and young people may see [illegal, inappropriate or harmful content](https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news/2024/january/online-harms-protecting-children-and-young-people) when online. This includes things like pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation and extremism.

Contact

Contact is about the risk of harm young people may face when interacting with other users online. This includes things like peer-to-peer pressure or seeing inappropriate commercial advertising. Sometimes adults pose as children or young adults with the intention of [grooming](https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/grooming/) or exploiting a child or young person for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes.

Conduct

Conduct means the way people behave online. Some online behaviour can increase the likelihood, or even cause, harm - for example, [online bullying](https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/bullying-cyberbullying). Conduct also includes things like [sharing or receiving nudes and semi-nude images](https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety/sexting-sharing-nudes-semi-nudes) and viewing or sending pornography.

Commerce

Commerce is about the risk from things like online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing or financial scams. Children and young people may be exposed to these risks directly. Trans4m will also consider how the risk from commerce applies to staff.

**We will seek to keep children and young people safe by following:**

* appointing an online safety coordinator
* providing clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online through our behaviour code for adults
* supporting and encouraging the young people using our service to use the internet, social media and mobile phones in a way that keeps them safe and shows respect for others
* supporting and encouraging parents and carers to do what they can to keep their children safe online
* developing an online safety agreement for use with young people and their parents/carers
* developing clear and robust procedures to enable us to respond appropriately to any incidents of inappropriate online behaviour, whether by an adult or a child/young person
* reviewing and updating the security of our information systems regularly
* ensuring that user names, logins, email accounts and passwords are used effectively
* ensuring personal information about the adults and children who are involved in our organisation is held securely and shared only as appropriate
* ensuring that images of children, young people and families are used only after their written permission has been obtained, and only for the purpose for which consent has been given
* providing supervision, support and training for staff and volunteers about online safety
* examining and risk assessing any social media platforms and new technologies before they are used within the organisation.

If online abuse occurs, we will respond to it by:

* having clear and robust safeguarding procedures in place for responding to abuse (including online abuse)
* providing support and training for all staff and volunteers on dealing with all forms of abuse, including bullying/cyberbullying, emotional abuse, sexting, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation
* making sure our response takes the needs of the person experiencing abuse, any bystanders and our organisation as a whole into account
* reviewing the plan developed to address online abuse at regular intervals, in order to ensure that any problems have been resolved in the long term.

**Related policies and procedures**

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies and procedures, including:

* Child protection
* Safeguarding Policy
* Dealing with allegations of abuse made against a child or young person
* Managing allegations against staff and volunteers
* Code of conduct for staff and volunteers

• Anti-bullying policy and procedures

• Photography and image sharing guidance

**Contact details**

Online safety co-ordinator

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Phone/email: 0116 2621537

Senior lead for safeguarding and child protection

Name: Natalie Harrison

Phone/email: 0116 2621537

NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was last reviewed on: 25th September 2024

Signed: Sharon Burton

Date of Next Review: Sept 25