



KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS – ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION: Understanding community awareness, perceptions, attitudes & preventative behaviours

ONLINE USE & ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

Generally parents/carers are pro-technology & acknowledge its importance in their children's future.



4 out of 5 children aged 4 are using the internet; 30% of these children have access to their own device.



1 in 2 children under 12 have their own personal device.



1 in 2 children have access to 3+ devices.

AWARENESS & PERCEPTIONS

Information seeking & discussion about online child sexual exploitation are generally only undertaken in response to a specific event.



Only 16% of parents/carers seek information on the topic of online child sexual exploitation.

Only 3% of parent/carers listed online grooming as a concern.



20% of parents/carers would not be comfortable talking to their children about online child sexual exploitation.



89% of parents/carers assume that their child would tell them if something negative happened online. This is not always the case.

EDUCATION & PREVENTION

Preventative measures tend to be reactive, ad hoc and inconsistently applied.



Only 52% of parents/carers talk to their children about online safety.



51% of the participants did not know what they could do to keep children safe from OCSE.



62% of parent/carers believe parental and other filters are enough to keep children and young people safe online.



Only 27% of parents/carers carry out proactive behaviours such as reviewing the content of emails, social media or messaging apps.

PARENTAL SUPERVISION

By 11 years of age, most children are using the internet unsupervised.

70%

of parents/carers allow their children to use the internet "anywhere" in the house.



22%

with no oversight whatsoever.

23%

of parents/carers sit with their children while they use the internet.