



Absafe Community Safety Bulletin

This Issue August 18th 2016

Absafe Bulletin



As any parent knows, teenagers can be troublesome, and keeping them safe as they venture out into the big bad world can be both tricky and worrying. With technology advancing so quickly it can be incredibly difficult to keep track of new dangers emerging which simply didn't exist before. One such risk is "sexting": the sharing of explicit selfies.

New research has revealed that most parents believe sexting is potentially harmful - but nearly six in 10 have not spoken to their children about the issue.

The finding emerged in a survey by the NSPCC, which warned that sharing nude selfies can put youngsters at risk of bullying or being targeted by paedophiles.

Nearly three quarters (73%) of the 1,000 parents and carers interviewed across the UK thought

sexting is "always" harmful.

The most commonly cited worry was the danger of the child losing control of the image, which was raised by one in four of those surveyed.

WHAT IS SEXTING?

Sexting is when someone shares sexual, naked or semi-naked images or videos of themselves or others, or sends sexually explicit messages. They can be sent using mobiles, tablets, smartphones, and laptops - any device that allows you to share media and messages. Sexting may also be called 'trading nudes', 'dirties' or 'pic for pic'.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS

Sexting can be seen as harmless, but creating or sharing explicit images of a child is illegal, even if the person doing it is a child. A young person (under the age of 16) is breaking the law if they:

- Take an explicit photo or video of themselves or a friend
- Share an explicit image or video of a child, even if it's shared between children of the same age
- Possess, download or store an explicit image or video of a child, even if the child gave their permission for it to be created.



However, as of January 2016, if a young person is found creating or sharing images, the police can choose to record that a crime has been committed but that taking formal action isn't in the public interest.

Crimes recorded this way are unlikely to appear on future records or checks, unless the young person has been involved in other similar activities which may indicate that they're a risk.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Every child is different, so your approach should be based on their character and your relationship with them. Have a **discussion** with them, and ask them what they feel is acceptable to send to people, if they'd be happy for you or a stranger or other children to see certain photos. If the answer is 'no', explain that the image, video or message is probably not appropriate to send. Make sure they're comfortable saying no, that they know their body is private and being asked to share explicit images is inappropriate. Tell them that it's not ok for someone to make them feel uncomfortable, to pressure them into doing things that they don't want to do, or to show them things that they're unhappy about. Let them know that they can speak to you if this ever happens.

It's important that you **explain the risks** of sexting so they know what can happen when things go wrong. Don't accuse them of sexting, but do explain the dangers and legal issues. You may find it easier to use real-life examples, such as television programmes or news stories, to help you explain the risks. Ask them if they'd want something private shown to the world. Talk about the Granny rule - would you want your Granny to see the image you're sharing? Talk about whether a person who asks for an image from you might also be asking other people for images.

Make it clear you'll be **supportive and understanding**. Ensure they know that you're always there for support if they feel pressured by anyone. Explain that they can come to you if someone asks to send them a nude picture or if they receive an explicit message. Let them know that you won't be angry with them but just want to make sure they're safe and happy.

ONLINE SHOPPING SCAMS



Shopping websites are being targeted by fraudsters to advertise drones at competitive prices which don't exist. Drones are personal flying devices that often carry cameras and are navigated remotely by smartphones or hand-held controllers.

Fraudsters are capitalising on their recent popularity to advertise non-existent drones at a low price to tempt buyers. Once shoppers agree to purchase the drone, the scammers request payment via bank transfer and indicate immediate payment will quicken the delivery process. Shoppers never receive the drone, and the fraudster blocks the victim to prevent further conversation.

To avoid such scams, take a look at these top tips

- Avoid paying by bank transfer and use an online payment option such as PayPal
- Check feedback online by searching the associated phone numbers or email addresses of the seller.
- Feedback will give you useful information about recent transactions other buyers may have made.
- If the item is below market value consider whether this is an opportunity too good to be true.
- If you have been affected by this, or any other scam, report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040, or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk

Noteworthy Incidents:

Police Scotland has provided the following list of incidents which have occurred in your area this week as a snapshot of the current crime trends. All incidents are not recorded below, either for legal reasons or where there are issues of sensitivity. The statistics below should not be seen as an accurate reflection of all crime in your area but as a way of raising your awareness to crime in general. This in turn should allow you to take the appropriate safety/security steps to prevent yourself from being a victim of crime.

NORTH				
TIME PERIOD		LOCATION	CRIME TYPE	INFORMATION
BUCKSBURN				
09/08/16	09/08/2016	Sclattie Park, Aberdeen	Theft by HB (commercial property)	Did use large rock to break window and thereafter gain entry and remove various items from within
NORTHFIELD				
06/08/2016	06/08/2016	Mosman Place, Aberdeen	Theft by HB (non-dwelling)	Force padlock on shed and steal from within
06/06/2016	06/06/2016	Hilton Road, Aberdeen	In building with intent to steal	Enter rear garden of property with intentions to steal
05/08/2016	05/05/2016	Westburn Road, Aberdeen	In building with intent to steal	Enter insecure shed with intent to steal
TILLYDRONE				
06/08/2016	06/08/2016	Fountain Grange, Aberdeen	Theft from a motor vehicle	Steal property from vehicle through open window
06/08/2016	06/08/2016	Chanory, Aberdeen	Theft by OLP from a motor vehicle	Smash car window and steal handbag from within car
SOUTH				
TORRY				
10/08/2016	11/08/2016	Farquhar Avenue, Aberdeen	Theft, from a motor vehicle not elsewhere classified	Enter insecure motor vehicle and steal from within
HAZLEHEAD				
07/08/2016	07/08/2016	Deeview Road, Cults	Att HBw.i. (non-dwelling)	Attempted to break into shed
WEST END				
07/08/2016	07/08/2016	Deemount Gardens, Aberdeen	Theft of vehicle and contents including taking and driving away	Take motor vehicle and crash into another vehicle before leaving the scene
09/10/2016	10/08/2016	Gray Street, Aberdeen	Att HB w.i. to enter & steal (domestic)	Attempt to gain entry to locked garage by using sharp implement to lever the door

			prop -non-dwell)	
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Key: HB - House Breaking OLP - Open Lockfast Place HBWI - House Breaking with Intent

OLPWI - Open Lockfast Place with Intent

WHAT'S ON AT ABSAFE

ABSAFE STEP TO THE BEAT AT GORDON BARRACKS PERFORMANCE

Last week, Victoria and Laura from the Absafe team attended a performance by the Massed Pipes and Drums of the Sea Cadet Corps, Army Cadet Force and Air Training Corps. Hosted at the Gordon Barracks, the massed pipes and drums performed Beating Retreat on Tuesday evening in preparation for a private performance in front of Her Majesty at Balmoral.

Beating Retreat is a military ceremony dating from the 16th century and was first used to recall patrolling units to their camps. The London version takes place on Horse Guards Parade each year, on the Wednesday and Thursday evenings preceding Trooping the Colour.

AN AWARD FIT FOR THE QUEEN (AND ABSAFE)

On Wednesday 23 August, Absafe will welcome the Lord Provost to present the team with a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Look out for news of our special ceremony in next week's bulletin.

WHY DON'T YOU VOLUNTEER FOR AN AWARD-WINNING CHARITY?

With a busy calendar ahead of us, we need some volunteer support to help us provide our fun and engaging services. If you can spare some time to save lives, please contact us on volunteers@absafe.org.uk.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We're out and about in the local community, spreading the word about the great work we do every day. As part of our efforts, we're hosting some fundraising events in the coming weeks and we'd love to see you there.

Dust down your dancing shoes for our **Grease Movie Night** on Friday 2 September at the Garage nightclub. We'll be screening the iconic musical, as well as providing stalls, popcorn and even Buff Butlers as well as free entry to the club to carry on the party after. Don't miss out on a great evening's entertainment; purchase your tickets (£12 per person) by contacting Victoria@absafe.org.uk today.

For a truly VIP experience, tickets cost £20 with all of the above, as well as cocktail making, priority seating and discounts at shopping and pamper area.

Our **Superheroes & Princesses Tea Party** is being held at the Mercure Caledonian on Sunday 25 September. Treat your mini Spiderman or Cinderella to an Afternoon Tea, with cakes, sandwiches and scones, as well as a meet and greet session with their favourite superhero or princess.

Tickets cost £14.00 for adults, and £8.50 for children. Contact our Fundraising Manager Victoria today for more information.

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www.absafe.org.uk

