Children On-line In Teesside

The risks posed to children on-line in Teesside

An observation of young people and families on-line in Teesside

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By David Stenson - Internet Safety In Teesside

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David Stenson

Abstract

This report focuses on the evolving problem of predators (paedophiles), who are using the anonymous nature of the Internet to entice children into a sexual encounter.
The report draws on past studies, which looked at the on-line sexual exploitation of children and the behaviour of adolescents on-line.
The aim of the research was to identify if children in Teesside were victims of on-line sexual exploitation.
The research took place over a one-year period, between August 2001 to August 2002, with discussions taking place with families and young people from Teesside.
The findings clarified that the on-line sexual exploitation of children in Teesside was taking place.
This causes concern and should be used as wake up call for anyone who has a responsibility for the protection and welfare of children.

Introduction

The Internet is being used by children to learn, play, meet people, and explore the world. The Internet is a valuable resource, which cannot be ignored.

Unfortunately, criminals are also using this modern technology to prey on innocent victims. Computers and the Internet have made the predators job easier.
Historically, child predators found their victims in public places where children tend to gather schoolyards, playgrounds, and shopping centres. Today, with so many children on-line, the Internet provides predators with a new place to target children for criminal acts.

This report is not intended to dampen the enthusiasm and potential of the Internet merely to confront the dangers by raising awareness, and identifying that children in Teesside are being exposed to these dangers.

The report itself highlights the high level of sophistication and technical expertise being used by the predator, and also provides an insight into the on-line experiences of families and young people in Teesside.

Unfortunately the findings do raise some concerns regarding children encountering unwanted sexual solicitations and sexual material.
It is unclear about the scale of the problem and how many children are being affected in Teesside. But one thing is certain one child hurt is one child too many.

Protection can only come from knowledge.

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The Problem

Internet Safety In Teesside has one sole objective "helping to make the Internet experience a safer one for the people of Teesside". The programme itself provides Internet Safety training, advice, and support, all aimed at helping parents, carers, teachers and children gain control by recognising and avoiding the Internet's hidden dangers.

"The Internet cannot physically hurt a child, it is people who hurt children"

INTERNET USERS

Globally, it is estimated that there are 445.9 million active Internet users, with estimates for 2004 rising to 709.1 million users (eMarketer).
The total number of UK people now with Internet connections has risen by a third to around 30 million - almost half of the UK population. This figure is expected to increase by another 13 million by 2004. The present number of UK children under the age of 16 on-line is estimated at 5 million.

No one really knows how many of these users are predators who prowl the Internet each day with one goal in mind: to find a child, develop a relationship and eventually meet with that child for the purpose of a sexual encounter. Estimates have been put at 50,000 but this can not be confirmed.

Dramatic increases in technology and its availability on the consumer level, coupled with declines in cost, have given those who would exploit children a remarkably effective and far reaching arsenal with which to do so. Anyone with Internet access and know how could easily collect, manufacture, and distribute child pornography. They could also solicit minors through live chat, and streaming audio/video.

Predators have been known to go to extraordinary efforts and incur large expenses trying to meet up with a child, unfortunately some of them succeed.

INTERNET CREATES A NEW BREED OF PAEDOPHILE

Paedophiles are using the Internet to share images, and collate information on children. They are major contributors to childrens' chat rooms, frequently pretending to be children themselves with similar interests. A technique used by the predator is known as grooming. Grooming is a process aimed at befriending and gaining the trust of a child then enticing the child into sexual activity both on and off-line.

An investigation by technology news service ZDNet last year found that Yahoo chat rooms were regularly being used by paedophiles.

In May 2002, 13-year-old teenager Christina Long, from the United States was killed by Saul Dos, a Brazilian immigrant she had met through the Internet.

February 2002 saw software engineer, Frederick Olusina, 36, sentenced at Southampton Crown Court for having sex with a 14-year-old girl after meeting her through an Internet chat room called TeenChat.com.
After several months of talking to each other via the Internet, and by using text messages on mobile phones, the girl - who used the Internet log-on name Babe UK - agreed to meet Olusina at Fareham train station.
He was jailed for 15 months and ordered to sign on the sex offender's register for 10 years.

Patrick Green, also posed as a teenager to entice a 13-year-old girl through a chat room to his home, where he sexually abused her. The 33-year-old, who worked for an export company in Slough, was jailed after admitting indecent assault and unlawful sexual intercourse with the girl.

The National High-Tec Crime Unit has discovered a new generation of cyber paedophiles who are using sophisticated computer security systems to hide the abuse of children.
The paedophile gangs are adopting previously unseen levels of security to commit abuse within special Internet porn clubs. Children were found being abused live on-line, studios were used in the United Kingdom to film these sexual assaults on boys and girls.
The pornographic clubs provided packages for individual tastes, including photographs and film of the abuse of babies, toddlers and young boys and girls.
The paedophiles were found creating on-line "cyber countries" with specialist security officers who vetted all applicants and policed the access to the material. To obtain access to the clubs a paedophile had to go through an elaborate series of passwords and security checks.
Some hard-core paedophiles have gone underground and set up elaborate security systems to block detection.

The dangers are real according to NCH Action For Children in the past 2 years at least a dozen men have been jailed in England and Wales for sex offences involving children, whom they met in chat rooms.

It is estimated that there are at least 100,000 chat rooms, with 1 in 5 children visiting chat rooms when on-line.

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY OPERATIONS & ARRESTS

Part of the grooming process used by the predator could involve pornography being sent to the child. Exposing the child to adult or child pornography is an attempt to make the child think that this behaviour is acceptable and to lure the child to participate.

There is concerns regarding the ease of access to child pornography and the sense of community paedophiles are building online, this could create a terrible legacy for future generations as children and adults who would normally suppress their deviant sexuality find an outlet for it on the Internet.

The Internet is unlike other forms of mass communication because each user is a potential supplier. The Internet knows no national boundaries, so this poses real challenges to the Police and Law Enforcement agencies in trying to protect minors from illegal or harmful influences.

Out of <u>thirteen</u>-child pornography operations carried out by Police and Law Enforcement agencies around the globe <u>four</u> of them included arrests in Teesside.
These arrests included two boys a 13-year-old and 15-year-old from Teesside.

"Please remember every child pornography image represents an active crime scene witnessing the abuse of a child taking place".

* See Appendix A Table 2 – Child Pornography Operations & Arrests - for a list of major criminal investigations.

CHILDREN AND THE INTERNET (What are the risks?)

The Internet should be viewed as a positive new force in childrens' lives.
The Internet is a powerful tool for learning and communicating and it is clear that children are using the Internet in ever-increasing numbers.

However letting a child wander aimlessly on-line without supervision could see the child becoming a victim of his or her own curiosity.

The Internet does have its dangers and unfortunately children can be exposed to these dangers from their own actions or from the actions of others (includes other children).

- **Exposure to inappropriate material**

The child being exposed to material that is sexual, hateful, racist, violent, dangerous, illegal.

- **Harassment** (often carried out by other teens)

The child encountering bullying, threats, flaming, stalking, computer attacks by hackers/viruses.

- **Legal and Financial**

The child committing an illegal offence on-line, or seeing the child's actions having financial consequences. There is also the risk of the child being scammed or defrauded when buying things on-line.

- **Privacy**

The child giving out personal information by filling out forms, profiles, entering contests, websites, cookies, and through on-line marketing.

- **On-line Sexual Exploitation**

The child being enticed into on-line sexual conversations and performing sexual acts.
The child being sent or given access to pornography or child pornography.
The child being enticed offline with a view to a sexual encounter.

The children who are most vulnerable and targeted by predators on-line are the ones who appear lonely, have low self-esteem, and lack parental supervision.

On-line Sexual Exploitation of Children

To obtain a clearer picture of the scope of the problem, the "National Centre for Missing & Exploited Children" (NCMEC) provided funding, to Dr. David Finkelhor, Director of the Crimes Against Children Research Centre at the University of New Hampshire, (United States), to conduct a research survey on Internet victimisation of youth.

A Report on the Nation's Youth

Crimes Against Children Research Centre staff interviewed a nationally representative sample of 1,501 youth, aged 10 to 17, who used the Internet regularly. "Regular use" was defined as using the Internet at least once a month for the past 6 months on a computer at home, at school, in a library, at someone else's home, or in some other place. The survey took place between August 1999 and February 2000 and the participants were 53% male and 47% female.

- One in 5 youths received a sexual approach or solicitation over the Internet in the past year.

- One in 33 youths received an aggressive sexual solicitation in the past year. This means a predator asked a young person to meet somewhere, called a young person on the phone, and/or sent the young person correspondence, money, or gifts through the U.S. Postal Service.

- One in 4 youths had an unwanted exposure in the past year to pictures of naked people or people having sex.

- One in 17 youths were threatened or harassed in the past year.

- Most young people who reported these incidents were not very disturbed about them, but a few found them distressing.

- Only a fraction of all episodes was reported to authorities such as the police, an Internet service provider, or a hotline.

- About 25 % of the youth who encountered a sexual approach or solicitation told a parent. Almost 40 % of those reporting an unwanted exposure to sexual material told a parent.

- Only 17 % of youth and 11 % of parents could name a specific authority, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), CyberTipline, or an Internet service provider, to which they could report an Internet crime, although more indicated they were vaguely aware of such authorities.

- In households with home Internet access, one-third of parents said they had filtering or blocking software on their computers.

On-line Behaviour

The Internet is popular among children, and evidence is suggesting that children are making on-line choices that are contrary to their offline behaviours. In other words, they tend to take more risks or engage in otherwise unacceptable behaviour - which has increased the number of potential victims available to adults who would exploit this behaviour, such as predators.

In an effort to better understand the risks to adolescent girls on-line, a baseline study was conducted in the United States, "Emerging Risks of Violence in the Digital Age", by Profs. Ilene Berson, Michael Berson, and John Ferron of the University of South Florida.
This study was conducted using on-line data collection procedures, 10,800 respondents identified behaviours that placed them at-risk.

Concerns:

- Teens using e-mails and on-line chat, to insult each other, exchange sexual quips, attack the opinions of others, and engage in generally outrageous behaviour.

- Teens surveyed said they sometimes don't care if the person they flirt with is an adult or a young person. They often view it as pretend, and they play the game of make-believe by stating that they are older, more popular, smarter, tougher, and/or more experienced than in the real world. Girls may pretend to be boys, and boys may pretend to be girls.

- Some girls reported that communicating on-line empowers them and helps them find a voice. In face to face interactions, they perceive that body size, facial features, and other superficial characteristics are judged as more important than personality. On-line exchanges are anonymous and take place without visual cues.

- Teens have a tendency to maintain secrecy about their on-line activities especially with adults.

- Young people tend to believe there is little chance of being detected on-line for their misconduct, e.g. lying about age, sending sexually provocative messages, or swearing on-line.

- Because of a perceived lack of consequences, stalking, death threats, and other violent fantasies and behaviours have become more common among on-line teens.

- As adolescent girls spend an increasing amount of time on-line, they are more likely to participate in destructive or potentially dangerous acts.

Fears raised over pictures for gifts (July 2002)

Teenagers in the United Kingdom are reportedly swapping photos of themselves posted on websites in exchange for gifts from older men, according to reports in "The Observer".
The newspaper said that the practice of girls offering to perform in front of webcams in private rooms has driven viewers to send gifts including cash and lingerie to the girls, some of whom are as young as 14.
The phenomenon has sprung up only in recent months and the girls parents are largely oblivious to the practice.
Girls link their personal websites and wish lists to prominent sites such as wedding pages, through which they are contacted by older male viewers.
In the US, such personal links have been connected to at least one murder, that of a 13 year-old.

Findings

Over the period of the year a number of issues and concerns were raised and discussed with families and young people from Teesside. Despite these concerns it is fair to say that there was a lot of positive and encouraging discussion took place in relation to peoples' on-line experiences and safety.

Concerns

Table 1 shows the concerns arising from those discussions.

Key: *Affecting*
1=Indvidual
2=Small proportion of respondents
3=Large proportion of respondents

Table 1

1,2,3	Type	Sex	Age approx.	Concerns
1	Pre-Teen	F	12	Asked to send naked pictures of herself
1	Pre-Teen	M	12	Friend had been threatened on-line
1	Pre-Teen	F	12	Found downloading hardcore pornography on computer
1	Pre-Teen	F	11	Asked to describe her underwear
1	Pre-Teen	F	9	No parental control
1	Pre-Teen	F	9	Distressed after viewing hardcore pornography
3	Pre+Teen	M&F	12-15	Received junk e-mail (Spam) sometimes containing pornography
3	Pre+Teen	M&F	9-15	Not aware of the warning signs from grooming
1	Teen	F	15	Down loaded a virus which damaged the computer
1	Teen	F	15	Travelled to London to meet boy met through chat room
2	Teen	F	13-15	Using provocative on-line names e.g. sexy sam and sexy teen
2	Teen	F	13-15	Using real names in on-line profiles
2	Teen	F	13-15	Using web based e-mail accounts without parents knowing
2	Teen	F	13-15	Used chat room to arrange meetings with boys then met them offline
1	Teen	M	15	Banned from home computer for continually downloading pornography
1	Teen	F	14	Sharing personal information on-line
1	Teen	F	14	Received e-mail attachment - photo of male genital
1	Teen	F	13	Asked to meet offline in Loftus (Male supposedly 25 yr. old)
3	Adult	M&F		Not aware of the warning signs from grooming
1	Adult	F		There is not a problem the risks from predators is low
1	Adult	F		Pornography is the concern not predators
3	Adult	M&F		Received junk e-mail (Spam) sometimes containing pornography
1	Adult	F		Received a virus that damaged the computer
1	Adult	F		Sexually harassed and had to change accounts
2	Adult	M&F		No anti-virus software installed or had it updated
3	Adult	M&F		Unaware how to monitor childs on-line activities
2	Adult	M&F		No firewall installed on the computer
1	Adult	F		Teenagers should not be prosecuted for downloading child pornography
2	Adult	M&F		Filtering software will protect the children

Feedback from the Multi-agency Internet Safety Awareness Training Day

The event titled "Protecting Children Using the Internet", was attended by 28 people, who came from Social Services Middlesborough, Future Steps, and Youth and Community workers.

The responses below not only mirror the discussions and concerns which took place over the year, but highlight the general lack of knowledge and understanding people <u>had</u> regarding the dangers and the Internet.

1. **"**How can parents, carers, teachers, and children avoid the <u>dangers</u> on the Internet if they don't know where they are?"
2. "How can parents, carers, and teachers <u>monitor</u> the child's on-line activities if they don't have the know how or technical skills?"

The statements below are the responses to a question posed on the course evaluation sheet:
WHAT DID YOU FIND MOST HELPFUL?
The answers are unedited but have been categorised under five headings.

1. <u>Awareness to the dangers</u>

✔ *Raising my awareness*

✔ *The wide range of the problem*

✔ *All of session particularly story, so it proves you cannot believe what you see from chat rooms*

✔ *I found it all very helpful-being quite ignorant about risks regarding using Internet*

✔ *All the session very interesting especially the dangers*

✔ *Information on what to look out for. Very clearly presented. Emphasis on educating the child and taking responsibility*

✔ *Don't need sweets to lure young people raising my awareness*

✔ *Raising awareness of the dangers of the Internet*

✔ *Case studies & understanding of how strangers can access and find out more from children*

✔ *Informative relating to access of child's personal info and how to help prevent*

✔ *Tips and bewares*

✔ *Filtering software and dangers on the Internet*

✔ *Grooming*

✔ *Total eye opener*

2. <u>Monitoring children</u>

✔ *Direct information*

✔ *Ways to check up childrens' activities*

✔ *Information on sites that can block things, and also tracking the childrens' work*

✔ *Tracking on children using the net*

✔ *All especially protecting self/children methods*

<u>Protection</u>

✔ *Info on E-mail and ways of protecting systems*

✔ *How you can take steps to prevent "serious problems"*

✔ *Advice to filter Internet*

<u>General</u>

✔ *Insight into child Internet safety*

✔ *Advice to children*

<u>Other</u>

✔ *Very good presentation and scenario*

✔ *All was informative*

There is no doubt that the Internet is becoming a part of everyday life with more and more families and young people getting connected each day.
The Internet is providing young people from Teesside and from around the globe with an educational and recreational resource, which cannot be ignored.
As the Internet is likely to play a big part in the lives of families and young people in Teesside it is crucial to begin to confront and raise awareness to the potential dangers of the Internet.

There are real dangers and concerns associated with the Internet, in May 2002, a 13 year old girl was murdered by a 25 year old man whom she had met through a chat room.
Findings from a survey of 1,501 youth aged 10 to 17 had shown that 1 in 5 youths received a sexual approach or solicitation on-line.
Two teenagers from Teesside a 13-year-old and 15-year-old boy were arrested as part of an Internet paedophile ring for downloading and distributing child pornography on their computer.

Unfortunately it does appear that young people on-line in Teesside are being exposed to on-line sexual exploitation, mainly due to their own on-line behaviour/attitude, which arises through ignorance of the dangers and the full implications that could lead to tragic consequences.

Responsible parents are trying to warn their children about the dangers of exchanges with strangers on the Internet, but some are finding it difficult because of their lack of understanding of the risks and the methods used by predators to groom children.
Where to report inappropriate experiences was also another concern.
The situation has not been helped by the ICT skills divide between parents and children.
Parents lacking in basic ICT skills had a tendency to fear computers, this made it difficult for them to both educate and monitor their child's on-line activities.
This was not helped by young people especially teens not listening to their parents' concerns.
It was also found that there was an apathetic attitude coming from a number of parents, "it won't happen to my family the risks are low," which again shows ignorance to the depth of understanding that they perceive the risk to be.
Filtering software seemed to be high on the agenda for some parents, this tends to suggest that the responsibility for the protection of the child was being placed on the technology as opposed to parenting where it should be.

There appears to be a general reluctance from the Teesside community, including the local media, to confront and address the issues of protecting children on the Internet.

Part of this reluctance seems to be related to a number of issues:
- Paedophilia - it appears to be a taboo subject in which people are reluctant to talk about it or raise its awareness.
- Highlighting the dangers of the Internet - this is perceived as putting people off the Internet, where as in reality Internet safety is about encouraging people to develop their ICT skills and learn about the Internet.
- Parents and carers - being reluctant to hang out their dirty washing in public; they tend to keep their Internet problems within the home.
- Young people - unwilling to share their bad on-line experiences with their parents, either because of embarrassment or from the fear of loosing their Internet connection.

The Government has set up an Internet Taskforce on Child Protection addressing some of the issues and concerns talked about in this report.

Unfortunately local authorities, education authorities, police and child protection agencies in Teesside do not appear to be working together to address the issue of "child protection on-line".

No doubt they will have their reasons.

Prevention is better than cure and hopefully it will not take the abuse of one child before people act.

The findings for this report was based on the feedback given from a small population of Internet users in Teesside. I have no doubt that a survey on a larger scale would mirror the findings in this report but on a bigger scale.

Who controls the Internet? "Nobody".
There is no central authority that controls or runs the Internet. Anyone can put anything on
their server, data, pictures, or programs. The global nature of the Internet makes it difficult
if not impossible to control the content that is available and the people who use it.

Recommendations to help make the Internet experience a safer one for children in Teesside

- **"Empower parents, carers, teachers, and children by giving them the knowledge and ICT skills to avoid the dangers."**

- **"Industry, Governments, Education, Police, Child-Welfare Agencies all need to work together to provide a layer of protection and support."**

- **"Update the Laws (Sex Offenders Act 1997) to make it a criminal offence for adults to groom minors for sex on-line."**

- Set up an Internet safety task force in Teesside.
  The task force should consist of representatives from local authority, community safety, education, police, community youth groups, IT industries and child-welfare agencies.

- Develop a strategy to support Internet safety awareness campaigns, the awareness campaigns should not only raise awareness to the dangers, but also offer practical Internet safety advice and sources for support and reporting.

- Carry out further research looking at particular areas and age groups of children in Teesside.
  The aims of the study would be to ascertain the areas/children most at risk.

- Incorporate Internet safety education and awareness as part of the ICT curriculum in schools.

- Incorporate Internet safety education and awareness on all ICT courses.

- Equip. Health and social workers, police, therapists, family counsellors, domestic violence, sexual abuse, rape crisis centres, and children support groups' etc with the knowledge and ICT skills.

- The findings for the report came from a one-year study period between August 2001 - August 2002.

- 85% of the information collated about the on-line experiences of families and young people in Teesside came from face to face discussions held with parents, carers, teachers, friends, work colleagues, organisations, teens and pre-teens.

- **The research focused on three areas:**
1. On-line sexual exploitation
2. On-line behaviour
3. Child pornography operations & arrests

- **The research objectives:**
To identify if children in Teesside were victims of on-line sexual exploitation.

———————————————

Support
A number of platforms were set up to help support the programme.

1. An electronic mailing list was set up in September 2001 and used as a central communication point keeping supporting members informed on news and recent developments of the programme.
   The membership consisted of 28 representatives from local development agencies, organisations, community groups, training providers, local authority, and police representatives.
   A number of public events and training sessions were set up through this support team.

2. A steering group was set up in January 2002 with members from the mailing list.
   The membership stood at 6 with steering group meetings held bi-monthly.
   The steering group was responsible for organising the multi-agency training day.

3. Funding was made available by winning two National awards In March 2002.
   - **Community Champions**, partnership with Langridge Initiative Centre, Middlesbrough
   - **Parents in the Community Millennium Awards**, partnership with West Redcar Community School, Redcar

   The awards provided validation and further opportunities to network and talk to the families and young people from each of their perspective wards.

Involving the Teesside Community
During the year approximately 152 people from Teesside were contacted and offered the opportunity to support the Internet Safety programme.
These people were specifically targeted because of their links in local authorities, police, development agencies, educational establishments, businesses, local media, youth & community groups, and community safety.
Out of the152 people contacted 28 of them came forward to support the programme.

Materials

Face to face discussions were the main communication method used for gathering feedback, however other materials were developed to help aid this process.

- **Business cards** – included mobile phone number & e-mail address
  Handed out at display stands, training sessions, meetings, and friends
- **Course evaluation sheets**
  Completed at the end of the training sessions.
- **Flyers** – included mobile phone number & e-mail address
  Displayed in public places, libraries, shops, offices, gala souvenir brochures.
- **Handouts (Internet Safety tips)** – included mobile phone number & e-mail address
  Handed out at display stands & training sessions

Events

Family galas were specifically targeted because they offered a cross section of people who came from different parts of Teesside e.g. Stockton, Hartlepool etc.
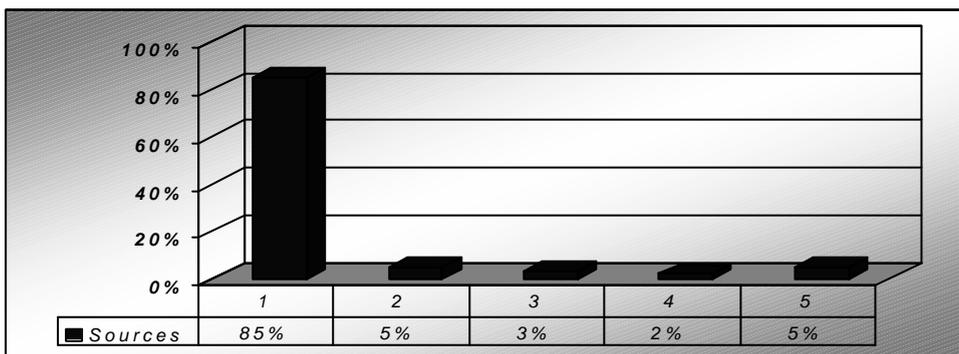***See Annexe A Table 3 - for the events.**

Targeted Audience

- Parents, carers, teachers, and anybody who had an interest or responsibility for protecting children using the Internet.
- Teens and pre-teens
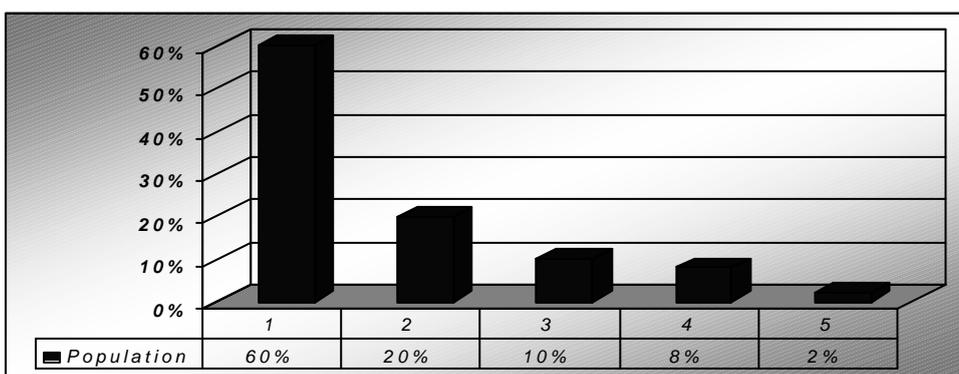
Sources

Information was gathered using:

Figure 1

Sources

1. Face to Face Discussions
2. Course Evaluation Sheets
3. E-mail
4. Local Media/Internet
5. Mobile Phone

Sources	1	2	3	4	5
	85%	5%	3%	2%	5%

There was no questionnaire specifically set up, as this was felt it would be too restrictive and prove difficult in getting people to participate.

The method of addressing the individuals question/concerns proved to be worthwhile for both parties involved.

Total Population

Discussions took place with approximately 340 people over the year   **Figure 2**

Population

1. Parents, Carers, Teachers – Male & Female
2. Teen-Female
3. Pre-Teen-Female
4. Teen-Male
5. Pre-Teen-Male

Population	1	2	3	4	5
	60%	20%	10%	8%	2%

Appendix A

International, National, and Local   *** From Teesside**

Operations	Date	Arrests	Countries	Uncovered	Sex	Age	From
Cathedral	Sept 1998	180, which includes 7 from the UK	United Kingdom, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Portugal, United States, and Sweden	Wonderland Club and 750,000 pictures - some of the most degrading ever seen, as well as a library of 1,800 computerised videos depicting children suffering sexual abuse			
	2000	1 man from Teesside	United Kingdom	*** Making indecent photographs and images of children and possessing them**	*** Male**	**46**	**Brotton, East Cleveland**
Appal	March 2001	17, which included a man working for a national youth organisation, and a 13-year-old boy from Teesside	United Kingdom, Ireland	Chat rooms being used to distribute indecent images of children. *** Downloading and possessing more than 300 indecent images of children on his home computer. A total of 326 images displaying young children engaged in sexual acts and bestiality, as well as half a dozen images involving a young baby, were found on the hard drive of his computer.**	*** Male**	**13**	**Thornaby, Stockton**
Blue Orchid	May 2001	9	America, Russia, Sweden, Denmark and Netherlands	Production and distribution of videos through a website in which Russian boys as young as eight years old were being sexually abused			
Avalanche	Aug 2001	100	United States	Subscriptions to the largest commercial child pornography ring ever discovered in the United States. Credit card payments were used to access images and films of children being sexually abused. Two children from Britain an eight-year old girl and her six-year-old brother were identified from the images			

Table 2: Child Pornography Operations & Arrests

Operations	Date	Arrests	Countries	Uncovered	Sex	Age	From
Barcela	Oct 2001	14, which included 2 men from Teesside	United Kingdom, Ireland	Distribution of indecent images of children. *** Downloading and possessing indecent images of children on a computer**	*** Males**	**Midd-age**	**Stockton-on-Tees**
Landmark	Nov 2001	Nine arrests in the UK and raids on 130 homes and businesses abroad	United Kingdom, Australia, Belgium, Canada, United States, Korea, Japan, Sweden and Turkey	60,000 pictures, which were available on more than 30 open newsgroup sites. Traced 400 people from 19 countries who were suspected of looking at and distributing the images. Almost 10,000 people accessed the newsgroups in the course of two weeks, requesting, exchanging and supplying images to each other. One of the newsgroups was being used specifically to share advice about grooming			
Artus	March 2002	12	United Kingdom, Canada, Finland, France, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and United States	Hundreds of thousands of pictures and videos of children being sexually abused			
Candyman	March 2002	90. Arrests include Catholic priests, a Police Officer, a School Bus Driver, a Nurse and a Classroom Assistant. 27 people confessed to molesting 36 children	United States	Posting, emailing and exchanging indecent images of children in three electronic message groups hosted by Yahoo. Message group had an estimated 7,000 members, mostly US-based			
Magenta	April 2002	70, which included 2 arrests in Teesside	United Kingdom	Internet chat rooms being used to swap sexually explicit images of children. *** Downloading and possessing indecent images of children on their computer**	*** Males**	**15, 40**	**South Bank, and Stockton-on-Tees**

Table 2: Child Pornography Operations & Arrests

Operations	Date	Arrests	Countries	Uncovered	Sex	Age	From
Ore	May 2002	36, which included 1 arrest in Teesside	United Kingdom	The use of pay-per-view websites in the United States which sold images of sexual abuse of children as young as five. *** Downloading and possessing indecent images of children on his computer. (Sites were accessed on pay-per-view basis)**	*** Male**	**30**	**Guisboroug-h, East Cleveland**
Twins	June 2002	50	United Kingdom, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Spain and Italy	Shadowz Brotherhood, a complicated and skilled criminal conspiracy which had a membership of 100, whose activities included the production and distribution of images of child abuse and live-time abuse of children			
	2002	1	United Kingdom	*** Making indecent photographs and moving images of children**	*** Male**	**41**	**Middlesbrou - gh**
Hamlet	Aug 2002	20	United Kingdom, United States, Denmark, Switzerland, and Netherlands	An international ring of paedophiles in which parents abused their own children and then posted the images on the Internet. 45 children between the ages of two and 14 had been abused, most of them by their own parents. Parents were found exchanging children, not just their photos			
Pilham	Aug 2002	12	United Kingdom	UK child porn ring, making and distributing indecent images of children			

Table 2: Child Pornography Operations & Arrests

Table 3: Internet Safety In Teeside diary

Date	Event	Venue	Type
Thu 17th Jan 2002	ISIT Steering Group Meeting	Quality Hotel & Conference Centre, TAD Centre Middlesbrough	Meeting
Wed 6th March	ISIT Steering Group Meeting	Quality Hotel & Conference Centre, TAD Centre Middlesbrough	Meeting
Thu 2nd May	ISIT Steering Group Meeting	Quality Hotel & Conference Centre, TAD Centre Middlesbrough	Meeting
Fri 10th May	Europe Week Celebration Event (1day)	Natures World Middlesbrough	ISIT/Langridge Centre shared display stand
Wed 29th May	Conference "Rape The Complete Picture" (1 day)	Create Midlesbrough	ISIT/Langridge Centre shared display stand
Wed 29th May	Multi-Agency Training Day (Protecting Children Using The Internet) (1 day)	Quality Hotel & Conference Centre, TAD Centre Middlesbrough	4x Internet safety awareness talks
Mon 3rd June	West Redcar Community Gala *(Family Gala)*	Dormanstown recreation field	ISIT display stand
Tue 18th June	Protecting Children Using The Internet	West Redcar Community School	Internet safety awareness talk
Thu 20th June	Drop in one to one Internet safety advice	West Redcar Community School	One to one advice
Sun 23rd June	Sure Start Summer Event *(Family Gala)*	Kirkleatham Museum Redcar	ISIT display stand
Tue 25th June	Drop in one to one Internet safety advice	West Redcar Community School	One to one advice
Tue 2nd July	ISIT Steering Group Meeting	Quality Hotel & Conference Centre, TAD Centre Middlesbrough	Meeting
Sun 7th July	Corus Steel Family Gala *(Family Gala)*	Redcar Rugby Club	ISIT display stand
Thu 11th July	Parents In the Community Millennium Awards	Southwark Cathedral, London	Awards event
Sat 13th July	Friends of Locke Park *(Family Gala)*	Locke Park Redcar	ISIT display stand
Sat 27th July	Cleveland Show *(Family Gala)*	Stewarts Park Middlesbrough	ISIT display stand
Sun 18th August	Corus Social Club Family Sports Day *(Family Gala)*	Dormanstown Club	ISIT display stand

Table 3: August 2001- August 2002

Reference

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