



Youth Justice
National Development Team

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'New Technologies and Child Protection'

**WithScotland and National Development Team (NDT) at the Centre for Youth and Criminal
Justice and WithScotland**

1st March, 2013, Scottish Police College

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

New Technologies and Child Protection: Challenges and Solutions

1st March 2013

The conference was chaired by Colin McKerracher, former Chief Constable of Grampian Police.

The morning consisted of a presentation by Professor Anthony Beech, Professor in Criminology at the University of Birmingham. Professor Beech's presentation was titled 'Internet Sex Offenders: Key Messages From Research'. Eleanor Baggaley, from the Child Exploitation and On-Line Protection Centre (CEOP) presented 'CEOP's 2012 thematic assessment on the risk of contact child sexual abuse posed by those who possess indecent images of children and the police response to it'.

In the afternoon, Dr Ethel Quayle, Senior Lecturer in Clinical Psychology, University of Edinburgh, presented on 'Adolescence, New Technologies and Sexual Abuse'.

Assistant Chief Constable Malcolm Graham, Major Crime and Public Protection Police Scotland, presented on 'New Technologies and Child Protection: a Scottish Perspective'. The afternoon was rounded off by a plenary discussion and Chair's summary of the day.

New Technologies and Child Protection Conference – Summary Report

Introduction

The New Technologies Conference was held at The Scottish Police College, on Friday 1st March 2013 bringing together a group of practitioners, academics and other professionals from across the public and voluntary sectors to explore the issue of new technologies in relation to children and young people and sexually harmful behaviour. The conference, jointly organised by the National Development Team (NDT) at the Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice and WithScotland, was attended by over 150 individuals. This was a stimulating, thought-provoking and challenging day that allowed delegates to think and talk about this complex and contested issue. A full audio recording of all keynote addresses can be accessed through the website of the Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Service (IRISS) in addition to a transcript of interviews with some of the speakers and workshop leads: <http://irissfm.iriss.org.uk/episode/035>. Furthermore, video footage of all of the keynote addresses can be accessed at [WithScotland](#) and copies of the majority of the keynote presentations and all of the Powerpoint presentations from the workshops can be accessed via the [Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice](#).

Keynote Address Synopses

Chief Constable Colin McKerracher Opening Address

A 40 year veteran within the Police Service, serving as Chief Constable of Grampian for nine of those years, Chief Constable Colin McKerracher opened the conference by providing a brief overview of the challenges faced by practitioners in the child protection field, triggered by the explosive growth of new technologies from social networking to smart phones and “blue-toothing”. Although acknowledging the real dangers for children and young people both as victims and/or perpetrators of sexually harmful behaviour linked to these new technologies, he also sounded a note of caution. The majority of children and young people engage with new technologies in a safe, creative and harmless fashion. The challenge for practitioners is to keep abreast of what constitutes normative behaviour and to ensure that any behaviour which places children and young people at risk continues to be addressed in the most robust way possible.

Keynote 1: Professor Anthony Beech (University of Birmingham) ‘Internet Sex Offenders: Key messages from research’

In outlining the key messages from research about the behaviour of internet sex offenders, Professor Tony Beech sought to explore whether internet sex offending is qualitatively different to other forms of sexually harmful behaviour. He also explored whether existing typologies of sexually harmful behaviour capture internet sex offending satisfactorily. Finally he sought to examine what evidence exists about the crossover between those who engage in internet sex offending and those who then go on to commit contact sexual offences.

He highlighted the fact that there is no agreed definition of internet offending but analysed some of the ways in which the internet may facilitate sexually harmful behaviour. In particular he addressed:

- paedophile networks
- downloading/image dissemination
- locating victims
- grooming.

Salient points included that the number of images, the sophistication with which they are organised, the age of the individuals in the images and the origin of the images will all be important factors when considering the seriousness of the risk posed by collector. The COPINE (Combating Paedophile Information Networks in Europe) and SAP (Sentencing Advisory Panel) typologies have been created to assist with the task of analysing large collections.

Professor Tony Beech also noted the importance of the 'Triple A Engine' (Cooper, 1998) of accessibility, affordability and anonymity which drives internet sex offending. Ultimately, Professor Beech introduced a four-part typology for internet sex offenders which he has developed with his colleagues: (i) periodically prurient/emotional dysregulation (online only?) (ii) fantasy driven/online only? (iii) individuals who use the internet as part of a pattern of contact offending (iv) individuals who access abusive images for seemingly non-sexual reasons (e.g. financial).

He concluded by assessing some of the biological, social and psychological characteristics that, when present, may increase the risk of an individual committing sexually harmful acts against children and young people, aided by use of the internet in some fashion.

Keynote 2: Eleanor Baggaley (Senior Officer – Child Exploitation and On-line Protection Centre)

'A Picture of Abuse: CEOP's 2012 thematic assessment on the risk of contact sexual abuse posed by those who possess indecent images of children and the police response to it'

The Child Exploitation and On-line Protection (CEOP) Centre is part of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). As such it is unfortunately not possible for Eleanor Baggaley's PowerPoint slides to be disseminated as part of this report. However, her informative presentation explored some of the work that is on-going to disrupt international sex offender networks.

More information about CEOPS can be accessed [through the organisation's website](#).

Keynote 3: Dr Ethel Quayle (Senior Lecturer in Clinical Psychology)
'New Technologies, Adolescence and Sexual Abuse'

[View Dr Quayle's keynote here.](#)

That children and young people in the 21st century are exposed perpetually to sexualised imagery and content in their role as "consumers" was a theme running throughout Dr Quayle's insightful presentation. She noted that sexualised behaviour among children and young people exists on a spectrum from mutually agreed experimentation at one end to harmful, abusive exploitation at the other. She emphasised the importance of interpreting behaviour based on application of a developmental framework which highlights that through childhood and adolescence young people's personalities and identities are "in flux". She also underscored the lack of sufficient empirical evidence in relation to new technologies, adolescence and sexual behaviour with existing data in this field drawn primarily from adult cohorts.

Dr Quayle observed that an assessment of the function of any sexual behaviour by adolescents is critical and some measurement of the extent to which it is in the service of developmentally appropriate sexual needs. She highlighted the utility of the Internet Assessment Intervention and Moving On (iAIM) assessment tool in this regard. She also encouraged practitioners to consider the matrix developed by Hasebrink et al (2009) which classifies behaviour depending on whether they involve content, contact or conduct. However, it was acknowledged that there are still research gaps in relation to how best to define the problem, assessing the level of harm it causes and its consequences. As regards contact child sexual abuse stemming from online grooming for example, Dr Quayle noted how evidence points to the majority of these offences being perpetrated by other children and young people under the age of 18. The line between solicitation and grooming is often ill-defined.

Self-generated sexual content presents another significant challenge to practitioners working with children and young people with camera phones, web cams, social networks, chatrooms, instant messaging and blogs providing numerous platforms for self-promotion and risk-taking. The extent to

which parental/care-giver supervision is lacking and young people have been able to develop private online lives is also noteworthy. The problem of self-generated sexual images often distributed via new technologies (most frequently smart phones through “sexting”) is a further area in which research is growing as regards its extent. A key distinction can be drawn between self-generated images whose origins are experimental as opposed to aggravated.

Concluding Remarks: Assistant Chief Constable Malcolm Graham 'New Technologies and Child Protection: a Scottish Perspective'

In the final presentation of the day Assistant Chief Constable Malcolm Graham provided a helpful overview of the work being undertaken by Police Scotland to disrupt networks of sex offenders operating online targeting children and young people. This included some evidence from recent successful Police operations and the ongoing commitment of Police Scotland to keeping children and young people safe online.

Workshops

Martin Henry Early intervention with people under investigation and with their families

As the National Manager of *Stop It Now!* Martin Henry provided a detailed and engaging account of the service offered to individuals who have been charged with internet offences or those who seek help pre-emptively owing to their internet use having become harmful. This focussed in particular on the *Inform* and *Inform Plus* groupwork programmes which are delivered as part of this initiative.

Catriona Laing and pupils from Perth High School Cyber mentors: Peer support and education in Perth and Kinross

Catriona Laing provided an outline of an initiative to train young people to become cyber mentors in order to assist them to confront and to reduce cyberbullying. The workshop also touched on the Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Project and the *Thinkuknow* initiative run in conjunction with CEOPS.

Shona McEwan, Margaret Burns and Diane Wright Communication Let Me Down!

This workshop linked the two themes of child and adult protection through showcasing two internet safety initiatives from Fife and Inverclyde respectively. The importance of clear, comprehensible information about how to keep safe online was a common thread running through both examples of work with vulnerable groups.

Dr Kelly Stone How do we prepare children and young people to use the internet safely?

This interactive session touched on the issues of rights, risks and responsibilities and the need for children and young people to be supported to view the internet through a “critical lens”. Dr Stone also introduced the WithScotland internet safety briefing and related factsheets which were launched to coincide with the New Technologies event and can be accessed at [WithScotland Factsheets](#)

David Pitt Child Protection Practice: Dilemmas and New Technologies

Drawing from his direct practice experience with Barnardo's, David Pitt discussed the work of the *Number 54* service in West Lothian, which offers a “couple service” in the aftermath of (online) sexually harmful behaviour coming to light and through which “capacity to protect” assessments are undertaken. He also provided information about some of the important work on “safety planning” and engaging the “non-offending partner” of the perpetrator of sexually harmful behaviour (nurturing “Partners for Protection”).

Laura Tomson and Liz Ely

Under Pressure: Youth worker responses to gendered abuse and sexual exploitation

This collaborative presentation by Zero Tolerance and YWCA Scotland addressed the issue of gendered abuse and sexual exploitation, from combating stereotyping through to recognising abuse. Laura Tomson and Liz Ely described how a one-day workshop had been designed and delivered successfully to a group of nine youth workers from six different agencies, through which it was possible to find out more about youth workers' experiences in this field. Some of the learning points which arose included how fast-moving the social media landscape is for both adolescents and youth workers, the difficulties associated with challenging embedded stereotypical views and the importance of peer-to-peer learning among young people in relation to safe and appropriate behaviour.

**Pauline Rattray and pupils from Girvan Academy
Peer Education**

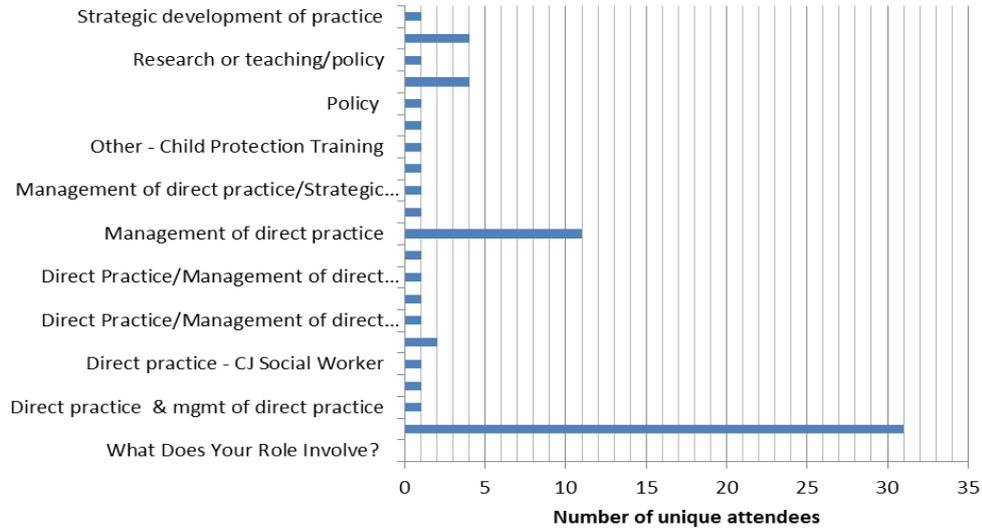
Pupils from Girvan Academy outlined the work they have undertaken as peer mentors supporting other pupils and guidance staff to tackle a broad range of difficulties and challenges, including cyber-bullying and grooming.

In addition to the workshops, Sergeant Stewart Kerr of Central Scotland Police welcomed practitioners to the Internet Safety Bus which was parked throughout the day on the grounds of Tulliallan.

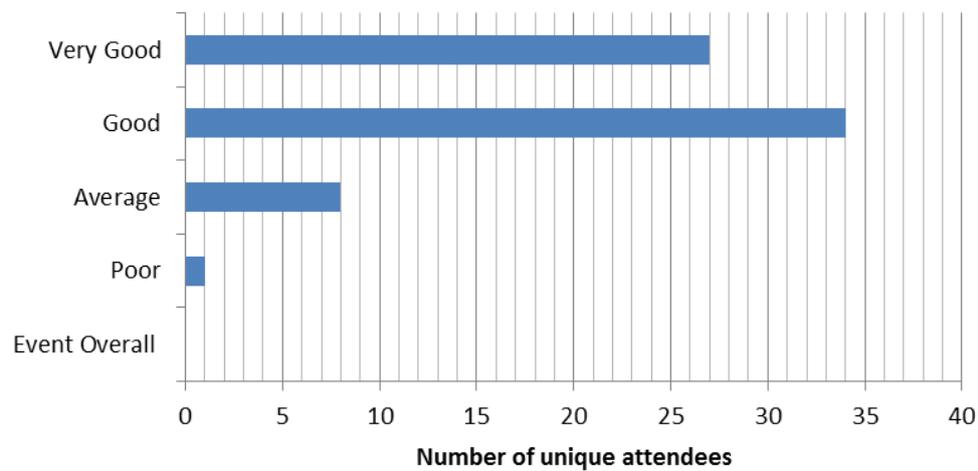
Conference feedback

- “Great day, good speakers. Day covered wide topic area”
- “Workshop - Stop It Now - made me look at the whole issue from a different perspective”
- “Thank you all for today, it was good getting the chance to hear some interesting speakers from a variety of organisations and be part of some interesting discussion in the workshops”
- “Both the presentations and the workshops were all very relevant, interesting and stimulated thinking and new knowledge.”
- “The workshop presentation by Stop It Now was excellent and very "real". Dr Ethel Quayle was also very interesting”
- “Excellent day. Good balance of academic input and workshops“
- “Interactive workshops. Informed presentations by keynote speakers. Variety of workshops was excellent”

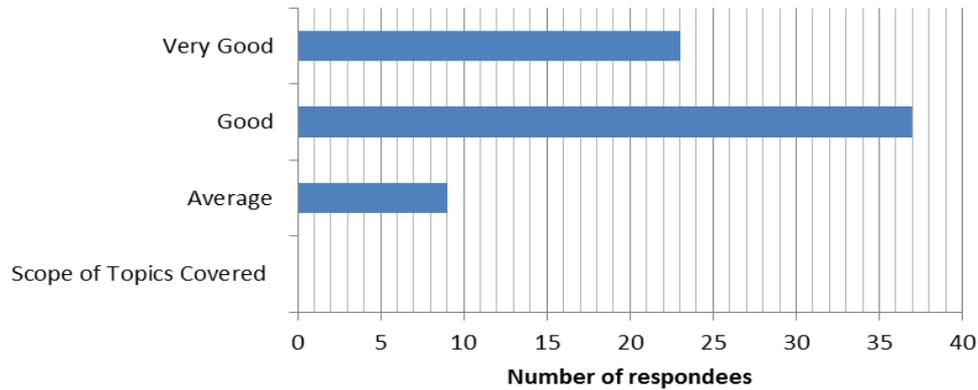
What does your role involve?

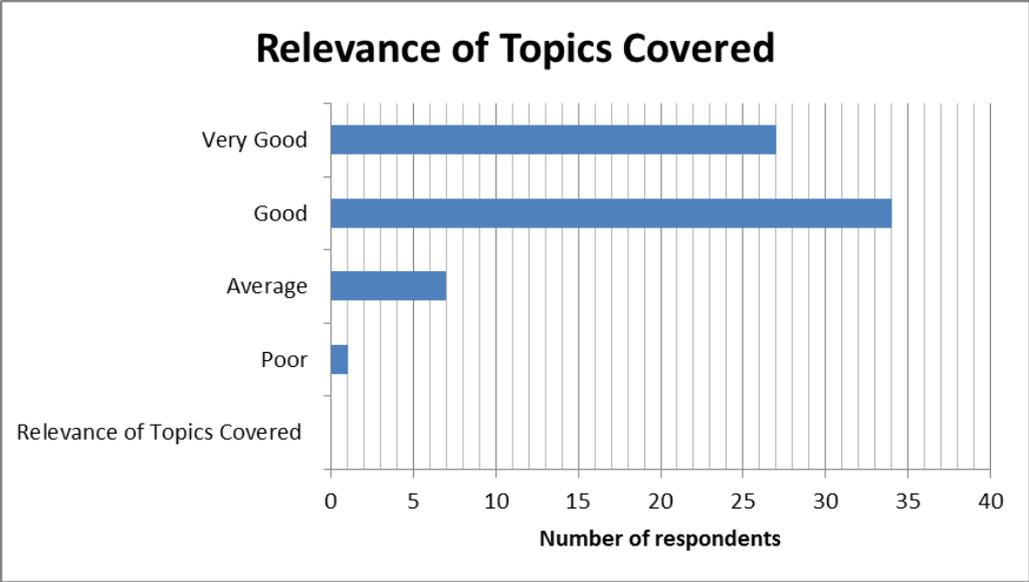
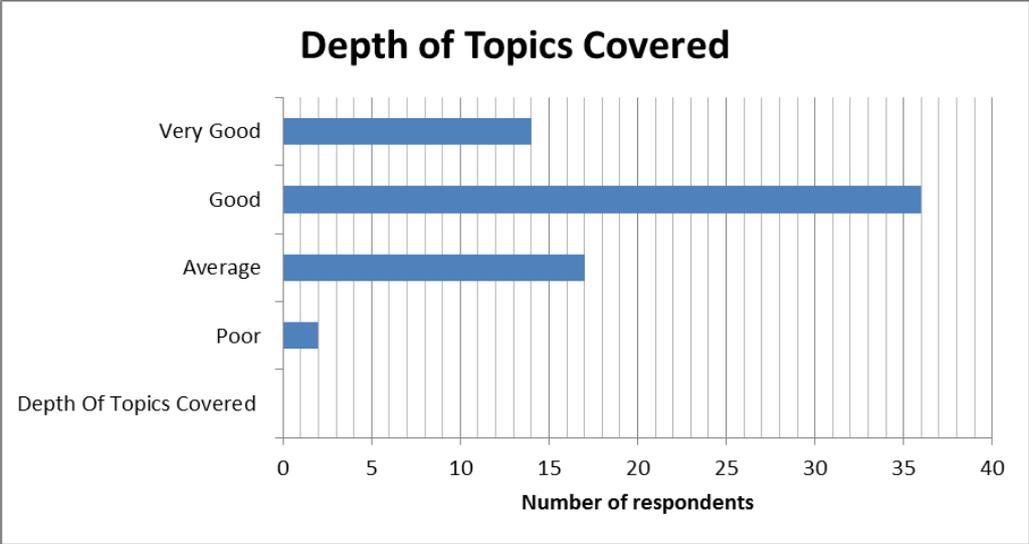


Event Overall



Scope of Topics Covered





ATTENDEES

Last Name	First Name	Job Title
Abu-Rajab	Kirsty	Consultant in Sexual Health
Aitken	Karen	Senior Procurator Fiscal Depute
Anwar	Anela	Head of Projects
Arbuckle	Val	Additional Support Midwifery Sister
Bathgate	Carol	Child Protection Reviewing Officer
Baxter	Alison	Health Visitor
Berry	Maureen	Nurse Consultant
Boslem	Mary	Social Worker
Brown	Lynn	Multi Agency Training Officer
Cambridge	Megan	Senior Social Worker
Cameron	Elaine	YIP Manager
Cantley	Janet	Social Worker
Carson	Joanna	Practice Team Leader
Chamberlain	May	Manager
Chesney	Angela	Senior Social Worker
Chisholm	Marie	Social Worker
Clarke	Dominic	Team Leader
Collins	Steven	Criminal Justice Social Worker
Cook	Elaine	Social Worker
Coyle	Nicola	Multi Agency Training Officer
Devoy	Jim	Professional Advisor
Donald	Carla	Young Person's Worker
Epsworth	George	Young Person's Practitioner
Findlay	Tom	Employment/Group Facilitator
Foggon	Sheila	CP Lead Officer
Forup	Suzanne	Network Development Manager
Frank	Rebekka	Student
Fraser	Kymme	Child Protection Programme Development Manager
Gallagher	Terry	Team leader
Gechie	Steven	Young Person's Practitioner
Gentleman	Neil	Professional Advisor
Gillan	Tracey	Integrated Services Officer
Godfrey	Paula	Fieldwork Manager
Gray	Catherine	Team leader
Hamad	Rania	Social Worker
Harkness	Michael	Young Victims Project Worker
Harrigan	Declan	L.I.T.E Co-ordinator
Harvey	Steve	CJSW
Haverstock	Jim	Social Worker
Hendrie	Marianne	Young Person's Worker
Hendry	Julie	Community Mental Health Worker

Honeyman	Alex	Interagency child protection training co-ordinator
Houston	Sharon	Advocacy Worker
Jack	Esther	Social Worker
Jameson	Joel	Depute Children's Service Manager
Jamieson	Gillian	Social Worker
Johnson	elaine	Senior Practitioner
Johnstone	Jan	Support Worker Sexual Exploitation
Jones	Ray	Team Manager
Kaminski	Tricia	CJ Team Leader
Kay	Liz	Community Safety Manager
Keirnan	Danielle	Project Worker
Kelly	Anne M	Team Manager
Kelly	Jane	Team Manager
Kennedy	Evelyn	Locality Coordinator Coordinated Children's service
Kennedy	Janey	Caledonian Women's Service Worker
Kent	Gillian	Social Worker
Kerr	Eleanor	Senior Nurse Child Protection
Lawson	Tommy	Education Officer
Livingstone	charles	social worker
lowrie	wendy	senior practitioner
MacIntosh	Eliz	Child Protection Advisor
Mackay	Susan	Staff Nurse for Schools
MacPherson	David	Youth Justice Researcher
MacRitchie	David	Senior Manager, Children and Families
Manzi	Ann	CSM
Marr	Eileen	Team Manager
Marshall	Kay	Social Worker
Martin	Evelyn	Education Development Co-ordinator (LAC/ASN)
Matheson	Linzi	Project Worker
McCausland	Selwyn	Children's Rights & Advocacy Manager
McClung	Billy	Social Worker
McConville	Carole	senior social care officer
mccrea	aine	child protection lead officer
McDonald	Jody	Project Worker
McInnes	Anne	Senior Manager
McKerlie	Avril	Manager
Meier	Steve	YIP Key Worker
Mills	Debbie	Resource Worker
Moffat	Lyn	Playscheme Co-ordinator
Moore	Joanne	Key worker youth inclusion project
Mosson	Suzie	Psychotherapist
Muir	Helen	Manager
Murphy	Paul	Social Worker
Neilson	Anne	Assistant Director Public Protection
Nicol	Gillian	child protection lead officer
Quinn	Kevin	Co-ordinator

Rankine	Jenny	Child Protection & Reviewing Officer
Richards	Graeme	Family Support Worker
Robertson	Sharon	Senior Planning Officer (Child Protection)
Robertson	Liz	Area Care Manager
Robertson	Fiona	Social Worker
robertson	charlotte	family support worker
	Rosemary	
Robertson	Robertson	Child protection Officer Education & Lifelong Lear
Rocks	Jacqui	Deputy Manager
Sermanni	John	Deputy Service Manager
Shanks	Leah Shanks	Social Worker
Simmons	Leslie	Criminal Justice Social Worker
Sinclair	Nigel	Senior Practitioner
smith	charles	acting emergency services manager
Sneddon	Rikki	Child Protection Coordinator
Steel	Audrey	CJ Team Leader
Stephenson	Andy	Team Manager
Stewart	Elaine	Social Worker
Sweeny	Peter	Social Worker
Terras	James	Training and Development Officer
Toye	Jacqui	Panel Administrator
Walker	Gail	Youth Justice Manager
walsh	edel	Safeguarding Co-ordinator
watson	janis	Children's Rights Officer
watson	lesley	Child Protection and Reviewing Officer
Weir	Fiona	YIP Key Worker
West	Elizabeth	Children and Families social worker
Wilson	Michaela	Project Worker
Wilson	Michaela	Project Worker Sexual Exploitation
Wood	kate	Resource worker
Wood	Erica	Team Manager
Wood	James	Youth Justice Inspector
Young	Tricia Young	Staff Nurse, Schools, Additional Support Needs