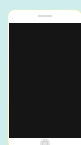# Over the Internet, Under the Radar: Prevention of Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation in Scotland

CYCJ AND BARNARDO'S SCOTLAND REPORT

SETTING THE SCENE

24% of 8-11 year olds in the UK own a Smartphone

69% of 12-15 year olds in the UK own a Smartphone

Many complex aspects of adolescent development concerning relationships and healthy sexuality increasingly take place online

ONLINE CHALLENGES INCLUDE

OFFENSIVE CONTENT

Sending or viewing violent, vulgar, sexual or hateful images or messages.

SELF-PRODUCED IMAGES

Sharing private, naked pictures, sometimes with the owner's permission, often referred to as 'sexting'.

ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Includes being groomed, manipulated or coerced into sexual activity.

KEY FINDINGS

1. Good practice examples of child centred and proportionate decision-making but inconsistent practice across Scotland - professionals describe lack of confidence in managing online behaviour

2. Rights of young people to sexual expression online needs to be weighed against rights to be protected from online exploitation.

3. Clarity needed on interaction between child protection and criminal processes, particularly where a child could be seen as 'victim' and 'perpetrator'

View the full report here

CYCJ centre for youth & criminal justice

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