UK COUNCIL FOR CHILD INTERNET SAFETY
Executive Board meeting minutes
5 December 2017, 12:30 - 14:00
Committee Room 5, Palace of Westminster
Chair: Matt Hancock MP, Minister for Digital, DCMS

Present:
Matt Hancock MP, Minister for Digital, Dept for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
Sam Sharps, Apple
David Austin, British Board of Film Classification
Dhy Flitcroft, CEOP
Marie Smith, CEOP
Will Gardner, Childnet International
Tessy Ojo, The Diana Award
Alex Holmes, The Diana Award
Katie O'Donovan, Google
Carolyn Bunting, Internet Matters
Michael Tunks, Internet Watch Foundation
Prof. Livingstone Livingstone, London School of Economics
Tony Stower, NSPCC
Alasdair MacInnes, Northern Ireland Executive
Tony Close, Ofcom
Sophie Linnington, Parentzone
Adam Kinsley, Sky
Iain Wood, TalkTalk
Dr Richard Graham, Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust
Jo Twist, UKIE
Daniel Butler, Virgin Media
Paul Morris, Vodafone
Ruth Meadows, Welsh Assembly
Rebecca Egan, Home Office
Sophie Taylor, Dept for Education
Rachael Bishop, Dept for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
Joe Lynch, Dept for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
Samantha Kelly, Dept for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
Michael Bell, Dept for Education
Emily Fei, Home Office
Eirteqa Sultan, Home Office

Apologies:
Robert Goodwill, Minister for Children and Families
Victoria Atkins, Minister for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability
Rose Durban, Association of Directors of Children’s Services
John Carr, Children’s Charities Coalition on Internet Safety (CHIS)
Rebecca Stimson, Facebook
Alice Webb, BBC Childrens’ and BBC North
**Item 1 - Welcome**

1. Matt Hancock (MH) opened the meeting by welcoming Board Members. He commented that it was good to see such a wide range of organisations represented. MH said that the sector has matured since the founding of UKCCIS and that the meeting would be used to discuss UKCCIS’s role in light of the Internet Safety Strategy which was published in October.

**Item 2 - Overview of the Internet Safety Strategy and UKCCIS remodelling**

2. MH explained that the Strategy sets out HMG’s plans to remodel UKCCIS - expanding the Council’s remit and streamlining the Board and Working Groups to make UKCCIS more effective.

**Executive Board and remit of UKCIS**

3. MH stated that the remodelled UKCCIS will cover all users, not just children. Therefore its name will change to the UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS). MH expressed how he wanted the changes to be an evolution of the existing Council, building on its previous good work.

4. The Board was broadly happy with the proposed changes and agreed that it would be beneficial to have a set of new objectives and priorities covering the Council’s wider remit. Some members expressed concern that the Council’s new remit would mean less focus on child protection issues. MH emphasised that, despite covering all users, the Board will have processes in place to ensure a continued focus on children and young people.

5. Board members discussed the types of harms which the remodelled Council would cover and the varied ways of protecting different vulnerable groups. MH was clear that UKCIS would cover all types of harms including legal but harmful behaviour, as well as illegal activities, including child sexual abuse imagery.

6. MH agreed to consider the need for additional resources as part of wider work on remodelling the Council.

**Role of the working groups**

7. MH stated that the UKCIS working groups (WG) would need to take a strategic approach to their work programmes, with the WGs reporting to the Executive Board. The Board will also need to be nimble so able to react to issues as well as horizon scanning to anticipate future areas of concern.

8. MH highlighted that changes to UKCIS will ensure that a wider range of online safety issues are addressed, enabling us to respond to the evolving nature of the Internet.

9. Board members agreed that a set of clear objectives for UKCIS, agreed by Government, would enable the WGs to directly deliver on priorities. The Board raised
a number of issues which could be considered, including the impact of the Internet on mental health and Home Office flagged that they would want to use UKCIS to tackle some of their policy areas including child sexual exploitation.

10. MH stressed the importance of the UK providing leadership on online safety. He agreed to consider how the chairing and secretariat models could be improved to help UKCIS retain its world-leading status.

**Update from Google**

11. MH invited Katie O’Donovan (KD) from Google to provide an update on their transparency announcement.

12. KD explained that Google will start publishing transparency reports in 2018 covering flagged content and Google will provide personal reports to individuals who report content. By the end of 2018, Google will have 10,000 people and will also be using AI and machine learning to identify inappropriate content.

13. KD explained that it can be difficult for a single company to anticipate future harms. Therefore bodies such as UKCIS play an important role in highlighting safety concerns. KD suggested that UKCIS should build on the work of those tackling cybercrime where law enforcement and industry share information to prevent harm.

**Any other business**

14. Board members agreed that it was important for the remodelled UKCIS to consult young people.

15. MH asked the Board to consider the applications for Associate Membership and contact the Secretariat if they wished to raise any objections.

16. MH thanked everybody for their attendance and stated that the application process for the remodelled UKCIS Executive Board would open in early 2018.