**Safer Internet Day – 11 February 2020**

**Briefing Note for WSSCB**

**What is it?**

Safer Internet Day (SID) is celebrated globally in February each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people.

Coordinated in the UK by the **UK Safer Internet Centre**the celebration sees hundreds of organisations unite to raise awareness of online safety issues and run events and activities right across the UK.

As a result of this collective action for Safer Internet Day, the 2019 campaign reached more children and young people than ever before. With over 2,100 organisations across the UK coming together and planning activities to celebrate the day and thousands supporting the #SaferInternetDay social media campaign, 2019’s Safer Internet Day was bigger than ever! See [here](https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2019/impact-safer-internet-day-2019) for more info.

**This Year’s SID 20**

The theme of this year’s Safer Internet Day is ‘Together for a better internet’. It aims to encourage people to make the most of the positive opportunities offered online, whilst giving them the resilience, skills, knowledge and support they need to navigate any online risks they may come across.

Linking this to the County Councils priority outcomes, digital safeguarding helps children to have the best start in life by protecting them from potential risks, ensuring that they can safely use the internet for their development. We can also help to support and protect people who may utilise the internet as part of their independent living in later life. By sharing and utilising the online resources available, our residents can be supported to be safe, strong and resilient in the digital world.

**What are our Objectives?**

* Encourage everyone to work together for a better internet, sharing key messages and supporting others to stay safe online, whilst making the most of the positive opportunities the digital world has to offer.
* Ensure our communities know where to go to get information and support to stay safe online - [Staying Safe Online Webpage](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/fire-emergencies-and-crime/crime-prevention/staying-safe-online/)
* Work with and support professionals working with young people and adults, so they have the skills and knowledge to support them – we are running Cyber Prevent sessions for professionals details of which can be found on the L&D gateway or email us at cswb.bookings@westsussex.gov.uk.
* Raise awareness and share our [Guide to Keeping Your Child Safe Online](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/8735/online-safety-completed.pdf).
* Ensure our internal colleagues are aware and informed of safe online practices and behaviours. – Staying Safe Online sessions available for internal colleagues to attend visit the L&D gateway and search Staying Safe Online.
* Help enable parents and carers to support their children to be safe online – we are running online safety sessions across county during the start of 2020, to find out more visit our Events page at www.westsussex.gov.uk/staying-safe-online.

**How the Community Safety and Wellbeing team are supporting SID 20**

Working with our schools, partners and communities we are raising awareness of the aims of Safer Internet Day and encouraging engagement with key information and messages.

We are delivering a number of events across West Sussex throughout February – May and on SID itself. These informal sessions are for parents/carers across the county aimed at raising awareness of key issues around online safety.

For more information about these sessions please visit the Events section of www.westsussex.gov.uk/staying-safe-online.

**What can you do to help support SID 20?**

Working with schools, partners and communities you can help raise awareness of the aims of Safer Internet Day and encourage engagement with key information and messages by:

* Promoting SID 20 via:
	+ Raising awareness of the campaign by including information in relevant newsletters;
	+ Adding [Banners](https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2020/help-us-spread-word) to your email footers;
	+ Like and share the [@WSxSafeOnline](https://twitter.com/WSxCommsafety) tweets and facebook posts, promoting via your social media the week leading up to and on SID 20;
	+ Sharing and promoting across your networks;
* Help to share and promote WSCC’s [Guide to Keeping Your Child Safe Online](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/8735/online-safety-completed.pdf).
* Running activities/sessions with young people – the [UK Safer Internet Centre](https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2019/education-packs) will soon be uploading [educational resources](https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2019/education-packs) such as activities, presentations, conversation starters that can be used to run such activities.
* Promote the various sessions we are running for professionals and parents amongst your networks. Please request any promotional material via communitysafety.wellbeing@westsussex.gov.uk.

Of course you may well have other ideas too about how you can help to support this global campaign.

**Where can you access information and resources?**

The [UK Safer Internet Centre](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/) will be able to provide you with information and resources to help you share key messages for SID 20.

**Point of Contact**

Please get in touch if you have any questions or want any briefings/information to disseminate to partners.

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