

Online Safety Conference for Young People

On Thursday 5 March, PCVS led on a Conference with a focus on Online Safety and Young People. This very important issue brought together around 100 people from a wide range of organisations to hear speakers present on some challenging perspectives including young people's voices about how safe they felt online. The conference was opened with an original film created by media and journalism students from Peterborough College. This was followed by the keynote speaker Rowan Ferguson the Safeguarding lead at the Molly Rose Foundation (MRF), who shared Molly's story and the work they are doing to combat suicide.

Kerry Cliffe, Safeguarding Lead at Jack Hunt School, talked about the negative aspects of Smartphones, Dan Pawson from Cambridgeshire Constabulary on COM Networks, Paige Moore Watson & Rachel Hallwood from Centre 33 giving a mental health perspective and Peterborough's MP, Andrew Pakes outlining the Online Safety Bill and the challenges of implementing it. Leader of the Council, Shabina Qayyum and Michelle Dalliston, Vicar of Peterborough also spoke about the role of faith to protect young people.

After lunch, Paul Bristow, Combined Authority Mayor, joined the speakers for a Q&A enabling delegates to ask their own questions. This lively discussion highlighted the real need to keep this issue high on the agenda and to prioritise the safety of our young. There is a clear challenge to keep up with the constantly changing machinery driving harmful content. On the same evening of the conference, Channel 4 aired a documentary led by the MRF, '*Molly versus the Machine*', which people were encouraged to watch.

Cheryl McGuire, Digital Inclusion Lead for PCVS said *"feedback from the Conference has been incredibly positive, demonstrating that there is an appetite for more understanding and awareness of online harm. Because we are all trying to keep up, and have a responsibility to ensure the safety of our young and to protect the next generation"*.

Expansion of Digital Hubs!

Following the successful launch and roll out of Digital Hubs during 2025/2026, again in partnership with Connecting Cambridgeshire, we are delighted to announce that we will be able to expand the offering next financial year to a further 4 locations.

Applications to complete an expression of interest will go live on 13th April.

Further details of the process and timelines will be issued through our normal comms channels shortly.

Digital Survey

There is still time to feed into the Charity Digital Skills Report via the following survey: [2026 Charity Digital Skills Report Survey](#) Deadline is 20th April.

It takes around 25 minutes and your responses are anonymous. You can also enter a prize draw for one of five grants of £300 in unrestricted funding.

Do you have a working surplus mobile phone? Rather than trying to trade it in, why not make a real difference to someone in our local community who has no means of digital access.

Donate Your Used Phone

[Sustainable Tech 4 Good](#) and [Cambridge Online](#) are working together to help address digital exclusion in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. We are making it easy to donate your surplus phones through our convenient collection boxes – these will be placed at various locations, including the Allia Future Business Centre, Peterborough.

To find more information please visit [Cambridge Online](#)

Training

We have partnered with Family Action to offer four free sessions to residents across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Providing supportive guidance on cyber safety, learning confidence, budgeting and finding better work opportunities — these sessions may also be helpful for anyone working with residents in need of light-touch support, who are considering a change, or want to build everyday confidence. These tasters form part of Family Action’s broader LifeSkills programme, which includes further online and in-person learning opportunities you may wish to share.

Upcoming free sessions

- **Keeping Safe Against Cybercrime** – Thurs 16 April, 10:30–12:00
- **The Benefits of Lifelong Learning** – Thurs 23 April, 12:00–13:30
- **Planning Your Personal Budget** – Thurs 30 April, 15:30–17:00
- **Finding Better Work Opportunities** – Thurs 7 May, 10:30–12:00

I have attached posters for you, should you wish to print them for your hub, or share more widely. If you would like posts for Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn or X - just let me know and I can send them over. Alternatively, dates and sign-up details are linked below.

How to book

Please signpost learners to book directly for each session:

- **Keeping Safe Against Cybercrime** – Thurs 16 April, 10:30–12:00 - https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=JGs8fA83l0aS8uz14BUhrCBFTyhT6l1Km0ExD_QW0PtUM1NSVDRSMkhHVUQwSTdFVEFES0hGNTRQWi4u
- **The Benefits of Lifelong Learning** – Thurs 23 April, 12:00–13:30 - https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=JGs8fA83l0aS8uz14BUhrCBFTyhT6l1Km0ExD_QW0PtUNkhZRE5TWUxDVjZEMkkwSTdSN1ZFTUc3SC4u

- **Planning Your Personal Budget** – Thurs 30 April, 15:30–17:00 -
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=JGs8fA83l0aS8uz14BUhrCBFTyhT6l1Km0ExD_QW0PtUQ1dFNjVVTDBC0EhBREg5UE9ESzITNDQyVS4u
- **Finding Better Work Opportunities** – Thurs 7 May, 10:30–12:00 -
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=JGs8fA83l0aS8uz14BUhrCBFTyhT6l1Km0ExD_QW0PtUOUc2RkNPT1oyNDBCQlZNWTdRUUtQNkRWVS4u

If you have any questions about these or other LifeSkills courses, please email:

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