

## Live streaming – advice for parents

The use of live streaming platforms by online sex offenders is increasing and there is an urgent need to educate children about the risks associated with this new threat. National Police Chiefs' Council Lead for Child Protection, Chief Constable Simon Bailey, has said recently:

"We need internet companies to help us stop access to sexual abuse images and videos and prevent abuse happening on their platforms. We need parents and carers to talk to their children about healthy relationships and staying safe online."

In an online NCA survey, 84% of parent respondents said they were alert to the potential dangers their children face online. But child protection experts are warning that knowledge goes out of date more quickly than many people realise because the online environment is now changing so quickly.

"We know that as children's online habits change, offenders are adapting with them. These individuals are learning how young people communicate online and are using this knowledge to contact, befriend and abuse them," said Zoe Hilton, Head of Safeguarding at the National Crime Agency. To help parents protect their children against the threat, the NCA and National Police Chiefs' Council have launched a new campaign encouraging parents to talk to their child about the behaviours that could put them at risk on live streaming platforms.

Intelligence from the NCA and police forces shows that that dangerous offenders are capitalising on the immediacy of contact that live streaming offers, as well as the ability to target children with a large number of comments in real time. Once on these platforms, offenders often use tricks or dares, the offer of online gifts or 'game points' and threats, in an attempt to manipulate young people into performing acts involving nudity over webcam.

The survey also showed that while the majority of parents speak to their children regularly, over 30% had not spoken to their children about online safety in the last month. Almost 58% are not sure if they have adequate online security.

A short animation narrated by the fictional Sam, an adult who goes online to abuse children, has been released along with the hashtag #WholsSam to show how offenders attempt to build relationships with young people online. Watch the animation yourself as a parent/care at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AOu5BLGNG9c> and then talk to your child – find out if they are using live streaming platforms and what they are using them for if they are.

New guidance for both parents and children on the risks posed by live streaming is also available from the NCA CEOP's education programme [Thinkuknow](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/live-streaming-responding-to-the-risks/?mc_cid=e938a23d42&mc_eid=22b1f9794a), specifically via this link: [https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/live-streaming-responding-to-the-risks/?mc\\_cid=e938a23d42&mc\\_eid=22b1f9794a](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/live-streaming-responding-to-the-risks/?mc_cid=e938a23d42&mc_eid=22b1f9794a)