



# Safeguarding Update

February 2018

Issue 2

## What is..... Sexting?

"Sexting" is when people send sexual messages – sometimes together with photos or videos (also known as nude or semi-nude selfies) – by text, an app or online.

People might send sext messages to boyfriends, girlfriends, someone they fancy, someone they've met online, or a friend for a laugh.

According to sexual health and wellbeing charity Brook, some young people feel under pressure to swap personal pictures and messages because they think everyone else is doing it. They can be sent using mobiles, tablets, smartphones, laptops – any device that allows you to share media and messages.

Sexting may also be called:

- trading nudes
- dirties
- pic for pic.

What the law says:

Sexting can be seen as harmless, but creating or sharing explicit images of a child is illegal, even if the person doing it is a child. A young person is breaking the law if they:

- take an explicit photo or video of themselves or a friend
- share an explicit image or video of a child, even if it's shared between children of the same age
- possess, download or store an explicit image or video of a child, even if the child gave their permission for it to be created.

However, as of January 2016 in England and Wales, if a young person is found creating or sharing images, the police can choose to record that a crime has been committed but that taking formal action isn't in the public interest.

Crimes recorded this way are unlikely to appear on future records or checks, unless the young person has been involved in other similar activities that may indicate that they are a risk. Find out more about legislation on child abuse images.



**Childline**  
**0800 11 11**

## Surrey's Launches #amisafe Domestic Abuse Campaign

A new social media campaign has been launched by the Surrey Against Domestic Abuse Partnership that will shine a light on the complex nature of an abusive relationship. The campaign has been designed to engage audiences with 'snack-able' content over the coming weeks, so that within no more than a few seconds at a time, perceptions about domestic abuse can be challenged.

By using social media to publish short videos and posts about many different facets of domestic abuse, it is hoped that the campaign will increase awareness on just how an insidious human issue domestic abuse is, and the terrifying reality that victims face.

Topics covered in the campaign will include:

- Coercive control, Rape
- Stalking and harassment
- The many 'faces' of DA
- How friends and family can spot the signs
- Domestic homicide
- The role of the police
- Our outreach services
- A survivor's story.

Each of these topics will be released on the Surrey Police Social media platforms, Surrey County council social media platforms and many other partners across the county. Key to the success of this campaign will be to share any post or tweet with the #AMISAFE as widely as possible throughout our communities and direct anybody who needs to find out how to stay safe and get help to the [Surrey Against Domestic Abuse Website](#). In an emergency always dial 999.

## Surrey Safeguarding Children's Board

Call us on  
01372 833330



**Safer Internet Day 2018 will be celebrated globally**

**on Tuesday 6th February.**

Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre the celebration sees more than a thousand organisations get involved to help promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people.