

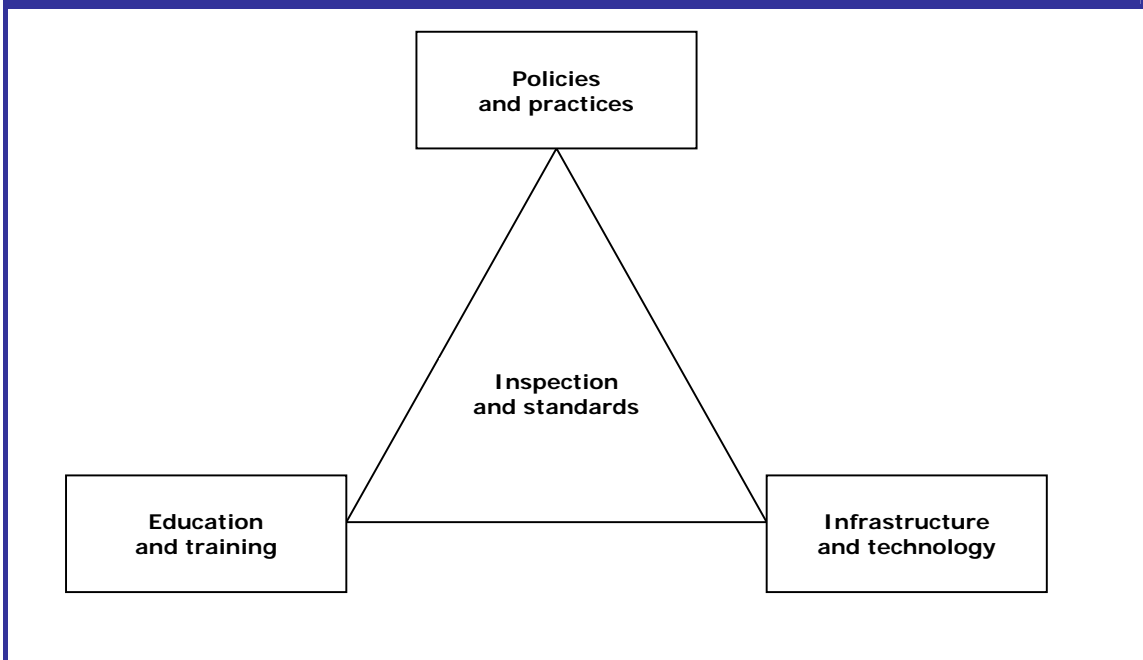
LSCBs and e-safety

(extracts from LSCB Checklist v1.1 Becta, 12 Oct 2006)

Developing a co-ordinated response

Although it will never be possible to remove e-safety risks completely, drawing together an effective package of policies and practices, education and training, and infrastructure and technology – all underpinned by inspection and standards – can lessen their impact.

Diagram 1: Key measures for limiting e-safety risks



LSCBs must work strategically with all services within their remit to achieve a consistent and coherent approach to e-safety under each of these headings.

Policies and practices

Effective policy is the backbone to good practice in any context, and LSCBs should consider the development of comprehensive and coherent e-safety policies for all services within its remit.

Key questions to consider

Coordination of activities

- **Who will be responsible for coordinating e-safety across the area covered by the LSCB, ensuring that best practice is developed, implemented and periodically reviewed?**

Acceptable use policies (AUPs)

- **Do all services have acceptable use policies for the use of ICT by children and young people? Are these monitored? Are they updated to respond to changing issues?**

Reporting procedures

- **What are the reporting procedures for e-safety incidents (regardless of their setting) and how are these escalated? Are there systems in place for cooperation between agencies within the local area?**

Provision of information and guidance

- **What is the role of the LSCB in providing e-safety information and guidance to parents and carers?**

Key aspects of an E-safety Officer role

The following statements outline the key aspects of an E-safety Officer role, and should be considered when developing a job profile or description:

- Supporting the national e-safety strategy.
- Liaising with national and international organisations (such as CEOP; Becta; and the Virtual Global Taskforce).
- Creation and management of a multi-agency e-safety board.
- Creating a dynamic and immediate online communications channel that communicates and raises awareness of e-safety issues with schools and LA stakeholders (using tools such as blogs, and other online resources as appropriate).
- Developing collaborative multi-agency policies and approaches for online safety.
- Assessing risks of new and emerging technologies and communicating these to stakeholders.
- Providing training and supporting resources to schools.
- Providing an information and contact point on e-safety issues.
- Handling press enquiries and requests for information.

Policies and practices Becta recommends...	SSCB e-Safety Task to Finish Group		
	Agreed Action	Who	When
That each LSCB appoint a responsible officer for developing an e-safety agenda across the full range of children's services within its remit.			
That e-safety statements be incorporated into all authority documentation which relates to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.			
<p>That urgent attention be given to ensure that each service under the remit of the LSCB meets its requirements under the <i>Every child matters</i> programme, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying which services provide internet access, or allow such access on or from their premises, or other circumstances where it has an ongoing responsibility for children. • Developing policies for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. Such policies should address training, computer hardware and also internet access for key staff. • Ensuring that children's trusts and children and young people's plans (CYPPs) address the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children when using ICT. Consultation with children and young people should include asking about their online experiences. • Developing policies for sharing e-safety information and advice to parents and carers to promote safe use of ICT in the home. <p>Where services are educational establishments, Becta recommends that policies and practices should be in line with those recommended in <i>E-safety: Developing whole-school policies to support effective practice</i> (see resources below). Where services are not educational establishments, recommendations should be adapted as appropriate to the needs of the service or the setting.</p>			

Infrastructure and technology

Providers of services to children and young people will face new demands on their technological infrastructures as they respond to the challenges of transforming teaching and learning, and the general opportunities offered by new technologies. A strategic response will be increasingly necessary.

Key questions to consider

- **What are the minimum e-safety standards for settings where children may access ICT?**

Technical policies and standards should consider issues such as filtering, the use of accredited ISPs, data security and firewalls.

- **How are these technical standards implemented? Is there scope for local customisation? Is there scope for authority-wide implementation?**
- **How are these technical standards monitored? Are local issues centrally reviewed for evidence of emerging problems or trends?**

Infrastructure and technology Becta recommends...	SSCB e-Safety Task to Finish Group		
	Agreed Action	Who	When
That all services within the remit of the LSCB take a strategic approach to managing their technical infrastructures. In support of this recommendation, Becta will continue to promote the use of institutional infrastructure specifications, framework contracts and accredited services as models of good practice.			
That all services within the remit of the LSCB develop a local implementation plan for filtering and monitoring use of the internet and communications technologies (taking a lead from their LEA , Regional Broadband Consortia (RBC), and/or LSCB with regard to both technical solutions and good practice).			
That all services within the remit of the LSCB develop standards of ICT implementation in line with (or based upon) Becta's functional and technical specifications (see below).			
That all services within the remit of the LSCB consider using a Becta accredited ISP for their internet connectivity. The main focus of the ISP accreditation has been on accrediting RBC and LA services for schools. LSCBs should consider whether other sectors and services could benefit from the scheme if the criteria are deemed appropriate to the needs of different audiences.			
Recognising that it is a viable solution for the education sector, Becta recommends that Shibboleth is adopted for online resource authentication and authorisation, and to support the development of personalised learning spaces for all learners.			

Education and training

The responsibility to educate children and young people of the opportunities and risks posed by new technologies belongs to everyone. However, to do this effectively, the educators (whether teachers or other professionals in contact with children and young people) need to be educated themselves.

Key questions to consider

- **How does the LSCB seek to 'raise awareness about the safe use of the internet'?**

As recommended in paragraph 11.62 of *Working together to safeguard children*.

- **Who will co-ordinate key partner activities in the 'development and delivery of training and education programmes with CEOP'?**

As recommended in paragraph 11.62 of *Working together to safeguard children*.

- **Are there standards and protocols in place for all services covered by the remit of the LSCB with regards to educating and training local staff in e-safety issues? How are these training programmes implemented? How are they monitored and evaluated?**

This should include induction of new staff, and ongoing support and supervision of existing staff. Staff should be aware of appropriate local, regional and national issues with regard to e-safety, and should be confident in their abilities to escalate an incident as necessary and appropriate.

- **What is the role of non-educational establishments, for example public libraries, in educating children and young people when in their care and/or using their services?**
- **How will the impact of education and training on children and young people be monitored and evaluated?**
- **What is the role of the LSCB in providing e-safety information and guidance to parents and carers?**

As already discussed in the Policies and practices section.

Education and training Becta recommends...	SSCB e-Safety Task to Finish Group		
	Agreed Action	Who	When
That each LSCB appoint a responsible officer for developing an e-safety agenda across the full range of children's services within its remit.			
The e-safety officer should attend the CEOP ¹² and/or NSPCC ¹³ training schemes on e-safety issues, and cascade this to others operating within the area of the LSCB as appropriate.			
The e-safety officer should also develop links with police agencies and social services to further promote safe internet use.			
On a local level, the e-safety officer should be both proactive in alerting colleagues to new issues and risks, and reactive in assisting with specific incidents as necessary.			
The e-safety officer should retain an overview of education and training programmes at a local level, and should be able to direct colleagues to appropriate resources.			
That e-safety should be recognised as an essential aspect of strategic leadership across all services covered by the remit of the LSCB.			

¹² <Insert more detail on the CEOP training schemes.>

¹³ <Insert more detail on the NSPCC training schemes.>

Standards and inspection

Inspection of e-safety measures, and monitoring of practices and procedures, are essential to ensure that policy is effective, that risks to children and young people are minimised, and that where incidents do occur, they are dealt with appropriately across all responsible agencies.

Under *Every child matters*, children's services are to be inspected to ensure that the five outcomes are being met. Becta urges LSCBs, in association with other inspection bodies, to evaluate local e-safety measures as part of this process.

Key questions to consider

- **Who is responsible for monitoring e-safety measures across the services covered by the remit of the LSCB? What is their authority?**
- **How will monitoring activities be coordinated, particularly when several agencies might have responsibility in this area?**
- **How will performance be measured? How will progress be benchmarked? How will good practice be shared? How will poor performance be managed? Who will drive forward recommendations?**
- **How frequently will monitoring take place?**
- **Who is ultimately responsible? Who inspects the LSCB?**

Standards and inspection Becta recommends...	SSCB e-Safety Task to Finish Group		
	Agreed Action	Who	When
That evaluation of e-safety measures be included as part of the statutory inspection process.			
That research, evaluation, assessment and monitoring of e-safety provision be ongoing across the LSCB.			