



Child Safety Online Project (2024-26)

Working Group Information Sheet

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

The [Scottish Youth Parliament \(SYP\)](#) is currently recruiting working group members for a new youth-led project that will run from December 2024 until March 2026 with the goal of amplifying young people's views and experiences to improve child safety online in Scotland. This project is being run in partnership with the [NSPCC](#), who is also working with their online safety participation group - [Voice of Online Youth](#) - and partner organisations in Wales and Northern Ireland to help foster nation-specific impact across the UK.

The ten working group members will be vital to ensuring that decisions made to reduce online harms and abuse targeting children and young people in Scotland directly consider actual young peoples' experiences and opinions. In this light, the working group will be at the centre of all project decisions and actions.

Furthermore, to ensure we hear from young people throughout Scotland, this project will incorporate and support six regional voice groups from different geographic regions of Scotland. Working group members will work with the young people in these regional voice groups to:

- 1) Identify and consolidate their views on the key issues related to child safety online.
- 2) Co-design solutions - in the form of resources, guides, or campaign materials - to the problems they've identified as placing children and young people at risk online.

This project is an incredible opportunity for working group members to create national-level change to protect children and young people's right to be safe online, along the way:

- Collaborating with a team of motivated young people
- Developing organisational and planning skills
- Becoming confident facilitators and youth advocates
- Designing creative approaches to addressing difficult topics - targeted at young people and the adults in their lives

Some of the topics identified by the NSPCC and their Voice of Online Youth group that are relevant to project work include:

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|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Defining online safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health & wellbeing | <input type="checkbox"/> Privacy as a form of safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> What young people see as online harm & abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Better education for adults and children/young people | <input type="checkbox"/> Incorporating nuanced and diverse views |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Impact of online advertising | <input type="checkbox"/> Improving reporting, including in-app feedback | <input type="checkbox"/> Artificial Intelligence safety and regulation |

Some of the topics that may be discussed throughout the duration of this project are sensitive, and as a project team we will follow robust safeguarding procedures aligned with SYP and the NSPCC’s policies.

HOW CAN YOUNG PEOPLE GET INVOLVED?

SYP is currently recruiting 10 young people aged between 14 and 18 to join our project working group. This team will be supported by SYP staff to take the lead in this project from the planning stages to the presentation of final insights.

Key activities include:

- Receiving relevant project training to upskill in planning, insight-gathering, youth-friendly facilitation, meaningful participation, project evaluations, and communication.
- Designing and leading in-person and online sessions with regional voice groups to explore key issues in children and young peoples’ safety online.
- Co-designing resources with regional voice group members to help young people campaign for changes related to child safety online.
- Taking action to amplify children and young people’s views through meeting with Scottish decision-makers and tracking campaign influence.
- Meeting with young people who are leading project mechanisms in Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as the Voice of Online Youth to share project learnings and successes.

WHEN WILL THE WORKING GROUP MEET?

Following an induction session on Wednesday December 18th from 5-6pm, there will be regular online working group meetings (approximately every 3rd week), quarterly online meetings with NSPCC’s Voice of Online Youth group, and occasional online meetings with young people from youth mechanisms in Northern Ireland and Wales. There will also be in-person working days at key points in the project timeline for members to receive extra training and to work on co-designing their project plans. Finally, members will optionally attend in-person and online events with the six regional voice groups in March/April and Sept/Oct 2025.

Key dates (everything not highlighted subject to change due to working group availability):

Activity	Date(s)
Online induction meeting	• Wed 18th Dec 2024 5-6pm
In-person events - residentials and/or single working days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fri 24th - Sat 25th Jan 2025 • Sat 22nd March 2025 • Sat 12th July 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sat 9th Aug 2025 • Sat 21st Feb 2026
Regular working group meetings (1 hour, online)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week of 6th Jan. 2025 • Week of 17th Feb. 2025 • Week of 14th Apr. 2025 • Week of 1st June 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week of 29th Sept 2025 • Week of 3rd Nov 2025 • Week of 8th Dec 2025 • Week of 5th Jan 2026

	• Week of 22 nd June 2025	• Week of 16 th Mar 2026
Online meetings with Voice of Online Youth (NSPCC)	• Week of 24 th Mar. 2025 • Week of 14 th July 2025	• Week of 20 th Oct 2025 • Week of 26 th Jan 2025
Online stakeholder showcase	• Week of 17 th Nov 2025	
Final presentation to NSPCC	• Week of 23 rd Mar 2026	

Note: Working Group responsibilities will be paused from **Friday 18th April to Monday 1st June** to allow young people to have time to prepare for exams.

HOW WILL WORKING GROUP MEMBERS BE SELECTED?

Any young person living in Scotland aged 14-18* can apply to take part in this opportunity by filling in the online [Application Form](#) before **midday on Thursday, 12th December 2024**.

You will be asked to share via a written or video response **why you are interested** in joining SYP's child safety online project working group, as well as **what you believe to be the key issues** in Scotland today regarding keeping children and young people safe online.

Working group members will be selected by SYP staff, with input from SYP Board Members who advise on the strategy of SYP's Participation and Programmes work. If you are an MSYP (current member of the Scottish Youth Parliament), the selection group will be giving priority to young people who are not already involved in another SYP project, to create space for new voices in our project work.

Additionally, as we want this group to be as diverse as possible to represent the varied viewpoints of young people in Scotland, we especially encourage young people from seldom heard groups to apply. This includes:

- Young people of colour
- LGBTQ+ young people
- Young people from rural/island areas
- Young people with care experience
- Young carers
- Young people with a visible or invisible disability
- Young people who experience or are at risk of poverty

* In line with SYP's child protection policy, young people under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent or other adult when travelling to in-person activities. SYP will cover the travel costs and accommodation for this adult. The adult does not need to attend the event.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Lucie Paradis, SYP Participation and Programmes Officer (lucie.p@syp.org.uk).