



Staying Safe when using online platforms

Since lockdown started and the use of online platforms such as Zoom has increased, we have issued advice and guidance to our clubs and members on good practice.

The **National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)** has also issued another warning around serious safeguarding risks as a result of a growing trend on these platforms.

The charity has said a worrying pattern is emerging as public meetings via online platforms are being targeted by criminals sharing illegal and disturbing material, with police investigating a number of reports.

The NSPCC is urging parents to **supervise** their children when using Zoom and other video call platforms and to also take steps to **secure meeting details and passwords**.

Andy Burrows, Head of Child Safety Online Policy at the NSPCC, said: "While the responsibility for this lies with those uploading this terrible footage, it's important to take precautions to lessen the risks posed to children and adults, including **not sharing full meeting details and passwords on social media** and only providing them to people you trust."

We have also published **guidance around virtual teaching and coaching** as well as **additional guidance on using Zoom**. We strongly advise clubs and members adhere to this when hosting club related activities online.

Any adult concerned about the welfare of a child or young person can call the **Swim England Child Safeguarding Team** on **01509 640252** or via **legal@swimming.org**.

Alternatively, you can call the NSPCC helpline for free and confidential advice on **0808 800 5000** or email **help@nspcc.org.uk**. A dedicated O2/NSPCC online safety helpline is available on **0808 800 5002**.

Children can contact **Childline** for free on **0800 1111** or visit **childline.org.uk** and speak to a counsellor about a worry or concern they may have.

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