



Newsletter

June 2019

Welcome to the first Cyber Newsletter brought to you by Merseyside Police and KPMG. The aim of the newsletter is to bring you relevant information in regards to online safety and cyber-crime. Our objective is to keep you up to date with the latest online trends and threats happening across Merseyside, and to help you educate your children about how to keep themselves safer when using the internet and social media.

Social Media



Can you give the Merseyside Police Digital PCSO Facebook and Twitter accounts a follow. Merseyside Police are wanting to reach out to the online community, and provide them with the appropriate information about the latest advice. The information provided on the accounts will help you keep up to date with the latest digital news and trends.

Resources

Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP), is a great resource that Merseyside Police and KPMG use regularly when delivering online safety sessions. Their advice is predominantly based around online sexual abuse, but they also include advice and a report page for bullying including cyber-bullying. They have linked a number of resources to their website including NSPCC, Childline and Think u know. They direct people to Childline for bullying issues, NSPCC to speak to a professional before reporting to the police and Think u know for further information. Think u know provide separate information for young people, parents and professionals.



Cyber Reports

Momo Challenge Earlier this year issues in relation to a character named 'Momo' came to our attention when it made headline news. The Momo Challenge came to the public's attention in July 2018. It appeared that people was presenting themselves as a character called 'Momo' on the WhatsApp platform and was sending messages trying to convince other WhatsApp users to contact them through their mobile phones. As with other recent internet "challenge" phenomena such as the 'Blue Whale' suicide scare a few years ago, players are then instructed to perform a succession of tasks with refusal to do so being met with threats. Messages are subsequently accompanied by frightening or gory pictures, although the image associated with 'Momo' was originally an unrelated Japanese sculpture and is completely harmless in itself. Merseyside Police advise parents to tell their child that Momo is not real, and not to go and search for Momo. Be present when their child is going online, and set parental controls to devices the child uses. Parents should warn their child about speaking to strangers online, and be aware of who they are speaking to online and to talk to their child about things that may upset them online. Merseyside Police suggest contacting Childline 0800 1111, for further support around similar matters.

WhatsApp Cyber Attack Earlier this month, WhatsApp discovered that they had been targeted in a surveillance attack. Hackers were able to remotely install surveillance software on phones and other devices using major vulnerability in the messaging app. WhatsApp urged all users to update their apps as an added precaution. You can do this by going in to your app store, at the bottom of the screen click updates and click update next to the WhatsApp logo.

**If you need any advice or support relating to online safety, please don't
hesitate to contact us.**

Non-emergency tweet @MerpolCC or call 101

In an emergency always call 999