



Bromley Safeguarding Children Board held its thirteenth annual conference on 1st November 2016, this year it focussed on safeguarding in a digital world - how we keep our children and young people safe online.

There was a huge turnout with 145 members of the children's workforce in Bromley attending who work in a range of settings including schools, social care, care homes, health agencies, local authority, probation, local charities and voluntary organisations.

The line-up of speakers was incredibly strong with keynote addresses from CEOP (the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) and the Metropolitan Police's Predatory Offenders Unit. Attendees were particularly moved by Lorin Le Fave's talk about her son Breck Bednar, who was groomed and killed by a man he met playing games online. Lorin's messages were very powerful and made a big impact on everyone.

The day was packed with information from ChildNet, Bromley Healthcare's sexual health team, Change Grow Live, and the local Prevent team. Attendees learnt about the dangers and risks the internet poses as well as the benefits for young people and how they can be educated to better protect themselves and their peers. The event closed with a very well received presentation from Bromley Youth Council and a short film on personal safety they made in the summer as part of their summer campaign.

Attendees will spread the messages they heard with colleagues back in their workplace, use the recommended resources and work with children and young people to ensure this very important message is heard – safeguarding online is just as important as safeguarding in the non-digital world, the 'Stranger Danger' message needs updating and our children need to be equipped with the skills and confidence to be able to protect themselves and their friends. Parents, carers and those working with children need to be aware, know how to report concerns and how best to support their children and young people.

For more advice and free resources visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk,
www.saferinternet.org.uk/need-help www.childnet.com

To report actual or attempted abuse online, visit www.ceop.police.uk
If you are concerned about a child and think they are being abused, call Bromley's MASH Team to speak to a social worker on 0208 461 7309 or out of hours 030 0303 8671. If a child is in immediate danger, always call 999.