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| Caldecott Fostering Online Safety Policy: Framework | Document OLS-009th February 2025 |
| Authorised by: |  |

**Introduction**

This Policy Framework is created to address the requirements of Caldecott Fostering, Social Workers and Carers in Safeguarding cared for children and young people in relation to Online Safety. A glossary of terms is provided as an appendix to the Framework.

Caldecott are committed to the management of Online access to young people as a core function of their safeguarding processes.

It is recognised that the secure management of data throughout the setting is a key component and promotes good practice.

**Scope**

The Framework seeks to address issues outlined in the Social Care Common Inspection Framework (SCCIF): Independent Fostering Agencies as updated 23rd March 2018. The SCCIF references additional resources that are also pertinent to other Ofsted areas of interest including schools and residential care homes.

Whist protecting young people that interact with online services is within the scope of safeguarding, the Online Safety Act 2023 is regulated by OFCOM. OFCOM are tasked with regulating providers of Internet Society Services (ISS) where they are available in the UK and host a significant number of UK users. Complaints relating to unlawful ISS content must be directed to OFCOM which will enforce the Act.

The scope of this Framework may change where OFSTED guidance is revised, where relevant Legal Statute is amended or enacted, including a change of Regulators or where Caldecott’s organisational structure warrants.

**Explicit Direction from the SCCIF**

Ofsted are clear on their expectations in relation to Online Safety. Section 5.2 under ‘Evaluation’, they state:

Foster carers understand the risks that use of the internet may pose for children, such as bullying, sexual exploitation and radicalisation. The agency has well-developed strategies to support carers in keeping children safe and to support them in learning how to keep themselves safe.

This policy framework identifies requirements and monitoring processes to ensure compliance with this direction.

**Documentation**

The elements of this Framework are identified by sequential unique numbering commencing with this document. The prefix OLS – Online Safety is used for context identification.

Policy Language is drawn from the Internet Engineering Task Force Request for Comments 2119. This is a resource that is free to distribute and is used as a common standard to manage policy language. It is available here: <https://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt>. RFC 2119 interprets the key terms "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED","MAY" and "OPTIONAL".

**Governance**

Caldecott will apply the ‘Three Lines of Defence’ Risk Management methodology to demonstrate the Policy Framework Governance structure.

* 1st Line of Defence: Social Workers, Carers, Parents and Volunteers are responsible for implementing the Online Safety control environment
* 2nd Line of Defence: Caldecott Senior Management are responsible for setting policy and providing advice and guidance including training
* 3rd Line of Defence: The Regulator (currently OFSTED) are responsible for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the 1st and 2nd Lines of Defence

**Control**

This document will be reviewed at least annually or upon change of scope. Subsequent to review, whether a change is required or not, the review date in the footer will be updated. The reviewed document will supersede prior versions and the central source document will be replaced with the latest version.

**Monitoring**

An annual check of the review date for all documents in the Framework will be conducted between 1st and 30th of November each year.