

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **CCPAS CALLS FOR CHURCHES TO WAKE UP AND RECOGNISE THE IMPORTANCE OF E-SAFETY AS IT LAUNCHES MAJOR NEW SAFEGUARDING RESOURCE**

*Safeguarding in a digital world unveiled today*

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Called *Safeguarding in a digital world*, this comprehensive multimedia resource is designed to support faith communities safeguard children in every aspect of e-safety. Special attention is devoted to social networking sites such as Facebook, which is a particular concern amongst parents and youth leaders.

*Safeguarding in a digital world* contains the following:

- The video recording of the first-ever national Internet safety conference designed specifically for churches, which CCPAS held earlier this year
- PowerPoint presentations from the conference
- The 50 page *Safeguarding in a digital world* full colour booklet
- An interactive PDF document with embedded links to relevant web resources and videos of the conference speakers' presentations
- Key CCPAS safeguarding publications, including its Quick Reference Guide relating to Internet safety

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“As every adult should now know, children may be harmed as easily on-line as off-line.

Everyone with safeguarding responsibilities in faith communities should be keen to address this simple fact.

“However, we have found that parents often struggle to know how best to educate their children about e-safety. Faith leaders and youth workers, too, regularly call our 24 hour helpline wanting to know how to engage safely with children online, through social networking sites or text messages, for example.

“We hope this new resource will provide the information they need to ensure that the children in their care are kept as safe as possible”.

Simon Bass added: “The original Internet safety conference generated an extraordinary level of interest from a wide range of people concerned about the potential dangers involved in social media and other web-related threats.

“We have therefore taken the opportunity not only to film and make available the conference talks themselves, but we have added a host of valuable additional features and resources. They will, we believe, provide a significant new weapon in the ongoing battle to protect our children and young people on line”.

The well-attended conference brought together an outstanding line up of keynote speakers, representing many of the leading secular and Christian organisations involved in Internet safety. They included:

Zoe Hilton, Head of Safeguarding and Child Protection, CEOP

Will Gardner, CEO, Childnet International

Chloe Morton, Therapeutic Services Manager, Beatbullying

Dr Jo Bryce, Director of Research, Cyberspace Research Unit, University of Central Lancashire

CCPAS is a partner agency of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) and is a member of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS).

Media Enquiries:                   Iain Taylor  
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