Staying safe online...

With more members now using online platforms as a lifeline to connect from home, it is timely to remind them how they can stay safe online.

Don't share your personal information or passwords
Don't lower your guard when it comes to social media, remember not to share more personal information than you would normally, and think about identifying factors which might be in the background of a photo or livestream. Any key identifying information about yourself should always be kept private (e.g your full name, mobile number, email address, or physical address). Remember not to share any passwords which could give others access to your account.

Think carefully about who you chat to when making online contacts and connections
Remember to be vigilant when talking or chatting to people you don't know online through online gaming or social media apps. Not everyone is who they say they are but they can pretend to be a different age to form real friendships. If this happens to you, speak to your parents or friends before taking any action.

Think carefully about what you share
Fake news circulates social media sites, so think carefully before you share as not everything is true. Remember not to overshare anything (photos, videos, information) you wouldn't want your parents, teachers, colleagues or friends to see. Once you press send, it is in the public domain and you will have lost control over it.

Check your privacy settings
Check your privacy settings so that you are not showing more personal information than you want to be on social media sites. Check the privacy settings on a regular basis as they can be frequently updated and some apps also reveal your location.

Scams
There are even more scams circulating at the moment with hackers and scammers taking advantage of more people being online and dropping their guard. Always check first before signing up to or buying anything online, check the links - if it sounds too good to be true then it probably is.

By doing this you can reduce some of these risks and keep safe online. There is lots of good information available to protect you online and below are a few suggestions:

Useful sites:
The Mix   https://www.themix.org.uk/search/safe+online
Catch 22   https://www.catch-22.org.uk/news/staying-safe-online-poster-hub/
NSPCC   https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/
Trading Standards   https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/

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