**Focus group questions for parents/carers of 9-12 year olds**

***Intro (3 minutes)***

* Introduce names of staff running focus groups
* Introduce research organisation and the work it does
* Introduce the project

We want to talk to you about what your children are seeing or experiencing online, how they talk to their friends or fall out with them online, and how they feel about telling someone when they need help. This will help us learn how we can help children who have upsetting experiences online.

For example:

* Someone having an image taken of them not fully dressed and it gets shared around
* Someone gets sent a link to website that has upsetting or rude images of adults without clothes on
* Someone gets called names because they look or act differently to others
* Someone gets pressured to take a photo without clothes on

We also want to find out how these issues make children feel and what you think should be done about it.

Our aim is to make sure that children’s voices are heard so that you have a say in how schools and parents help with these issues. We will be writing advice and resources for schools and parents, as well as getting advice from children on how we can encourage reporting of these issues. Your suggestions and ideas in this discussion will really be helping us to shape the resources we create.

***Ground rules (3 minutes)***

* You do not have to speak if you don’t want to
* You don’t have to join in if you feel uncomfortable
* We are not here to ask about your personal family life, or the direct experiences of you and your child. We are here to gather your thoughts and insights on how young people deal and parents deal with these issues, and the support you would like to receive from schools.
* You can talk about things you might have heard or seen but please don’t name any names e.g. use ‘a friend’ or ‘a person I know’.
* Allow everyone to speak and respect their opinions
* (*Explain that the focus group will be recorded*.) This is to help us remember what was said and write up notes later.
* Everything you say is confidential. Please do not share what other people have said outside of this group, except if you are seeking advice from a trusted adult.

***Warm up discussion (5 mins***) *[These are suggestions to help them feel comfortable, you don’t have to ask them all of these.]*

* Ask group to introduce themselves, including how many children they have and how old they are
* If we turned the internet off tomorrow, what would you miss?
* What apps and games do you like using?
* What apps and games do your children like using?

***Parenting questions (15 minutes)***

1. How much do you think you know about what your child does online?
2. How do you decide when and what to give your child in terms of internet access?
3. What worries you, if anything, about your child’s life online? What do you think is the biggest issue they face? Is this different for boys and girls?
4. At what age do you think you should start talking to children about online issues? And what kinds of things would you talk to them about?
5. Do you talk about how their body is changing, or puberty?
6. Do you talk to them about asking permission before touching someone else, or taking a photo of someone else?

***Scenario 1 (10-15 minutes) - Topics covered: non-consensual taking and sharing of intimate images***

Anisa is 10. She is at her local gymnastics club. She is getting changed in the changing rooms when someone else takes a photo of her getting dressed. They send it around to other people they know, some of whom also go to the same school as Anisa, so it gets shared through her school friends as well as her gym friends.

* What do you think about this scenario? Does it happen do you think?
* Why do you think it happens?
* Do you think Anisa would tell her parents?
* Who is more likely to be involved in this, or hear about it – you, your partner, a grandparent, older sibling, cousin.
* What would you do in this situation? What if Anisa was a boy?
* Where would you go for help?
* What would you do if your child is the one who took the photo?
* If there are parents with children of different ages, has your parenting style changed with your different children?

***Topics covered: Parents as a barrier to reporting (10-15 minutes)***

Sam, Year 11, sent a nude photo to someone they liked. It ended up getting seen by the whole school. Sam’s younger sibling found out, and said Sam should tell their parents but they don’t want to. Sam’s sibling said they would tell them, but Sam has made them promise not to say anything.

* Can you fill in more details of this scenario?
* Why do you think Sam sent the nude photo?
* What sort of relationship Sam has with the person they sent it to?
* How did the whole school end up seeing the photo?
* How would Sam be feeling? Why?
* How long do you think they would feel this way?
* Do you think Sam is a girl or a boy? What difference would that make?
* How do think Sam’s sibling found out about the photo?
* Do you think Sam’s sibling is a brother or sister?
* How do you think Sam’s sibling felt about this?
* Why do you think Sam’s sibling wants to tell their parents about the photo?
* Why do you think Sam doesn’t want to go to her parents?
* How could Sam’s sibling help and support Sam?
* Do you think a lot of young people would react like Sam? Why?
* Do you think Sam would tell someone else about the photo? (teachers, police) Who is Sam more likely to talk to, if anyone? What would stop Sam from doing so?
* Sam wants to deal with this alone? What do you think they will do? Why? (e.g. through the reporting function on social media, confront the person who shared it…?)
* How would the situation be different if it was Sam’s older sibling who found out about the photo? What if it was a younger brother?
* If Sam did go to their parent, what do you think they would do? How would they handle this situation?
* Do you think young people need more information/education about these issues?

***Debrief (5 minutes)***

* *Thank the group for their time and being so open when talking about these issues.*
* *Remind the group to not share details with other people outside of the group. Remember the ground rules we agreed at the start.*
* Are there any issues we have not covered today that you think are important?
* *Share what we’ve learned and what we’ll take away*
* *Remind group of the recording taken.* This is to help us remember what was said and write up notes later. No quotes will be used in any resource, they will be used as a learning tool to give \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (research organisation) context around how parents view and deal with these issues.
* *Next steps*. Your feedback will be used to help us understand these issues in more depth and to help us create a resource that will help young people get through difficult experiences online, and to encourage people to report them.
* The resource will be ready to be trialled \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* If something we have spoken about today has worried you, or upset you, and you’d like more information, there are lots of organisations you can go to for help. See the ‘Further Information’ sheet for more places to get advice.
* Thank group for their time. Any other questions?
* **HAND OUT DEBRIEFING SHEET (example included in supporting document *f. Consent forms – parents and carers focus groups*)**