

The Communities, Highways and Environment Scrutiny Committee Business Planning Group (BPG) was keen for scrutiny to be informed by the views and experiences of younger people, as well as their insight into the tackling of digital crimes. The Youth Cabinet was invited to contribute.

The Youth Cabinet discussed the issue and raised the following points:

- There was one young person in the group that shared that they had experienced hate crime on a platform where your name remained anonymous, she said that she felt powerless and emotionally distressed by the experience. She felt that as it was anonymous it would not be traceable.
- All of the young people felt that there ought to be stricter, more prominent and clearer guidelines as to what is not acceptable use of the platform.
- There should be clearer routes for things to be removed that were offensive and distressing.
- Dodgy features around accounts and posts should be flagged by platforms
- Age limits on platforms – online ID / eg Roblox voice chat
- If things have been delivered, can they be retrieved, how and by who? Eg snapchat
- Specific words and slurs should be censored. Immediate block on an account eg on Roblox
- Work was needed on the review process where a request had been received for content to be removed from a site - it was felt that it takes too long for any action to happen
- The young people felt that there was a bigger role for the police to play and that platforms should have a multi-agency approach and be more transparent with the police
- Is there a role for the police or the governing body of the relevant platform to investigate stalking online?
- The website where your identity remains anonymous is harmful
- The governing bodies of platforms should be able to block or flag users having multiple accounts.

Where platforms/websites are mentioned, the following examples are cited:

- tellonym (an anonymous feedback app)
- padlet (an online collaboration tool)
- Sarahah (an anonymous feedback app)
- sendit (an anonymous messaging/feedback app)
- lipsi (an anonymous messaging/feedback app)