Westminster Education Forum and Westminster *e*Forum policy conference:
Next steps for children's online safety in the UK

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 26th November 2026

*****Taking place online*****

Draft agenda subject to change

8.30 Registration

9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

9.05 **Children's online safety policy - considerations for implementation of the new statutory framework and the next phase**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor

9.30 **Social media restrictions and protections for young people - scope, implementation and accountability**
government response to the Growing Up in the Online World consultation | implementation of restrictions on social media access for under-16s | protections for 16-17 year-olds, including default settings and user choice | age assurance and age verification requirements | interaction with children's safety duties under the Online Safety Act 2023 | age thresholds, scope and exemptions | application across social media, gaming, messaging and multifunctional services | platform accountability and safety by design | recommendation systems, platform features and drivers of harm | enforcement and regulatory oversight | implications for gaming, messaging and other online environments | tackling circumvention | international approaches and lessons for the UK | implications for participation and access to positive online experiences | measuring impact and effectiveness
Arabella Skinner, Director, Policy, Health Professionals for Safer Screens and UsForThem
Senior representative, social media platform
Senior representative, legal
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor

10.25 **Priorities for children's privacy, age assurance and data protection**
Katie Searle, Director, Children's Strategy, Information Commissioner's Office
Questions and comments from the floor

10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

10.55 Break

11.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

11.10 **The role of schools in supporting children's online safety and wellbeing**
Senior representative, union

11.20 **Schools, families and safeguarding - digital literacy, wellbeing and mobile phone restrictions in practice**
enforcing mobile phone restrictions in educational settings | curriculum, digital and media literacy, and online safety education | supporting children's mental health and wellbeing | safeguarding responsibilities and responding to online harms | screen-use guidance, parental controls and support for families | staff training and capacity | children's use of AI tools, chatbots and generative AI | implications of wider child wellbeing and safeguarding reform | information-sharing and multi-agency working | the role of local authorities, safeguarding partnerships and the planned Child Protection Authority | partnership working with platforms and regulators
Erica Thornton, Chief Executive, Breck Foundation
Charlotte Aynsley, Head, Policy and Public Affairs, UK Safer Internet Centre
Senior representative, school
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, digital literacy

11.40 Questions and comments from the floor

12.05 **The *Online Safety Act 2023* in operation - regulation, compliance and oversight**
early experience of implementation under the Act | children's safety duties and codes of practice | provider readiness and operational capacity | Ofcom's enforcement priorities and compliance expectations | transparency reporting, children's risk assessments and assurance of compliance | consistency and proportionality across services | complaint, redress and independent oversight | regulatory scope for AI-enabled services, chatbots and digital companions | responsibilities across developers and platforms | synthetic content, image-based abuse and other developing harms | implications for operating systems, app stores and device-level controls | coordination across regulators, industry, education providers and safeguarding services | evidence, monitoring and measuring impact | future development of the UK online safety framework
Professor Lorna Woods, Professor, Internet Law, University of Essex
Thomas Rudkin, Partner, Head of Farrer & Co's Reputation Management practice, Farrer & Co
Senior representative, technology platform
Senior representative, children's services
Questions and comments from the floor

12.50 **Next steps for implementation of the *Online Safety Act 2023* and children's online safety regulation**
Almudena Lara, Policy Director, Child Safety, Ofcom
Questions and comments from the floor

13.15 **Chair's and Westminster Forum Projects closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Forum Projects