

September Insights at a glance

We asked:

How confident do you feel in your ability to support young people on the following areas around staying safe online?

We had **360** responses

Key Message

Around half of youth workers don't feel confident in their ability to support young people to deal with the impacts of a range of online risks/harms (misinformation, online grooming, sextortion, or accessing inappropriate content).

It is cause for concern that around half of youth workers feeling only slightly or not at all confident in **xxx**. Around 1 in 5 respondents felt not at all confident in supporting young people in dealing with sextortion. Our insight indicates that UK Youth needs to work with our network and cross-sector partners to provide more training, resources, research, and support to help tackle this lack of confidence amongst practitioners. Links to useful resources to build skills in this area are included below.

Key Findings

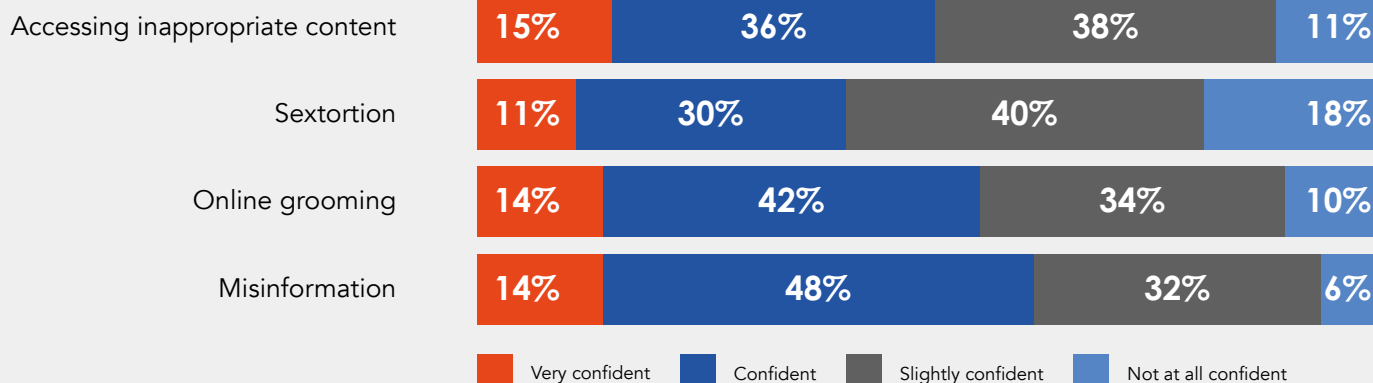
Most confident in supporting young people to deal with online misinformation. 62% of respondents were either confident or very confident in this area. The importance of this topic was recently highlighted by the recent violence and racist disorder, which was fueled by misinformation and online conspiracies.

However, the area that had the highest level of those who are 'very confident' was around accessing inappropriate content (15% very confident, 36% confident).

Least confident with highest rates of those who 'not at all confident', was sextortion. Around 1 in 5 respondents felt not at all confident in this area.

But, in general, over a third of respondents are only slightly confident across all areas.

Full breakdown



Recommended resources and courses

Topic Area	Organisation	What is it?
All	Childnet	Childnet have pulled together lots of useful information and guidance around a really broad range of topics. These have information that is tailored to both practitioners and young people themselves. It's a really useful starting point.
All	NCSPCC	Paid for CPD course (£30 per person) to gain the skills and confidence to keep children safe online and respond to any concern.
General	Samaritans	Online safety campaign with accompanying information for young people (co-created with young people). Key topics covered are digital citizenships, finding safe spaces online, and how to support other people online.
General	YouthLink Scotland	'Learning Zone' that has lots of information, simple definitions, and activity ideas to support youth practitioners safely incorporate digital tools/activities into their practice.
General + Misinformation	NYA	Free CPD course on Media Literacy and Digital Youth Work. More information about the modules contained within this course is available here .
Accessing inappropriate content	Catch22	Free posters on the best tools available to control/monitor what content young people can access online. More targeted for parents/carers.
Sextortion	Safer Internet	Advice, guidance, and resource for parents and professionals on how to support young people experiencing sextortion.

What is UK Youth doing in this area?

Research Project for NCS Trust to inform their strategy development: this research is exploring how youth workers are using digital tools/technologies to deliver engaging services, keep young people safe, and collaborate with other sectors. This will be published later in the year.

Osborne Clarke Digital Inclusion Grant: funded 20 organisations with multi-year unrestricted grants to tackle digital poverty amongst young people and increase youth workers' digital skills. For more information about this programme of work and the funded organisations see [here](#). You can read highlights from Year 1 reporting [here](#), with learning from Year 2 due to be published by December 2024.

Osborne Clarke funded research project on the digital infrastructure needs of the youth sector and online safety – The findings of this research will be feeding into our exciting cross-sector initiative - Joined Up