



Headstart Digital Resilience Presents the 2025 Tech Positive Symposium

9.30-4.30, Wednesday 22nd October 2025,
Venton Centre, Chapel Parc, Newquay TR8 5AH

Purpose of the day

Join us for our one-day conference designed for professionals working with children and young people who want to better understand, engage with, and support the digital lives of the next generation. With so much of young people's development, relationships, and identity shaped online, this event focuses on opportunities rather than fear—exploring how technology can be a force for connection, creativity, and empowerment, as well as supporting you in responding to risks and concerns young people face in the digital world. Topics include digital Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), critical thinking in online spaces, digital risks and resilience, and the specific challenges and strengths of young people with SEND in the digital world.

Our expert speaker lineup brings together leading voices in digital rights, online safeguarding, and youth engagement. Professor Andy Phippen will share cutting-edge research on digital wellbeing, data privacy, and the law; Jonny Hunt will offer practical guidance on inclusive RSE and addressing digital intimacies. You'll also hear from Dr. Hayley Henderson, whose work focuses on safeguarding young people with SEND online, and Louisa Street, whose youth-led research into the law and policy around sending nudes gives voice to young people's lived experiences. We'll also be hearing from young people across Cornwall, who will be sharing how they're using technology in creative and positive ways to support their wellbeing, relationships, and personal development.

This unique opportunity will equip you with fresh insight, practical strategies and renewed confidence to support the young people you work with. Whether you're a teacher, youth worker, social worker or part of a safeguarding team, this conference offers essential learning for **any** professional supporting children and young people in the digital age.

Agenda

9.00 – 9.30

Registration. Tea and Coffee

9.30 – 9.35

Welcome – Ness Little

9.35 – 10.30

Landscape of the digital world, what's happened since last year, why we're back this year – Andy Phippen

10.30 – 11.30

Young people with SEN and the digital world - Hayley Henderson

11.30 – 11.45

Coffee Break

11.45 – 12.45

Safe Uncertainty workshop - Jonny Hunt

12.45 – 13.15

Conversations with Cornwall Youth Council - videos introduced by Kath Ennever

13.15 – 14.15

Lunch

14.15 – 15.15

An online harm reduction game to play with young people workshop - Louisa Street

15.15 – 16.15

Panel Q&A with Andy, Jonny, Hayley and Louisa

16.15 – 16.30

Plenary – Ness Little

Speaker Bios

Kath Ennever

Kath Ennever is the Children's Rights Team Manager at Cornwall Council. She works across the organisation and with partners to support the continued development of a children's rights approach, ensuring that children and young people are heard, involved in decision-making about their lives, and that their rights are considered in all council strategies and decisions. Kath brings a background in social work and youth work to her role, championing meaningful participation and rights-based practice.

Hayley Henderson

Dr. Hayley Henderson is a Senior Lecturer in Business and Law at the University of Northampton. She earned her Ph.D. from Bournemouth University in 2022 with the title Stakeholder perspectives towards online safeguarding of children with special educational needs (SEN). Her research focuses on the interaction and engagement of stakeholders is a central theme in examining how to effectively safeguard SEN children online and support a system which places the child at the centre. Previous publications have centred around virtual communities, online safety and primary schools and digital literacy in Higher Education (HE).

Jonny Hunt

Jonny is a lecturer in Applied Social Sciences at the University of Bedfordshire, teaching on the Childhood and Youth Studies and Social Work courses. He is also an independent Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Consultant. Jonny has spent his career working face-to-face with children and young people of various ages (from 4 years upwards), and training the professionals who work with them around, all aspects of sex and relationships. Jonny specialises in delivering inclusive RSE, with a rights-based approach, encouraging both adults and young people to explore their attitudes and values to sex and relationships. In this regard, Jonny has a particular passion for youth participation, and much of his work is specifically focused on ensuring young people have a voice in policy and practice. Jonny has over twenty years' experience of working with young people around the most challenging of topics. He is often brought in by schools to manage incidents or deliver tailored pieces of work. This includes 1-2-1 sessions with children and young people who display Harmful Sexual Behaviours (HSB). Jonny has particular expertise in online harms, digital intimacies & sexual citizenship. Jonny is currently writing his PhD exploring how we tackle issues of pornography with young people. He has recently published a book for Routledge entitled: "Sex Ed for Grown-ups"; designed to support adults, both parents and professionals to tackle difficult conversations of sex and relationships with the children and young people in their lives.

Andy Phippen

Andy is Professor of Digital Rights at Bournemouth University and is a Visiting Professor at the University of Suffolk. He has specialised in the use of ICTs in social contexts and the intersection with legislation for over 20 years, carrying out a large amount of grass roots research on issues such as attitudes toward privacy and data protection, internet safety and contemporary issues such as sexting, peer abuse and the impact of digital technology on well-being. He has published fifteen books in the area and frequently contributes to policy and media debates.

Louisa Street

Louisa is a PhD student at Keele University exploring young people's views on the law and policy around sexting. Prior to starting her PhD, Louisa worked as a youth worker in Cornwall for over ten years and worked with young people around issues including mental health, sexual health, drug and alcohol awareness and digital resilience. Louisa delivers training for professionals on how to effectively respond to issues young people face in the digital world. She also provides Online Safety lessons for young people. Louisa co-hosts the Headstart Online Resilience Podcast with Professor Andy Phippen, who she has co-authored a number of books and articles with.