Dear Parent/Carers

As you are no doubt aware the online risk is an ever present concern and something which continues to change its shape as new technology and applications are developed, the risk is not limited to those whom groom for the purpose of sexual exploitation but also for county lines and involvement in extremism. Having an awareness of the risks online is essential for parents or carers of young people to help keep young people safe in our care whilst engaging in the online space.

The UK safer internet site hosts a devoted section especially for parents and carers of young children aimed and helping you be knowledgeable about keeping kids safe online, you can access it here
https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers

Prevent is a safeguarding approach to prevent young people and vulnerable adults from being exploited into extremist activities, it seeks to safeguard the individual from the risks and help address and vulnerabilities that may be being exploited by others. If you are not sure of what the signs are which may indicate someone whom may be at risk of radicalisation please visit the "spot the signs" web page accessible here
https://actearly.uk/spot-the-signs/what-to-look-for/

If you have concerns and believe a young person or vulnerable adult is at risk of radicalisation please contact your local authority safeguarding team or alternatively contact Cleveland Police on 101 Remember sharing concerns is not criminalising a young person or vulnerable adult its safeguarding them.

As many of us all make use of our online community in our daily lives whether it is for social media, gaming or shopping we all have a part to play in keeping our online community safe.Therefore if you see extremist content online having an awareness of how to report it is essential if you are to help police remove such material.

You can report the link online via the governments CTIRU website link accessible here https://www.gov.uk/report-terrorism

Thank you in consideration of my approach

Andy Shippey
Community Safety Officer PREVENT/Reducing Reoffending
Middlesbrough Council