

## Safeguarding Bulletin – Gaming

As students are now working from home, they may be spending more time on devices and indeed more time gaming!



### **The Young Gamers and Gamblers Education Trust**

(YGAM) is a national charity with a social purpose to inform, educate, safeguard and build digital resilience amongst those who work with young people, helping them to make informed decisions and understand the consequences around gambling and gaming.

The latest report from the Gambling Commission (October 2019) found that 11% of 11 – 16 year olds had spent their own money on a gambling activity in the last seven days (this equate to 350,000), and 55,000 young people were already identified as problematic gamblers. The Children’s Commissioner found that a staggering 93% of young people play video games, a hugely popular activity which carries a range of potential risks including grooming.

Axis project (local project helping people involved in violent crime) has highlighted a new game that is being played on mobile phones

#### Cunch-Line Chronicles

Axis and partners have recently become aware of the above game which is available for free on smartphones and tablets. Whilst the very notion of gamifying such an activity is disturbing, opening a dialogue with children and parents about the realities of drug related exploitation could be important. This might include topics such as **debt bondage**, the condition of trap houses and the harm that can occur to any child involved. Although Axis does not want to promote or increase awareness of this game to children, if colleagues become aware of children using it, please let us know. If anyone would like more detailed information regarding the harsh realities of county-lines drug dealing and the exploitation of children, please contact the Axis team.



*“This is not your usual, casual game! Cunch-Line Chronicles is an endless 2d runner game that moves away from the common fantasised, softcore concept and leans more towards the gritty reality of life, while keeping a light hearted and comedic factor” – GooglePlay App store*

**(Some) Gaming phrases to be aware of I am sure there are a lot more!**

- N00b/noob – A new or inexperienced gamer
- Bot – A player so bad they're compared to a very bad computer-controlled player
- Lag – When game is slow or glitchy due to a poor internet connection
- Nerf – When a game developer weakens a weapon due to lots of players using it
- Face roll – An easy victory over an opponent
- Twink – When a player deceives other gamers about their gaming ability
- Easter Egg – A hidden message, image or feature that occurs in a game
- Tank – A gamer that takes all the damage in the group
- GG – Good game. A polite sign off after an entertaining game, a term of respect
- Camp/camping – Find a hiding place and wait there for your enemies

**Gaming is more fun when people...**

- Treat others with respect
  - Play fairly and within the rules of the game
    - Keep personal information private
- Make sure that content they're sharing is not racially, religiously or sexually offensive

Gaming can be good for them to be in contact with friends and family and it gives them a release from pressures they may be finding from school or family issues. However, be aware of some of the dangers to be aware of with gaming:

<b>Gamers look out for:</b>	<b>Parents:</b>
People who seem too good to be true	Talk to your children about their online life, reassure them that you are interested in their life online and offline. Start having regular conversations with them
People who want to chat in private	Ask your child to show you what they enjoy doing online so that you can understand them
People who say sexual things	Be positive but also open about things you are worried about
People who are much older than you	Ask them if they are worried about anything and let them know they can talk to you
People who put pressure on you	Listen to the reasons why your child wants to go on a website or app



### What to do:

- Block people that make you feel uncomfortable
- Keep personal information private
- Be careful about meeting up – it is best not to meet up with people you have met online. If you do take a friend with you
- Take breaks – remember to go offline as well! It is important to talk to others in your house, but also to move around for your health
- Speak to a trusted adult – if you feel uncomfortable talk to someone about what is happening
- Make sure you and your child know how to report any misuse – use the CEOP report button (see link below)

**If you identify your son/daughter playing any inappropriate games or being involved with any inappropriate on line activities you must report this to the Police**

### Useful places to go for information:

Samaritans: 116 123

Childline 0800 1111

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/>

<https://www.kooth.com/>

<https://www.ygam.org/>