

Five things to do if you hear something that worries you.



Things to remember if another young person shares something that concerns you about their safety, or the safety of someone else.

1. Listen carefully to what is being said. Do not make any judgement and reassure them that they have done the right thing by sharing this information with you.
2. It is important to remember that you cannot promise to keep the information secret. You will need to inform the young person that you may need to refer this to someone else in order to keep them safe.
3. Make a record of what you have been told as soon as possible. Write down a summary of what you have been told, and the full name of the person who told you.
4. Make sure that no one else can read your note. For example, make sure you have a password on your laptop or phone or, if you write it down, make sure you keep your note in a safe place.
5. Send a record of your note, including the person's first name, by email to Stewart.Tod@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk, Michelle.Aherne@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk and BeeSmart@internetmatters.org. Include as many relevant details as possible.

Keep in mind:

Some of the issues discussed in the different packs can provoke strong emotions for people. They could trigger a reaction as a result of something that has happened or is happening to a young person. This might make them tell you something personal that is going on in their own life, or something they know about someone else. It could also make them feel uncomfortable or awkward. Always be on the lookout for anyone who looks uncomfortable or distressed – give people the option to opt out of a particular activity.

Identifying concerns – a guide for care leaver and graduate digital champions

Some of the issues discussed in the Bee Smart packs may provoke strong emotions. They could trigger a reaction as a result of something that has happened or is happening to a young person, or someone they know. This might make a young person tell you something personal. It might also make them feel uncomfortable or awkward.

It is important to stay alert to any signs that a young person is uncomfortable. Always give participants the choice to opt out of a particular activity.

This information sheet gives Bee Smart Digital Champions pointers on how to identify signs that a young person has been affected by the issues discussed in online safety sessions.

How to spot safeguarding disclosures

Young people can share disclosures of harmful experiences in a number of ways. This includes:

- **Directly:** making a specific verbal statement about what is happening to them.
- **Indirectly:** making vague statements that suggest something isn't right.
- **Behaviourally:** displaying behaviour that suggests something is wrong.

Sometimes young people will only make **partial disclosures** and hold back from telling you the whole story through fear, shame or self-protection.

Do not probe for further detail, as this could do more harm than good. Refer whatever the young person told you to GMCA Bee Smart coordinators (see 'Five things to do if you hear something that worries you').

More information on recognising signs of harm and abuse can be found on the [NSPCC website](#). Remember that you can always ask a professional or member of the Bee Smart team if you are unsure.

Your role

While this may sound daunting – don't worry, you are not expected to be an expert. Your role is simply to be alert to your group, and to refer any behaviour or disclosure that concerned you to someone who can help. Most Bee Smart sessions will be co-delivered with a personal advisor and you can always talk through anything that came up after the session.

If you are unsure, speak to a personal advisor or email GMCA

Bee Smart coordinators Stewart.Tod@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk,

Michelle.Aherne@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk and BeeSmart@internetmatters.org.