

Child Safety

**Protecting children from the threats
posed by modern communications**

27th June 2005

Roxburghe Hotel, Edinburgh

Report By Aileen Philp

**This report was written by an attending
representative of SACP and is not an official
minute of the event**



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I attended the above conference in Edinburgh and found it informative and interesting. There were over 100 delegates representing a wide variety of organisations from schools, councils, the constabulary, the Scottish Executive and various voluntary organisations who deal with children.

When I arrived I joined a young delegate from Shetland for coffee, we were joined by a lady who chatted to us. I later discovered she was Kathleen Marshall, one of the speakers and Commissioner for Children and Young People.

There were three sessions chaired by John Milne, the BBC presenter and broadcaster. He also is a Glasgow CPAC member.

Session 1 consisted of 3 x 20 minute talks. The first was by Kirsten Davidson of the Scottish Executive Criminal Justice Division. She spoke about new grooming legislation and the Executive's work on Child Safety.

Dr Gary MacPherson, a forensic psychologist from the State Hospital of Carstairs spoke about his work on risk assessment and management on sexual and violent offenders.

Professor Kathleen Marshall then enlightened us on her work as Commissioner for Children and Young People.

The 2nd session included talks by DCI Robert Hamilton and DI Willie Cravens of the National Hi-Tech Crime Unit. They spoke about their work on law enforcement in relation to hi-tech crimes, mainly relating to grooming and sexual offences against children.

Louise McDonald of Young Scot discussed how we could support young people to use technology safely. Stephen Carrick-Davies of Childnet International talked about effective education and awareness regarding the Internet and Phil Worms of Net Intelligence discussed Internet software to protect children.

Session 3 was spent mainly on discussion. While the speakers spoke mostly about the damages to children of the Internet, a delegate from a fee-paying school in Edinburgh brought up the topic of mobile phones. He expressed his concerns about the increase he has experienced in bullying by text messaging.

All in all a very worthwhile conference.

Anyone wishing more information there is an informative website – www.faceuptoit.org.uk

Aileen Philp