

TSCP Conference 2025: Discussion Mindmaps for Action Learning

[Conference Weblink](#)
[for Recordings & Resources](#)

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THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW RELATE TO 'SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN A DIGITAL WORLD'

– AND WERE ALL PROPOSED AND CHOSEN FOR
DISCUSSION BY CONFERENCE DELEGATES.

IF YOU HAVE ANY FEEDBACK OR FURTHER SUGGESTIONS
RELATING TO THESE AREAS, PLEASE EMAIL
TSCP@TORBAY.GOV.UK.



WHAT (ELSE) IS NEEDED LOCALLY
TO RESPOND TO CHILDREN
WHERE SAFETY IN THE VIRTUAL WORLD
IS A CONCERN?



Lead in TCSP in online Safety

Meeting them where the YP are at.

* front door
Safeguarding
updated
understanding *

SL & C need of
Children's
Language

receptive
expressive
pro-social

Torbay 
Safeguarding
Children Partnership

Young Safeguarding
team that review.
(Plymouth as example)

add virtual
reality for
YP in assessments
templates.

Primary School
aged appropriate
targeted
intervention,
support
& education

Relieve DSL's!
of multiple management
of online risks
(notification line
through 24/7)

Someone who
is happy to
know what is
going on in
the world

Training
from someone
who can
make sense
of it.

Learning for the
adults & time to
do it.

Holistic
family
intervention
digital
learning
literacy

Understand how other partners are contributing
YJT, Adults etc, ?



funding - services

- preventative
- responsive
- remedial

reviewing
what our values
are vs what
children want/
need

- peer mentoring - children teaching other children.

Time - to learn,
reflect,

understanding
what (else) is needed
locally to respond to children
where safety in the virtual
world is a concern?

accessability of
TSCP material -
online

parents
forums/
content
towards
parents

digital literacy
into PSHE curriculum

digital
identity into
assessments
and plans

strong link up/
signposting to other
services

* more response to
peer on peer

speaking/consult
with children.

training
should be YP 'led'

* Theatre
Company *

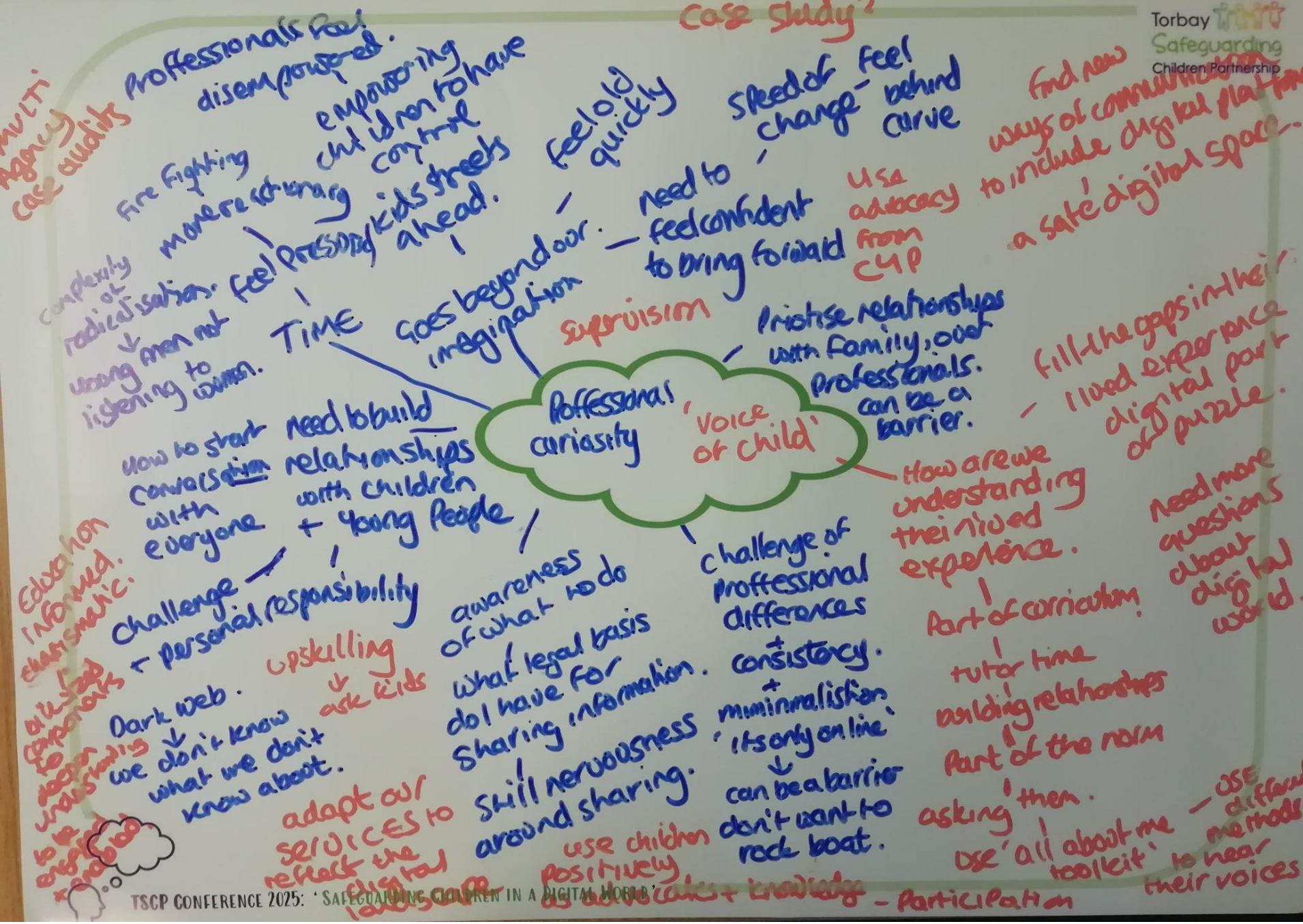
PROFESSIONAL CURIOSITY AROUND ONLINE SAFETY: WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

WHY ARE WE NOT CONSISTENTLY
HEARING THE VOICE OF THE CHILD:
ASKING THE 'SO WHAT' FOR THE CHILD
AND REALLY UNDERSTANDING WHY THE RIGHT
QUESTIONS AREN'T ASKED OF PARENTS
BY PROFESSIONALS?



Multi-Agency Case audits

Case Study?



Curiosity
with YP.

Value of online
relationships / socialisation
↳ Societal norms
values

Professional
overwhelm
- need for literacy

Parental
conflict of
allowing some risk
= development + learning.

Impact of
pandemic - increase
of virtual life

Outdated
social work
assessment
'identity' helpful / harmful
understanding

Arguments re
prohibition →
feeds dark web +
underground activity

Unregulated content
↳ Children making own
(big) choices.

Exposure to adult
content online 18+ games
↳ adultification.
exposure to new norms
online.

Lack of understanding /
acknowledgement of
'online identity' of YP

Use of
phones /
devices in
ALL aspects
of life.

How do
professionals
connect with YP
via social
media?

Unrestricted access
= responsibility / adultification.

conflict of advantage / disadvantage.

**HOW EARLY DO WE NEED TO
START WORKING WITH CHILDREN
ABOUT SAFETY IN THE DIGITAL WORLD?**

**ANY IDEAS OR PROJECTS ALREADY IN PLACE
THAT COULD BE SHARED AND PROGRESSED
BY THE TSCP?**



How Early online Safety for children

The earlier the better.

- Nursery. Ducks, cats & kittens intervention.
- 3-4 year olds.

public protection unit.

thinkuknow.

- Digi duck

- I think you know

- Smart groom.

- purple-mash.

Any ideas or projects already in place that could be shared

Development matters.

2 years - Developmental review

- Exceed / Barnardos - intervention's
- Weekly sessions in schools
- DICE prog - parents
- prof sessions

Who can help

- Influencers
- parents
- Schools

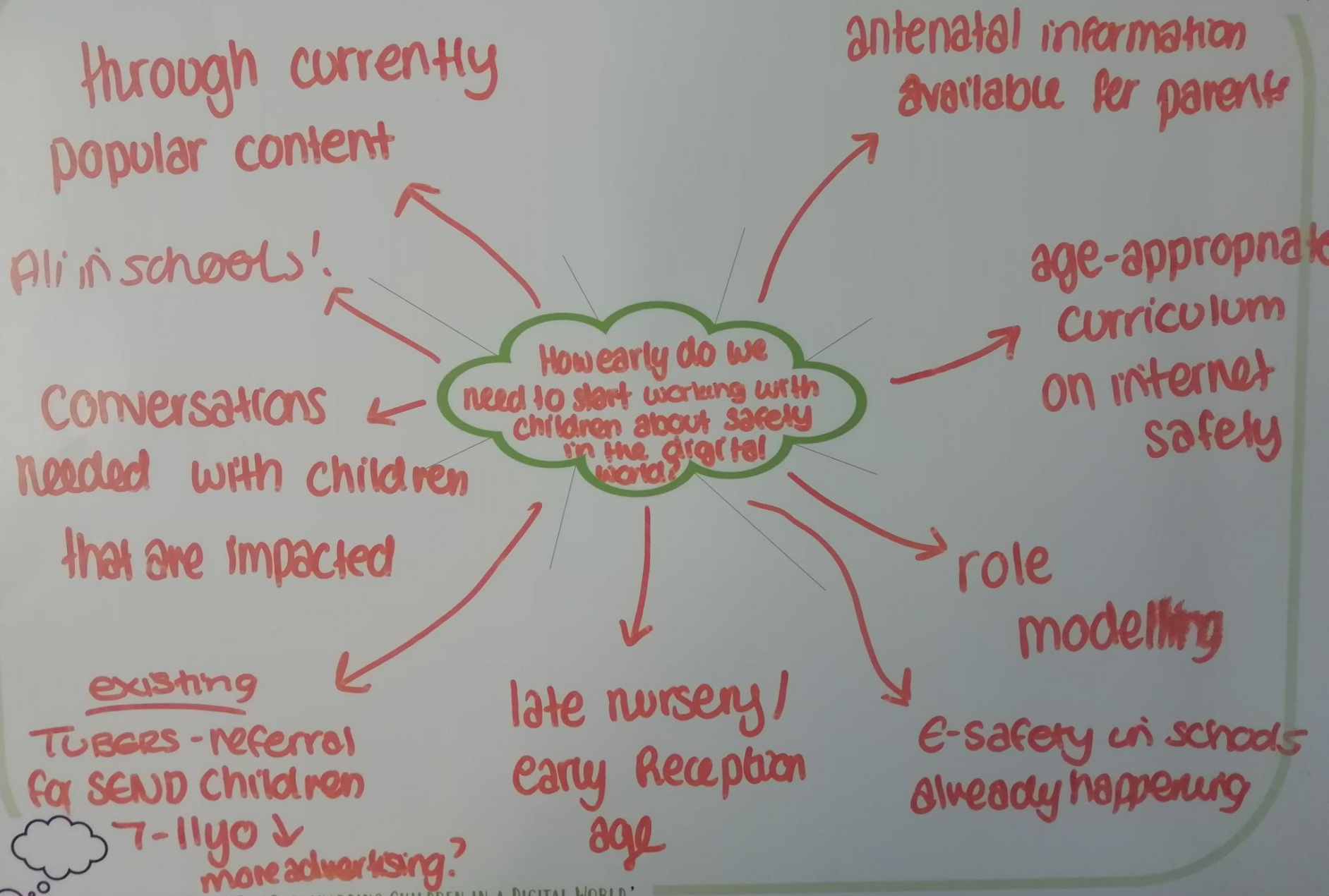
PSHE lessons.

MHST. resources

online safety Policy.
prevent

- How to get message out there

- involving the children. asking children to speak about their experiences



IS IT REALISTIC OR ACHIEVABLE
TO 'BAN' SOCIAL MEDIA FOR CHILDREN?

WHAT COULD BE THE REPERCUSSIONS
OF THIS?



What jobs/skills will be needed in the future?

If society changes
viewpoint - toxic (like smoking)

Speed of tech changes - how to keep up.

Tiers of responsibility to make it achievable

consequences
range of parental choice

'switch on' at 18?
Would they be equipped to manage it?

Realistic? No
Achievable? Possible

Communication
tool - parents / child

VPNs - is it achievable?

Rules around security

Need to define 'social media'

fluid

Complication with use of messaging & how they link together

Not in interest of businesses to 'ban'

if political / financial will

financial implications

revenue on TikTok
individual and national level

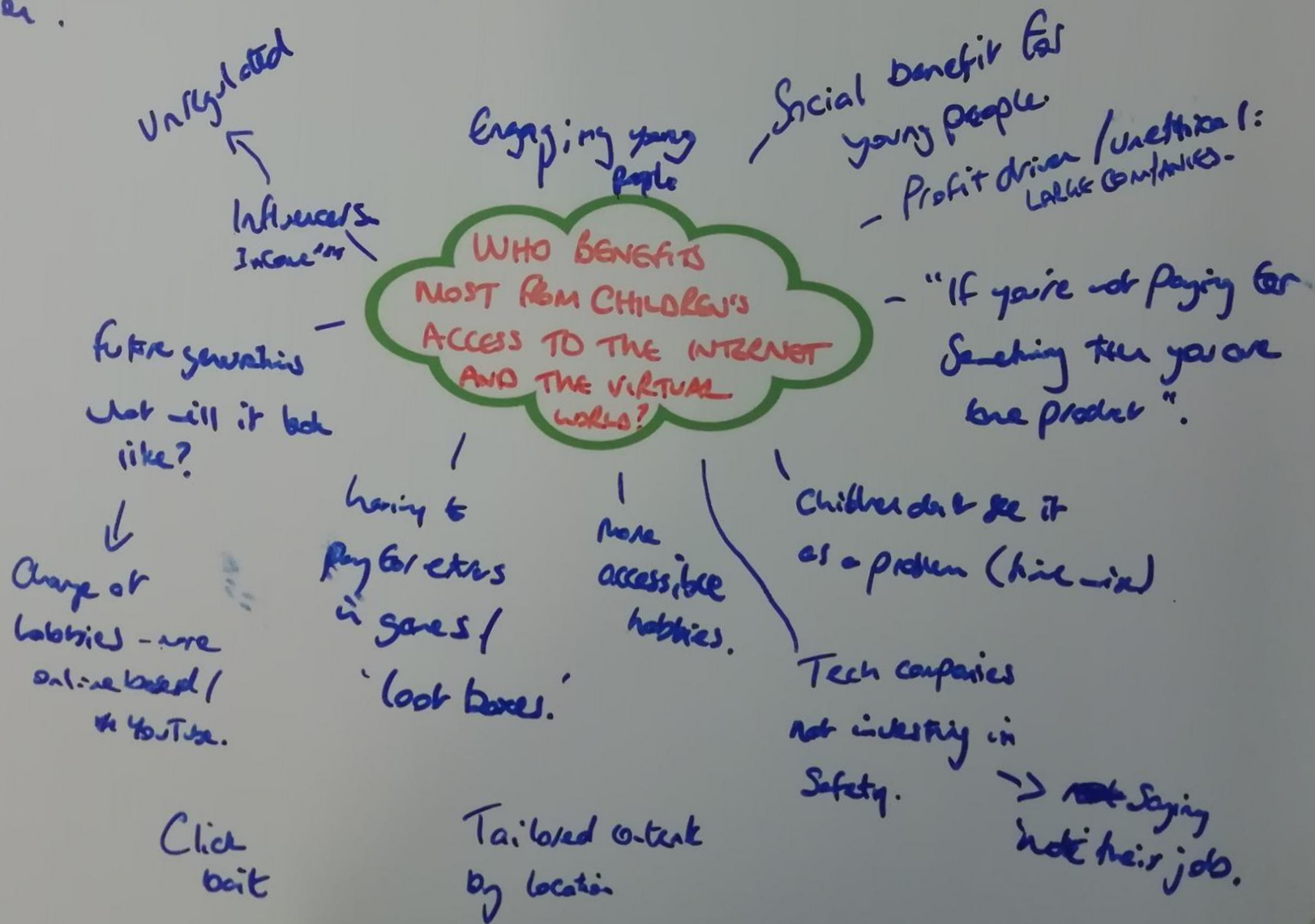
Aspirations for children impacted
- Youtuber / gamer

Is it realistic or achievable to 'ban' social media for children?
What could the repercussions of this be?

WHO BENEFITS THE MOST FROM CHILDREN 'S ACCESS TO THE INTERNET AND THE VIRTUAL WORLD?



No global
legislation.



HOW MUCH DO
'SOCIETAL NORMS' AND 'ADULTIFICATION'
IMPACT ON OUR
IDENTIFICATION AND RESPONSE TO
CHILDREN'S SAFETY IN THE VIRTUAL WORLD?



Use of language -
push blame on young
people gives a misplaced
responsibility

Adultification occurs
through lack of
understanding and
demonisation of the
virtual world

If societal norms
are changing, how
can we protect, and
what are we protecting
them from?

Minimise
risk

Minimise
impact

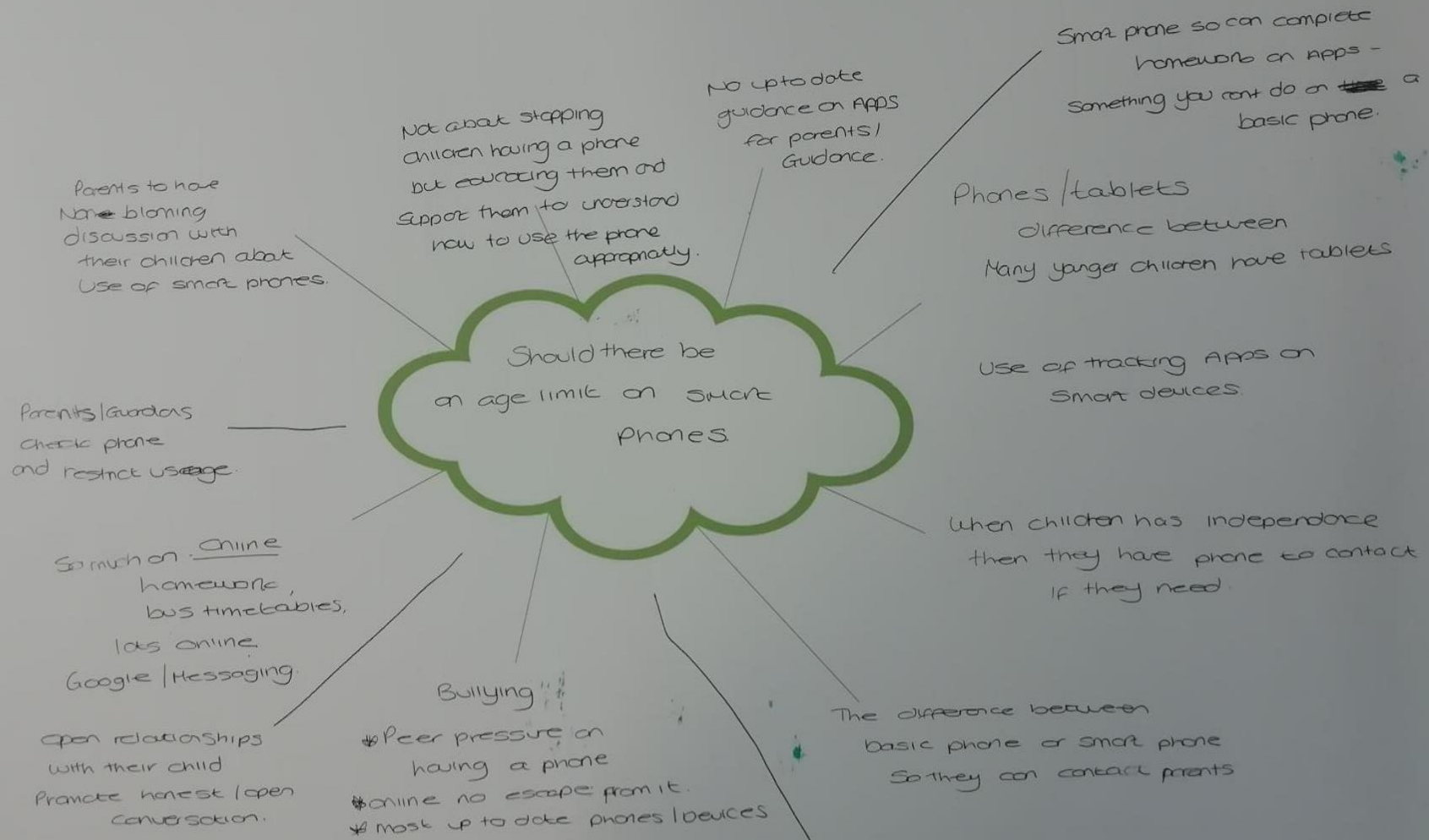
Do we ask enough,
how young people
keep themselves safe

Societal norms
and adultification

- Gender bias and
roles
- Generational
norms
- use of language
- Adults not the
experts in the
virtual world.
- Hidden unknown
risk

SHOULD THERE BE AN AGE LIMIT ON SMART PHONES?





After discussion the majority came to the conclusion -

Recommended - 11+ (secondary school age)

↳ subject to

- ↳ Maturity of the CYP
- ↳ Independence of CYP
- ↳ Parent controls
- ↳ SMC checks

**THE MENTAL CAPACITY ACT
AND ONLINE SAFETY –
HOW COULD / SHOULD WE
BETTER PROTECT YOUNG PEOPLE
WHERE THEY MAY LACK CAPACITY
TO DO THIS THEMSELVES?**



we need a designated
"Alistair" in each LA
to simplify and educate
professionals early -
At the first sign of
changes - Alert

- Media Literacy mpt

Resources for JEND
Young people and professionals
(and families)

Earlier interventions / parents
Carer / children / Draft

Recognising that the majority of
all young people's interaction with the
world (starts on social media -
understanding the danger

Everyone's responsibility
Multi-agency approach

Mental Capacity
~~Act~~

Reframing professionals / families
perception of the child's use
of virtual world - Celebrate / recognise benefits
and unpick first prior to
raising awareness of risk

