Sligo Leitrim Safe Online Campaign

2026

Home Youth Liaison Service &



Supported by Sligo Leitrim CYPSC and Leitrim County Council

Sligo Leitrim Safe Online Campaign – Information

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are writing to inform you about an upcoming Sligo Leitrim Safe Online Campaign that is being developed as a joint initiative between Sligo Leitrim CYPSC (Children and Young People's Services Committee), Sligo Leitrim Home Youth Liaison Service (HYLS) and Foróige and also supported by Leitrim County Council

Over recent months, Sligo Letrim CYPSC has become increasingly aware of the ongoing challenges being experienced by young people in relation to harmful online interactions and digital safety concerns. Youth workers and support services across the area have reported a growing number of concerns being raised by young people and families regarding online experiences, including the impact of social media, online communication, peer pressure, online bullying, inappropriate content, and the pressures associated with maintaining an online presence.

In response to these concerns, Sligo Leitrim CYPSC reached out to both HYLS and Foróige to gain a greater understanding of the most significant issues currently affecting young people and to explore what practical and meaningful supports could be developed collaboratively. Following an initial consultation process, it was agreed that HYLS and Foróige would work directly with young people from both youth services to design and develop a one-week Internet Safety Awareness Video Campaign. A key aim of this campaign is to ensure that the youth perspective and youth voice remain central throughout the process, particularly in identifying:

- What is currently impacting young people online;
- The challenges they are experiencing in digital spaces; and
- What the adults in their lives can do to better support, guide and protect them.

To support this work, a joint focus group involving young people from both services was held on 14th May 2026. The findings and feedback gathered from the young people were then presented to the Management Group on Tuesday 26th May 2026.

The discussions during both meetings highlighted the importance of creating open conversations around online safety and ensuring that young people feel heard, informed and supported. The campaign will therefore aim to provide practical information, encourage positive online behaviours, and strengthen communication between young people, parents/guardians, schools and youth services.

From these consultations, the young people identified a number of topics that they would like to explore further as part of the campaign, including:

- Cyber- bullying
- Mental Health
- AI
- Digital Footprint

How the Campaign Will Be Rolled Out

The aim of this initiative is for Foroige and HYLS to collaborate with the young people involved over the summer months to design and develop a series of individual mini-videos, each focusing on one of the key topics identified by the young people during the consultation process.

The format and presentation style of these videos will be led by the young people themselves. As discussed during the focus group, the videos may include a variety of creative approaches such as:

- Young people appearing on camera and participating in role plays;
- Voiceovers alongside digital pop-ups or visual presentations;
- Graphic design imagery and creative visual content; and
- Other creative methods of portraying information and raising awareness.

Once the young people are ready to bring their ideas into video format, a professional videographer will work alongside them to assist with recording, editing and producing the final content so that their concepts and messages can be brought to life in a professional and engaging manner.

It is hoped that the official launch of the Sligo Leitrim Safe Online Campaign will take place during the first week of November 2026, with two launch events planned — one in Leitrim and one in Sligo.

As part of the wider campaign, the second week of November 2026 will focus on engagement with schools across both counties. Schools will be invited to use the videos as part of their SPHE and wellbeing modules. To support this, schools will receive a resource pack containing:

- The youth-created videos;
- Key themes and suggested discussion topics linked to each video and
- Guidance to support classroom conversations and reflection.

In addition, parents/guardians will also receive a separate resource pack containing:

- Relevant information and guidance relating to online safety;
- Suggested topics and conversation starters that may be useful to explore further with their children and
- Information on supports and resources that families can access should the need ever arise.

As part of the campaign, it is also hoped that two in-person Digital Safety Awareness Training events for parents/guardians will take place. These sessions will aim to provide practical, real-life skills and guidance in relation to managing digital devices, understanding online platforms, and supporting young people to safely navigate online spaces.

Throughout every stage of this campaign, the young people participating will remain an integral part of the process. Their voices, experiences, participation and safety will be kept at the forefront of all work carried out as part of this initiative.

Further information regarding dates, events and resources will be shared with parents/guardians in advance.

We believe that supporting young people to safely navigate the online world is a shared responsibility and that collaboration between families, youth services and the wider community is essential. We are very grateful to Sligo Letrim CYPSC for highlighting the need to do more to support young people and families in relation to this topic and to the young people who are contributing their experiences and insights so openly and thoughtfully throughout this process so far.

Should you have any questions or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact either Linda Halstead (HYLS) lindahalstead@homeyouthliaisonservice.ie or connor.oneill@foroige.ie

Yours sincerely

Linda and Connor