

# Online SAFETY.....Sextortion and the Rise of AI

## Safeguarding Alert

Alarmingly police and other child protection agencies are seeing a significant rise in so-called 'sextortion' crimes against children and young people by criminals utilising AI technology to transpose innocent images into sexually explicit photographs and videos. These are then used to blackmail the innocent victim.



In this week's section you can learn about the rise of sextortion and how AI is being used by perpetrators to exploit young people online. Find advice and resources for education and safeguarding professionals, parents, and carers to help protect young people.

Sadly, this can happen to any child or young person, including those in your care.

### *What Is 'Sextortion'?*

So-called 'sextortion' is a form of online exploitation where perpetrators use intimate images or videos of a young person to blackmail them. They may demand additional images, money, or even coerce victims into recruiting others. While sextortion can happen to anyone, teenagers and young adults are particularly vulnerable.

Those carrying out these crimes will also seek out images of the victims with identifiable features such as their face, birth marks, tattoos or jewellery. They do this to heighten vulnerability, anxiety, engendering a feeling of powerlessness and self-blame.

This form of exploitation can present itself in various ways, but always has the same goal: to blackmail and instil fear within the victim for personal gain.

**At INEQE's latest newsletter you can find out further information about SEXTORTION, what it looks like, its impact and what you can do to protect your children and young people against it. They provide links to other resources and a short information video clip to help...**

[https://ineqe.com/2024/11/08/sextortion-rise-of-ai/?utm\\_campaign=Newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz--](https://ineqe.com/2024/11/08/sextortion-rise-of-ai/?utm_campaign=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz--)



In addition their Home Learning Hub for parents has a host of resources available, all designed to help support parents and carers to keep their children safe in an ever changing digital world.

Click on the image below to take you to this resource.....

A promotional banner for the Home Learning Hub for Parents. On the left, a dark blue background contains the title "Home Learning Hub for Parents" in white, followed by a short description: "Our Home Learning Hub is our free library of resources to support parents and carers who are taking the time to help their children be safer online." Below this is a teal button with the text "HOME LEARNING HUB &gt;". On the right, a photograph shows a person sitting on a couch, holding a tablet that displays the Home Learning Hub website. A bowl of popcorn and a glass of dark liquid are on a table in front of them.