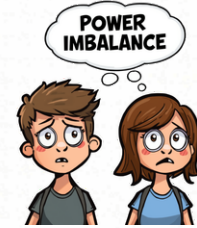


# Your Voice, Your Safety: The 'Children First' Board Action Plan -March 2026

## WHERE WE FEEL UNSAFE & WHY WE DON'T ASK FOR HELP

### Where We Feel Unsafe (The Audit)



**School: More Than Just Gates and Cameras**  
While students feel physically secure, they feel safe due to emotional pressures, 'soft forms' of bullying, and power imbalances between teachers and students.



**Public Spaces: The Fear of the Dark and the Unknown**  
Parks, town centres, and alleys become 'no-go zones' at night or when secluded, especially when occupied by 'rowdy' groups or unpredictable strangers.



**Public Transport: Isolated and Exposed**  
Waiting alone at rural trainings or changing trains at night creates high anxiety, compounded by anti-social behavior and a lack of visible surveillance.



**Online: The 'No Escape' Environment**  
Young people report feeling unsure what is real 'by AI-generated content,' anonymous contact from strangers, and algorithms that promote hate or misogyny.

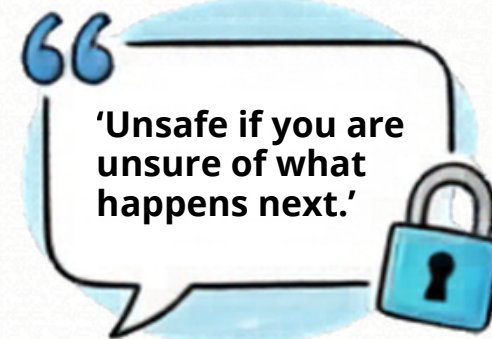
### Why We Don't Ask For Help



**The Stigma of Victim Blaming**  
Many young people avoid showing seeking because of the shame or embarrassment of telling an adult, fearing they might be shamed for the situation.



**Bureaucracy vs. Urgent Need**  
Asking for often involves difficult 'form filing' and complex processes that feel like a barrier when someone is in distress.



**A lack of transparency in how reports are handled makes young people hesitant to share their experiences.**

## THE ACTION PLAN & BUILDING HUMAN CONNECTIONS

### The Action Plan (The Realistic Fix)



#### Relaunching the 'Safe Space' Sussex App

A dedicated digital tool to help young people find immediate safety and report concerns.



**Visible 'Safe Space' Stickers** Local businesses and websites will display window stickers to identify themselves as vetted, safe locations for young people to seek help.

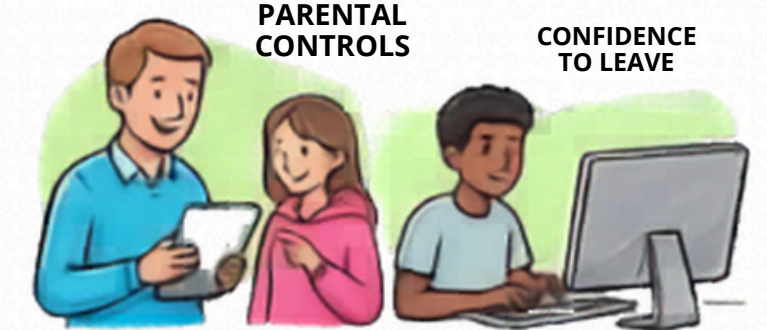


**Reviving Police Boxes & Presence** Increasing the visibility of police in town centres and raising awareness about how to use existing police contact points.

### Building Human Connections



**A Directory of Resources**  
Creating a centralised 'Safe Place' directory that connects youth to charities and local sponsors who provide support.



**Education Over Equipment**  
The plan is to teach adults how to use parental controls effectively and helping youth gain the 'confidence to leave' toxic online groups.

### Immediate 3-Month Goals

#### Target Area

#### 3-Month Goal

**Funding**

Secure private company sponsorships for the safety app

**Community**

Sign up local venues for the 'Safe Space' sticker scheme

**Awareness**

Start school-based roadshows to promote the Safe Space Sussex App

