# SEXTING MYTHBUSTER ~ for staff use ~

#### MYTH

Sexting is always harmful.

# REAUTY

Sexting means different things to different people: text or images, semi or totally nude, sexual or non-sexual. Young people use different terms anyway. Youth sexting can be risky and harmful but it can also be exploration, as part of growing up, often done between peers and not always for sexual purposes.

#### MYTH

# All young people are sharing explicit images.

### REAUTY

Statistics vary but there are lots of different definitions of 'sexting' and it is unclear



# MYTH

Unless charged or convicted, young people won't get a criminal record.

# REALITY

No conviction equals no 'criminal record', but nominal records are normally added to police databases and these MAY be disclosed in future enhanced DBS checks.

### MYTH

Young people who sext are at risk of adult exploitation.

### REAUTY

Yes this can be a risk, but studies have shown that young people are most likely to share images with peers, not with strangers.

# exactly what young people send and how often.



This poster was made in collaboration with criminologist & sexting expert Dr Charlotte van der Westhuizen, University of Westminster. It is for staff not students, to display in staff-only areas. Responses to any sexting incident should follow UKCIS Sexting Guidance which you can find alongside other resources at sexting.lgfl.net Download this poster again at safeposters.lgfl.net