

Website checklist

Things to consider when looking at online resources – a guide for clinicians, families, children and young people

Websites and online support forums can change quickly with new sites and support groups appearing regularly. We recommend visiting the ORCHA site for independent and impartial reviews of health and care related apps. <https://hnyhealthapps.co.uk/>

The checklist below offers things to consider when accessing support online. This is not an exhaustive list. We encourage parents and their children/young people to check out sites jointly in the first instance and always be aware of what sites children/young people are viewing.



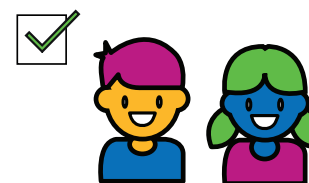
Where has the recommendation for the forum/website come from – **is it a reliable source?**



Some support forums and groups have registered for **charity status** and are given a charity number. Their details can then be verified - search the charity register on www.gov.uk



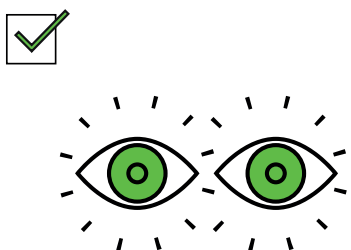
Is the group connected to any **regulatory bodies**? For example, if the charity is registered with a charity number, they will be expected to declare finances and declare their aims and objectives.



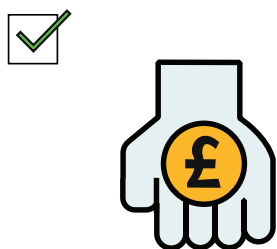
Is the website/forum using language and visual content which is **appropriate for your child/young person's age** and understanding?



Does the website include **testimonials or a review**? This can offer an opportunity to get a feeling for the support on offer.



If there is an online forum, is it made clear who has responsibility for **monitoring the content or messages**?



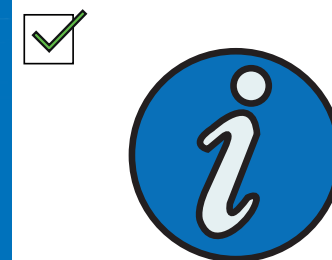
Are you **encouraged to 'sign up'** – is this free or is there a cost? If there is a fee, what will this pay for?



If direct support is offered by an individual to your family or child/young person, are you able to check the **training and credentials** of the individual?



Is there any **independent verification/oversight** of the group/support forums and their campaign methods or is the information shared online?



If a website lists **contact details**, such as a telephone number, does this work?

If you require a copy of this information in any other format or language please speak to a member of the team.