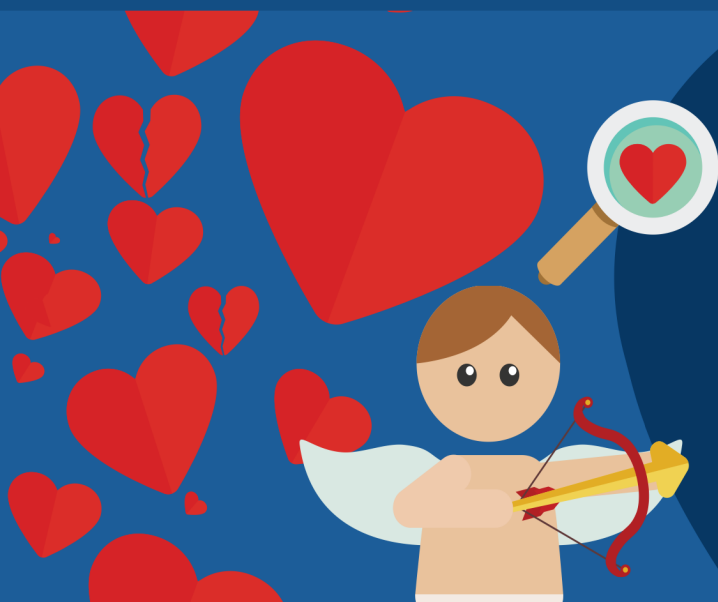# DO YOU REALLY KNOW..

# ..HOW TO DATE ONLINE SAFELY?

You receive a message from someone who seems really interested in getting to know you. They say all the right things, and over time you find yourself forming a strong bond with them. All of a sudden they're in need of some money, and they ask you for help. They promise to pay you back. By now, you trust them, so you offer to help. Before long, they'll need money again, and again... And soon enough you'll have given them every penny you own. That's how dating fraud works. Criminals will feign romantic feelings for you, gain your trust, and then use your goodwill to commit fraud against you. As online dating becomes more and more popular, criminals are increasingly using them to commit fraud, and anyone can be a victim.

## £27 M

Amount of money the UK public lost to 'romance' fraudsters in a year (Nov 2014 - Oct 2015)

National Fraud Intelligence Bureau

## 2 out of 3

Romance frauds originated on dating sites, and a quarter via social media.

National Fraud Intelligence Bureau

## 71%

Of people who have used dating websites say that people misrepresent themselves on their profiles.

globaldatinginsights.com / Mintel

# BEHAVIOURS THAT PUT YOU AT RISK..

Revealing too much personal information, such as your home address, or your full date of birth.

Revealing any financial details, or responding to requests to send money.

Clicking on links, or opening attachments in emails from someone you've just met on a dating site.

# HOW TO DATE ONLINE SAFELY..

Avoid posting details such as your full name, date of birth, or your home and work addresses on online profiles. Criminals can use these types of personal information to steal your identity.

Never respond to any requests to send money, or have money transferred into your account by someone you don't know and trust. These types of requests should always raise a red flag.

Never reveal any of your financial details. If a user asks you for them, stop communicating with them immediately and report it to the dating site.