



Dear Parents,

Ceredigion Local Safeguarding Childrens Board (LSCB) has responsibility to ensure that young people in Ceredigion are safeguarded and protected from harm. The LSCB is contacting all parents in Ceredigion to alert them to the dangers which young people can be exposed to when using technology.

In recent months Dyfed Powys Police and Ceredigion Social Services have conducted a number of child protection investigations under the All Wales Child Protection Procedures, involving young people who have been using technology inappropriately and putting them and others at risk.

In these cases young people have been found to be sending indecent images of themselves via their mobile phone as well as placing these on social media sites. This behaviour is not only placing young people at risk, they are also committing an offence under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and Schedule 6 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

The investigations have also suggested that there may be some pressure placed on young people to send indecent images of them and again this is treated by child protection agencies as sexual exploitation and again is an offence.

The LSCB feel that it is important that parents are advised of these matters to ensure that you can safeguard and protect your child as well as ensuring that your child is aware that they could be committing a criminal offence under the Sexual Offences Act 2003. A conviction under this act would prohibit your child from being employed in areas working with children and vulnerable people, these roles include teaching, nursing and becoming adoptive parents.

The LSCB have produced a leaflet for parents advising them of the dangers associated with technology this and other safeguarding information is available on Ceredigion's LSCB website; www.ceredigionlscb.gov.uk

Other useful information can be found on the following websites:

www.childnet-int.org

www.chatdanger.com

www.kidsmart.org.uk

www.ceop.police.uk

www.ukccis

The LSCB advises parents to discuss these matters with your children to ensure they are aware of the dangers and to ensure you put in place appropriate safeguards to keep your child safe.

Ceredigion LSCB