



**Wales Internet Safety Partnership**  
Promoting Digital Literacy for Children  
and Young People in Wales

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2010**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **Young People in a Digital World 2010 - Preparing, Supporting and Inspiring**

**1st of February 2010 - Swansea; 3rd of February 2010 - Bangor**

WISE KIDS together with the Wales Internet Safety Partnership (WISP) is organising two conferences in Wales which will examine how well-equipped young people are to manage their on-line and digital activities. They will look at what support is needed from government, industry, education, youth and children's services to ensure that young people are able to benefit from the huge potential of these technologies, but are also resilient and able to manage risk.

This is the fourth in a series of conferences organised by WISE KIDS to raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges that face young people in an increasingly digital world.

Held on the 1st and 3rd of February at the [Swansea DVLA Richard Ley Building](#) and the [Technium Cast Bangor](#) respectively, they have been organised in part to support European Safer Internet Day (9th of February 2010).

The conferences will focus on implementation - what governments, industry and professionals are doing to prepare, support and inspire young people - to ensure that they are confident and able to use digital technologies effectively, innovatively and safely.

In particular the conferences will explore:

- how the different sectors (industry, youth, Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) and education) can work together and what further support they need
- the knowledge and skills gaps for professionals who work with young people
- examples of good practices that can inspire others to ensure that young people get the most from these technologies, are digitally literate and able to manage their personal data, identities and online interactions.
- some of the safeguarding issues that organisations need to address to minimise risk caused by misuse of these media

## Who should attend?

The conferences are designed for training officers, policy makers, opinion formers, educators, researchers, ICT co-ordinators, local authorities, schools, colleges, LSCBs, libraries, youth organisations, community groups, media companies, and other public and private sector organisations interested in young people's use of Internet and mobile technologies - both in formal and non-formal settings.

Leighton Andrews AM, Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning will open the Swansea conference and there will be a pre-recorded video keynote by [Professor Tanya Byron](#), author of Safer Children in a Digital World ("[the Byron Review](#)"). [John Davitt](#) will provide the keynote speech in Bangor. Both conferences will be chaired by [Alan Davies](#) and have been sponsored by BT, the Wales Media Literacy Network, the Nominet Trust and the Welsh Assembly Government.

The Swansea conference will also see the launch of the Digital Youth Wales Network, an online network for those who work with young people to share best practice relating to how they support young people in their innovative and safe use of Internet and mobile technologies.

Dr Sangeet Bhullar, founder of [WISE KIDS](#) said:

"We're delighted to be hosting these conferences again this year. The development of the Digital Youth Wales Network will also be a step forward in facilitating a space for sharing of knowledge and good practice."

"The key strands of both conferences will be around young people's encounters in virtual worlds, digital literacy, e-safety and good practice guidelines. As with previous conferences, we hope to not only stimulate discussion, but to come up with some concrete ideas and action points that can help the sector move forward as a whole and improve the whole digital experience for young people."

Leighton Andrews, Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning said: "The Internet offers resources for teaching and learning quite literally from across the world. It is an integral part of children and young people's lives and they are incredibly adept at using the technology to gain knowledge or simply for fun. It's important to harness their skills and enthusiasm so that using ICT can enhance all aspects of their learning, but we must also work to ensure that as they explore the web, they do so safely."

Ann Beynon, Director of BT Wales said, "The internet has become an integral part of our lives and children are exceptionally well versed when it comes to using the web for all sorts of educational and social activities. But that familiarity can also make the internet a dangerous place for children and BT is pleased to support these conferences which will help to focus attention on ways to keep children safe while they surf."

Jonathan Welfare, Chair of [Nominet Trust](#) comments: "The conference will raise awareness of, and begin to address, the issues that children face when they're online, specifically regarding openness, access and safety. Nominet Trust is delighted to

support WISE KIDS's attempts to make a real difference; its aims and objectives are closely aligned with our own, as we support innovative and scalable projects that combat online safety problems."

Karen Roberts, Chair of the [Wales Media Literacy Network](#) said:

"It is essential that young people are equipped with the knowledge, skills and understanding to harness the power of the Internet and the Network is delighted to support any initiatives that will ultimately help young people and those with responsibility for them, to effectively assess and manage risks in these online and mobile environments."

**For more information please go to <http://www.wisekids.org.uk/conf2010>**

Note to Editors:

There are a limited number of press passes available for these conferences. If you would like a pass, or to arrange an interview with any of the speakers during the day, please contact:

Karen Roberts at [karen.roberts@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:karen.roberts@ofcom.org.uk) on 029 2046 7202 or 07595089307

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The Swansea conference will be webcast live (see [www.wisekids.org.uk](http://www.wisekids.org.uk) for more details).

WISE KIDS is a not-for-profit company, founded in Oct 2002 to provide innovative training programmes and consultancy in New Media, Internet and Mobile Technologies, Internet Proficiency, Literacy and Safety. To this end, WISE KIDS works with a wide range of partners including Schools, Colleges, Youth Organisations, Community Projects, Private and Public Sector Organisations, throughout Wales and elsewhere. For more information visit the WISE KIDS website at [www.wisekids.org.uk](http://www.wisekids.org.uk)

The Wales Internet Safety Partnership comprising WISE KIDS, BT, Ofcom, the Welsh Assembly Government, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, UCAC, the Fostering Network, South Wales Police, office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales and others.