



## **WISE KIDS Training Day for Stakeholders:**

### ***The Internet for Young People: Opportunities and Challenges***

The Internet has been changing rapidly, and we now live in what Internet technologists call a Web 2.0 world! This is a world which increasingly focuses on social media, user generated content, 'software as a service' applications and more. Web 2.0 technologies place the user at the centre of content creation and online networking.

If you are a young person today, the Internet and mobile technologies offer great opportunities for education, learning, socialising and keeping in contact with friends. However these can present challenges too. Increasingly, schools and colleges are adopting virtual learning environments to support and extend the delivery of learning activities, outside of schools and colleges. Young people are also spending more and more time accessing social networking sites like Facebook and Bebo, games, information and friends on the Internet. Their connections are not limited to conventional pcs and laptops, but extend to their Internet connected devices like Xboxes, PS3 consoles. This creates a world where the traditional boundaries between the online world and real world can become blurred. For example, often, young people (and many adults) do not recognise the Internet as a real space, with laws, responsibilities and consequences. Also, many professionals (youth workers, educators and other youth service providers) do not use the Internet in the same way that young people use it, and many are unsure about the online habits of young people, and what the safety issues are. These same professionals are also sometimes tasked with developing strategies, policies and education programmes for their organisations, to support young people when they access Internet and mobile technologies.

This hands-on training day will provide stakeholders (professionals with an interest in these issues) with an up to date picture on new and emerging Internet technologies. It will focus on how young people use these Internet and mobile technologies, and help stakeholders better understand the positive opportunities presented by these technologies, as well as the online risks that some of these technologies can present. The issues addressed will include under aged access of social networking sites and the challenges these present, sharing of personal information with 'online friends', scams and id theft, access to inappropriate and dangerous content online, assessing the reliability of online content, managing privacy settings and online data, cyberbullying and sexual grooming.

The training day will also provide resources and strategies to help stakeholders ensure that young people can benefit from the Internet and mobile technologies whilst ensuring their personal safety. It will also provide a brief overview of Internet Safety developments in the UK, and the some of the key lessons learned.

**Dr Sangeet Bhullar, Executive Director, WISE KIDS**

Sangeet Bhullar is the Founder and Executive Director of WISE KIDS, a non-profit organisation based in Wales, providing innovative training programmes and consultancy in New Media, Internet and Mobile Technologies, Internet Proficiency, Literacy and Safety. An older Digital Native, trained as an Electrical Engineer, she believes strongly in the potential of Internet and Mobile technologies to transform learning, youth, community and business development.

WISE KIDS works with a wide range of partners including Schools, Colleges, Youth Organisations, Community Projects, Private and Public Sector Organisations. Sangeet is also on a number of government and non-government groups where she promotes/ has promoted Digital Inclusion and New Media Literacy. These include the Ofcom Wales's Media Literacy Network Committee, the Welsh Assembly Government Communities @One Advisory group, WISP- Wales Internet Safety Partnership, the newly formed UK Council for Child Internet Safety, and the BBC's Audience Council for Wales. She has spoken at conferences, been an external examiner, written guidance, and provided training across Britain, Singapore and Malaysia. Sangeet, who is Malaysian, is married and has three children.