Dear Parent/Carer,

Teenagers in the modern era have unparalleled access to information and social activity online not seen in previous generations.

Alongside the many positive benefits of internet access and the world it opens up, there are dangers which need to be highlighted in order to prevent young people doing things which may seem harmless or 'fun' but which are actually detrimental and sometimes illegal.

At Sussex Police, we are aware of the rising numbers of teenagers who are making and sending nude images of themselves with someone else without really understanding the potential consequences of doing so.

To help address and reduce the number of teenagers falling victim to the dangers of self-generated indecent images and sextortion (a type of online blackmail), we have launched an awareness raising campaign to educate teenagers to prevent it from happening, by giving them knowledge and ultimately power to make more informed choices.

Our campaign activity focusses on using social media and working with several Sussex schools that have agreed to share our information with the option for them to create their own sessions to deliver to their students.

As parents, we wanted to let you know that your child may see animations about sending nude imagery and sextortion on their socials and at their school. We invite you to visit our Think Twice webpage that explains in more detail about sending nude images under the age of 18 and sextortion with advice on what do.

Our key messages are simply to think twice before pressing send and to talk to an adult they trust if they have concerns for themselves or a friend, they can also talk to police. Though it is illegal to make, send, receive or share a nude image of an under 18, police won't seek to criminalise someone who is under 18 years old. However, police will prosecute adults who do so.

If you have any concerns about your child and would like to talk to someone, please report it to us online or call 101. In an emergency always call 999.

You can also contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via crimestoppers-uk.org.

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