



TEENS WARNED THAT SEXTING MAY LEAD TO A CRIMINAL RECORD

New police reports show that young people taking 'nudes' are contributing to a rise in sexual offences in England and Wales. Police say teens do not realise that if they take a nude picture and send this to their partner, they are committing an offence by sharing an indecent image of a person under 18 - even if it is consensual and of themselves. Read the full article [here](#).

DUCKDUCKGO SEARCH ENGINE

There have been recent concerns regarding a search engine, alternative to Google named "DuckDuckGo". This is an American software company that allows you to browse and search privately. It has been highlighted by Cygnet employees as a risk, as this allows young people to search for potentially harmful and triggering content. It has been noted that staff completing device checks are unable to see what has previously been searched.

TELEGRAM APP USED FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING

Telegram has been highlighted by Cygnet employees. It is an app that operates similarly to WhatsApp. However, it has a much greater focus on end-to-end encryption and a private chat feature which means it is commonly used for the distribution of illegal drugs.

LEARNING FEATURE – FACEBOOK DEFAULT END-TO-END ENCRYPTION...

- Meta announced in December end-to-end encryption for personal chats and calls.
- Users will have the option to enable "disappearing messages".
- This promises users a more private and secure service, however there are concerns it will also allow for potential risks to children to go undetected.
- The [NCMEC](#) have said this would make communications on the platform "go dark" and will be a devastating blow for child protection.
- The NCA have warned parents and carers to think carefully about allowing children to use Facebook and Instagram.

For more information, click [here](#).

CYBERFLASHING

'Cyberflashing' is where somebody digitally sends sexual images or pornography to an unsuspecting person.

Cyberflashing most commonly occurs using Apple AirDrop, as strangers can send images to a victim's phone without having their details saved. Cyberflashing can also occur through file sharing apps and social media, especially if the perpetrator has the victim's details.

76% of girls aged 12-18 have been sent unsolicited nude images of boys or men