# CHILDREN, MOBILE PHONES AND THE INTERNET – AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ISSUES

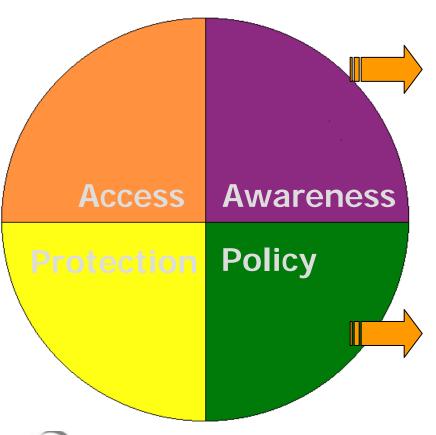
Nigel Williams
Chief Executive
Childnet International



## A BIT ABOUT US!

Childnet is a charity established in 1995 to

"Help make the Internet a great and safe place for children."



Promoting the positive



Responding to the negative





## **AGENDA FOR THIS PRESENTATION**

- Why we are here..
- The fixed Internet paradigm
- What is different about mobile
- Opportunities and Issues







## WHY WE ARE HERE...

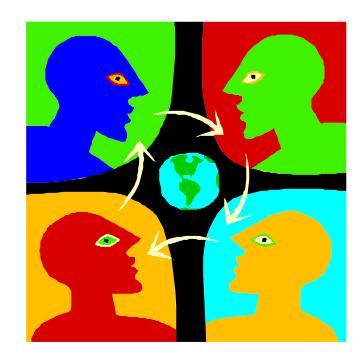


- Share experiences and learn
- Focussing on social use
- Japan is an early adopter
- Cross sectoral
- International
- Thank you to our sponsors



## THE NATURE OF THIS MEETING

- Private but not secret
- Representative but not comprehensive
- Findings will be published
- Media protocol



## WHAT IS THE FIXED INTERNET LIKE?

Connects you to the world

Like bringing a city into the home or classroom



The good and The bad





# THE FIXED INTERNET OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN

Discover

Connect

Create







- Search
- Homework
- Projects

The biggest Library in the world

- E-mail
- Groups
- Chat / IM

Bringing kids together cheaply

- Web sites
- Text, art....
- Sound...

Anyone can be a publisher



# THE FIXED INTERNET – THE DANGERS FOR CHILDREN

Content



Contact



Commerce



- Pornography
- Racism
- Inaccurate information

- Threatening e-mail
- Paedophiles in chat rooms
- Invasion of privacy
- Blur between advertising & content



# WHAT ARE THE ATTRACTIONS OF MOBILES TO CHILDREN?

- Personal & private away from parents
- Image, fashion
- Constant communication
- Price
- Services eg SMS games



## WHY ARE THERE DIFFERENCES IN TAKE UP OF EXISTING SERVICES GLOBALLY?

- Technical differences
- Fixed network competition
- Marketing
- Culture & fashion
- Price



## WHAT ABOUT THE G FACTOR?

**Courtesy of Mike Short O<sub>2</sub>** Digital Content Rich media MMS **Streaming** SMS **Java Games Applications** Video **WAP Push Audio Graphics** 2G 2.5G 2.5G / 3G



# WHAT NEW SERVICES WILL BE OF MOST INTEREST TO YOUNG USERS?

## ADULT / BUSINESS USERS

- Office e-mail
- Information
- Mapping
- Sending data
- Banking
- Entertainment

#### **YOUNG USERS**

- Being in touch with each other
- Meeting new people eg dating
- Entertainment and games
- Links with television
   voting,
   competitions
- Anything fun...



# WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL NEW SERVICES OFFER TO YOUNG USERS?

- Empowerment eg voting, participating
- Bridging "Digital Divide"
- Calling for help
- Health eg diabetes
- Education eg fieldwork
- Richer communication with friends
- Lots of fun... and more we haven't thought of!





# WHAT DANGERS WILL NEW SERVICES POSE TO YOUNG USERS?

- Meeting exploitative adults
- Predators knowing where they are
- Bullying
- Pornography
- Advertising
- Financial pressures
- ... ALL THAT THE FIXED
  INTERNET DOES BUT ALL
  THE TIME WHEREVER
  YOU ARE





## SO WHAT CAN WE DO?



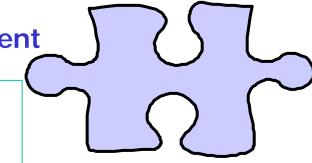
- Anticipate and monitor the issues and opportunities
- Promote the positives
- Learn from each other and the fixed internet experience
- Strive for an integrated approach



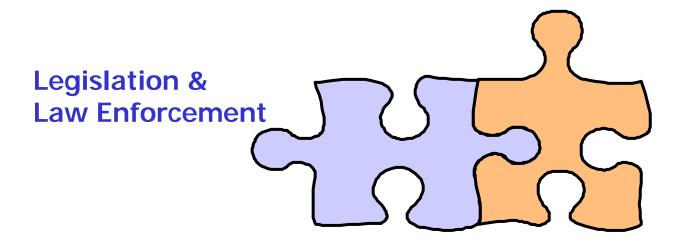
Legislation & Law Enforcement

Is legislation comprehensive?

Are law enforcement trained?



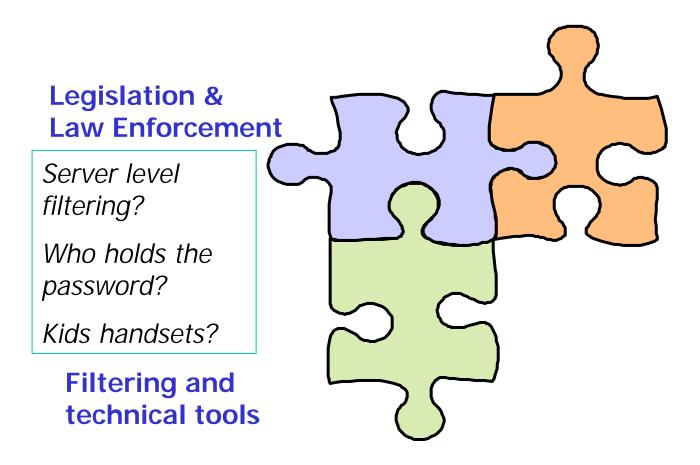




## Self regulation & Hotlines

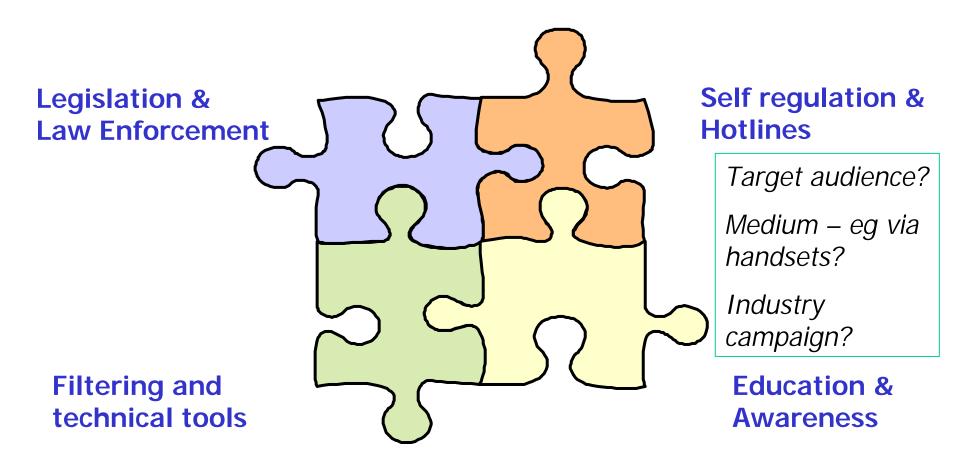
Who will regulate?

Will hotlines & providers cooperate?



Self regulation & Hotlines







### A FINAL PLEA....



Let's adopt a realistic, informed and balanced approach to new mobile services, and ensure that children benefit rather than are exploited

