

Increasing Number of Children falling victim to text scams - Mobile Network Warns

ParentShield - the UK's only child-protection Mobile Network has issued a warning about an alarming number of scams aimed at children

DERBY, DERBYSHIRE, UK, November 24, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Over the last 12 months, [ParentShield](#) reports it has intercepted and blocked twice as many text scam attempts as the previous 12 months, and is issuing a warning to parents who may be considering a first mobile phone for their children this Christmas.



ParentShield Network urges vigilance to parents after giving a first phone

Scammers are becoming more sophisticated, which means that their [SMS messages look ever more genuine](#). This is worrying enough when the recipient is an adult, but when it's a child, infinitely more so. There has been a particular rise, says the Network, in SMS messages particularly aimed at children with a target of defrauding parents. These scams leverage the emotional concern and urgency to protect children to overshadow any doubt over legitimacy.

“

We have seen scam SMS messages of all types double in frequency of the last 12 months. What is particularly concerning are the messages specifically targeting parents concerned for their child.”

Graham Tyers

With Christmas coming up - and many children getting mobile phones for the very first time, now is the time to raise awareness and talk to children, and share examples of scam messages between all family and friends. By using a suitable service, argues the network, it is also possible and advisable to completely block all SMS from unknown senders.

The 'broken phone scam' is a phishing text message aimed at 'mums'. The personalisation of a message by using a recipient's name increases its ability to suck a victim in exponentially. As they have no way of knowing who they are texting, generic names, such as 'mum' or 'dad' etc would

land on far more than 'Gary, Sarah etc. The way they use the love a mother has for their child, to extort them, is sickening.

"Hi mum, I am texting you off a friends phone my phone is broke and theirs is about to die, can you text me on my new number on WhatsApp 07852333079"

They work on the hope that the mother they happen to land on panics and follows the instructions, only to be told that money needs to be transferred.

The scam message can be sent from a spoofed number so as to look familiar to the recipient, or even exactly match a known number so vigilance is always required, says the Network.

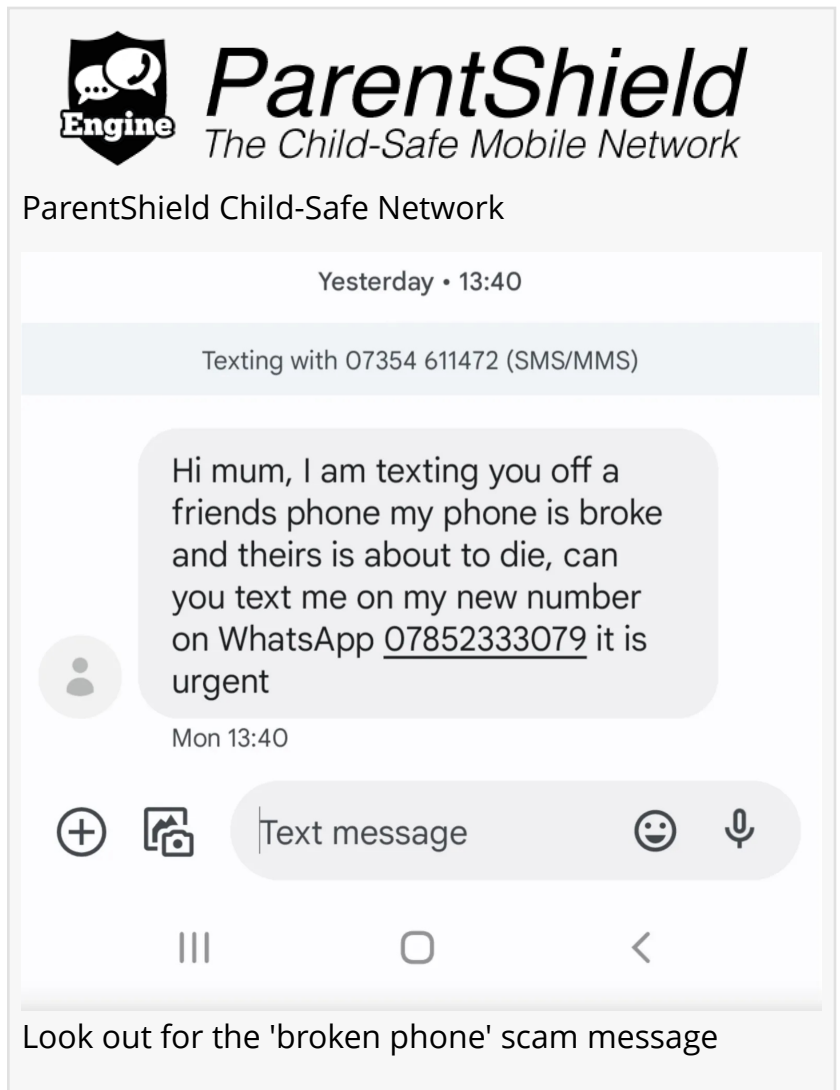
About ParentShield

ParentShield is a UK Mobile Network designed to help parents introduce their youngsters to the world of mobile phone ownership in a smart, sensible, and safe manner. Its rolling monthly contracts integrate a range of safety features to ensure that children gain a sense of independence without facing the risks that they might when using traditional carriers. It is already helping thousands of families become more tech-savvy than ever before.

ParentShield, being designed with Child Protection from the ground up and has many differences such as the removal of traditional Voicemail facility from its network. The security weaknesses of Mobile Phone Voicemail have been well known and discussed ever since the tragic instances of Voicemail hacking started to come to light. Voicemail is also stored by all the major networks 'in the clear' completely unencrypted, and this falls below a standard that's suitable for child protection, according to the Network.

The network also offers full SMS monitoring and recording and alerting so parents can be alerted should any of their children's messages contain any concerning content.

ParentShield was founded in 2017 to provide the services demanded by parents and professional carers who are charged with protecting the children in their care. With Phone boxes



now being a 'thing of the past' it's no longer reasonable to presume a child can find a callbox to call home in an emergency, and children are generally provided their first mobile phone at a far younger age than ever before - bringing the stark difference between an adult and properly-designed child network into view.

ParentShield controls are all made remotely so, once the ParentShield SIM has been put into a child's phone, absolutely no other settings need to be made on the phone to allow complex allow and block lists, word alerts, and full recording and monitoring facilities.

More information is available at <https://parentshield.co.uk/>. Alternatively, ParentShield's press contact Graham Tyers can be reached at 01283 707057 or hello@parentshield.co.uk. Postal queries should be addressed to Pioneer House, Derby, DE73 7HL.

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