



# **WEST GLAMORGAN SAFEGUARDING BOARDS**

## **GUIDANCE ON THE INTIMATE BODY PIERCING OF CHILDREN**

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1. The Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 received Royal Assent on 3 July 2017. Part 5 of the Act places a ban on the intimate piercing of children and young persons under the age of 18 this came into force on 1 February 2018.
2. Wales is the first UK country to introduce such a law; it aims to protect children and young people from the potential health harms from an intimate piercing, and to avoid circumstances where children and young people are placed in a potentially vulnerable situation. It also makes it an offence to make arrangements to perform an intimate piercing on a child under the age of 18 in Wales. Any person that performs the piercing or arranges for a child to have an intimate piercing faces prosecution and an unlimited fine.
3. The law applies to intimate piercings performed after 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018 and not before. The Act identifies 10 intimate body parts:
  - Anus – the external opening of the bowel
  - Breast - (including the nipple and areola) both male and female
  - Buttock
  - Natal cleft – the groove between the buttocks from just below the sacrum to the perineum
  - Penis (including the foreskin)
  - Perineum – the area between the anus and the scrotum in males and the anus and the vulva in females
  - Pubic Mound – tissue over the pubic bone above the genitalia
  - Scrotum
  - Tongue
  - Female genitalia – including the vulva and clitoris
4. Local Authorities are the primary enforcement bodies but police may also be involved.
  - If a professional becomes aware that a child has had an intimate body piercing or that, someone has arranged for it to happen (even if it did not go ahead) **then children’s services within the Local Authority should be informed.**
  - If a professional becomes aware someone has arranged for a child to have an intimate body piercing **101 should be contacted.**