Paedophile living yards from school

By Norman Williams

In Llanon has left parents fuming.

One anxious mother, who has asked not to be named, said: "If a person is on a register of sex offenders involving children, the people he is living amongst should be told."

We have been told nothing. The police are dragging their heels. At the least, a uniformed policeman should have visited the school to warn the children. They will take more notice of a policeman than of a teacher.

The warning given to children at Llanon Primary School on Friday, when teachers gave youngsters "general" safety advice.

Head teacher Hazel Morgan said: "I spoke to the Education department about rumours circulating the village. I was advised to reiterate 'general rules' on child safety."

"But as yet (Thursday), I have not had any official notification of the presence of a convicted sex offender in Llanon."

Chief Inspector Brian Wyley, based at Aberystwyth police station, would only say: "A meeting of the Public Protection Committee has taken place. A certain course of action will be carried out with a view to a person living in the Ceredigion area."

A Public Protection Committee "risk assessment" meeting is attended by police, probation officers, social services and education department representatives.

But on Monday, Ceredigion's Director of Education Roger Williams said he was "not aware of any meeting concerning this particular case."

And although he promised to make inquiries and contact the Ceredigion News, no further call was received.

Francis is living in a rented cottage with his 72-year-old mother, who moved there last summer.

He added: "I would dearly love to start to make up to society for what I have taken out of it in the past."

"I understand why parents are concerned. I am fully prepared to make concessions if I know what is acceptable."

Francis says that he does not leave the house when the children are going to, or from, school. And he only walks his dogs when the children are in school.

He said: "I owe that to the parents. And when school holidays come around, I'll walk the dogs early morning, or late at night."

Francis is "on licence" for 12 months. Regular meetings with his Probation Officer are a condition. After that period, the meetings are voluntary. But he insists they will continue.

"Between my prison sentences - a gap of over three years - I found Christ. I'm hoping it can help me find a new life."

At Cern Lynny, he is producing tapes of hymnal music, including his own compositions.

I want to make a future by creating a Christian ministry run from my home in Llanon. People will make up their own minds, whatever I say."

"But the bad times are behind me. I want this to be a new start. My mother needs looking after, and that is very important to me."

"I would love to be a church goer. But it's not possible at the moment. But I can get Fellowship in other ways - the church is about people, not a building."

"Now I'm desperately hoping this Welsh community will show me its Christian nature."