

Child Exploitation & Online Grooming



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In the fight against child abuse
we all have a role to play.
Any act, big or small can make a real
difference to a child and create a safer
society for all children

Understanding How Children Are Exploited



Child Exploitation normally follows three stages.

- **Recruitment.** This can take various forms but can be described as a grooming process. ...
- **Control.** This is an essential element in the process as it establishes the dominance of the perpetrator over the victim. ...
- **Exploitation.**



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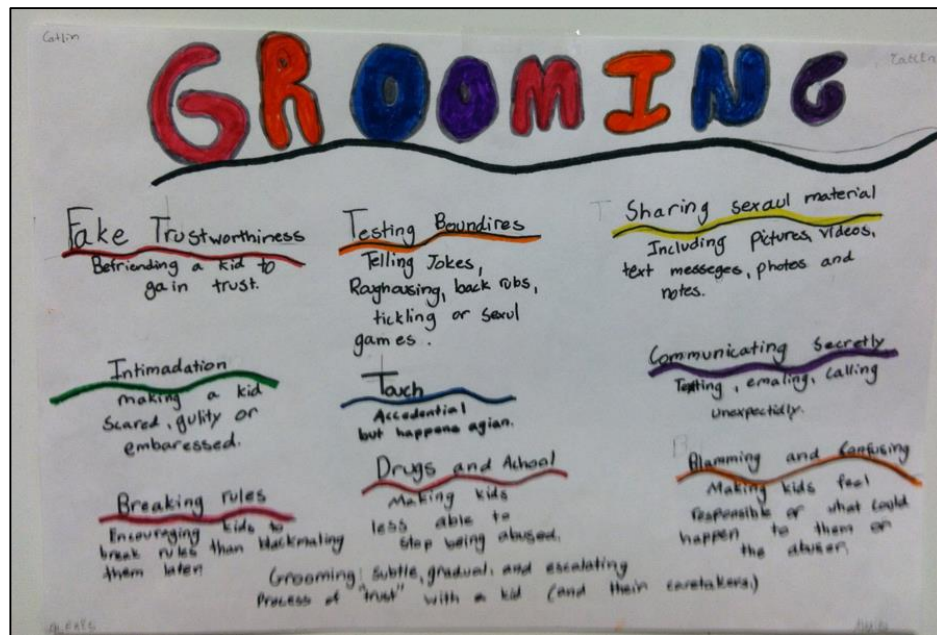
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The Six Stages of Grooming



The Six Stages of Grooming

1. Targeting a Victim.
2. Gaining Trust.
3. Filling a Need.
4. Isolating the Child.
5. Sexual or Criminal Contact.
6. Maintaining Control.



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The extent of children's use of messaging services:

Nine out of ten children aged between 8-17 are using messenger services.

60% of 8-year-olds and 90% of 12-year-olds reported using a messaging app with an age restriction of 13 or older.

Almost one in ten children report using a messaging service to talk to people they don't already know.

One in six girls aged 14-17 reported having received something distressing from a stranger via a private message.

1 in 20 children say they have shared videos or photos of themselves with strangers.

Over a third of 8-10-year-olds and over half of 11-13-year olds admit that they have said they were older than they were in order to sign up to an online messaging service.



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Who is at risk?

Any child can be at risk of being groomed, regardless of age, gender, race or location.

Some children may be more at risk due to other vulnerabilities and disabilities.

For example, Children with SEND (Special Education Needs and Disabilities) could be more at risk if they lack the necessary understanding and education needed to think critically about online contact.

They may also lack the communication skills needed to access support from trusted adults and to use online reporting tools.

Also LGBT children, as some of them turn to the internet to get help.



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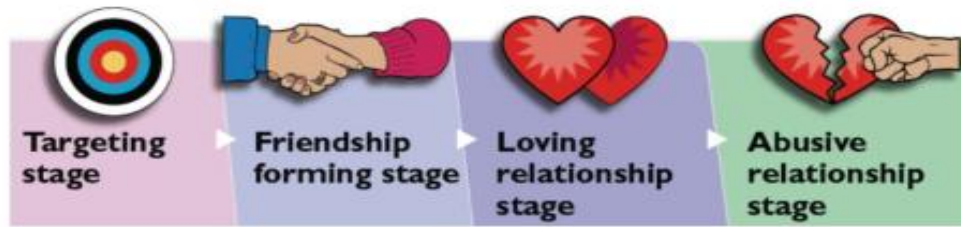
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What is Online Exploitation & Grooming:

Online Exploitation - an individual or a group using online platforms to take advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual and/or criminal activity that can occur both online and offline.



Online Grooming – The act of developing a relationship with a child to enable their abuse and exploitation both online and offline.

Online platforms, such as online gaming, social media, messaging and live streaming, can be used to do this.



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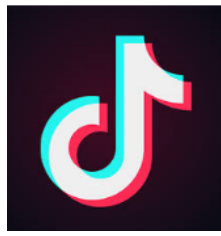
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Tik Tok
Creative Media



YouTube



Digital Vaults
keep certain files
and photos hidden



Instagram
Social Media



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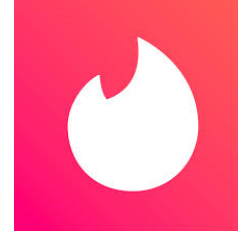


17+ age restriction

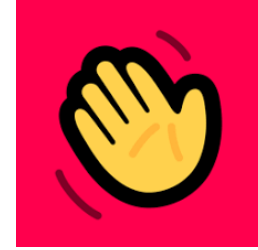
Special themed events allow kids to earn real-world cash by racking up likes. They can also spend real money in the app. Likee is free



WhatsApp



Tinder



House Party
Group Video Chat



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OnlyFans is a
content
subscription
service



Tellonym
Anonymous
Messaging



Snap Chat



Hot or Not Strangers rate a users attractiveness with the aim of real world meet ups in your local area.



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Omegle – Talk to strangers! *The Internet is full of cool people; Omegle lets you meet them. When you use Omegle, we pick someone else at random so you can have a one-on-one chat.* Pretty self-explanatory why this is so inappropriate and dangerous for children to use!



Hoop - New friends on Snapchat 13+
Connects with [Snapchat](#) to allow users to "make new connections" - in other words, meet strangers. Teens link their Snap profiles and enter personal details (age and gender) and choose a few pictures to feature. Then they review images of other users, choosing to "X" those they are not interested in or requesting Snap info for those they are.
Just as with Snapchat streaks, users earn points and gems for activity, like giving out their Snap and logging in daily or viewing videos or taking surveys



Twitch is the world's leading live streaming platform for gamers and the things we love. Watch and chat now with millions of other fans from around the world



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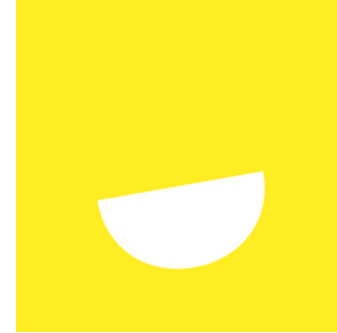


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Discord is the easiest way to talk over voice, video, and text. Talk, chat, hang out, and stay close with your friends and communities. With the right privacy settings and monitoring, it's easy to use Discord safely. However, there's always a risk when it comes to sites and apps with open chat. The safest way to use **Discord** is to only accept friend requests and participate in private servers with people you already know.

Yellow or Yopo targets guys and girls who are 13- to 17-year-old who are looking to connect with other kids their age. ... Because unlike Tinder, Yellow has no checks in place to verify ages, meaning any stranger can add your child. And vice versa. That means photos can be exchanged — even if two people have never physically met



Reddit is an American social news aggregation, web content rating, and discussion website. Registered members submit content to the site such as links, text posts, images, and videos, which are then voted up or down by other members.



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“In this open-world action game, players assume the role of three criminals whose storylines intersect within the fictional city of Los Santos. Players can switch between each character to follow his storyline, completing missions that often include criminal activities (e.g., stealing cars, executing heists, assassinating targets).

The game includes depictions of sexual material/activity: implied fellatio and masturbation; various sex acts that the player’s character procures from a prostitute—while no nudity is depicted in these sequences, different sexual moaning sounds can be heard.”



Call of Duty is one of the most successful game franchises of all time. Players love it for its realism, humor, movie-quality clips, and thriving multiplayer community. But since its first release in 2003, the game has become increasingly violent.

Though Common Sense Media recommends the game only for adults or very mature teens, we know lots of younger teens -- and even tweens -- play it.

There are many titles, as well as apps, in the Call of Duty collection. If your kid is interested in the game, find out which version, and read the full Common Sense review



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Games



12+ frequent scenes of mild violence.

Roblox offers parental controls that allow for a selection of chat options (no chat, chat with friends, chat with everyone), account **age** visibility (13+ or <13), an account PIN code feature, and an Account Restrictions setting that only allows children under 13 to access a curated list of **age-appropriate** games



for 7+ up to 13+ depending on which version of the game you are playing.



This is a *game* for kids ages 13 and up because it contains very graphic things

PEGI ratings



- PEGI 3- completely clean, nothing offensive
- PEGI 7- can contain **non-realistic violence** against non-human characters
- PEGI 12- Some **swear words** allowed. More **non-realistic violence** towards human characters, however **realistic violence allowed towards** non-human characters (no blood). Some **sexual content** allowed.
- PEGI 16- May **glamorise crime** or **use of illegal substances**. More **offensive swearing** allowed. Can show **blood** and **more detailed injury** towards human characters
- PEGI 18- As above and also features **sexual violence and depictions of sex with visible genitalia**. **Gross violence** including **dismemberment, decapitation and torture** and can feature **motiveless mass killing**

What to do:

Children and young people have grown up in an interconnected world. Online and offline experiences are equally real and valid. Talk to young people about being safe online. Let them know they can talk to you about anything they're worried about or experiencing.

Listen to them, don't dismiss their experiences or get angry if they tell you something concerning.

Practical tips:

- Check games content and features (Is it appropriate? Will they have online access?)
- Use privacy and parental controls.
- Turn location settings off.



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What to do:

Make an agreement about use and time online and stick to it.

Talk about:

- Some people may pretend to be someone else.
- The risks of giving personal data to anyone online (eg address, photo, school, bank details).
- The danger of meeting up with someone who they met online in the real world.
- Always telling a trusted adult if they are planning to do this and how to be safe.
- Share the same curiosity for online friends as you would for offline friends.



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Reporting grooming

If you are at all concerned by the way someone is behaving towards a child online, particularly if you suspect this person to be an adult, it is important to report it straight away.

Reports can be made to the [CEOP](#) who is part of the National Crime Agency.



Support for parents and carers of children who have been or are at risk of exploitation can be found at [PACE](#) (parents against child exploitation) – Tel: 0113 240 5226.

Child sexual abuse content found online should be reported to the [Internet Watch Foundation](#) (IWF).



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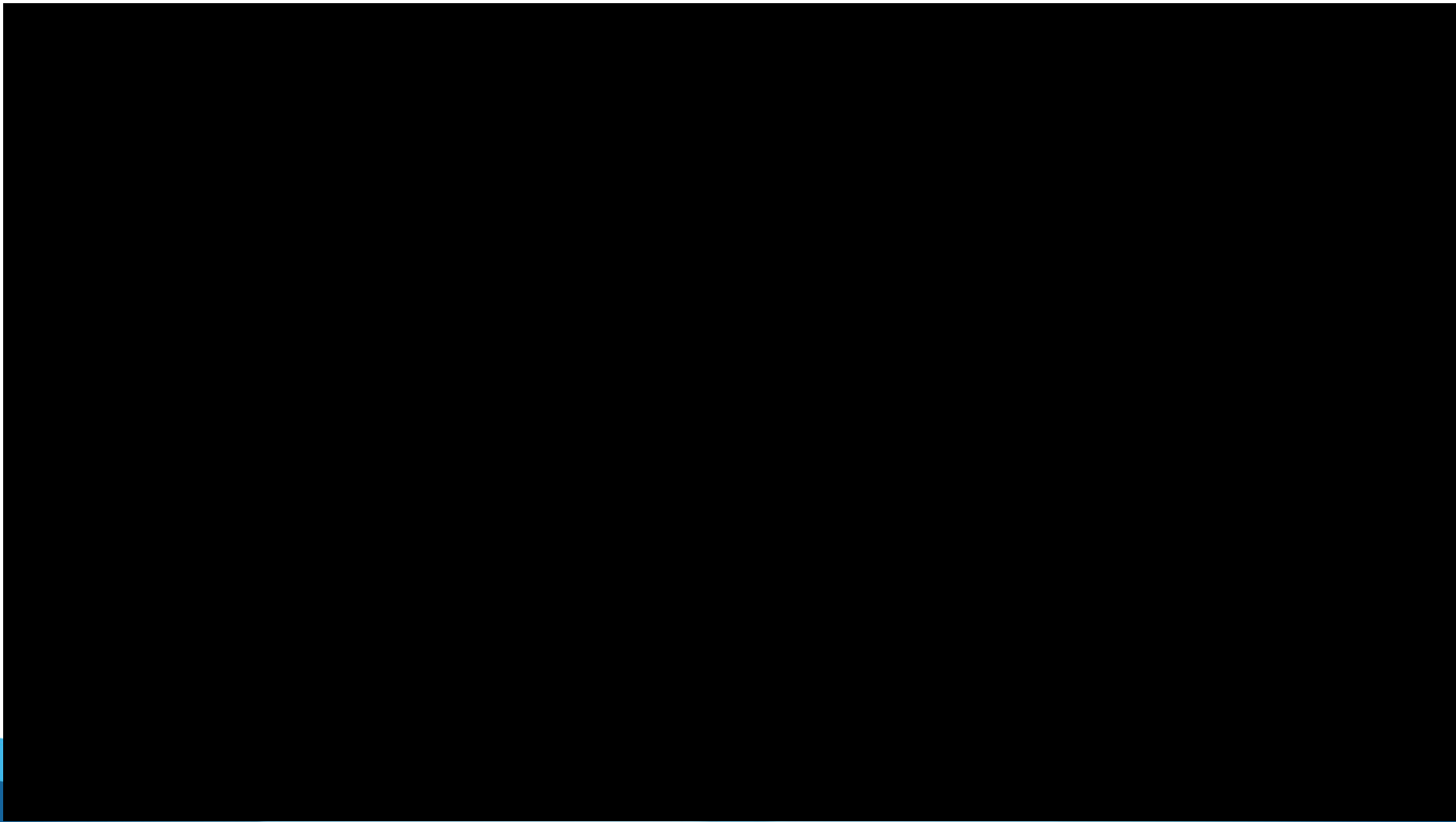
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**internet
matters.org**



National Cyber
Security Centre
a part of GCHQ



**National
Online
Safety®**

Net Aware)))

O₂ 😊 NSPCC

Let's keep kids safe online



**common
sense
media**

What is Sexual Exploitation

Sexual exploitation is an act or acts committed through non-consensual abuse or exploitation of another person's sexuality for the purpose of sexual gratification, financial gain, personal benefit or advantage, or any other non-legitimate purpose.

What is Criminal exploitation:

Criminal exploitation is a form of modern slavery that sees victims being forced to work under the control of highly organised **criminals** in activities such as forced begging, shoplifting and pickpocketing, cannabis cultivation, drug dealing and financial **exploitation**



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Which children get exploited?

Any child can be sexually or criminally exploited but...



Most children who become victimised have pre-existing vulnerabilities that perpetrators recognise and exploit:

- Unmet emotional need for affection, advocacy and interest;
- Low self esteem and lack of self-worth
- Compromised sexual boundaries (usually as a result of previous sexual abuse)
- Availability through absence from education or care;
- Conflict with parents or carers
- Existing drug or alcohol abuse
- Risk taking behaviour
- Learning difficulty or disability



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STOP

The truth about county lines...Shhhhhh

- People involved in county lines.....Don't call it "County Lines"!
- If you are going into a major city you say you are "Going long".
- If you are coming from a major city into a place like Margate you are "Going country"
- "Going country" or "going long" CAN mean moving a phone line along. However, it can also be the movement of drugs, weapons and people.
- How much is your phone worth?
- Drug dealers will rob the people they have sent country to bond them.
- Going country is one of the most profitable jobs within gang culture.
- Almost all young people will have said that they will never "go country", due to how risky it is , before they do.



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Drug gangs on 'recruitment drive' during lockdown

Drug gangs have been on a "recruitment drive" during lockdown, targeting vulnerable children and increasingly girls, according to a report.

They are being groomed to carry drugs, because they are unknown to police, the National Youth Agency says. And social media and "unsafe outdoor spaces" are being used to recruit them.

The children's commissioner for England warned with schools and youth clubs closed, thousands of vulnerable young people had "simply gone off the radar". "Lockdown removed many of the usual ways of identifying children at risk of being exploited by gangs,"

The National Youth Agency report, based on responses from youth workers on the ground, is the first detailed examination of drug gangs during lockdown.



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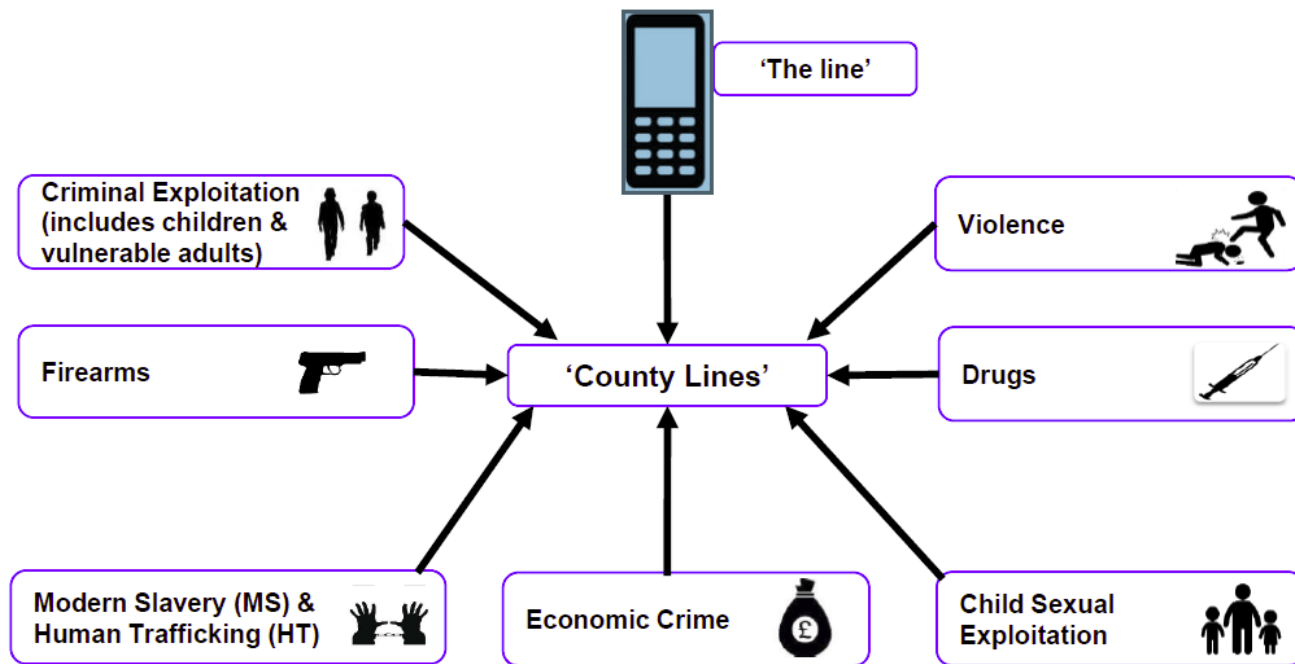
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Features of 'County Lines'

'County Lines' is not solely a drugs issue as it cross cuts a number of other thematic areas and crime types, including:



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Grooming process

Target

- Observing children
- Finding out their vulnerabilities, needs and wants
- Gaining and developing trust
- Manipulating children to recruit them
- Glamorising their lifestyle
- Sharing information with others in the group

Test

- Test out children's loyalty
- Offer them protection
- Give a sense of belonging
- Might create a dependency
- Introduce them to more established members
- Ask for favours
- Ask to recruit others

Trap

- Experiences of physical, sexual and psychological violence
- Trafficking
- Humiliation & control
- Reinforced dependency
- Blackmail
- Debt bondage
- Isolation from family, friends and society

Signs that a young or vulnerable person is being groomed:

- They have a new group of friends
- Using new language
- Appear to have new clothes, shoes, phones and cash
- They start to skip school
- They become secretive
- Their behaviour changes, maybe they have become emotional, withdrawn, aggressive and they start staying out after and later not talking about where they go or who with
- Start to appear with unexplained injuries or you think they may have started carrying a weapon

CrimeS
Speak up. Stop it.

Who is committing these crimes?



Perpetrators of Child Exploitation may be:

- ❖ An adult or another young person
- ❖ Male or female
- ❖ Any ethnicity
- ❖ Visible in everyday life
- ❖ Articulate, plausible and 'savvy'
- ❖ Gangs
- ❖ It is important to note that not all perpetrators of child sexual exploitation will involve money or gifts when they exploit young people.



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MYTH

Perpetrators of child sexual exploitation are usually older men.

FACT

There is no typical perpetrator, and CSE is often committed by another young person.

Why children don't tell

- ❖ They have felt ashamed or embarrassed.
- ❖ They weren't sure how to talk about it or couldn't find a space to.
- ❖ They were worried about how other people might respond and what was going to happen.

***Behaviours should be
our disclosures...***

They may have thought:

- 'I might be seen as *different*.'
- 'This is going to cause problems in my family/community/school.'
- 'I may be taken away from home.'
- 'I don't want the police or social services involved in my life.'
- 'I don't want the abuser to get in trouble' (because of feelings of loyalty, love, fear etc).
- 'I'm going to be blamed.'
- 'Images will be found which I'm embarrassed about.'
- 'I won't be believed.'
- 'I won't be taken seriously.'
- 'He/she is going to hurt or embarrass me or my family or someone else.'



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Prevention awareness

- **Police**

- new recruits – officers and Pcsos
- Intelligence Department
- Comms
- IRIS and IMPACT team
- Safeguarding team
- Neighbourhood Teams

- **Secondary schools**

- Year 7 to year 12
- Staff
- Parents

- **Primary Schools**

- Year 3 and 6
- Staff
- Parents

- Faith Groups
- Hotels
- Taxi Drivers
- Night Time economy
- Voluntary organisations
- YMCA's, Foyers,
- Housing providers
- Private Landlords
- Communities

- Local Authorities (organising workshops) / Various Departments
- Hospital and health professionals
- Public Awareness days (high streets, parks, etc)
- Security staff (clubs, hospitals, hotels etc)
- Children's Homes (children and staff)



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