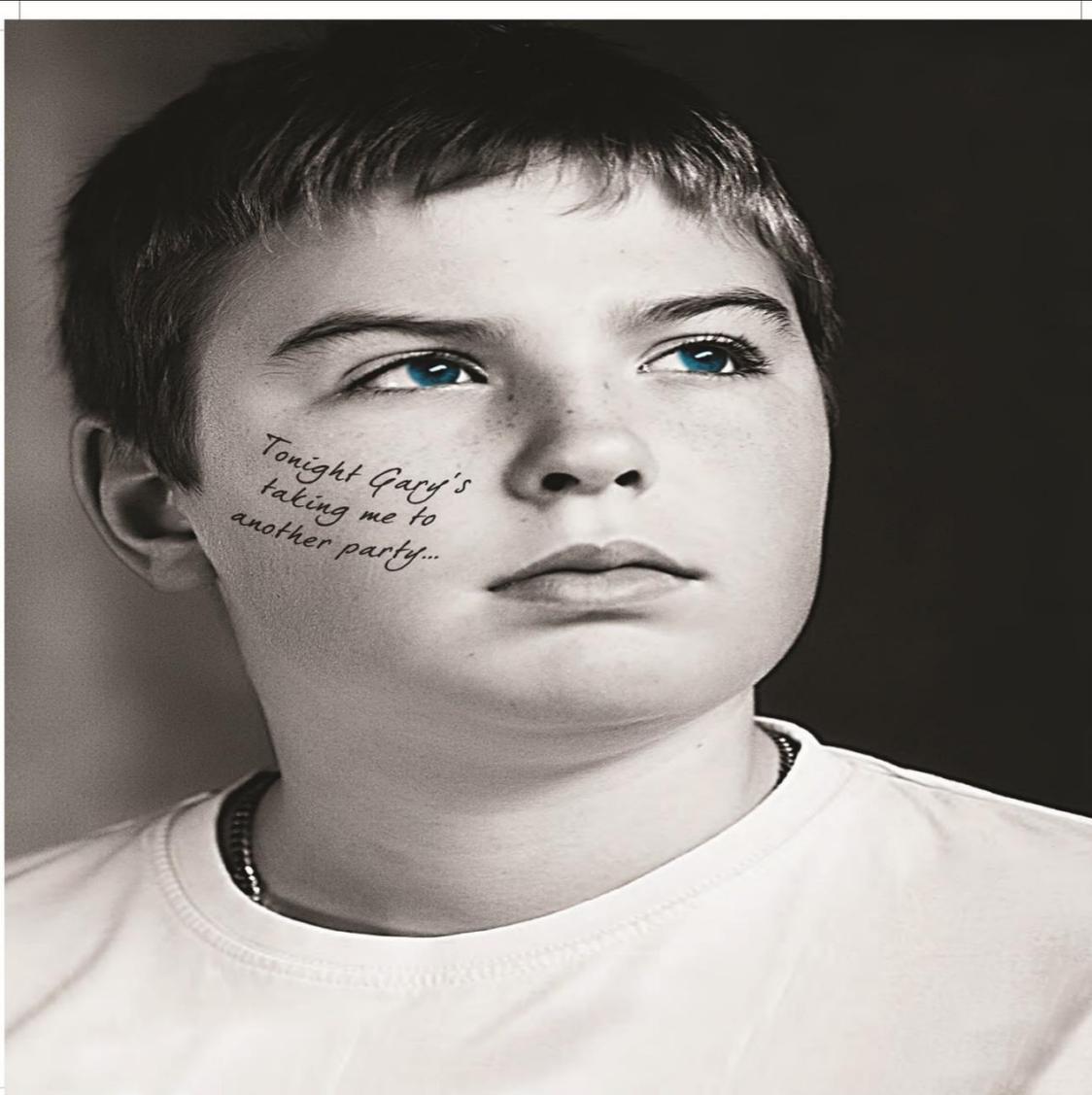


# Recognising Grooming and CSE



What you need to know about Targeting, Grooming and Child Sexual Exploitation

A Guide for Parents

# Aims:

- **Understand Child Sexual Exploitation**
- **Understand the term Grooming**
  - **Recognise the signs**
- **Understanding Consent to sex**
- **How to help prevent CSE**
  - **Where to go for help**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w6vYbZSUL5U> – Jay' Story

# What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

- **... a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.**

# Child Sexual Abuse:

- can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to have sex;
- can still be abuse even if the sexual activity appears consensual;
- can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity;
- can take place in person or via technology, or a combination of both;
- can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
- may occur without the child or young person's immediate knowledge (through others copying videos or images they have created and posting on social media, for example);
- can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and children or adults. The abuse can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time, and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse; and
- is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the abuse. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

# Why more CSE and Grooming awareness?

1. How many sexual crimes against children are reported each year?

- a. 9,598      b. 24,594      c. 36,429

2. What is the average age of victims of CSE?

- a. 13      b. 14      c. 16

4. How many children at risk of CSE (2013)

- a. 3,500      b. 12,875      c. 16,500

Data from eyesopen.org.uk based on NSPCC data, Barnados and Scottish Report

## National Picture:

- High profile cases – Oxford, Rotherham
- Increase in recorded sexual offences by 26 per cent ('Yew Tree effect') (Police data published by NSPCC)
- Contacts to Childline have more than doubled since 2009/10
- 2,409 known victims (Children's Commissioner report, 2013)
- 16,500 at risk of CSE involving gangs and groups
- (Children's Commissioner report, 2013)
- [Three Girls – drama shown on BBC](#) (May, 2017)

# Grooming:

## What is it?

Grooming is when someone convinces a child that they are a safe and trustworthy person for the purpose of sexually exploiting them. A child will not always understand this is happening.

This can be through a friendship or a boyfriend/girlfriend through **manipulation** - "A relationship"

**Can take place face to face or online e.g.**

**X BOX/gaming**

**phones**

**social networking (1 million children under the age of 13 use social networking every day)**

**Can make contact at:**

**Parties**

**Street/public area**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m838irSbQk0> – Thistle DVD

# The grooming line



## Targeting stage

- Observing the child/ young person
- Selection of child/ young person
- Befriending – being nice, giving gifts, caring, taking an interest, giving compliments, etc
- Gaining and developing trust
- Sharing information about young people between other abusive adults

## Friendship forming stage

- Making young people feel special
- Giving gifts and rewards
- Spending time together
- Listening and remembering
- Keeping secrets
- Being there for them
- 'No-one understands you like I do'; being their best friend
- Testing out physical contact – accidental touching
- Offering protection

## Loving relationship stage

- Being their boyfriend/girlfriend
- Establishing a sexual relationship
- Lowering their inhibitions – eg showing them pornography
- Engaging them in forbidden activities – eg going to clubs, drinking, taking drugs
- Being inconsistent – building up hope and then punishing them

## Abusive relationship stage

- Becomes an 'unloving' sexual relationship
- Withdrawal of love and friendship
- Reinforcing dependency on them – stating young person is 'damaged goods'
- Isolation from family and friends
- Trickery and manipulation – 'you owe me'
- Threatening behaviour
- Physical violence
- Sexual assaults
- Making them have sex with other people
- Giving them drugs
- Playing on the young person's feeling of guilt, shame and fear

# A focus on targeting...

## What the offender does...

- Observes the child/young person, usually with a number of others – either online or offline
- Selection of child young person
- Be-friending - being nice, giving gifts, caring, taking an interest, giving compliments, etc
- Gaining and developing trust
- Sharing information about young people between other abusive adults

# How can you spot a child being targeted:

## Behaviour:

- Being defensive about where they have been and what they have been doing
- Becoming involved in criminality/repeat offending
- Volatile/criminal behaviour
- Use of the internet that causes concern including possible use of web cam
- Cruelty to animals (power imbalance)
- Increased use of online gaming including Xbox
- Regularly coming home late or going missing overnight or longer
- Returning home after long intervals but appearing well cared for
- Isolated from peers and social networks; not mixing with their usual friend
- Breakdown of residential placements due to behaviour
- Sexting' (the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photographs, primarily between mobile phones)

# How can you spot a child being targeted:

## Appearance:

- Change in physical appearance-
- New clothes,
- More make up
- Less make up
- Weight loss
- Weight gain
- Marks or scars on body
- Covering parts of their body
- Trying to conceal marks or scars by refusing to undress
- Overt/under sexualised dress

# How can you spot a child being targeted:

## Physical and Mental Health:

- Having increased health/sexual health related problems
- Expressions of despair:
- Self harm
- Overdose
- Eating disorder
- Suicidal tendencies
- Looking tired / ill
- Sleeping during the day

# Child Sexual Exploitation is child abuse

Perpetrators of CSE recognise vulnerability, and develop exploitative relationships; further compounding the child's vulnerability.

A child may think they are in a consensual relationship because they get affection, attention or gifts in sex.

Relationships that appear to be "loving" can change significantly, so that the child experiences fear, deception, coercion or violence. They are not in control. They have no choice.

Victims:

- Any child of any age
  - Any background
- Any gender or sexual orientation
  - Any vulnerability

# Child Sexual Exploitation

Because they are targeted when they're young, most victims:

- Don't understand what **a healthy relationship is**
  - May **fail to recognise** they are being abused
- May feel forced to **send sexual images** of themselves or have sex
- Most perpetrators:
  - **Use their power** – physical, financial, emotional-  
over the child to sexually and emotionally abuse

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=24&v=EX3oowflZvE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=24&v=EX3oowflZvE) – Parent Awareness

# Consent to sex

**Myth : Children and young people are not being exploited if they are 16 or over.**

**Reality:** It can take place even when the victim can legally consent to sex - if their ability to give consent is affected by influence of drugs, threats of violence, grooming or a power imbalance between victim and perpetrator. This is why a 16- or 17-year-old can be sexually exploited even though they are old enough to consent to sexual activity.

# Consent to sex

- **Someone consents only if they agree by** choice and they have the freedom and capacity to make that choice.
- Consent can be **withdrawn at any time** during sexual activity and each time activity occurs.
- Whilst it is accepted that most adolescents become sexually active in their teens, **the legal age of consent is 16.**
- Sex with a **child of 12 or under is statutory rape.**
- Can still be exploited even if they say yes -whatever their age

# Consent to sex

## Someone cannot agree to sex if they are:

- Under the influence of drink or drugs
- Asleep or unconscious
- Suffering from a medical condition, mental health problem or have a learning disability
- Old enough to consent (16+)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGoWLWS4-kU> – Consent Video

# How to help prevent Grooming and CSE:

- Talk to your children about healthy relationships
- Children and young people need to know they can talk to you about anything. Take the time to talk them about what a normal healthy relationship is and what they can do to help protect themselves if they are in a difficult situation.
- It's important to realise that children are not to blame, no matter how bad things may seem. They have been cruelly manipulated by criminals.
- Remember, offenders rely on victims feeling shame or guilt to keep them silent.

When talking with you children make sure you:

- ✓ Show them positive attention
- ✓ Ask them about what they are getting up to and who their friends are
  - ✓ If you are worried, tell them why
    - ✓ Listen, don't judge
    - ✓ Do not to shout or argue
- ✓ Reassure them that it is ok to talk to another trusting adult if they cannot talk to you

# Take an interest in what your child's doing online

- The modern digital landscape isn't without its risks. Not everyone behaves as they should, or is who they say they are.
- 78% of 12 to 15 year olds and 31% of 8 to 11 year olds own a mobile phone. Most have the freedom to access anyone through many different online platforms. That also means that many people can access them, often anonymously. More children are at risk from online sexual abusers than ever before.
- Children and teenagers like to share all sorts of pictures and information in chatrooms and on all sorts of websites and mobile apps - sometimes with people they've never actually met.
- Many young people also don't distinguish between "friends" on the internet and offline – and they can't just "turn it off." They can be seriously harmed from abuse online. Often this abuse can connect to offline abuse. For example, grooming, taking pictures and sending them illegally often involved online and offline abuse happening at the same time.

# Parent's View on CSE:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTZSH2ywL\\_I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTZSH2ywL_I)

- **Further Information, help and guidance:**
- If a child is at risk of immediate harm, you must call 999
- You can call 101 to report a crime or get advise
- There is also lots of other organisations that can offer help and support:
- Parents Against Child Exploitation (PACE) - Offers support to concerned or affected parents including an online advice centre.
- CHILDLINE - Visit [childline.org.uk](http://childline.org.uk) to have an online chat with a counsellor - or call free and confidentially on 0800 1111
- NSPCC - Advice and support - 0808 800 5000
- National CSE Helpline - A new 24/7 helpline for people to call or text anonymously - 116 000
- CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) - Keeping safe online – information for children, teachers and adults - 0870 000 3344
- Parent Info - Provides high quality information to parents and carers.
- This is Abuse - information on abusive relationships for teenagers
- CEOP's Think You Know? offers advice to parents of children at primary and secondary school, including how to talk to your child.
- Barnardo's - For support call 0121 359 5333
- Barnardo's Real Love Rocks - Information and resources to talk to children about what a healthy relationship is