

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, INCLUDING GROOMING

WHO ARE YOU REALLY
TALKING TO?

What is grooming?

- ▣ Grooming is when someone builds a relationship, trust and emotional connection with a child or young person so they can manipulate, exploit and abuse them.
- ▣ Children and young people who are groomed can be sexually abused, exploited or trafficked.
- ▣ Anybody can be a groomer, no matter their age, gender or race.

What is grooming?

- ▣ Grooming can take place over a short or long period of time – from weeks to years. Groomers may also build a relationship with the young person's family or friends to make them seem trustworthy or authoritative.

HOW CAN FAKE IDENTITIES LEAD TO ONLINE GROOMING?

sexual exploitation

- ▣ Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse.
- ▣ When a child or young person is exploited they're given things, like gifts, drugs, money, status and affection, in exchange for performing sexual activities.
- ▣ Children and young people are often tricked into believing they're in a loving and consensual relationship.
- ▣ This is called grooming. They may trust their abuser and not understand that they're being abused.

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

WHAT WERE THE SIGNS?

Types of child sexual exploitation

- ▣ CSE can happen in person or online.

- ▣ An abuser will gain a child's trust or control them through violence or blackmail before moving onto sexually abusing them. This can happen in a short period of time.

- ▣ When a child is sexually exploited online they might be persuaded or forced to:
 - send or post sexually explicit images of themselves
 - film or stream sexual activities
 - have sexual conversations.

Types of child sexual exploitation

- ▣ Once an abuser has images, video or copies of conversations, they might use threats and blackmail to force a young person to take part in other sexual activity.
- ▣ They may also share the images and videos with others or circulate them online.

Types of child sexual exploitation

- ▣ Gangs use sexual exploitation:
 - to exert power and control
 - for initiation
 - to use sexual violence as a weapon.

- ▣ Children or young people might be invited to parties or gatherings with others their own age or adults and given drugs and alcohol.

- ▣ They may be assaulted and sexually abused by one person or multiple perpetrators. The sexual assaults and abuse can be violent, humiliating and degrading.

Help with CSE

Children and young people can contact:

- ▣ Fearless to report crime anonymously - <https://www.fearless.org/>
- ▣ Gangline for free advice and support from ex-gang members - <https://www.gangline.com/>
- ▣ Victim Support if they've experienced crime. - <https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/get-help>
- ▣ CEOP - <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>