

# 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

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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/>