

# THE FULL STORY

childline



# What to expect from the event

## 3 key takeaways

- 1) Increase your understanding of CSE
- 2) Learn about Childline's 'The Full Story' Campaign
- 3) Knowledge of the tools and resources that can help you

# Speaker Lineup

- Health & Social Care Trust CSE Lead
- PSNI
- Childline



**Safeguarding**



**Self-care**



**Housekeeping**





# Overview

- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of **Child Sexual Abuse** involving coercion, manipulation, or deception.
- It occurs both **online** and **offline** and often involves an imbalance of power
- Victims are **persuaded or forced** into sexual activities in exchange for gifts, money, drugs or affection



# Overview

- Girls and young women are the majority of victims, average **age of concerns first identified at 12-15.**
- **Increase in 8 to 11-year-olds** being exploited, particularly online.
- **Over 6,000 Childline counselling sessions** in 2023/24 related to CSA/E
- **More than 9,000 Child welfare contacts** to NSPCC Helpline regarding CSA/E
- CSE often involves **blackmail, grooming, sexting or forced sexual acts.**



# Context

- **Gaps in strategic response:** Northern Ireland's 2014 Marshall Report called for a regional CSE strategy, but no strategy has been implemented.
- The 2020 CJINI report urged a **cross-departmental approach**, but progress remains slow.
- The **Children and Young People's Strategy (2020-2030)** acknowledges CSE as a priority but lacks urgent action.

**“I sent a nude to someone on Snapchat and now they’re demanding money or they’ll send the pictures to everyone at school. I don’t know how they worked out my school, I’m so scared.”** (Gender not specified, 14)

# Child Sexual Exploitation

PSNI

Public Protection Branch

 [psni.police.uk](https://psni.police.uk)

**Report online. Call 101. In an emergency call 999**

**we care  
we listen  
we act**



**Police Service**  
of Northern Ireland

# Definition

*Child sexual exploitation is 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.*



# Warning Signs

- Sexualised talk and clothing (not appropriate for their age)
- Love bites, bruising around neck and breasts
- Intoxication
- Associating with older person or group
- Gifts, especially mobile phones that they cannot account for. These aren't necessarily expensive, but perhaps unaffordable for the child.
- Food/alcohol/drugs bought by adults
- Getting taxis
- Frequenting hotels
- Frequent missing episodes, especially overnight stays.
- Secretive about friends and activities

**Do you know the truth about child sexual exploitation?**

**Myth:**

**Child sexual exploitation only happens to girls and young women.**

**Fact:**

**Child sexual exploitation can and does happen to boys and young men as well.**

**Do you know the truth about child sexual exploitation?**

**Myth:**

**Child sexual exploitation only happens to children in care homes.**

**Fact:**

**Child sexual exploitation can happen to any young person in the community.**

  
**psni.police.uk**

**we care  
we listen  
we act**



**Police Service**  
of Northern Ireland



**Do you know the truth about child sexual exploitation?**

**Myth:**

**Perpetrators of child sexual exploitation are all older men.**

**Fact:**

**Perpetrators of child sexual exploitation can be males and females of all ages.**



# Difficulties

- These are some of the most vulnerable members of our society, yet they are coming across as confident, even aggressive. Due to being groomed, they will present as consenting participants. This consent was most likely obtained through deceit! A child cannot legally consent until they are 16.
- We have a duty of care for them. Child safeguarding is everybody's business. However these children often do not want to be looked after.
- Parents can be uncooperative, unsupportive or might even place their children at risk of CSE. Be wary over contact with parents and check records, esp. if the child is in care.

# Perpetrators/Persons of Concern

## Definition of a Person Of Concern

A Person of Concern is a person, of any age or gender, who acts alone or within a group 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 activity in exchange for something the victim needs or wants.

# Trust Areas in Northern Ireland



# Child Sexual Exploitation Team

CSE has its own reporting structure. CSE officers are trained Child Abuse Investigators (Detective Constables)

What do we do?

- Identifying children who are most at risk
- Identifying those that pose a risk
- Raise awareness of sexual exploitation both within and outside the PSNI



# Disruption

- Briefings for local officers
- Use of cameras
- Targeting Properties
- Patrolling Locations of Concern
- Stop and Search Powers
- Information gathering
- Collaborative working among uniform, call handlers, custody, CSE and CAIU investigators
- Working with partner agencies e.g. health service, social services, probation officers
- Child Abduction Warning Notices (CAWN)
- POCAM process

- 'Trust your Gut'
- 'We can't do it alone'
- **Contact 101 to report an incident**
- **999 in an emergency**



**If you believe a  
young person is at  
risk from child  
sexual exploitation  
report it now.**

**Report online at [www.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)  
Or contact police by phoning 101  
or 999 in an emergency.**

  
**[psnipolice.uk](http://psnipolice.uk)**

**we care  
we listen  
we act**



**Police Service**  
of Northern Ireland

# Thank You

      [psni.police.uk](https://psni.police.uk)

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of Northern Ireland



# Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Gareth Miller  
SHSCT CSE LEAD

# CSE Definition

Child sexual exploitation is 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.

# Breakdown of CSE

- Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse.
- 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 will also occur through the use of technology.

# Understanding CSE

- Victims are both male and female
- 16/17 year olds, though legally able to consent to sexual activity, can also be sexually exploited
- It is still abuse, even if it appears consensual
- Children in Care, Children at home
- Can take place in person and via technology, or a combination of both



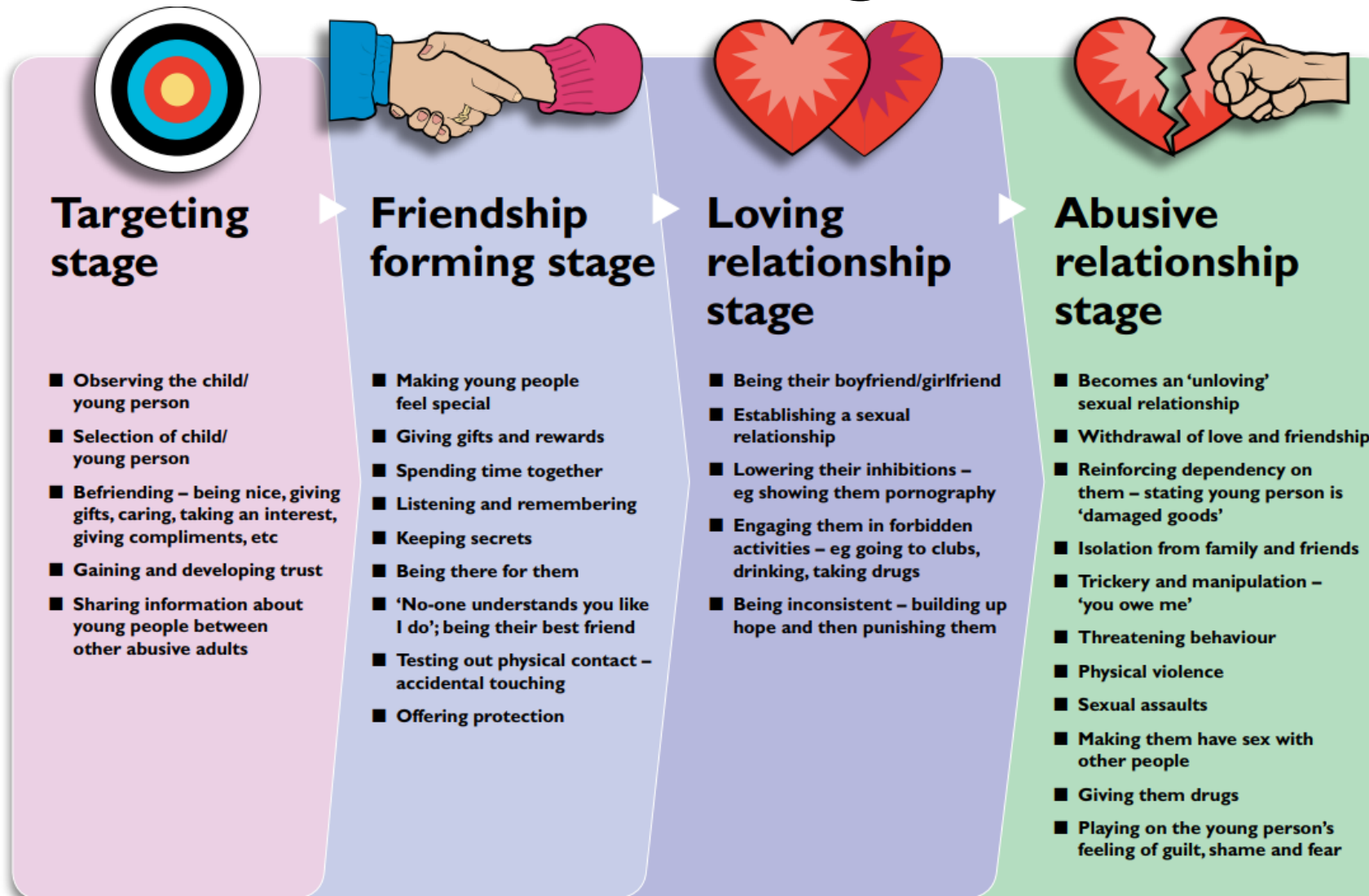
# Perpetrators of CSE

- Can be perpetrated by individuals or groups
- Males or females
- Peers or adults
- Can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time
- Can range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse

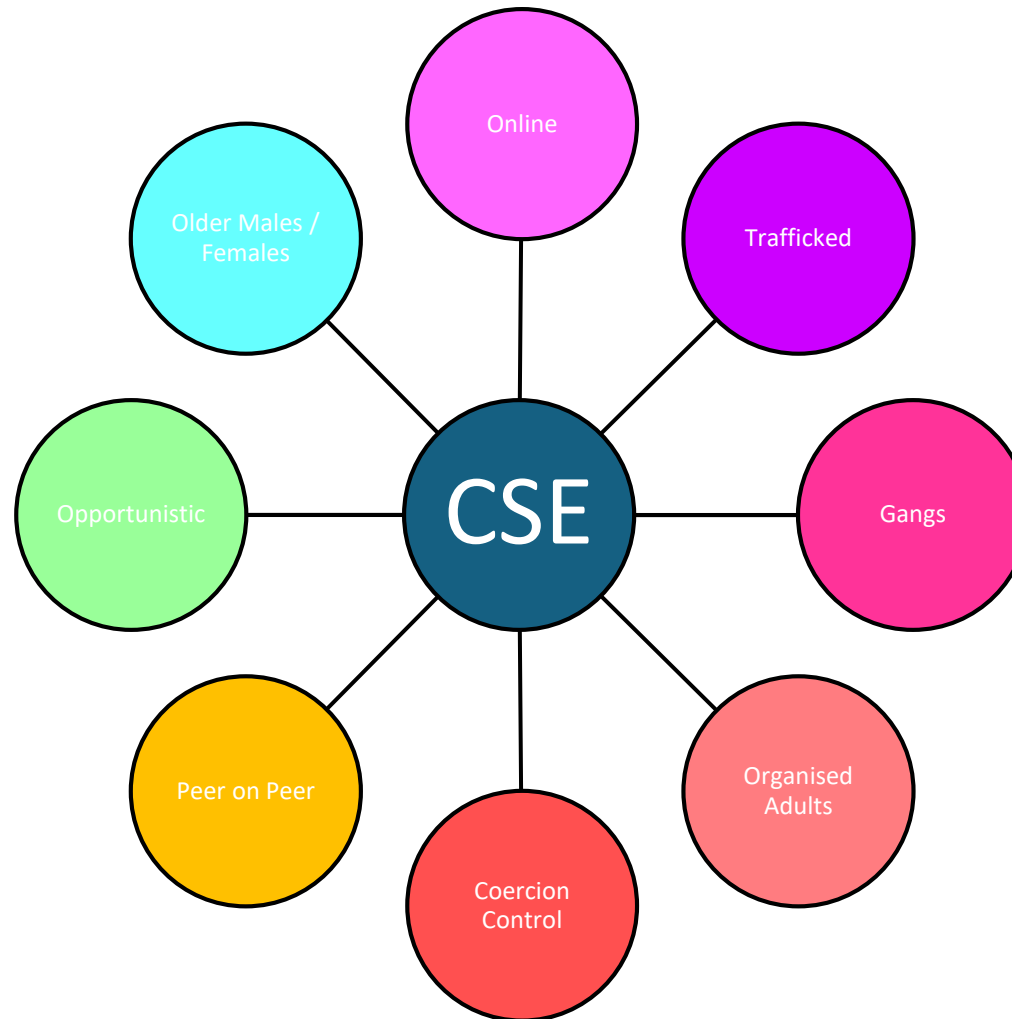
# Myths of CSE

- CSE is very rare and doesn't happen that much in Northern Ireland
- CSE only happens to girls and young women
- Young person is a willing participant in the grooming process
- The young person has control

# The Grooming Line



# Forms of CSE



# Indicators of CSE

Use of Alcohol or drugs without known funds	Going missing for periods of time including overnight	Stay out late	Unexplained money, gifts, clothes, mobile phones	Older boyfriends or girlfriends
Entering / leaving vehicles driven by unknown persons	Changes in appearance	Sexual health issues e.g. Pregnancy or bruising suggestive of physical or sexual assault	Unexplained injuries	Change in mood
Associating with other young people known to be at risk of exploitation	Homelessness and sofa surfing	LAC	Sudden change in type of clothing being worn	Inappropriate sexualized behavior
Gang association Carrying weapons	Webcam and internet use	Young People who are trafficked	History of neglectful and/or emotionally abusive care	Poor relationship with peers or family
Hotels	Hanging out in areas known to be risky	Changes in mood	Disengagement / exclusion from education	Party Houses



# Barriers to Disclosure

- The child has been groomed not to tell – shame, fear, being told to keep it a secret or believing they are to blame
- They might not recognise they are being groomed and may see the offender as a friend/boyfriend/girlfriend
- Additional challenges when it is online – easier for the offender to be secretive by lying about their age or identity
- Offenders often request indecent images to prevent disclosure. It is unlikely a child will tell you they have been abused online – **more likely to be discovered by somebody**

# Sexual Offences (NI) Order 2008

## Non-consensual sexual offences

- Article 5 – Rape
- Article 6 – Assault by penetration
- Article - Sexual Assault
- Article 8 – Causing a person to engage in sexual activity without consent.

## Rape and other offences against children under 13

- Article 12 – Rape of a child under 13
- Article 13 – Assault of a child under 13 by penetration
- Article 14 – Sexual assault of a child under 13
- Article 15 – Causing or inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity

# Reporting Concerns

- RESWS (Regional Emergency Social Work Service)
- PSNI
- NSPCC Childline Service
- Southern Trust Gateway Service



# Any Questions?



Gareth Miller  
SHSCT CSE Lead

Email:

[gareth.miller@southerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:gareth.miller@southerntrust.hscni.net)



# Childline

## THE FULL STORY

Together, we can raise awareness of Child Sexual  
Exploitation

**childline**  
A life-changing **NSPCC** service



# Content

## TODAY WE WILL COVER:

### **Information about Childline**

Understanding our unique confidentiality policy, how we work, and how you signpost young people to us.

### **Childline Online**

Understanding the range of online services Childline provides

### **Childline Statistics**

Some statistics on Childline and Child Sexual Exploitation

### **Childline Campaign**

Our Full Story CSE campaign and Behind the Screen, sexually coerced extortion campaign.

### **Report Remove**

Information on our Report Remove tool that can help young people get images/videos taken down online

# Raising awareness of Childline

Childline's confidentiality policy is what makes us unique

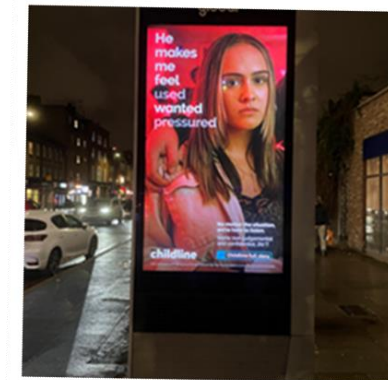
Here for all young people about anything

Childline has range of services we offer

Childline's Campaign work



Post on our message boards  
Get advice and support from other young people.



## OUR CONFIDENTIALITY PROMISE

Confidentiality means not telling anyone the things you've told us. And it means you can trust we'll keep things private

## INFO AND ADVICE

We're here for you, whatever's on your mind. We'll support you. Guide you. Help you make decisions that are right for you.

# How we do it

We tell young people **“its your Childline”**. Because it is. Its their world. A place where they can be themselves. Where they’re trusted and not judged. Where they’re listened to, understood and treated as an equal.

**Childline is all about providing every young person with the support they need. In the way that will work best for them.** We do this by offering support in three distinct ways:



## HELPING YOURSELF

We offer practical information and advice on a range of issues that young people can access in their own time, at their own pace.

## HELPING OTHERS

We facilitate sharing and talking between young people so they can help each other.

## GETTING HELP

We give them access to a trained counsellor, online or on the phone, who will listen carefully to everything they say and help them work through how they are feeling.



# Childline's Confidentiality Policy

## At Childline, our confidentiality policy is what makes us unique

At Childline our **confidentiality policy is what makes us unique and is different** to other organisations. In many instances we do not need to pass on disclosures that young people tell us unless it meets our confidentiality policy threshold.

Having a **higher level of confidentiality** allows a **safe space** for young people to come to about things they may not feel able to talk to other professionals about, due to fear of what they say being passed on.

Our confidentiality policy allows for a young people to have **more control** in what is shared and what happens in their lives. We work with young people to **empower them**, to **help them understand their choices**, and **advocate on their behalf** if they want or need us.

You can find out more about Childline on our [NSPCC Learning page](#)

**“The confidentiality promise made me less anxious to tell you about the issues at home, I feel so much better for sharing what’s going on and how I’m feeling”**

Girl, 14

## CONFIDENTIALITY AT CHILDLINE

Childline is a safe place to talk. Whenever you speak to us it's confidential and we won't tell other people what you've said. We only might need to say or do something if:

- you ask us to
- we believe your life or someone else's life is in danger
- you're being hurt by someone in a position of trust who is able to hurt other children like a teacher, religious leader, sports coach, police officer or doctor
- you tell us that you're seriously hurting another person
- you tell us about another child who's being hurt and is not able to tell someone or understand what is happening to them
- we're told we have to by law, for example for a court case.

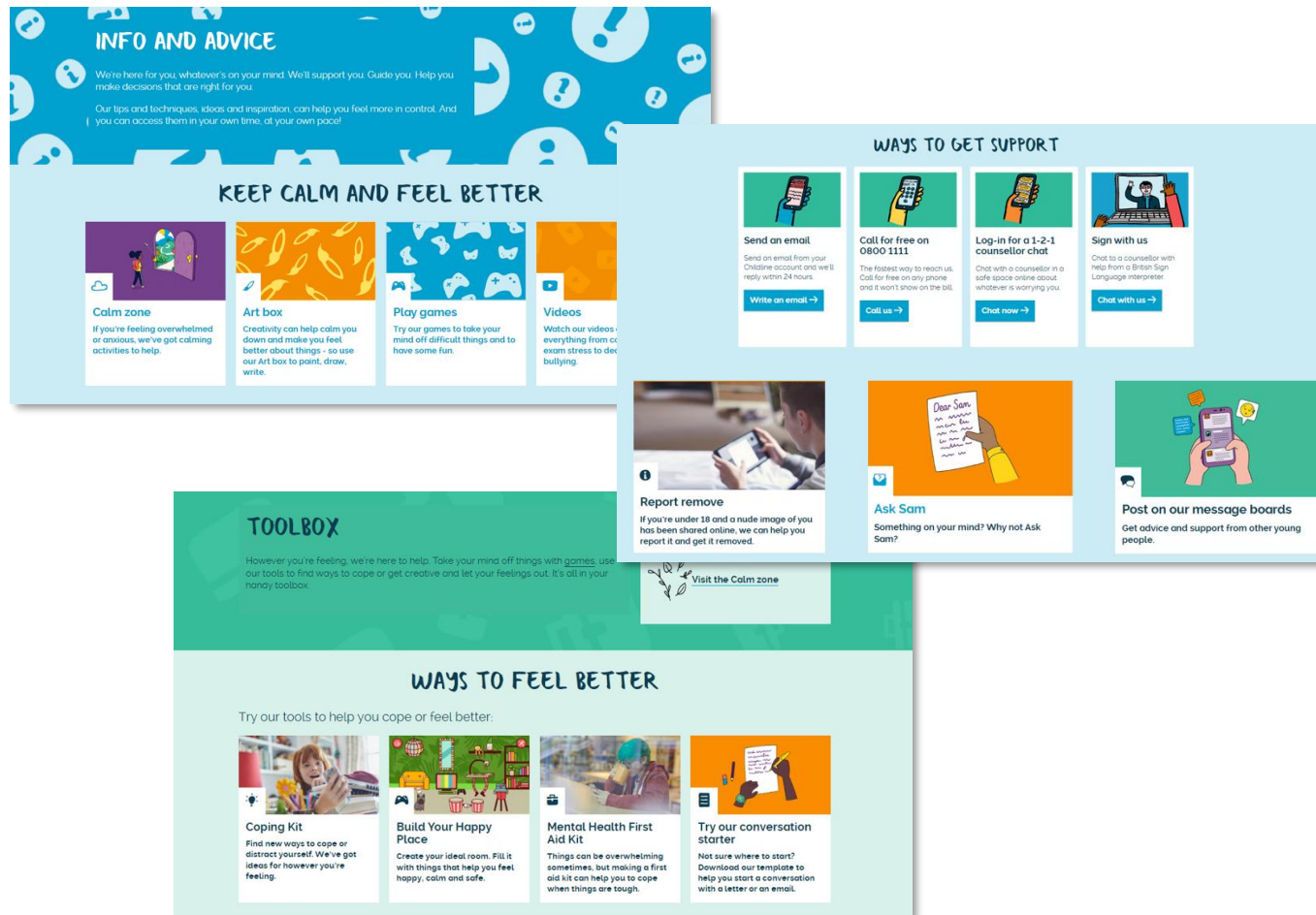


# About Childline



# Childline Online

The main Childline site, [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk), contains different sections from **information and advice** on a wide range of issues affecting young people, the people they live with and know; **peer support**; **self-help** and **creative outlets** to access to the Childline counsellors online. This is available **24/7** and is about offering young people **easily accessible resources** at any time.



## Resources

- The [message boards](#) are a public forum in which young people support each other with anything in their lives – from complex mental health issues to sharing their favourite recipes.
- [Ask Sam](#) is what may have traditionally been referred to as a problem page. Young people can submit a letter to “Sam” about anything at all.
- The [Calm Zone](#) has breathing exercises, activities, videos and games to help with stress.
- The [Coping Kit](#) Childline allows young people to try different, easily accessible things to help cope.
- The [Mental Health First Aid Kit](#) Childline includes ways a young person can distract themselves, how to relax and how to identify those who can support them.
- [Childline Games](#) can be used for coping purposes, to express feelings, to refocus or to just have some fun.

## Accessibility

- [Our Deaf Zone](#) offers advice and support in English and BSL and a young person can also contact a Childline counsellor via SignVideo, through a BSL interpreter.
- It is possible to arrange a time to speak with a Welsh-speaking counsellor and the site also has [Advice in Welsh](#).
- We use **Recite Me**, an accessibility toolbar, to allow young people to change font size, colour and style, including a dyslexia friendly font; to translate the site into over 100 languages; to read sections of text aloud; to download audio files; to magnify or to use a reading ruler and to adjust the colour contrast.

# Childline Statistics

**Between April 2023 and March 2024**

Childline delivered just over 6,000 counselling sessions about child sexual abuse/exploitation (including online)

NSPCC helpline handled over 9,000 child welfare contacts about child sexual abuse/exploitation (including online)

The most common Childline sub-concerns relating to child sexual exploitation (CSE) were:

1. Blackmail/threats to expose/share sexual images
2. Adult - Grooming & exploitation (not online)
3. Child - Sexting/sharing self-generated sexual images
4. Forced/made to perform/watch sexual acts (not online)
5. Report Remove/Discussed removal of online sexual images

How often does a young person contact Childline?

How many counselling sessions has Childline done?

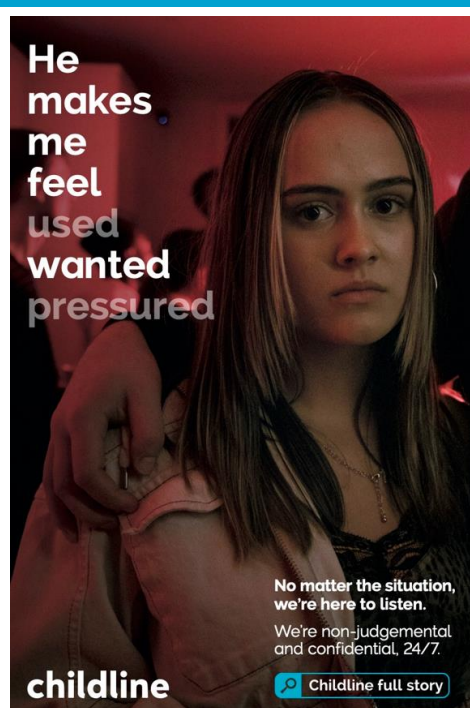
1 child every 45 seconds

Almost 200,000 last year

Over 6 million since 1986



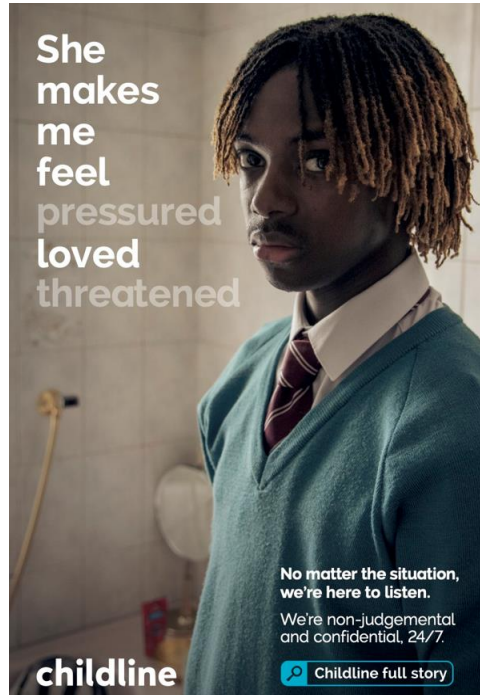
# Child Sexual Exploitation



He makes me feel used wanted pressured

No matter the situation, we're here to listen. We're non-judgemental and confidential, 24/7.

**childline** [Childline full story](#)




She makes me feel pressured loved threatened

No matter the situation, we're here to listen. We're non-judgemental and confidential, 24/7.






**childline** [Childline full story](#)

"I'm 15 and I'm being blackmailed by this 19-year-old guy who used to go to my school. We started chatting on Instagram a few months ago. This led to sexting and then eventually we met up in person. He was nice at first, like he would buy me clothes and perfume and vapes. But then he made me do sexual stuff with him even though I didn't want to. He said if I told anyone about it he would share my nudes online. I feel like I'm in a hopeless situation that I can't get out of. I dunno what my options are right now, but I hope you can help."

(Girl, 15)

**childline** Call 0800 1111 [About us](#) 

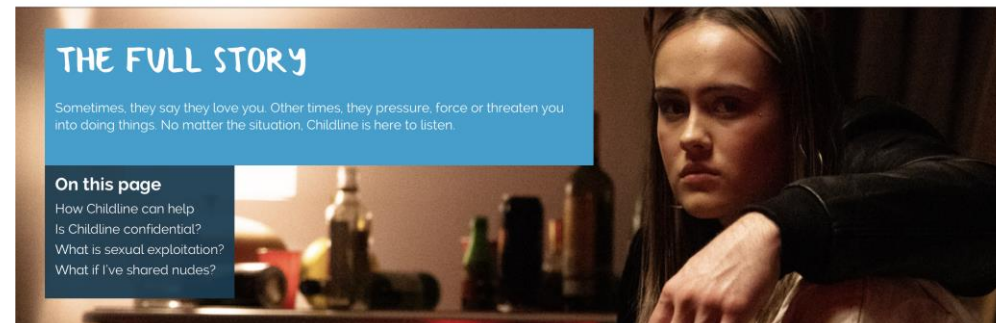
ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME

[Info and advice](#)  [Get support](#)  [Toolbox](#)  [Get involved](#)  [Your Locker](#) 

[Sign in](#)

You are here / [Home](#) / [Info and advice](#) / [Bullying, abuse, safety and the law](#) / [Abuse and safety](#) / **The Full Story**

[Search Childline](#) 



## THE FULL STORY

Sometimes, they say they love you. Other times, they pressure, force or threaten you into doing things. No matter the situation, Childline is here to listen.

**On this page**

- [How Childline can help](#)
- [Is Childline confidential?](#)
- [What is sexual exploitation?](#)
- [What if I've shared nudes?](#)

"I started chatting to this guy online and for ages it was just normal. Even though he was in his 30s, we'd play games online together, chat all day, stuff like that. Then he convinced me last year to send a nude, then more, now I've lost count of how many it is. He's saying I'll go to prison if I tell anyone, and I'm so scared he's right. I want this to stop, can you help?"

(Boy, 16)

# Child Sexual Exploitation





# Behind the Screen

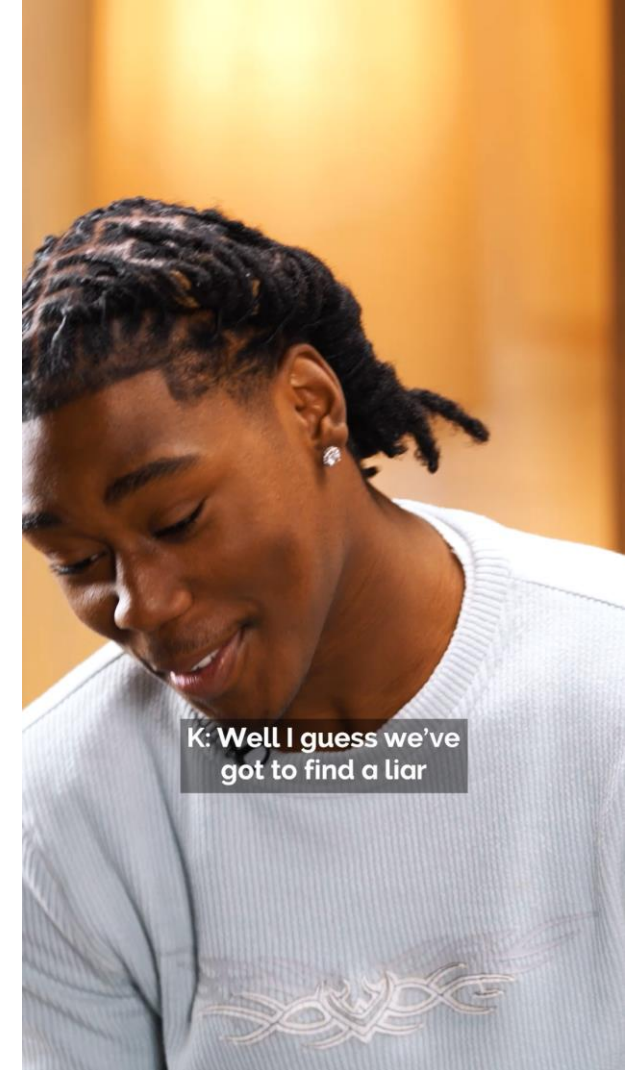
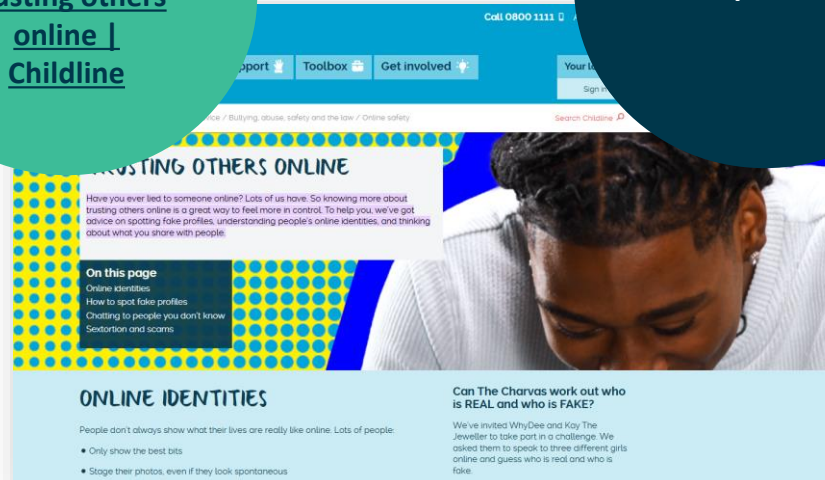
## OUR OBJECTIVES

- To increase awareness of the signs and indicators of Sexually Coerced Extortion.
- To increase confidence in how to support boys and young males who are experiencing or have experienced this type of abuse.
- To highlight that online exploitation is not young peoples' fault.
- To raise awareness of Childline, Report Remove, and how our services support young people.

Youth facing  
social media  
campaign

Childline  
Campaign page  
Trusting others  
online |  
Childline

Professionals  
pack



# Professionals Pack

The pack outlines Childline's initiatives to address Sexually Coerced Extortion and support affected young people. It explains what Sexually Coerced Extortion is, its impacts, and how to identify it.

Key features include the "Report Remove" tool for under-18s to take down nude images, and Childline's unique confidentiality policy that ensures a safe space for sharing concerns.

The document also provides resources from NSPCC, UK Safer Internet Centre, and other organisations to educate and assist professionals, parents, and young people.

Now available on NSPCC Childline Learning page

## Report Remove

Report Remove is an award-winning tool, provided by Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), that allows young people to report an image or video shared online, to see if it's possible to get it taken down.

When a young person loses control of a nude image of themselves, it can be very distressing. It's important that young people don't feel judged when this happens, and you should reassure them that **they're not to blame**.

You can help a young person **aged under 18** to use the **Report Remove** tool to see if the image or video can be taken down, and Childline can provide further support.

Please watch the 'Supporting Young People to use Report Remove: Guidance for professionals' video below:

Thank you for sharing Report Remove with me. I've been so stressed about all this. I haven't been able to sleep at night. I don't even know if my nudes have been posted or not, but just knowing that something can be done about it is a massive relief. Thanks again for being so helpful and understanding.

Boy, 17, Childline

### Report Remove resources

Below you can find our resources for understanding and raising awareness of Report Remove, including our **information pack**, **posters** and **podcast**. You can find out more on our **NSPCC Learning** page. **Click the image links below**

Download our **information pack**, listen to our **NSPCC podcast** about Report Remove.

### Information about report remove for young people

You can let young people know about the **Childline website Report Remove** page where they can find out more about Report Remove, FAQs and videos.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THIS PACK

**IN THIS PACK YOU WILL FIND:**

- Information on Sexually Coerced Extortion**  
How it can happen, the signs to look out for and how to support a young person if they are experiencing this abuse.
- Information about Childline**  
Understanding our unique confidentiality policy, how we work, and how you signpost young people to us.
- Information about Report Remove**  
You'll find information on our Report Remove tool that can help young people get images/videos taken down online.

**Resources**  
We've included signposting to useful resources for further information on **Sexually Coerced Extortion** and **online safety** for both professionals and young people.

**Campaign resources**  
You'll find information on our **Behind The Screen** campaign, its website and what you can share online to help raise awareness.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can help by downloading the resources in this pack and following the steps below:

- 1 Share our poster and leaflet online or in-person.
- 2 Use our social media assets to share our campaign's messages.
- 3 Access our free materials and share these with your colleagues.
- 4 Visit our campaign's webpage.

## HOW DOES IT HAPPEN?

These quotes\* from boys and young males who've contacted us show how Sexually Coerced Extortion can happen

\*Quotes are created from real Childline counselling sessions but are not necessarily direct quotes from the young people.

"Their profile pic was just some random girl smiling, nothing sexual. There were loads of other pics and videos on their feed too, and it was clear it was the same person. It never occurred to me at the time that the pics might belong to someone else. It was only once things turned flirty and they convinced me to send nudes that I realised they were a fake. They messaged to say they'd been playing me and that I had to pay them, otherwise they would release my nudes and my reputation would be destroyed"

Boy, aged 16, Childline

"I received a message on Wuz which is an app for teens to make new friends. It was from a girl, and she came across as nice and friendly so I carried on chatting to her. After an hour or so, she asked for my number so we could chat over text - so I sent it to her. That's when things started to change, and her messages suddenly became flirty. She sent photos of herself semi-nude, and then said it was 'my turn' to return the favour. Due to how she came across earlier, I went and trusted her. I only sent 2 nudes but that was enough for her. She said she was going to post these nudes to all my followers unless I paid her £100"

Boy, aged 16, Childline

"This 'girl' messaged me on Discord asking me all these questions about what games I liked, and she seemed to be into the same stuff as me. I was a bit sceptical that she'd just contacted me out of the blue like that but, I can't lie, I felt nice having things in common. I should have known it was too good to be true. Eventually, I got a call from a number I thought belonged to the girl but instead it was a man with a foreign accent! By that point it was too late - they already had my nudes!"

Boy, aged 18, Childline

## Behind The Screen

As part of the campaign, we have filmed an entertaining and informative film **"Leng Or Liar?"** in collaboration with social media stars WhyDee and Kay The Jeweller from The Charvas (The Charvas are teenage content creators and musicians, who have been tasked to engage in an online conversation with three different people, but one of which is fake. Can they correctly identify the fake person, or will the team behind the scenes manage to trick them?).

During the challenge, WhyDee and Kay The Jeweller experience first-hand some of the complex ways scammers attempt to deceive young people. In the shocking conclusion, they learn a valuable lesson to share with young people: not everyone you meet online is who they say they are.

### How can you support?

- Share our posters and leaflets  
Childline posters | NSPCC Learning
- Follow us on social media and share the campaign video
- Share this pack with colleagues and other professionals to continue to raise awareness
- Visit the Childline Campaign page and share with young people  
Trusting others online | Childline

Watch the full video here -

# Report Remove

When a young person loses control of a nude image of themselves, it can be very distressing. It's important that young people don't feel judged when this happens, and you should reassure them that **they haven't done anything wrong**. You should also follow your organisation's child protection procedures.

You can also help a young person **aged under 18** to use the **Report Remove tool** to see if the image or video can be taken down, and Childline can provide further support.

Please watch the Supporting Young People to use Report Remove: Guidance for professionals' video below -



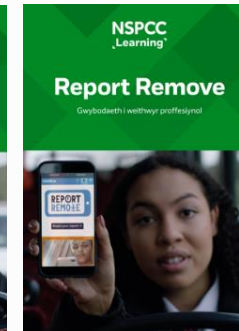
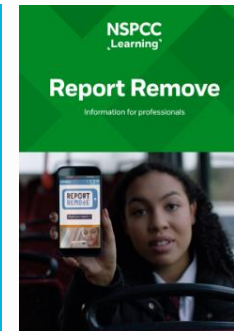
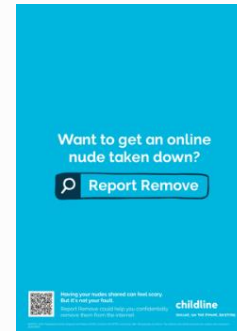
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Boy, 17, Childline

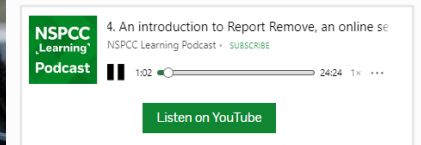


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## Information about report remove for young people

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Thank You

Follow Childline on social media:

Instagram: @childline\_official

Facebook: @Childline

TikTok: @Childline

**childline**  
A life-changing **NSPCC** service



# SUPPORT & SIGN POSTING

If you believe a young person is at risk of CSE report it at [www.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk) or contact police by phoning **101** or if a child is in immediate risk of harm call **999**

RESWS (Regional Emergency Social Work Service)  
**(028) 0800 197 9995**

Children can report nude images or videos of themselves to be taken down from the internet using the **IWF** and **Childline Report Remove** tool

Find contact details of Gateway Service Teams by searching '**Gateway Service Teams contact details NI**'

NSPCC helpline **0808 800 5000**



NSPCC Learning CSE

Thanks to SBNI for funding today's event