STREETWISE PROJECT

Working with young people at risk of sexual exploitation

A better childhood. For every child.
Who are we?

The Children’s Society’s Streetwise Project delivers preventative work and support to young people who are at risk of being sexually exploited.

We raise awareness of the dangers of grooming and cyber-grooming and support young people to stay safe.

Are you...

☐ Having problems at or not going to school?
☐ Going missing from home?
☐ Chatting online to people you don’t know?
☐ Friends with older people and being asked to keep your relationship secret?
☐ Being given gifts such as mobile phones, SIM cards, money, or even drugs or alcohol?
☐ Feeling uncomfortable with the company you are keeping and losing touch with your old friends?
☐ Being asked, threatened or forced to have sex or do sexual things?
☐ Getting into cars or being taken to parties with people you don’t know?

If you answer yes to three or more of the above questions, you may be at risk of sexual exploitation. It is important for you to stay safe and informed – and we can help.
What is child sexual exploitation?

Child sexual exploitation involves someone taking advantage of you or someone else under the age of 18 years old. You may receive ‘something’ like affection (eg someone saying ‘I’ll love you if you do this for me’). You may also be given gifts, money, food, accommodation, drugs, etc in return for sex.

Child sexual exploitation can also happen when you’re using a computer, mobile phone or another piece of technology. It can occur without you recognising it is happening, eg being persuaded to post sexual images.

The age of consent in England and Wales is 16. Sex with a child under the age of consent is an offence.

How we can help:

• we provide one-to-one support to young people who are at risk of being sexually exploited
• we deliver sessions in schools and children’s homes to raise awareness of the dangers of grooming and cyber-grooming
• we are friendly, supportive and caring
• we don’t tell people what you tell us unless we have to, to keep you or other young people safe
What happens now?

If this leaflet has made you concerned about you or a friend then you can contact us:

Streetwise
The Children’s Society in Coventry
St Peter’s Centre, Charles Street
Hillfields, Coventry
CV1 5NP
Tel: 02476 520 111
Email: jenny.mahimbo@childrenssociety.org.uk

The Children’s Society

The Children's Society wants to create a society where children and young people are valued, respected and happy. We are committed to helping vulnerable and disadvantaged young people. Through our campaigns and research, we seek to influence policy and perceptions so that young people have a better chance in life.

The Streetwise Project is currently funded by the Community Development Foundation on behalf of the Home Office.