



**PORN**

**SEX**

**PLEASURE  
Vs PROFIT**

**GROOMING**  
INFORMATION PACK  
FOR PARENTS AND PROFESSIONALS

# GROOMING

## WHAT IS GROOMING?

'Grooming' is the behaviours used by predators to target and prepare CYP for sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. One of the problems for professionals and parents is that the signs that a person is grooming a child may be subtle and difficult to recognise. Initially a CYP may not recognise they are being groomed and may see these relationships as positive.

The Home Office has defined grooming as: 'A course of conduct enacted by a suspected predator which would give a reasonable person cause for concern that any meeting with a child arising from the conduct would be for unlawful purposes.'

Grooming is a process adopted by a predator that is normally very subtle, drawn out, calculated, controlling and premeditated. In online grooming however the process can be much more rapid. It is the subtlety of the grooming process that enables abuse to go undetected. What is vital to the predator is access to children and the opportunity to build relationships with them in real life or online so as to isolate and abuse them.

Predators use sophisticated tactics and will target areas where CYP are without much adult supervision, such as shopping centres, cafes, takeaways, pubs, sports centres, cinemas, bus or train stations, local parks, playgrounds and taxi ranks, or websites. There is also grooming in adult venues such as pubs and clubs. In some cases predators will use CYP they have exploited to get access to their friends, siblings and family.

## HOW IS IT HAPPENING?

Grooming can happen in a number of different ways and with growing access to the Internet these new opportunities to act with complete anonymity or under a false identity are used by predators to make contact with CYP for sexual purposes. The Internet Crime Forum estimates that at least 20% of 16-25 year olds have been approached by someone trying to get them to talk about sex, send pictures or do something they were uncomfortable with via web-cams.

Young men can be groomed by predators who bring them to cafes / bars / arcades, etc. BYM are vulnerable to getting involved in petty crime as well such as shop lifting or car theft and are likely to be drinking, smoking and taking drugs.

## WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS?

CYP who have been groomed become so identified with the predator that they can find it hard to think of them in a negative way. The very process of being groomed breaks down boundaries and CYP become confused by the relationship. They may not even recognise or admit that they have been harmed or exploited. Even though their choices were limited and they were under huge amounts of pressure, they can believe that they did this voluntarily without seeing that they were being used. It can take a long time for CYP to see these relationships in their true light.

## WHAT CAN BE DONE?

We need to make sure that CYP and families who have been exploited receive the right kind of support. They are victims and any young person under the age of 18 should be referred for specialist support and interventions.

We need to ensure that anyone who is involved in child sexual exploitation is held responsible for his or her actions.

We need preventative work not only to inform CYP about healthy relationships, respect and justice but also talk to them about how not to be involved in the exploitation of others, now and in the future.



[www.womenssupportproject.co.uk](http://www.womenssupportproject.co.uk)