

The Executive Group for Children and  
Young People Services

## Sexual Exploitation In Rotherham

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Definition

- Sexual Exploitation of a child or young person under 18 is abuse.
- The “sexual exploitation of children (and young people) consists of criminal practices that demean, degrade and threaten the physical and psychosocial integrity of children (and young people)”
- Another party benefits through this exploitation in cash, goods or in kind.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### What it isn't.

- A trade, job, or industry.
- A legitimate choice on the part of the child.
- An act involving informed consent.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Who are the exploited?

- Children and young people, (as young as twelve in Rotherham).
- Usually children and young people who are vulnerable in some way.
- May have disinterested parents, are disengaged or excluded from school. Victims of bullying, family upheaval, abuse at home. Runaways, care leavers
- Low self esteem

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## How do they become involved?

- Groomed by "pimps"
- Grooming is the cynical, deliberate creation of an exploitative relationship.
- A process that leads to the complete domination of the child or young person by the pimp.
- The child or young person becomes a commodity to be passed around and moved around.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## What happens?

- Completely detached from family and support networks
- 55% use heroin at least once a week.
- 40% have been raped.
- 73% sexual health problems.
- 33% have attempted suicide.
- Most have self harmed.  
(source. net) NSPCC

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Does this happen in Rotherham?

- This is a national and regional problem. It is often part of a broader range of criminal activity involving theft, drugs, violence and firearms.
- Since January 2004, 41 girls and young women and 2 young men have been referred to the ACPC Sexual Exploitation Forum due to concerns about sexual exploitation.
- The Risky Business project is currently working on a one to one basis with 96 girls and young women.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Who are the perpetrators?

- Lone perpetrators.
- Perpetrators who are involved in various criminal activities.
- A family from the Asian community consisting of a number of brothers and their associates. These brothers are also involved in a number of taxi firms.
- Some members of the Iraqi Kurd community.
- Source – Sexual exploitation, drug use and drug dealing: the current situation in South Yorkshire – Angie Heal South Yorkshire Police

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### What are we doing in Rotherham?

- ACPC Sexual Health Forum (Soon to come under the future Safeguarding Board).
- Partners from Social Services, South Yorkshire Police, Health, Education Welfare, Young Peoples Services – Risky Business, Bridges Project.
- Risky Business project 1996, Reactive /proactive approaches.
- South Yorkshire Police are working in partnership with other agencies, closely with Risky Business, looking at intelligence and sharing information e.g. missing from home data, information re perpetrators, girls and young women.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Is it working?

- Better Communication.
- ACPC Sexual Exploitation Forum in place.  
(Soon to come under the future Safeguarding Board).
- Risky Business project.
- Hard work and good will by many.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## BUT.....

- Does this make enough of a difference.
- No
- Many of the young people are left to stagger from crisis to crisis, growing towards chaotic adulthood.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Ways forward.

- Risky Business to be mainstreamed and adequately resourced and developed.
- ACPC Sexual Exploitation Forum needs "teeth and resources" to enable it to develop and deliver a rigorous response.
- More effective gathering and application of intelligence.
- Development of strategies leading to the successful prosecution of perpetrators.
- Regional co-working across South Yorkshire – projects in Doncaster and Sheffield.
- Resources to allow genuine joined up working – including staff.
- Safe Houses.
- Specialised foster care.
- Preventative work in schools and other young people's provision, building upon existing links with schools and the Healthy School Team.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---