

How does it happen?

We know from experience that some grown-ups target children and young people and draw them into abusive sexual relationships. This is how it can happen:

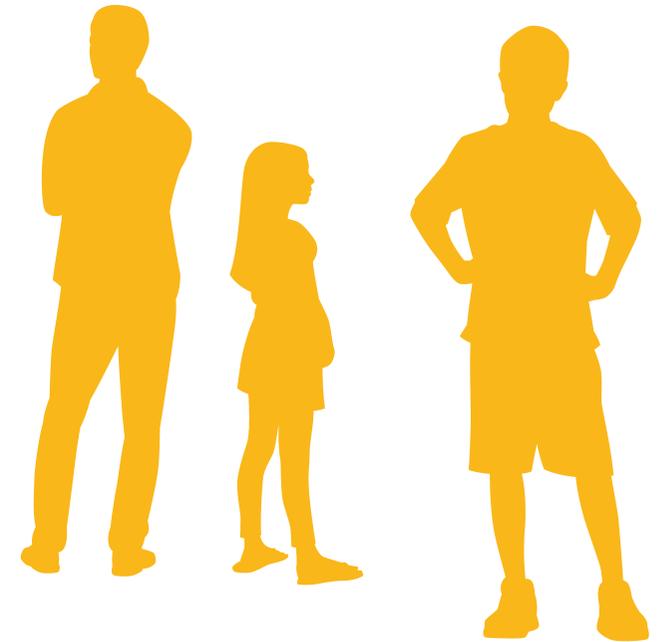
- At the beginning, adults make young people feel special by showing them a lot of interest and affection
- Sometimes they ask groups of young people to come back to their house or go to parties
- Sometimes young people are offered drugs, alcohol and a place to chill out
- They may be given presents like clothes, a mobile phone, or money to buy alcohol and cigarettes
- After adults have gained a young person's trust and affection things change
- They will ask for sexual favours for themselves or other people in return for alcohol, drugs, presents, money etc. All the things they previously gave the young person for free.
- The adults stop being nice and can become threatening or violent

**In an emergency
call 999**

**For confidential support and
advice on sexual exploitation
call the Kingfisher Team**

Tel: 01865 335276

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/saferchildren



**This document can be
supplied in alternative formats,
please contact:**

**Oxfordshire Safeguarding
Children Board**

Tel: 01865 815843

www.oscb.org.uk



**COULD THIS BE
YOU OR A FRIEND?**

**If you are worried that an adult
is trying to abuse you, or worried
about a friend, tell someone you
can trust**



COULD THIS BE YOU OR A FRIEND?

- Do you stay out overnight?
- Have you been missing from home?
- Do you miss school?
- Does a grown-up outside your family give you money, clothes, jewellery, a mobile phone or other presents?
- Do you have an older boyfriend or girlfriend?
- Do you take drugs or drink alcohol?
- Are you losing touch with your family and friends?
- Do you hate yourself sometimes?
- Are you secretive about where you go and who you see?
- Do you chat to people online you have never met?

If this sounds like your life or if you are worried about a friend, you could be at risk of sexual exploitation by adults. Taking risks is part of growing up, but sometimes young people get out of their depth and need help.

What is sexual exploitation?

Sexual exploitation can involve swapping sexual favours for drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and other presents. Or it may be having sex for money with several adults. Young people may feel they must have sex because an adult gives them something or because they feel threatened or frightened.

Some young people may want to have sex because they think the adult is their boyfriend or girlfriend. In reality they are being used for sex and the 'boyfriend' or 'girlfriend' may pass them on to other people too. (Remember – sexual abusers can be women or men.)



What can you do?

If you are worried that an adult is trying to abuse you or you are worried about a friend, tell someone you can trust.

If you can, talk to your parents, your carer or a close member of your family. Sometimes it is difficult to talk about personal problems like sex. Perhaps you think your parents or carer will be angry or upset, or you will get into trouble with the police.

Even so, it is better to ask for help if you are unhappy about the way you are being treated.

Is there someone else you could talk to – such as a teacher or someone from your religion or local community? Tell the trusted person about your concerns.

Child sexual exploitation is a crime – the police and social services will act to stop it happening. If you think you are being abused or are worried about a friend, call our confidential helpline number on **01865 335276**.

There are specialists in the team who can help stop the abuse.

