



Safeguarding What you need to know



In the fight against child abuse
we all have a role to play.
Any act, big or small can make a real
difference to a child and create a safer
society for all children



Whether that setting is a nursery, primary school, secondary school or alternative provision, it is the responsibility of the staff to keep the children in their care safe from harm. This includes both paid and voluntary positions too.



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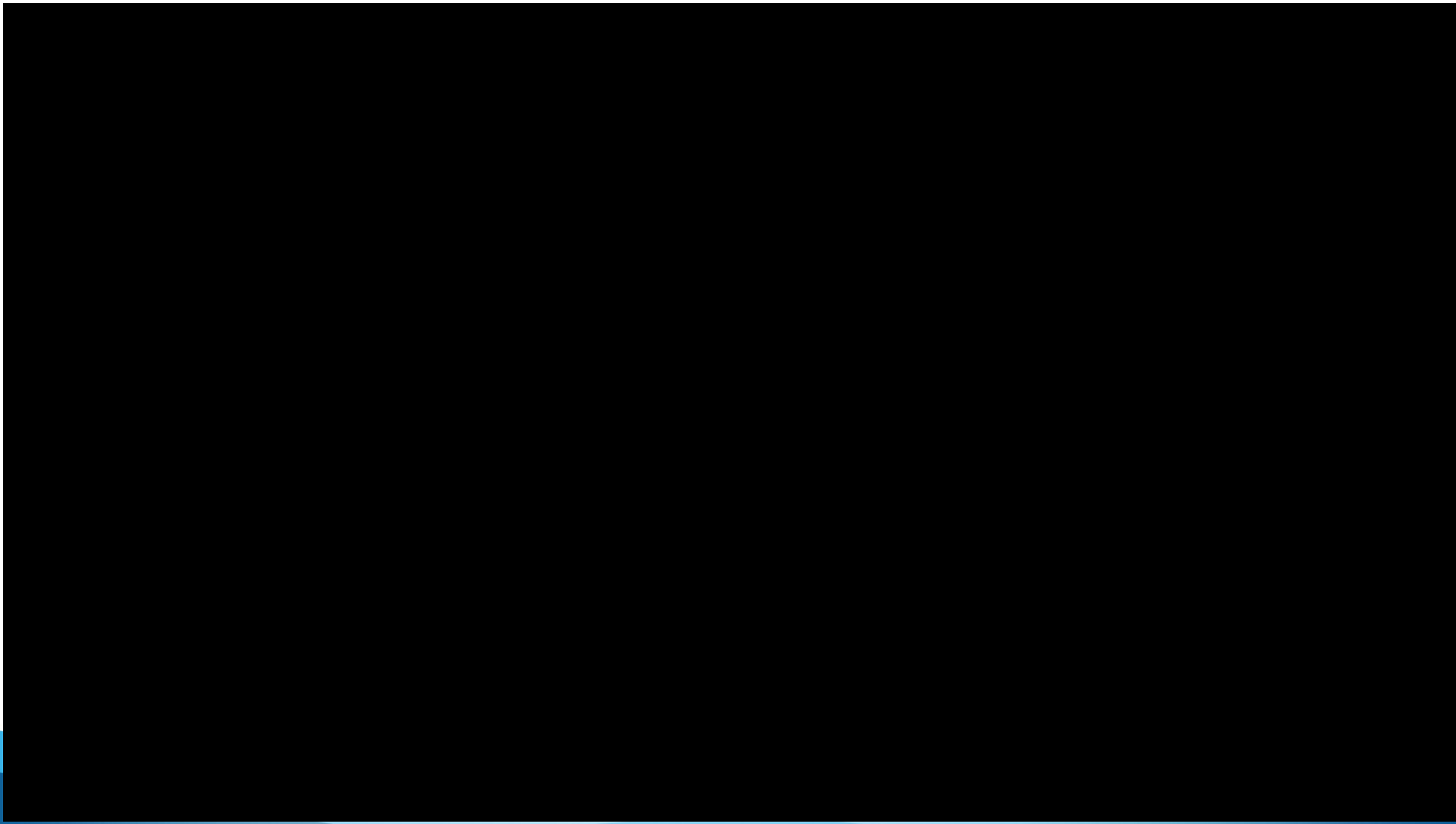


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This includes protection from abuse, harm to health or development, provision of care that meets their needs, and securing the best possible outcomes.



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What is safeguarding?

Protecting

Children from maltreatment

Preventing

Impairment of children's **Mental and Physical** health or development

Ensuring
Children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of **SAFE** and **EFFECTIVE CARE**

The Principles of Safeguarding are the same everywhere!

Taking action to enable All Children to have the Best Outcomes



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Safeguarding means protecting a person's health, wellbeing, and human rights, enabling them to live free from harm, abuse, and neglect.

**Keeping
children safe
is everyone's
responsibility**



What is Child Abuse?



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Child abuse is when a child is intentionally harmed by an adult or another child – it can be over a period of time but can also be a one-off action.

Caused by someone inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm.

Causes damage to a child's mental and physical health, education, attainment and emotional wellbeing.

Abuse of anyone under the age of 18



NEVER THE CHILDS FAULT

Safeguarding Children



The Children Act 1989 is the key piece of legislation that talks about safeguarding children.

However, there have been other pieces of legislation since, such as Children Act 2004 and The Children and Social Work Act 2017.

So that practitioners know what to do, the Department for Education publishes guidance the most recent is:

- “Keeping children safe in education 2026”
- “Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026”



Children Act 1989



0727 3300

The
Children
Act 2004

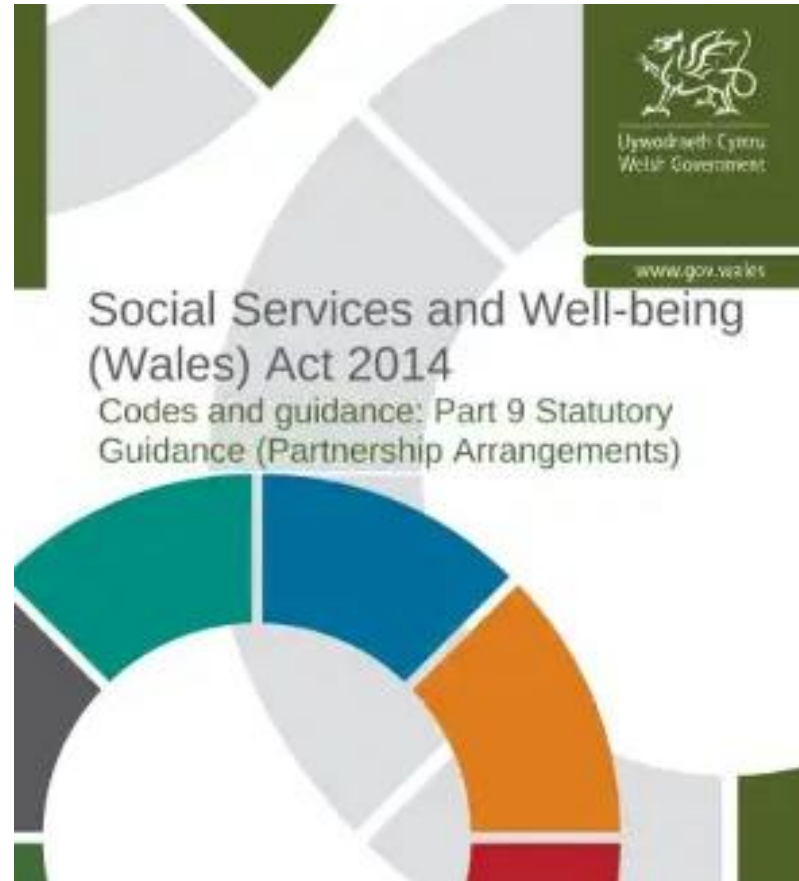
Smith

IN WALES:

The Children Act 1989 remains a key piece of legislation underpinning safeguarding children.

Subsequent legislation, including the Children Act 2004 and the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, strengthened safeguarding arrangements.

To support practitioners, the Welsh Government publishes safeguarding guidance, including Working Together to Safeguard People and the Wales Safeguarding Procedures, which set out how agencies should work together to protect children and young people



The principles are very similar, but the legal framework and guidance are different in Wales.



In England, practitioners follow Working Together to Safeguard Children, which is statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education. It sets out how agencies, including police, local authorities, health, education and others, should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.



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In Wales, the equivalent framework is based on the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, supported by Working Together to Safeguard People guidance and the Wales Safeguarding Procedures.



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Identifying Abuse



Neglect

Persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.

Sexual Abuse

Forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

Physical Abuse

Abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.

Emotional Abuse

The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child'

"A person's a person, no matter how small"
Dr Seuss

Identifying Abuse



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Emotional



Physical



Sexual



Neglect

Emotional Abuse



Persistent emotional maltreatment which has a severe and adverse effect on a child's emotional development.

This may include:

- Telling a child they are worthless or unloved
- Humiliation, intimidation or rejection
- Exposure to domestic abuse
- Serious bullying, including online bullying
- Exploitation or corruption of a child



Physical harm caused to a child, including:

- Hitting, shaking, throwing or burning
- Poisoning or scalding
- Drowning or suffocating
- Fabricating or inducing illness in a child (previously known as fabricated or induced illness)



Sexual Abuse



Forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child understands what is happening.

This includes:

- Contact abuse, such as rape or sexual assault
- Non-contact abuse, such as exposing children to sexual images
- Online sexual abuse
- Grooming and exploitation
- Creating, sharing or viewing indecent images of children



The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in serious impairment of health or development.

This may include:

- Failure to provide adequate food, clothing or shelter
- Failure to protect a child from harm or danger
- Lack of supervision
- Failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care
- Failure to meet emotional needs



Additional Forms of Harm Recognised in Working Together 2026 England

While not separate statutory abuse categories, the guidance gives particular emphasis to:

- Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)
- Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Domestic Abuse
- Online Harm
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour
- Honour-based Abuse
- Forced Marriage
- Modern Slavery and Trafficking
- Group-based Exploitation
- Multiple and overlapping harms experienced by children



Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026

A guide to multi-agency working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children

March 2026

IN Wales:

The four categories of abuse are the same in Wales and England:

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect

Children may also experience exploitation, trafficking, domestic abuse, online harm, and other safeguarding risks, which often overlap with one or more of these categories.



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Harm Outside the Home (Contextual Safeguarding)

Same England and Wales



- Children may be at risk of or experiencing harm outside their families or the home they live in, such as a children's home or foster home, parks, schools, community etc.
 - Children can be vulnerable to multiple forms of harm from both adults and/or other children, and harm may be perpetrated or facilitated by individuals or groups.
 - Examples may include (but are not limited to):
 - criminal exploitation (such as county lines and financial exploitation)
 - serious violence
 - modern slavery and human trafficking
 - online harm
 - sexual exploitation (including group-based/organised child sexual exploitation)
 - child-on-child (non-familial) sexual abuse and other forms of harmful sexual behaviour displayed by children towards their peers
 - abuse, and/or coercive control, children may experience in their own intimate relationships (sometimes called teenage relationship abuse)
 - the influences of extremism which could lead to radicalisation.



Factors that **MAY** increase vulnerability

- Domestic abuse, parental substance misuse, parental mental ill health (the toxic trio);
- Parental learning difficulties;
- The child/young person having a disability (SEN)
- Being a looked after child;
- Ethnic background; or English not being their first language
- Those missing from education;
- Those who are privately Fostered
- Social media;
- Sexual orientation



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137 bruises and injuries on his body



Arthur Labinjo-Hughes
6 years old

In England, Serious Case Reviews were replaced in 2018 by Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews under the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

These reviews are commissioned when there is an opportunity to learn from serious safeguarding incidents. They can be local or national.

In Wales, the equivalent process was known as a Child Practice Review (CPR).

More recently, Wales has moved to the Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR) process, which brings together reviews for children and adults to ensure learning is shared more effectively cross agencies



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Scale and nature of child sexual abuse (CSA Centre)

The CSA Centre's 2026 report Scale and nature of child sexual abuse:

Review of evidence brings together data from the Office for National Statistics' Crime Survey for England and Wales, official data from 2024/25, and prominent international research to provide a detailed account of what we currently know about child sexual abuse and how it is being responded to.

- **One in six children** are estimated to be sexually abused by the age of 18.
- At least **500,000 children are estimated to experience in-person contact sexual abuse** each year in England and Wales. Yet, this is a significant underestimate because it does not include abuse online and in other contexts.
- Child sexual abuse also often happens alongside other forms of harm: according to survey data, **two-thirds of people** who were sexually abused as a child also experienced other forms of abuse or neglect at some point during their childhood



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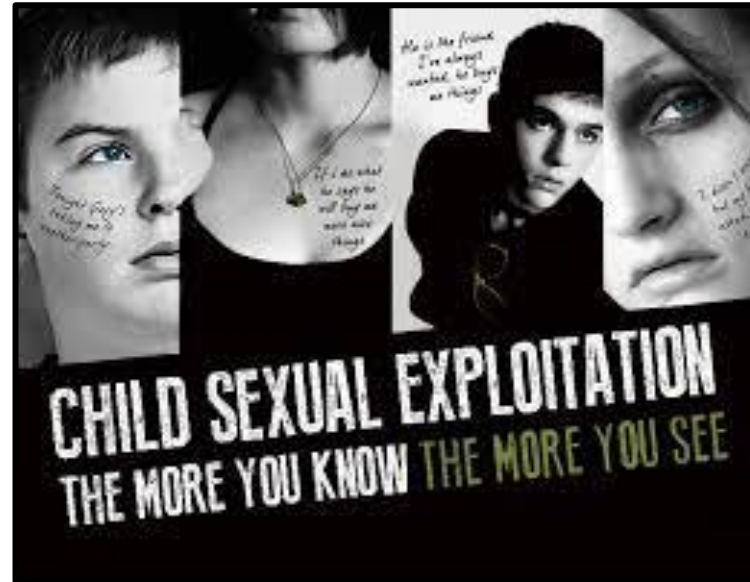


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Child Exploitation (Criminal and Sexual)



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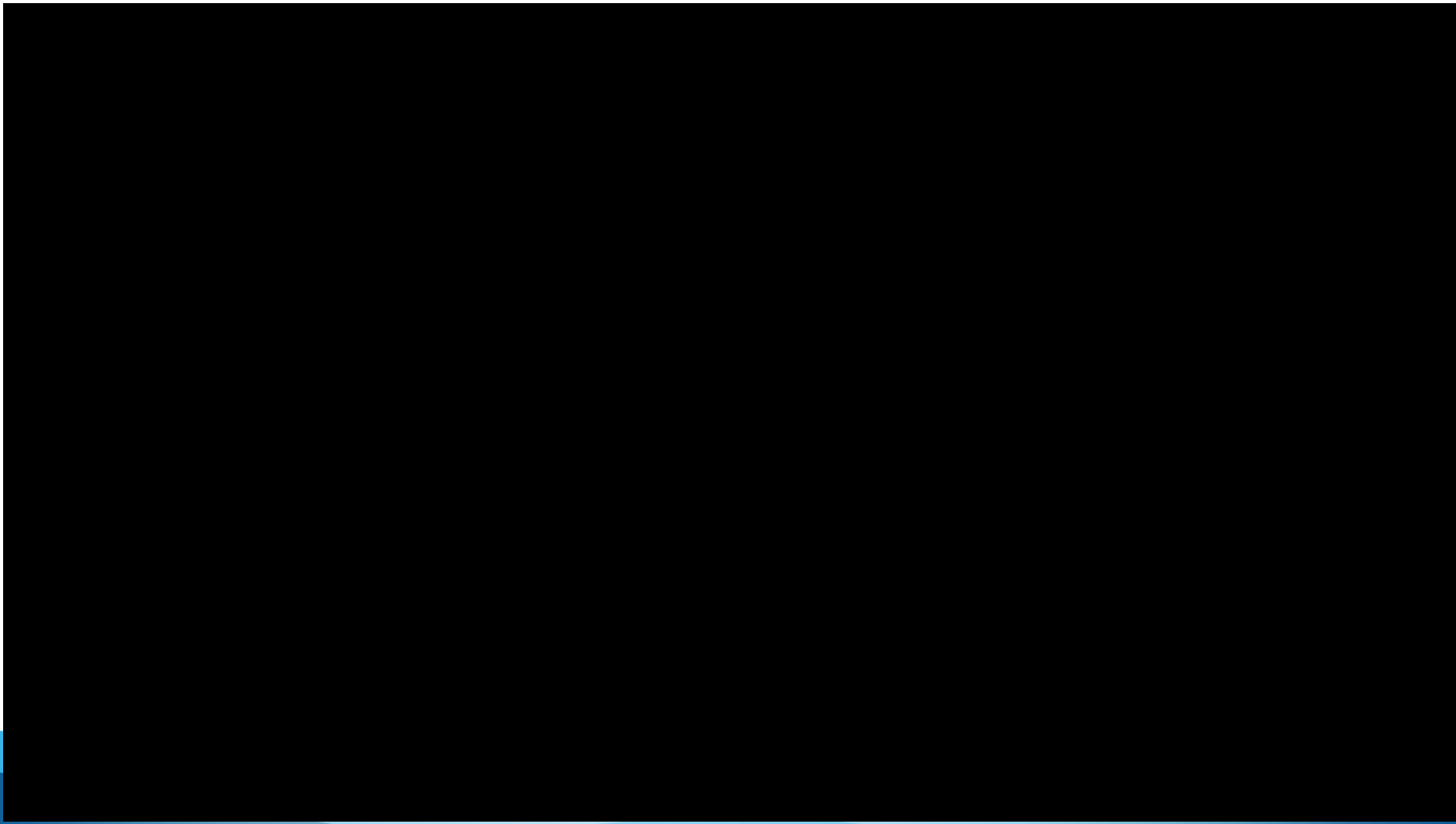
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The Grooming Line



TARGETING STAGE



**Target your vulnerabilities.
Select you instead
of others.**

FRIENDSHIP FORMING STAGE



**Befriend you by
offering protection,
Providing for your
Needs etc.**

LOVING RELATIONSHIP STAGE



**Make you trust
them and think
they care about
You.**

ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP STAGE



**Abuse violate and
use you for their
own selfish cause**



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Is Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) a form of Child Abuse?

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of Child Sexual Abuse. It occurs where an individual or a group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or a young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity.

This can mean someone saying you “Owe” them sexual favours because:

- They have given you “Free weed”
- They have given you “Free Alcohol”
- A lift home
- They “Protect” you
- Takes you to Parties
- Being your girlfriend / boyfriend
- They have bought you expensive things



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Types of CSE



- Child on child exploitation
- Relationship model
- On-line CSE
- Youth produced sexual imagery identified in schools
- Gangs and groups
- County lines
- Organised/networked sexual exploitation or trafficking
- Familial
- Opportunistic



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A hidden Crime:



- Child sexual exploitation can often be a hidden crime because even though it is often committed in plain sight, it can be under-identified or not acted on by adults. Children often trust their abuser and don't realise they are being exploited.
- Children / Young people may depend on their abuser or be too scared to escape from them or tell anyone what's going on.
- Some young people are trafficked into the UK in order to be sexually exploited, others are trafficked within the UK, moved from place to place in order to be abused again and again.
- Children, both boys and girls groomed in gangs are also frequently forced into sexual activity, possibly as an initiation or where sexual favours are demanded in exchange for status or protection.

Some of the most common signs of CSE include:



- skipping school or getting in trouble in class
- going missing for periods of time or coming back from things late regularly
- mood swings that seem out of the ordinary
- having gifts that can't be accounted for
- over sexualised behaviour, or sending inappropriate images from their mobile phone
- using drugs and/or alcohol
- unexplained bruising or other signs of physical harm.
- Change in appearance. STI's or pregnancy



SAY SOMETHING, IF YOU SEE SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS.

CONTACT:

Crimestoppers **OR** Police **OR**
0800 555 111 101

WWW.STOP-CSE.ORG

Contact:



STOPCSE

What is Criminal Exploitation?



Criminal exploitation is a less known about type of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking that encompasses acquisitive crimes such as forced begging, forced theft (including shoplifting and pickpocketing), as well as cannabis cultivation and financial exploitation.



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Criminal exploitation is a sub category of forced labour, which is covered by section of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.



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Any child could be exploited by criminals



Signs to be aware of ...	 BEHAVIOUR? Disrespectful, secretive, change in attitude.	 LOTS OF MONEY? Unexplained money, different phone, expensive clothes.	 POPULAR? Frequent texts and calls at all hours. New friends, might be older.
	 DISTANT? Signs of harm or depression. Missing school.	 UNUSUAL ITEMS? Balaclava, debit cards, drugs, knives.	 JOURNEYS? Frequent and repeat trips. Leaving without explanation.

NPCC definition of a County Line



The 2018 Home Office Serious Crime Strategy states the NPCC definition of a County Line is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas [within the UK], using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”.



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They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move [and store] the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.

A common feature in county lines drug supply is the exploitation of young and vulnerable people.

Phrases that young people may use to refer to county lines include:

"Cunch" is slang for **"country"** (as in **"countryside"**) but can refer to any distant – **often rural** – area where **dealers dispatch** their teenage subordinates to peddle drugs, **out of sight of the city police** and the general public.

'running a line',
'going OT/out there'
'going country'
'going cunch'.
Trapping



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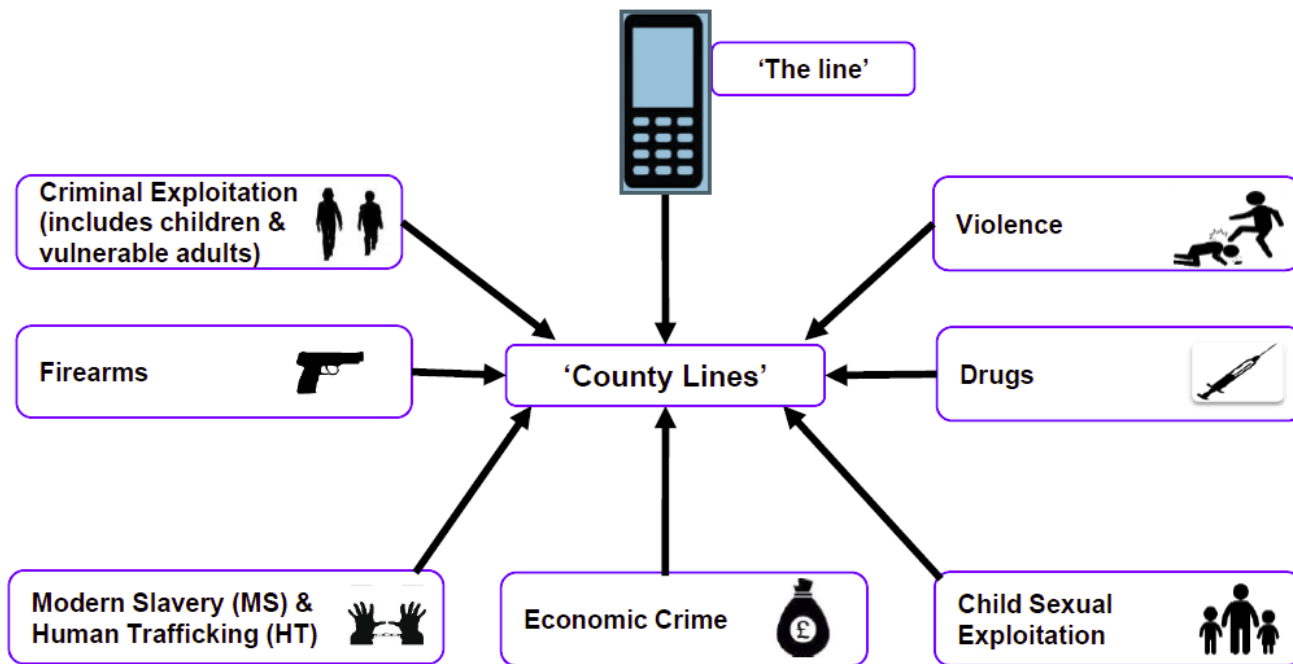
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Features of 'County Lines'

'County Lines' is not solely a drugs issue as it cross cuts a number of other thematic areas and crime types, including:



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Grooming ways!!

Girls and Gangs

A common misconception is that girls and women are less likely to be criminally exploited than their male counterparts or are less likely to be gang involved or affiliated.

Girls can and do play a number of roles in gangs.

- "Wifey's" - Girlfriends of gang members
- "Baby Mothers" - Girls and women who have children with gang members
- "Links" - Girls who are expected to have sex or group sex with gang members at anytime.
- "Gift Girls" - Girls who are "given" to a new member of a gang or criminal network as a reward for proving themselves as trustworthy and reliable.



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Benefits of the Digital World



✓ **Education & Learning** – Access to a wealth of knowledge, interactive learning apps



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✓ **Creativity & Exploration** – Digital drawing, coding, music creation, storytelling



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✓ **Social Connection** – Keeping in touch with friends & family, developing social skills



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✓ **Entertainment & Fun** – Games, videos, engaging content



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Risks & Challenges

⚠ **Exposure to Inappropriate Content** – Violence, adult material, misinformation

⚠ **Cyberbullying** – Harassment via messages, social media, gaming chats

⚠ **Screen Time & Mental Health** – Overuse leading to anxiety, sleep issues, addiction

⚠ **Stranger Danger** – Online predators, grooming risks in games & chat rooms

⚠ **Financial Risks** – In-app purchases, scams, identity theft



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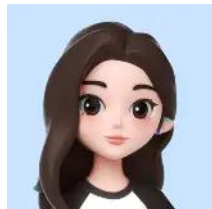
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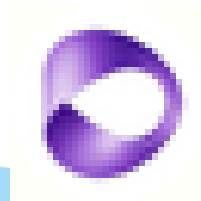
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The Rise of AI & Deepfakes

- AI can generate realistic but fake content (deepfake videos, AI chatbots).
- Risks:
 - Misinformation
 - Manipulation
 - Fake profiles
 - Misuse



DOLA live



DOLA AI



Copilot



ChatGPT



DALL-E



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IWF Reports assessment - Annual Data & Insights Report 2025



- Every 70 seconds the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) assessed a report relating to child sexual abuse material online.
- 451,210 reports were assessed during 2025.
- 311,610 reports were confirmed to contain child sexual abuse material, link to it, or advertise it.
- "Self-generated" imagery continues to account for the majority of criminal content identified.
- 1,894 children and young people used the Report Remove service to seek removal of sexual images of themselves online.
- 77% of children identified in abuse imagery were girls, rising to 97% in AI-generated abuse imagery.



What's NEW?



The Crime and Policing Act 2026 places a statutory duty

A new mandatory reporting duty has been introduced for people working in key child-facing roles in England.

Professionals who become aware of child sexual abuse will be legally required to report it.

It is now **a criminal offence**

- Failure to report child sexual abuse under the mandatory reporting duty can lead to professional sanctions.
- Obstructing or attempting to stop someone from making a report is a criminal offence



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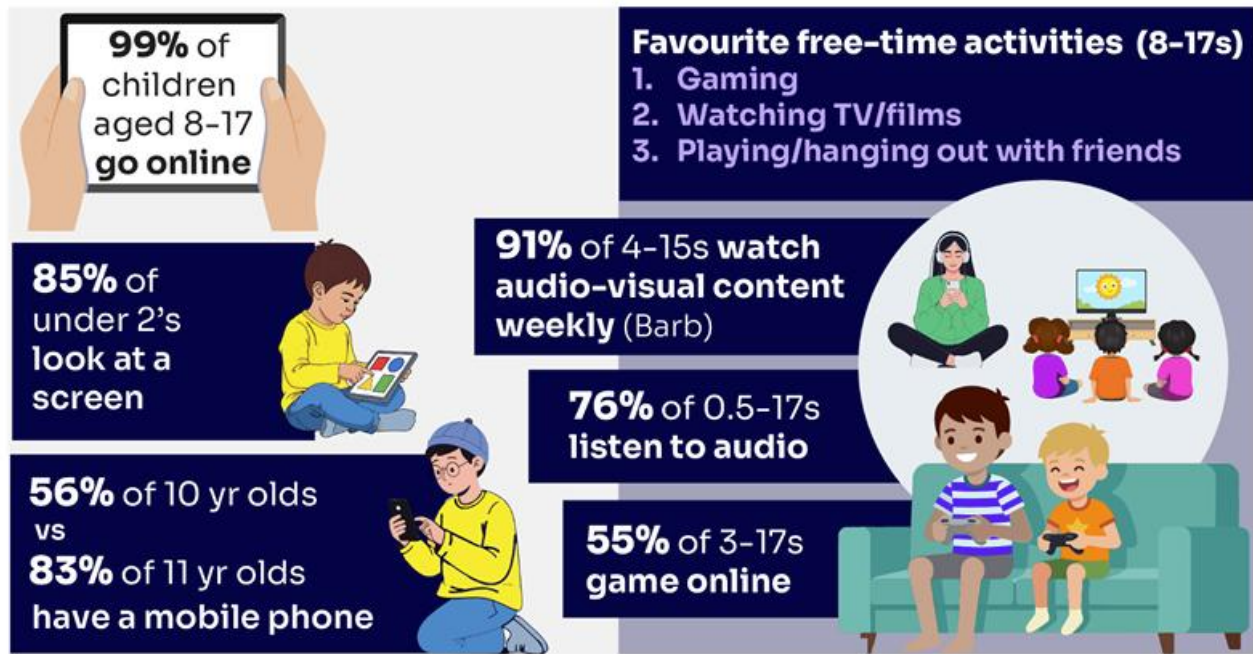


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OFCOM's Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes Report 2026 (for 2025)



**Gaming
watching TV or films
are the top two free
time activities
nominated by 8-17s**

Children's use of devices



Older children are most likely to use smartphones to go online, while younger children are most likely to use tablets



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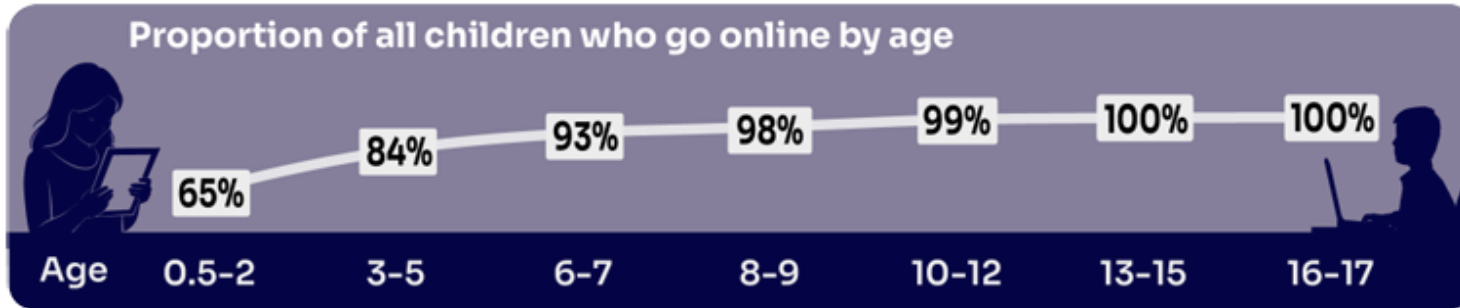
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Over half of children who game online say they play with people that they have not met in person, at least sometimes



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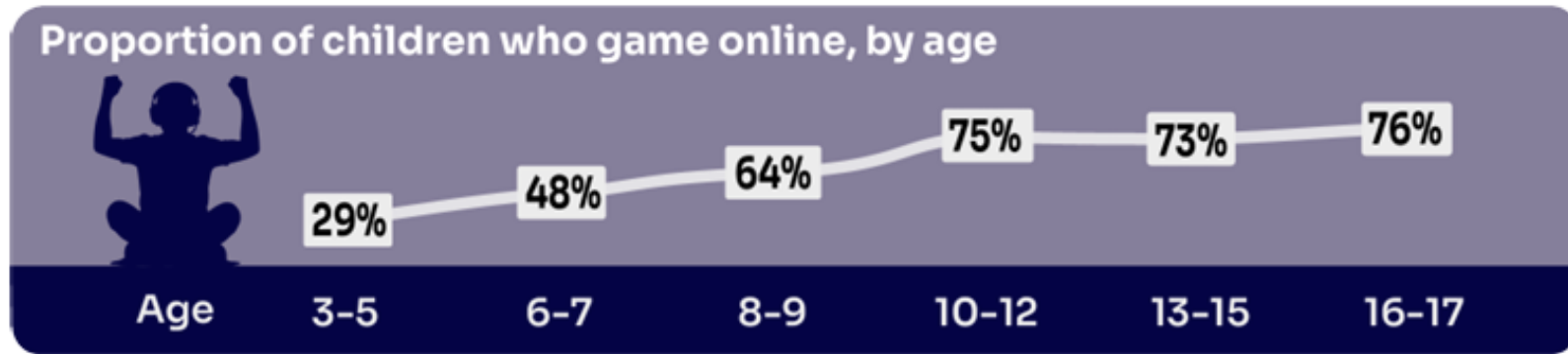
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For many children in the Children's Media Lives sample, gaming was an important source of both entertainment and social interaction

Website and app use



Top 10 sites / apps used by 8-17s in the past 4 weeks

Aged 8-17

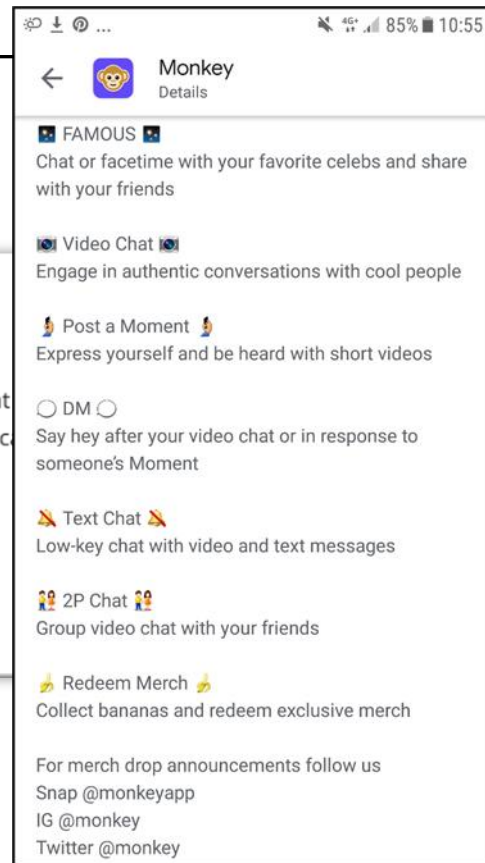
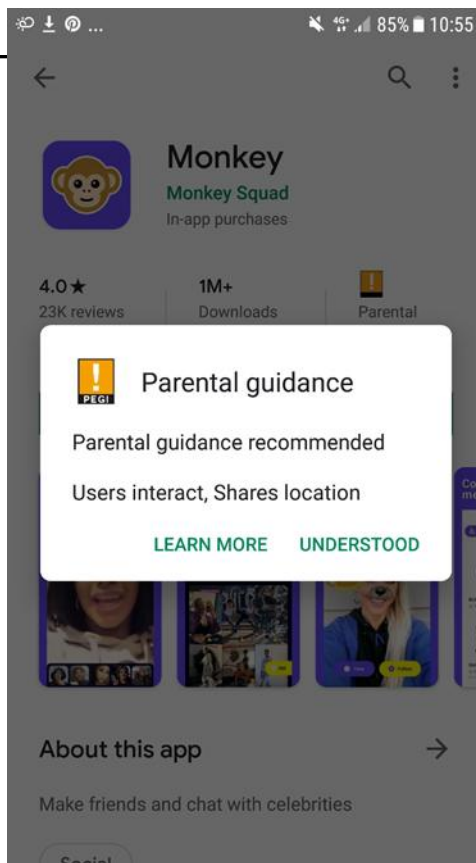
-  YouTube **67%**
-  WhatsApp **61%**
-  TikTok **60%**
-  Snapchat **50%**
-  Instagram **44%**
-  Roblox **42%**
-  Facebook **41%**
-  Minecraft **34%**
-  Facebook Messenger **29%**
-  YouTube Kids **22%**

8-14

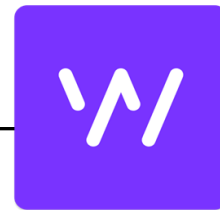
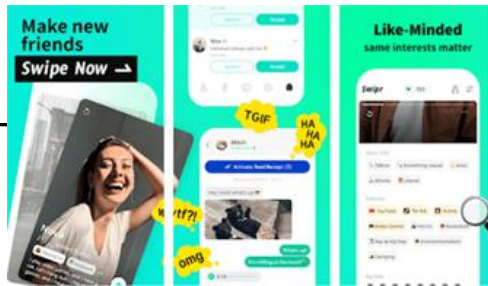
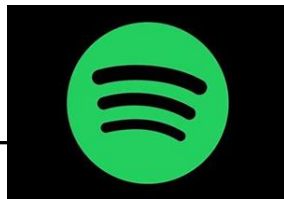
-  YouTube **66%**
-  WhatsApp **57%**
-  TikTok **54%**
-  Roblox **51%**
-  Snapchat **43%**
-  Minecraft **39%**
-  Instagram **34%**
-  Facebook **33%**
-  YouTube Kids **31%**
-  Facebook Messenger **22%**

15-17

-  YouTube **70%**
-  TikTok **69%**
-  WhatsApp **68%**
-  Snapchat **63%**
-  Instagram **62%**
-  Facebook **54%**
-  Facebook Messenger **43%**
-  Roblox **26%**
-  Minecraft **24%**
-  Call of Duty **18%**



Digital Word



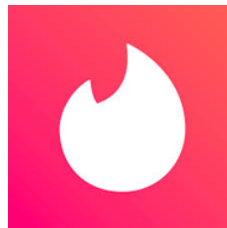
Whisper
13



Swiper 12+



Discord
13



Tinder 18



Reddit 18



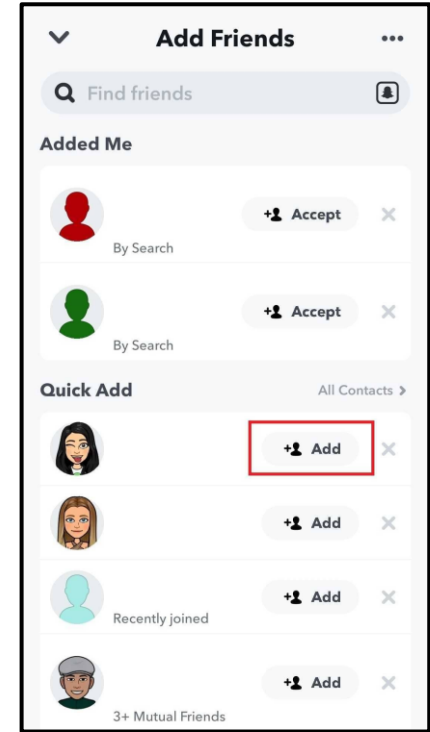
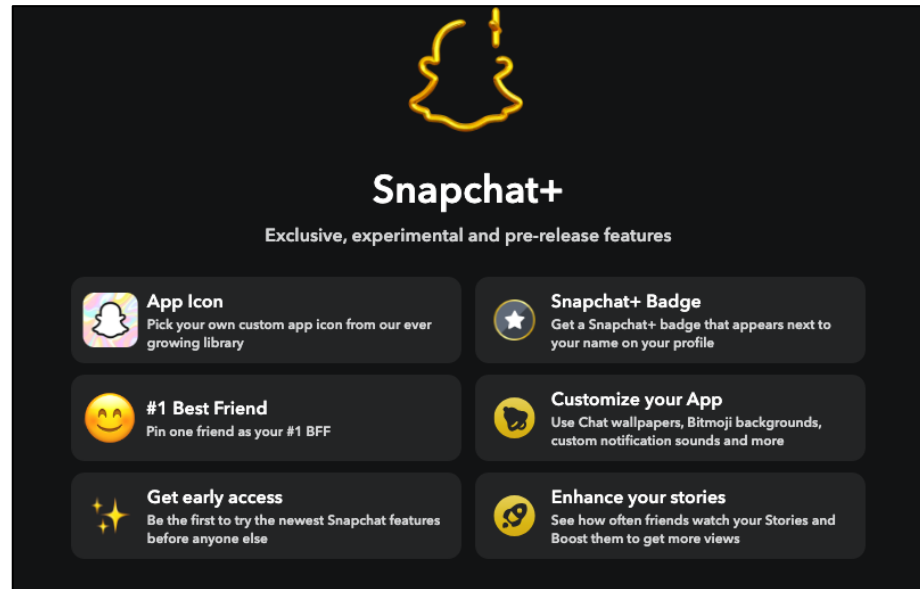
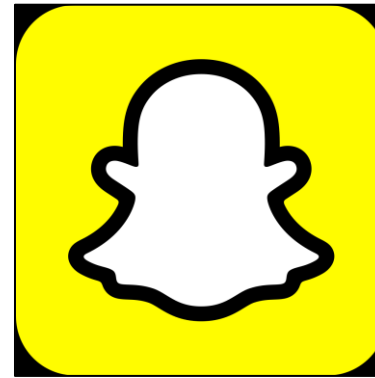
Yubo (18)

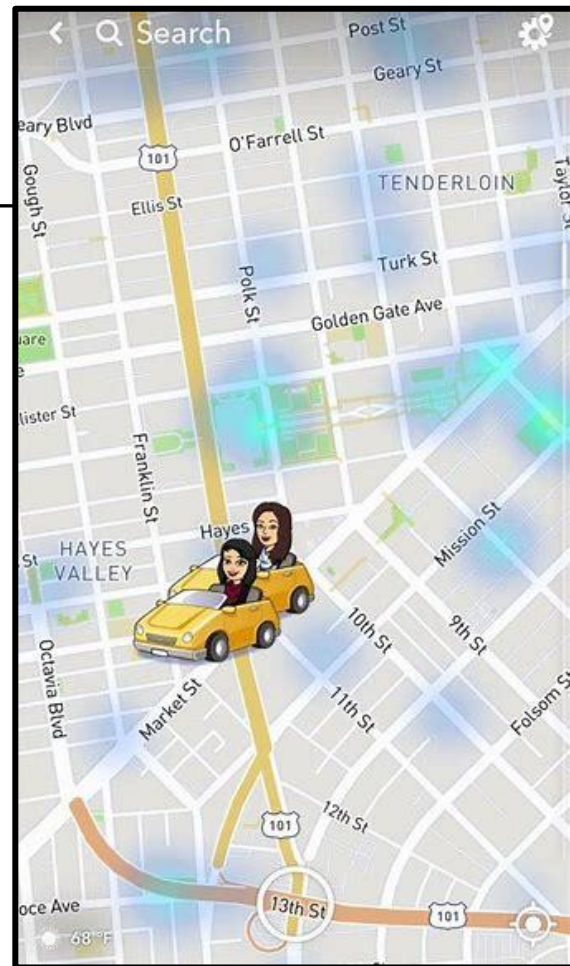
Make New Friends

Yubo is all about chatting. Meet like-minded people, or join a group to hang with. Then kick back and have your videos.

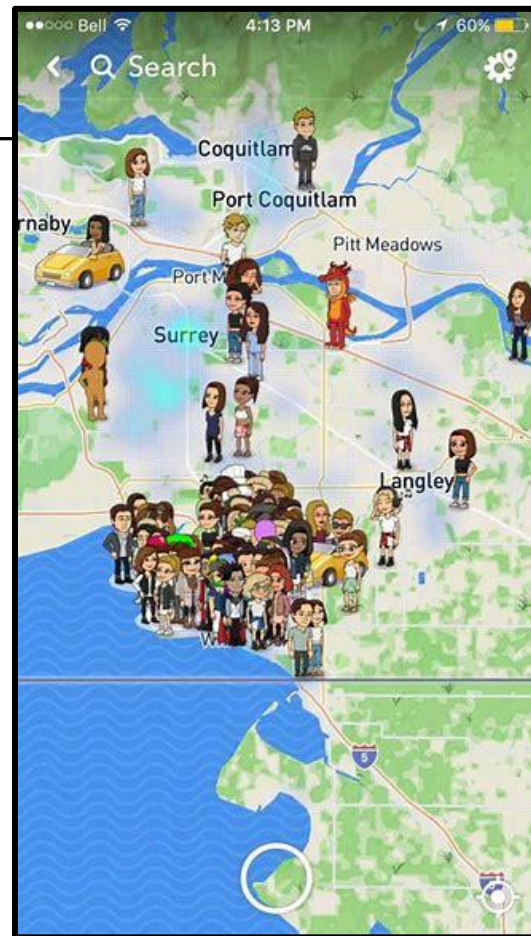
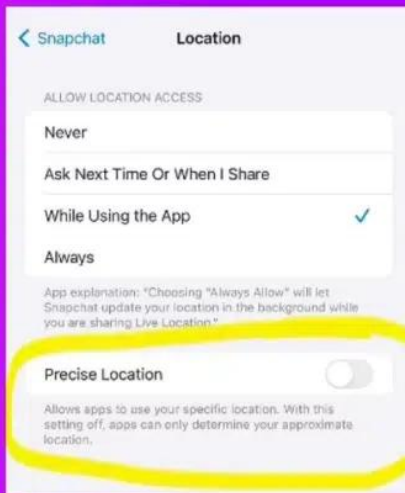
Download Now

- 'Snap Map' feature allows others to view your exact location.
- Recent update calculates how long it will take to drive to that destination.
- Can be disabled by using 'Ghost Mode' or turning off the location sharing in the phone settings.





Snap Maps



Decoy / Digital Vaults Apps



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iPhone Decoy Apps



Lock Photo+Video Safe App



Hide Photo+Video Safe



Private Albums



Photo Safe Pro HD



Private Photos



Secret Calculator



Private Photo/Calculator



Private Photo

Android Decoy Apps



Smart Hide Calculator



Vault-Hide SMS, Pics & Vide



PhotoVault - Hide Pictures



Hide Pictures - Hide It Pro



Loky Vault



Magic Box

VR Headsets



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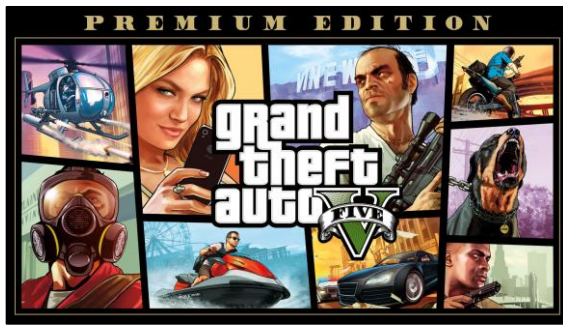


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“In this open-world action game, players assume the role of three criminals whose storylines intersect within the fictional city of Los Santos. Players can switch between each character to follow his storyline, completing missions that often include criminal activities (e.g., stealing cars, executing heists, assassinating targets).

The game includes depictions of sexual material/activity: implied fellatio and masturbation; various sex acts that the player’s character procures from a prostitute—while no nudity is depicted in these sequences, different sexual moaning sounds can be heard.”



**Grand Theft Auto VI. Will be released
November 19, 2026.**

AUTOMATIC WEED FARM



\$87

SCHEDULE



BUNGALOW

#1 Chat Avenue – is a FREE adult chat rooms for everyone

There is no verification to enter these, you just type in any name and then enter, you can leave and re-enter under another name. **Some of the chat rooms are:**

- Dating chat – 18+
- Singles chat
- Girls chat
- Boys chat
- General chat
- Teen Chat – 13-19
- College chat
- Gay chat
- Lesbian chat



- Music chat
- Sports chat
- Video game chat
- Live chat
- Cam chat
- Mobile chat
- Free chat
- Sex chat



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Young People and Gambling

Why are we talking about this?



70,000

**11-17yrs old are
considered to be
“Problem
Gamblers”**

**Gambling commission
2025**

49%

**Of 11-17yrs have
experience of
gambling in the
past 12 months**

**Gambling commission
2025**

1.65 millions

**Under 18s live with
someone
experiencing
gambling harms**

Gambleaware 2024

79%

**11-17yrs old
remember seeing
gambling ads in
the last year with
someone**

**Gambling Commission
2025**

Young People and Gamming



91%

Of 3 – 15yrs old
play video games
on some type of device

Video games research
Framework, UK Gov, 2023

27%

Of 11-17yrs old
Pay for Loot Boxes

Gambling Commission 2024

50%

Of people who use
loot boxes
In computer games
Are at an increased
Level of gambling
harm

Bormouth university,
GambleAware 2025

57%

Of young people
Surveyed report making
In-game
purchases

Ara recovery for all
Youth survey 2026

4%

11-17 year old gamble with
in-game items on websites
Outside of the game

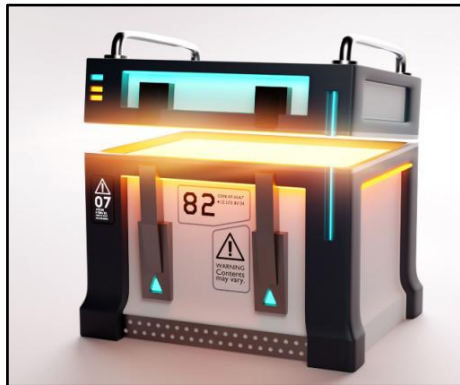
Gambling Commission 2024

Loot boxes

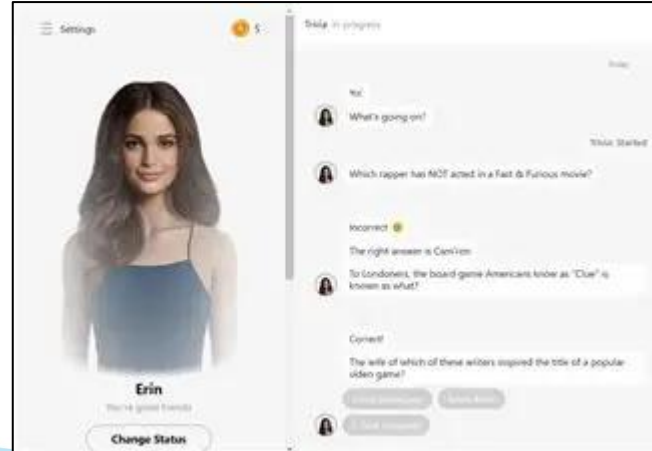
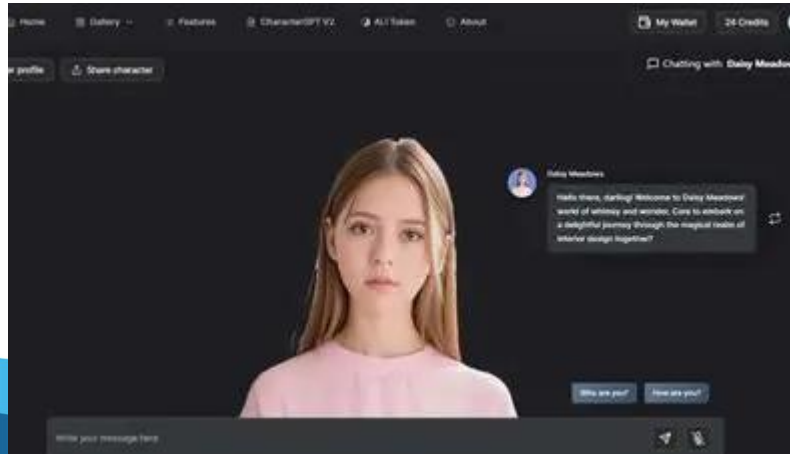
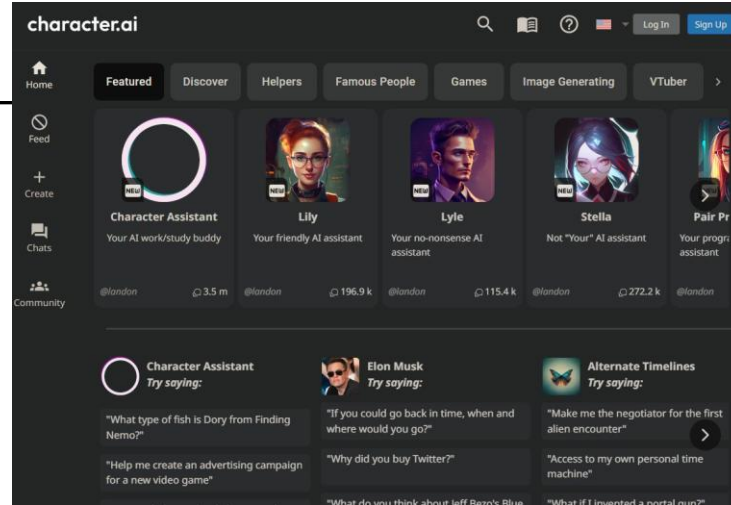
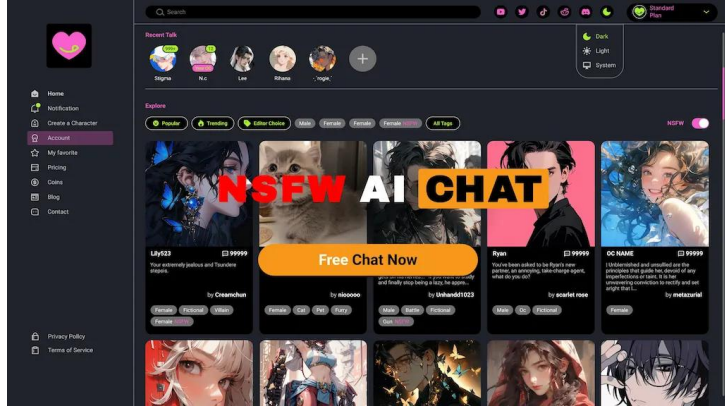
A loot box is **an in-game reward system** that can be purchased repeatedly with real money to obtain a random selection of virtual items.

The outcome is down to **Chance**

They **Generate enthusiasm** because they frequently feature vibrant colours and sounds.



AI Chatbots are fuelling Sexual Violence



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Safer Internet Day 2026: Almost a third of children who use AI chatbots see them as friends

Vodafone Report - February 2026

of 11-16-year-olds
feel like an AI
chatbot is one of
their friends

31%

believe AI chatbots
can understand
emotions like
people do

39%

admit they confide
in AI chatbots for
their take on
mental health
issues

16%

say speaking to technology feels
safer than speaking to a person

17%

prefer to seek advice from an AI
chatbot rather than another
person

14%



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Resources

Internet Matters



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Digital resilience toolkit 6 – 10 year olds



Digital resilience toolkit 11 – 13 year olds



Digital resilience toolkit 14+ year olds



Online grooming Guide



Online grooming guide



Online safety guide 0-5 year olds



Online safety guide 6-10 year olds



Online safety guide 11-13 year olds



Online safety guide 14+ year olds



Conversation starter tips



Screen time 5-7 years old



Screen time 7-11 years old



Screen time 11-14 years old



Screen time 14+ years old

www.internetmatters.org/resources/esafety-leaflets-resources/



Education from
the National
Crime Agency

Welcome to CEOP Education

The National Crime Agency's CEOP Education team aim to help protect children and young people from online child sexual abuse.

We do this through our education programme, providing training, resources and information to professionals working with children, young people and their families.



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I am:

**A professional working with
children and young people**

**A parent
or carer**

**4-7
years old**

**8-10
years old**

**11-18
years old**

CEOP – Child Exploitation and Online Protection



Child Exploitation and Online Protection

If you need to hide this site quickly, just click here



Are you worried about online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating with you online?

Make a report to one of CEOP's Child Protection Advisors

Should I make a report to CEOP? →

If you're worried about online abuse or the way someone has been communicating online, let CEOP know.



What happens when I make a report? →

One of our experienced Child Protection Advisors will be there to make sure you get the help that you need.



How can CEOP help me? →

Online abuse affects many children and young people every day, CEOP has helped thousands of people in need of support.



Make a report 

If you have experienced online sexual abuse or you're worried this is happening to someone you know, let us know safely and securely



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**REPORT
REMOVE**

Nude image of you online?
We can help take it down.

MAKE YOUR REPORT

To help you get your image removed we need to know how old you are.
Please select your current age using one of the buttons below.

Under 13 years old

13-15 years old

16-17 years old

18 and over



HELP WITH YOUR REPORT

BEFORE YOUR REPORT

What counts as a nude image?

Where can my image be removed from?

Can I report AI generated images?

Do I need ID?

Will anyone find out I've reported an image?

What happens to any information I give you?



 Search Report Remove 



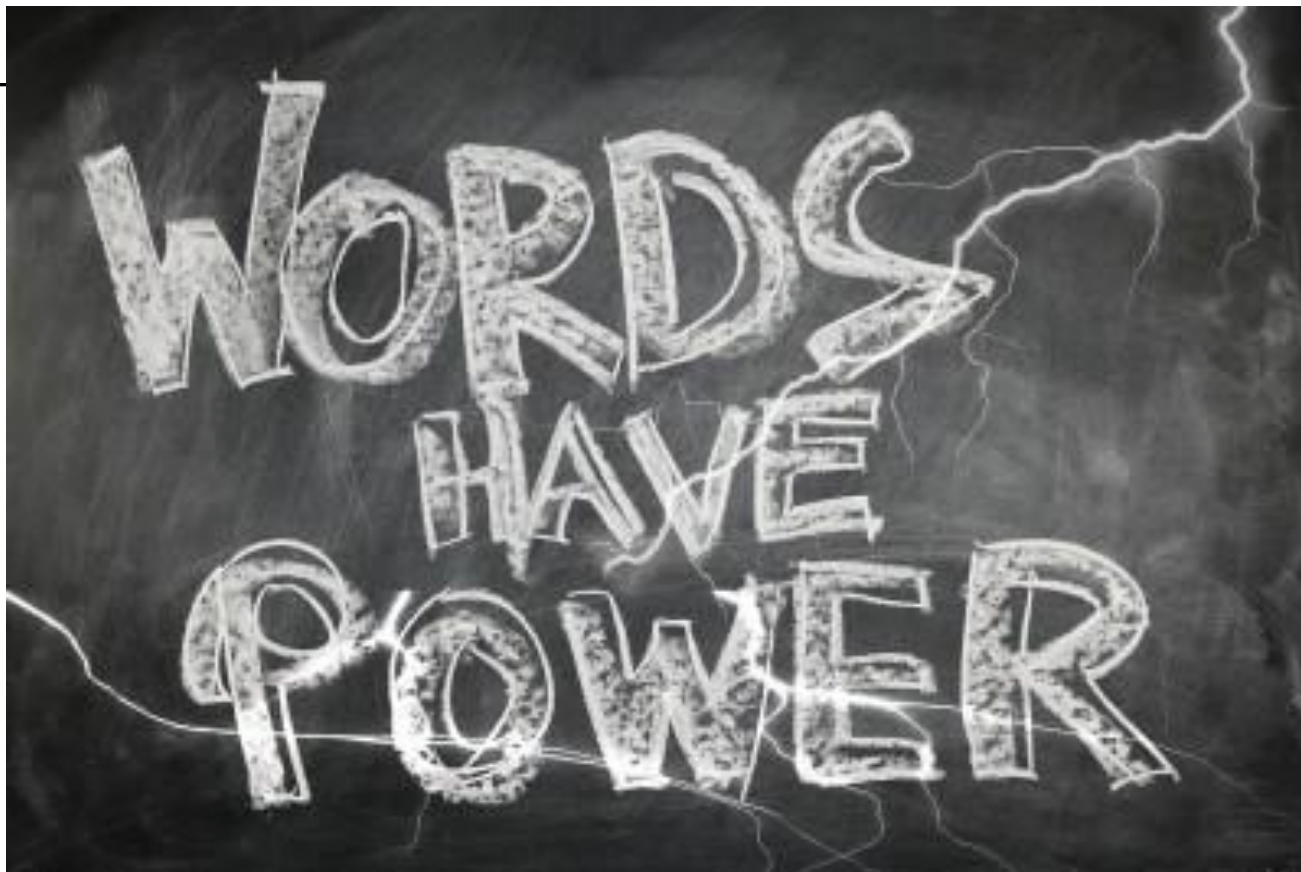
go to Report Remove.



Where can children and young people can find support and report?



 Nude image of you online? We can help take it down.	Report Remove to get help removing nude or sexual images or videos of themselves that have been shared online https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove/
	CEOP Safety Centre to report online sexual abuse, exploitation or grooming https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/
	Take it Down to get help removing nude or sexual images or videos that have, or may be, shared online. https://takeitdown.ncmec.org/resources-and-support/
	Report Harmful Content to help report inappropriate material online, bullying, harassment or violence. https://reportharmfulcontent.com/
	Shore Space is an anonymous service for teenagers worried about their own or someone's else sexual thoughts, feelings or actions. https://shorespace.org.uk/



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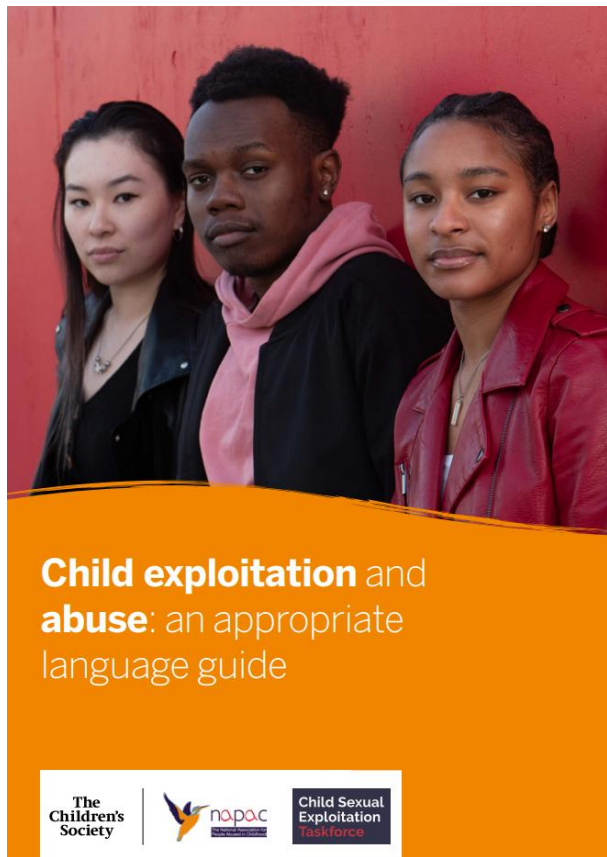
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The language used by professionals and society reinforces the shame and guilt felt by victim or survivor.

This can embolden abusers and isolate victims, reaffirming 'us vs them'.

This can create a barrier between the victim and safeguarding professionals: "They won't believe me."

The abuser uses this to their **advantage** creating **more distance** between the **victim** and **those who can help**.



Child exploitation and abuse: an appropriate language guide



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CrimeStoppers.

0800 555111

100% anonymous. Always.

Keep in Contact Login

Donate

Give information

Give information

Keeping safe

Get involved

About us

Partner with us

News & media

Serious violent crime can target anyone

Criminals use violence, exploitation and intimidation to control people, and profit from the sale of drugs and other illegal activities.

By speaking up, you can help stop violent crime. Tell us what you know, 100% anonymously.

Find out more

About our promise of anonymity

Fearless 100% Anonymous



0800 555 111
100% anonymous. Always.

Give information anonymously

[What is Fearless?](#)

[More Info](#)

[News](#)

[Parents/Guardians](#)

[Professionals](#)

[Home](#) > [What is Fearless?](#)

What is Fearless?

Pass on information without giving any personal details.

Give information anonymously

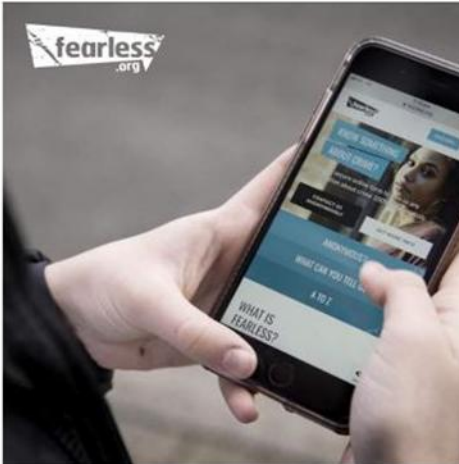
Quick Exit



Fearless
Sponsored ·



Fearless.org is an online crime reporting service that allows you to report any information you may have about crime, 100% anonymously.



FEARLESS.ORG
Tell us what you know.

[LEARN MORE](#)



You don't have to be an expert in child sexual abuse to help a child if you think they are at risk, or to act when you have concerns. Safeguarding children must be everyone's responsibility



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It is not a child's responsibility to prevent abuse, protect themselves or make the abuse stop.

Is it abuse?

Even if abuse is not occurring, it may be a situation that someone needs support with.

Don't worry that you have misunderstood a situation.

Within your role, it is not your job to investigate – just report.

Report any concerns you may have, as soon as possible.



“if you **see** something,
say something”



The priority should always be to ensure the safety and protection of the adult or child at risk.

To this end, it is the responsibility of us all to act on any suspicion or evidence of abuse or neglect and to pass the concerns to a responsible person or agency.

What if someone does not want me to report?



Explain to the person that you must report the concern if it's safe to do so and won't put them at risk.

It is vital to pass concerns on because:

- Other people may be at risk.
- There might be other issues that you're unaware of.
- You should not have to carry the responsibility alone.

If a child reveals abuse:



If a child talks to you about sexual exploitation it's important to:

- listen carefully to what they're saying
- let them know they've done the right thing by telling you
- tell them it's not their fault
- say you'll take them seriously
- don't confront the alleged abuser
- explain what you'll do next
- Report what the child has told you as soon as possible.



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Responding to Safeguarding Concerns



- Remain calm and non-judgmental.
- Listen actively without making promises you can't keep.
- Record the details of the concern in a secure manner.
- Inform the relevant authorities, such as HR, designated safeguarding officer, or external agencies.
- Do not attempt to investigate the concern yourself - let professionals handle it.

Professional responsibility

- Have up to date policies and procedures and make sure you and the staff have read and understood them
- Follow what is set out in these policies and procedures
- Be approachable
- Make sure your setting and activities are fit for purpose
- Use your own professional knowledge and understanding of what abuse is and act on this.
- Keep records of all your concerns that are accurate and factual
- Share and refer your concerns to the appropriate people - it is the responsibility of the designated lead to decide whether or not to refer on to Children's Social Care.



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Reporting procedure

- If you have a concern you report to your designated safeguarding lead.
- They will listen and decide what to do next
- They will report to your children's social care team

Children's Social Care will make the first assessment of what needs to be done to keep or make the child safe.

They will gather information about your concerns before assessing each case and determining the next appropriate steps to support children and families.

The team is made up of a range of staff who can also provide advice to professionals regarding completion of a Single Assessment for Early Help.



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Immediate safety and risk assessment



The safety and welfare of the individual is your main priority.

You should ensure the immediate safety and welfare of the adult or child at risk without putting yourself in any danger.

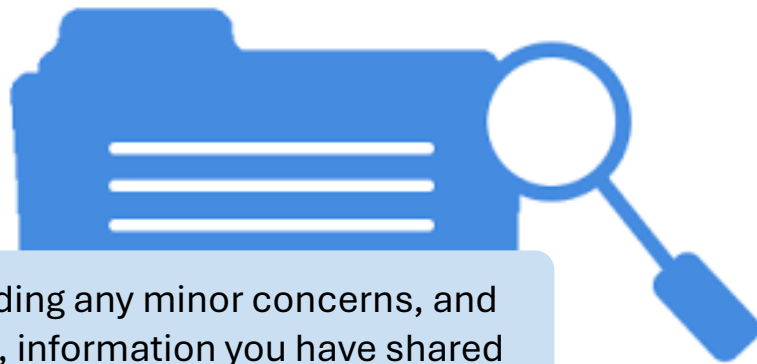
This may include:

Urgent medical attention or contacting the police on 999

In this event, take the necessary action immediately by reporting.



Record your safeguarding concerns



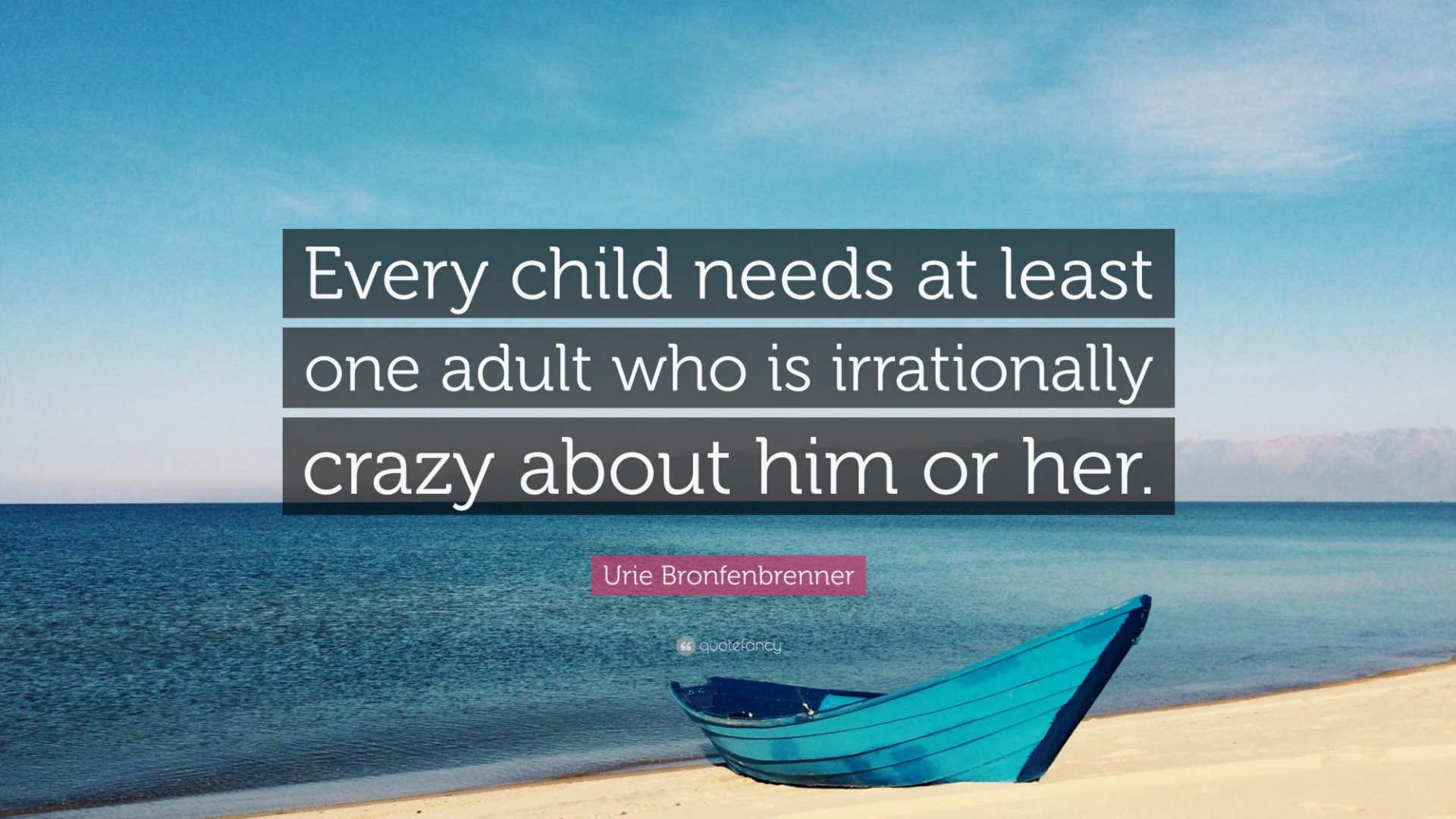
Record your concerns accurately, including any minor concerns, and the details of any action you have taken, information you have shared and decisions you have made relating to those concerns.



Make records at the time the events happen, or as soon as possible afterwards.



If you work for an organisation, please follow your in-house recording procedures.



Every child needs at least
one adult who is irrationally
crazy about him or her.

Urie Bronfenbrenner

quote fancy





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