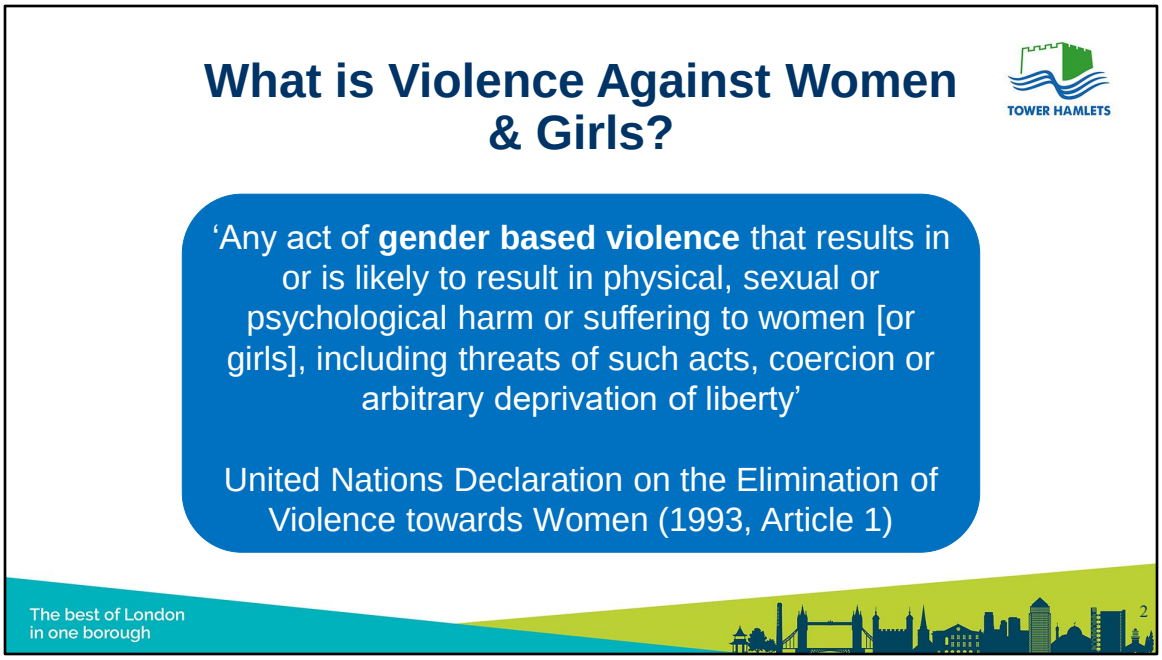
Violence Against Women & Girls – Information Session

LBTH VAWG Team

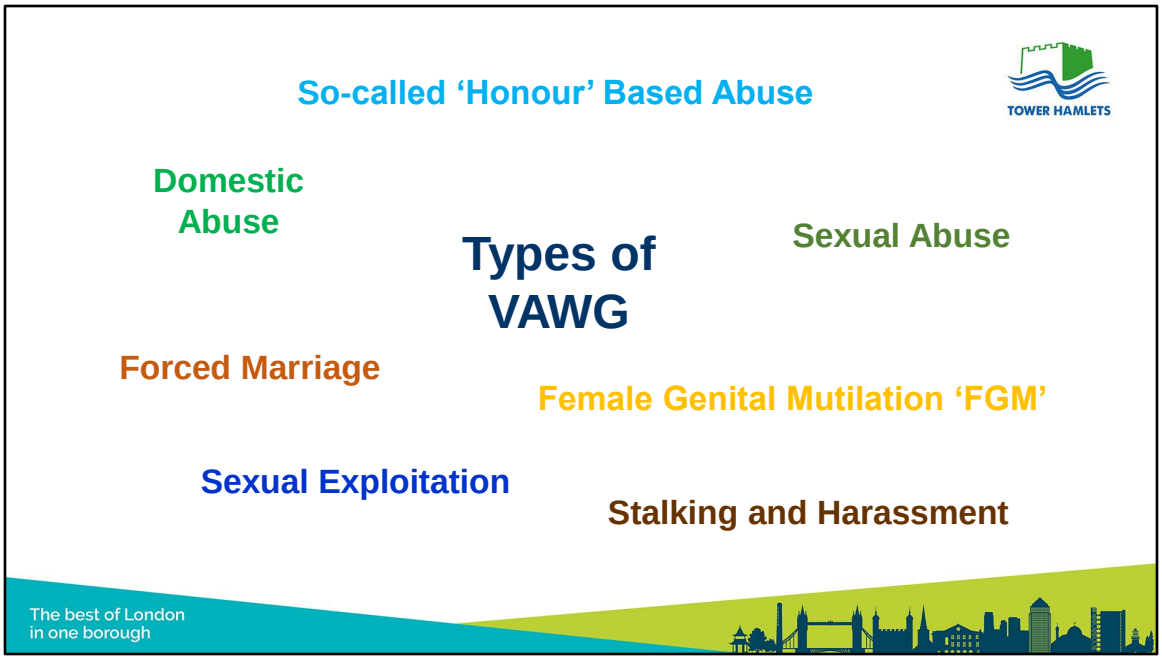


Arbitrary = based on random choice or personal changes of mind

Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) is both a form of discrimination and a violation of human rights.

It's important that Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) is not seen as a series of incidents or assaults which an individual experiences. VAWG describes violent and oppressive patterns of behaviour and practises which achieve power and control over women and girls. It impacts on the physical safety, health and emotional well-being of individuals and impacts on families, carers, children and the community as a whole.

Gender-based violence affects both women and men but disproportionately affects women and girls, reflecting their subordinate status in society. So, whilst men and boys can be victims, the vast majority of victims are women and girls. For example, ONS statistics for the year ending March 2021 showed that 73.1% victims in police recorded domestic abuse crimes were female. In the year ending March 2020 92% defendants in DA related prosecutions were male.



Here are the types of abuse which sits under the umbrella of VAWG.

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Domestic Abuse

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Definition only used to include people 18 years old and over, but was changed in 2012 to reflect that young people experience intimate partner abuse. Definition includes abuse such as HBA, FM and FGM.

Abuse experienced by young people under 16 years old is counted within child abuse, though it's important not to forget that some children are getting into intimate partnerships at a very young age.



The Duluth Power and Control wheel is the holy grail in any domestic abuse understanding and work.

In the middle you have power and control – these are the reasons that abusers perpetrate and harm their families and partners/ex-partners.

To gain that power and control you have different tactics which are categorized in the middle section – abusers will use these to achieve power and control over their victim.

Around the outside you have physical/sexual violence – these are used to reinforce the middle behaviours and maintain that power and control. Physical and sexual violence can be carried out or threatened – either way it has a significant impact on the victim.



VAWG directory - https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/community_and_living/community_safety__crime_preve/domestic_violence/VAWG-Service-Directory/VAWG-Service-Directory.aspx

NDAH – 24/7 support

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Harmful Practices

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Defining FGM

"The term 'female genital mutilation' (also called 'female genital cutting' and 'female genital mutilation/cutting', FGM/FGC) refers to **all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia** or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons"

(World Health Organisation, 2008)

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Defining ‘Honour’ Based Abuse

‘So-called Honour based abuse is a crime or incident, which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour or the family and/or community’.

(Metropolitan Police Service)

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Honour based abuse (HBA): ‘So-called honour based abuse is a crime or incident, which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour or the family and/or community'. (Metropolitan Police Service)

It is abuse that cuts across all cultures, nationalities, faith groups and communities and is linked to male privilege/status and notions of ownership of women and children - it is a tool of oppression which can be displayed in several different contexts - gangs, tight-knit rural or working-class communities, where there are cultural or long-standing traditional expectations of how women should behave and in isolated, marginalised communities – for example, in traveller communities.

Defining Forced Marriage

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"A forced marriage is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities or reduced capacity, cannot) consent to the marriage as they are pressurised, or abuse is used, to force them to do so. It is recognised in the UK as a form of domestic or child abuse and a serious abuse of human rights.

The pressure put on people to marry against their will may be:
- **physical**: for example, threats, physical violence or sexual violence
- **emotional** and psychological: for example, making someone feel like they are bringing 'shame' on their family

Financial abuse, for example taking someone's wages, may also be a factor."

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This definition is from the UK government

Harmful Practices Support

TH Solace Advocacy and Support Service (TH SASS)
0203 795 5064

Asian Women's Resource Centre
020 8961 6549 /5701

IKWRO 020 7920 6460

Karma Nirvana 0800 5999 247

Freedom Charity 0845 607 0133

NB: Due to regular changes in funding, support services might change. These services are available at the time of presentation, but please see TH VAWG Directory, https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/community_and_living/community_safety__crime_preve/domestic_violence/VAWG-Service-Directory/VAWG-Service-Directory.aspx to check up to date services.

FGM Support

NSPCC FGM Helpline: fgm.help@nspcc.org.uk

0800 028 3550

Forward: https://www.forwarduk.org.uk/

0800 5999 247

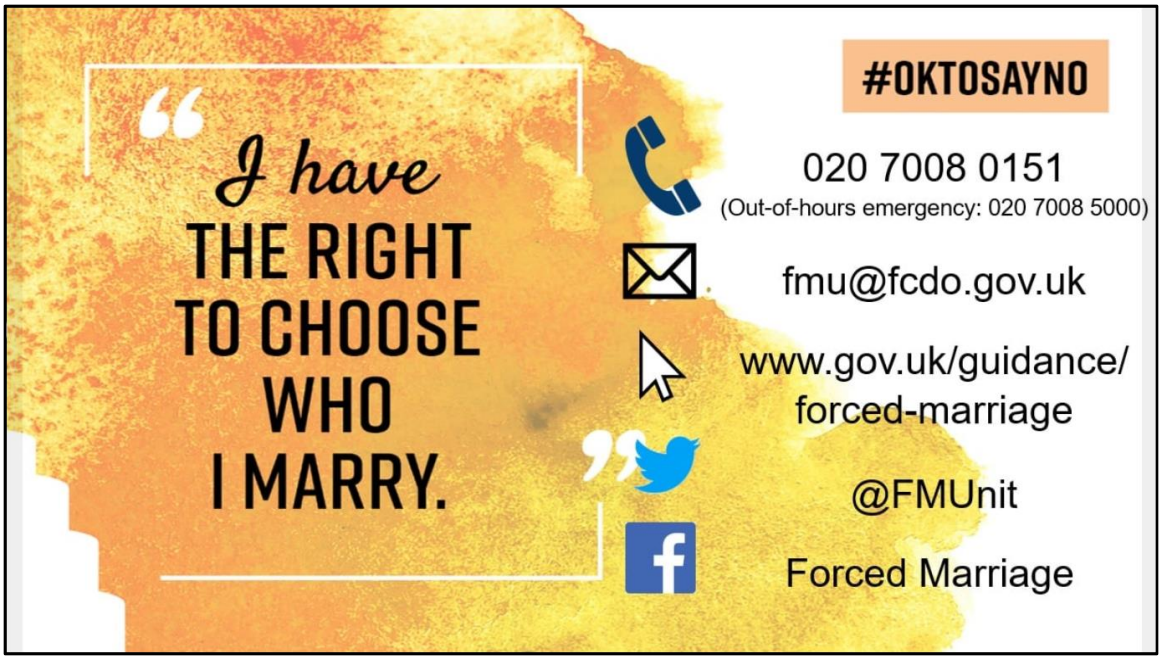
Women's Health & Family Services: https://whfs.org.uk/

020 7377 8725

Community Women's Health Service:
bartshealth.women@nhs.net

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I have
THE RIGHT
TO CHOOSE
WHO
I MARRY.
#OKTOSAYNO
020 7008 0151
(Out-of-hours emergency: 020 7008 5000)
fmu@fcdo.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/guidance/
forced-marriage
@FMUnit
Forced Marriage

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Sexual Abuse

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Upskirting note: In England and Wales, prosecutors can currently use offences of outraging public decency, harassment or voyeurism to tackle upskirting - but not all cases can be covered by those charges

Sexual assault also became a criminal offence under the Sexual Offences Act in 2003. Sexual assault covers a number of behaviours that range from forced touching or kissing to other more serious assaults covered under rape.

Like rape, sexual abuse can include the use of force, threats or intimidation to make another person perform sexual acts on them. It may also include forcing the victim to use pornography or coercing them into having sex with other people. Sexual abuse also includes behaviour which degrades a person's sexuality. One report has found that 53% of homophobic abuse reported to the police happens in the home in contrast to 17% on the street (Home Office 2001a).

The same consent issues apply to less serious sexual offences as they do in cases of rape.



Explore the definitions of harassment and abuse/assault and how sexual harassment can often be harder to recognise or to address on an individual basis and in society – contributing to a 'rape culture' which is a concept discussed later.

Sexual Abuse Support

East London Rape Crisis Centre
0800 160 1036

The Havens, Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)
020 3299 9000

London Survivors Gateway 0808 801 0860

National Rape Crisis 0808 802 9999
(12:00-14:30 and 19:00-21:30 every day of the year)

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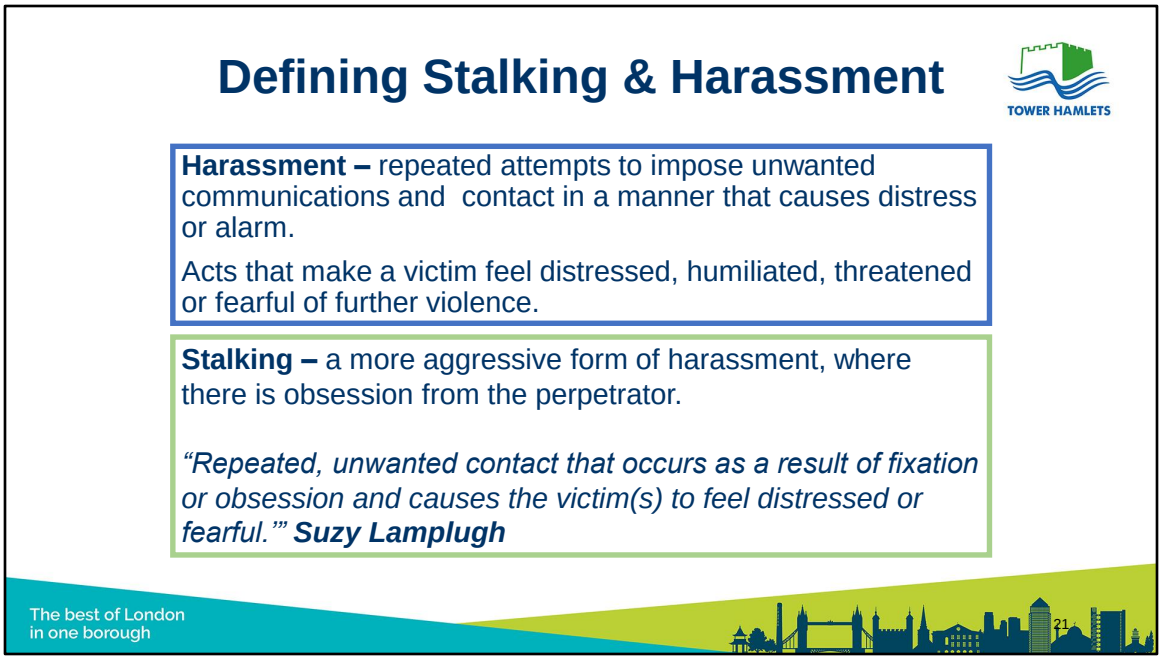
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Stalking & Harassment

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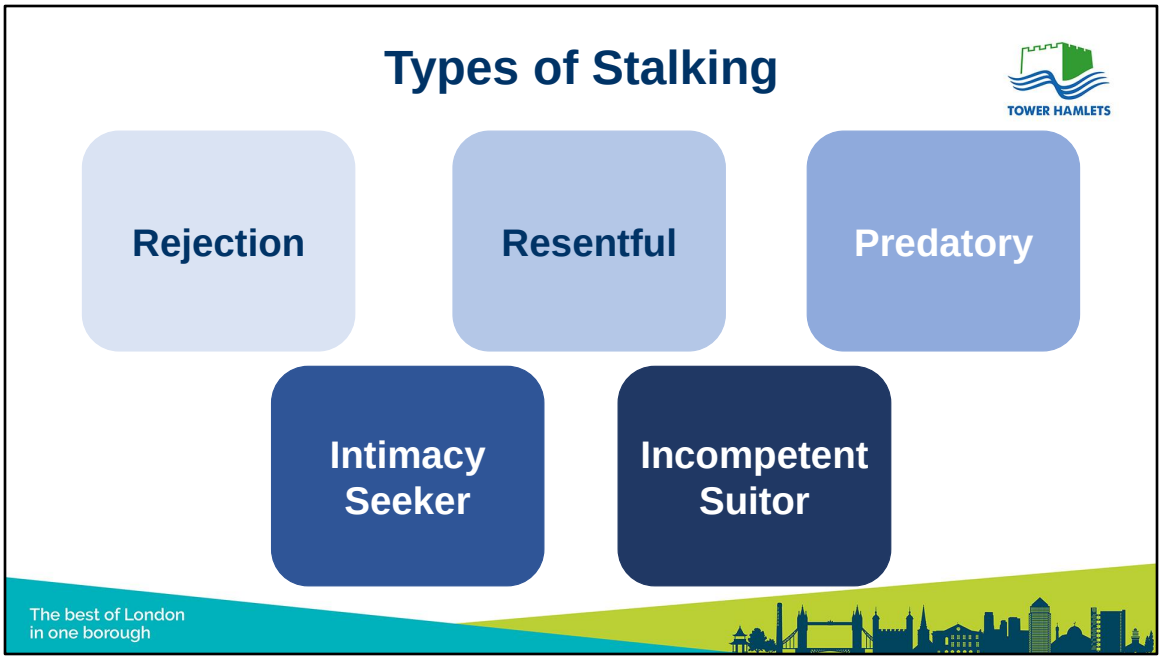




Harassment – can anyone give examples of behaviour that could come under harassment?
Verbal abuse, phone calls, texts, unwanted gifts, antisocial behaviour, turning up to someone's house.
Harassment happens when the unwanted behaviour occurs more than once.

Stalking – no clear legal definition – can anyone give any examples of stalking behaviour?
Regularly following someone, spying, identity theft, forcing contact by any means.
Goal of stalking is to curtail someone's freedom, making them feel they have to be careful.

Both Harassment and Stalking are crimes under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997



Stalkers can generally be placed into one of 5 categories:

- Rejection - people who have been in an intimate relationship and, when the relationship is under strain or breaks down, they then target their partner or ex-partner. This can happen when a relationship is failing or years after a relationship has ended. Rejection stalking is often associated with relationships that were previous abusive.
- Resentful - people who target someone because they think they've been wronged in some way; can be acquaintances, work colleagues or customers, neighbours and family members.
- Predatory - people who have a sexual or sadistic motive for stalking.
- Intimacy Seeker - some people believe that they are in love or meant to be together with someone they hardly know – an acquaintance, a person they have seen in the street or on TV – despite the other person having given no indication that this is the case. When rebuffed, they can turn vengeful. This type of stalking has been linked by health professionals and researchers to serious mental health issues. There is a higher instance of women than men in this group.
- Incompetent Suitor - people who seek a romantic or sexual relationship with another person and pursue their target with fixated, obsessive, unwanted and

repeated contact. Incompetent suitors are often people who struggle to form normal relationships. Some people think the term 'incompetent suitor' minimises criminal behaviour that is often born out of an attitude of entitlement.

(Action Against Stalking Scotland)

Stalking & Harassment

National Stalking Helpline- 0808 802 0300 (Suzy Lamplugh Trust)

Paladin – 0203 866 4107

Domestic Abuse Charities

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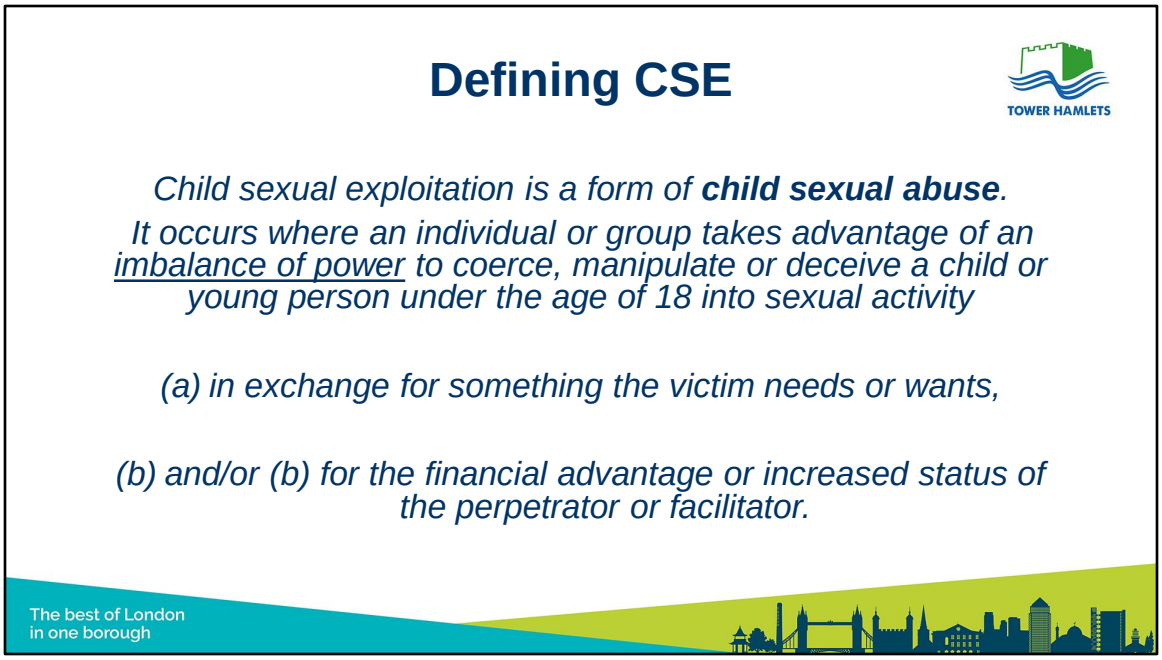
Children & VAWG

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Ask if Ps can think of ideas
Here are some examples of what coercion and control looks like in Yps.



Here we have the Government's definition of CSE - CSE is a form of child sexual abuse, what differentiates it from other forms of child sexual abuse is the concept of exchange. The YP and/or the offender receives something in return for the abusive act.

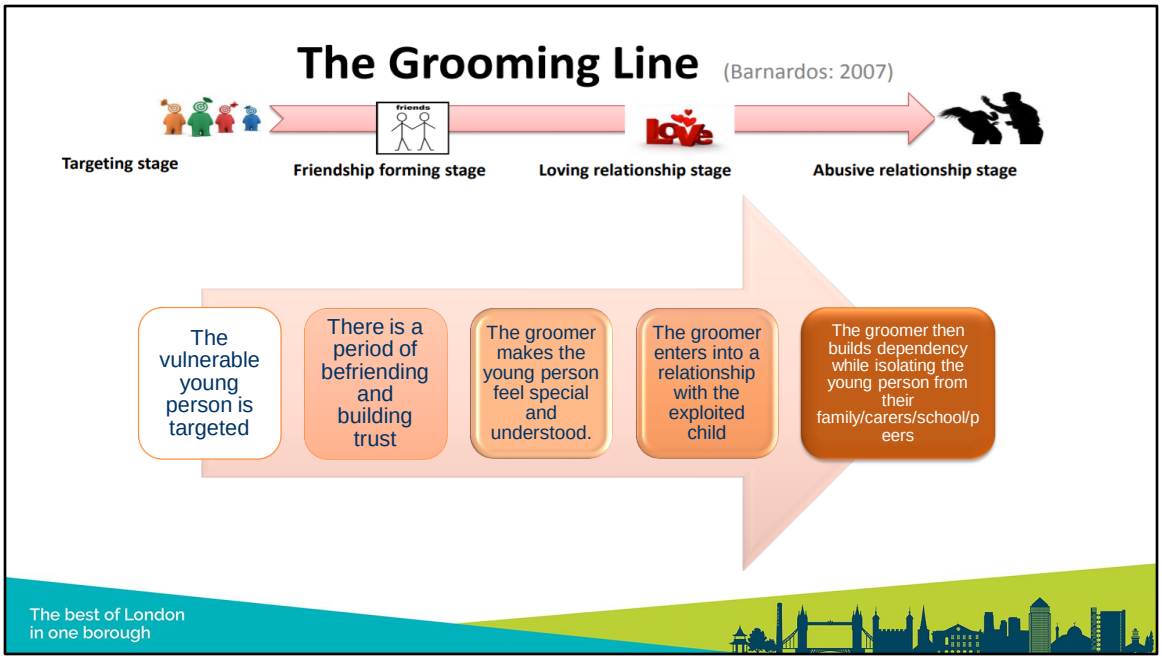
At the core of it, it occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity

The 'something' received by the child or young person can include both tangible items such as **food, somewhere to stay, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes or money**

But there are 'rewards' that hook in to create a deeper, psychological dependency on the abuser, which make it harder for that child to break from. These are intangible – can anyone give me some examples? (**perceived affection, protection, or a sense of belonging**.) **Fear** of what might happen if they do not comply can also be a significant influencing factor.

The advantage that the perpetrator gains, be it financial or increased status in

exchange for an abusive sexual act - this is a key factor that defines the exploitation of children.

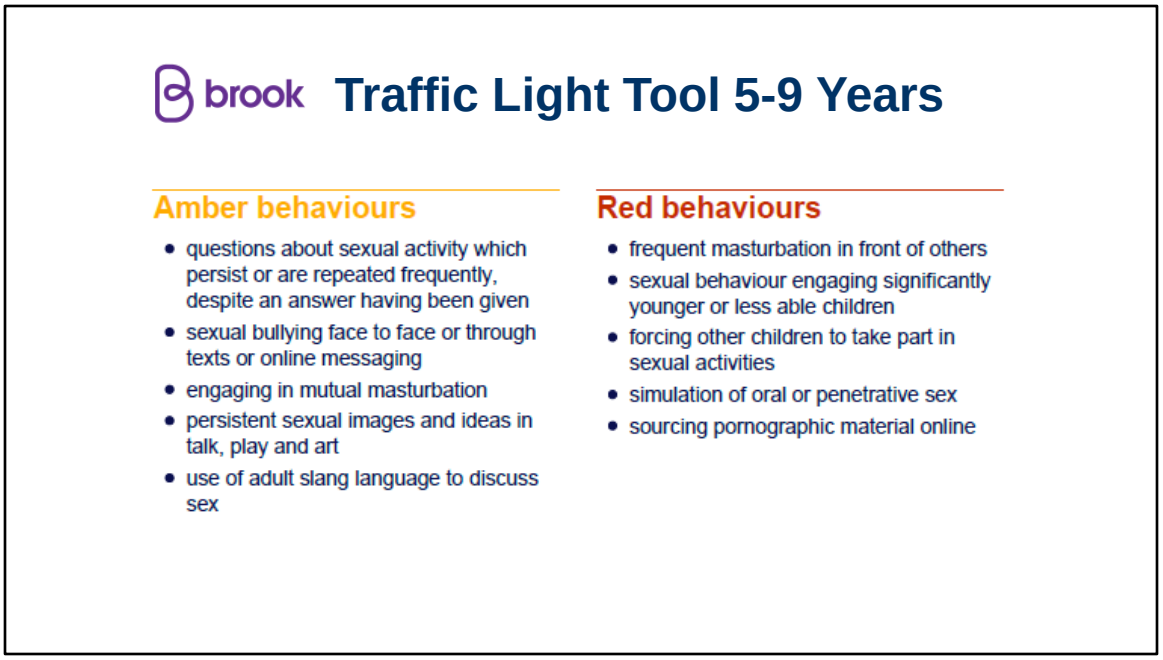


Here we have the grooming line process, which Barnardo's developed from research.

At the targeting stage the young person is observed, often considering the vulnerabilities we saw as part of the push factors.

Trust is then built, techniques are used to make the person feel special, the relationship creates further dependency and then once control has been established: here is where abuse becomes more apparent, yet the child's perception of control to leave has decreased.

The result is that the groomer has gained control of the young person, by manipulation, coercion, threats and intimidation.



Brook's sexual behaviours The Traffic Light Tool for primary school age supports with the identification of potential Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) by acknowledging and explaining how sexual behaviours can indicate past, present, or future risk of CSE. It's not a CSE tool in itself.

Traffic Light Tool 9-13 Years

Amber behaviours

- uncharacteristic and risk-related behaviour, e.g. sudden and/or provocative changes in dress, withdrawal from friends, mixing with new or older people, having more or less money than usual, going missing
- verbal, physical or cyber/virtual sexual bullying involving sexual aggression
- LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) targeted bullying
- exhibitionism, e.g. flashing or mooning
- giving out contact details online
- viewing pornographic material
- worrying about being pregnant or having STIs

Red behaviours

- exposing genitals or masturbating in public
- distributing naked or sexually provocative images of self or others
- sexually explicit talk with younger children
- sexual harassment
- arranging to meet with an online acquaintance in secret
- genital injury to self or others
- forcing other children of same age, younger or less able to take part in sexual activities
- sexual activity e.g. oral sex or intercourse
- presence of sexually transmitted infection (STI)
- evidence of pregnancy

Barriers for Children

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- Don't acknowledge abuse as 'domestic'
- **First relationship experience**
- Not developed healthy boundaries
- **Peer pressure**
- School/social group with perpetrator
- **Professionals barriers – don't recognise risk**
  - don't respond appropriately

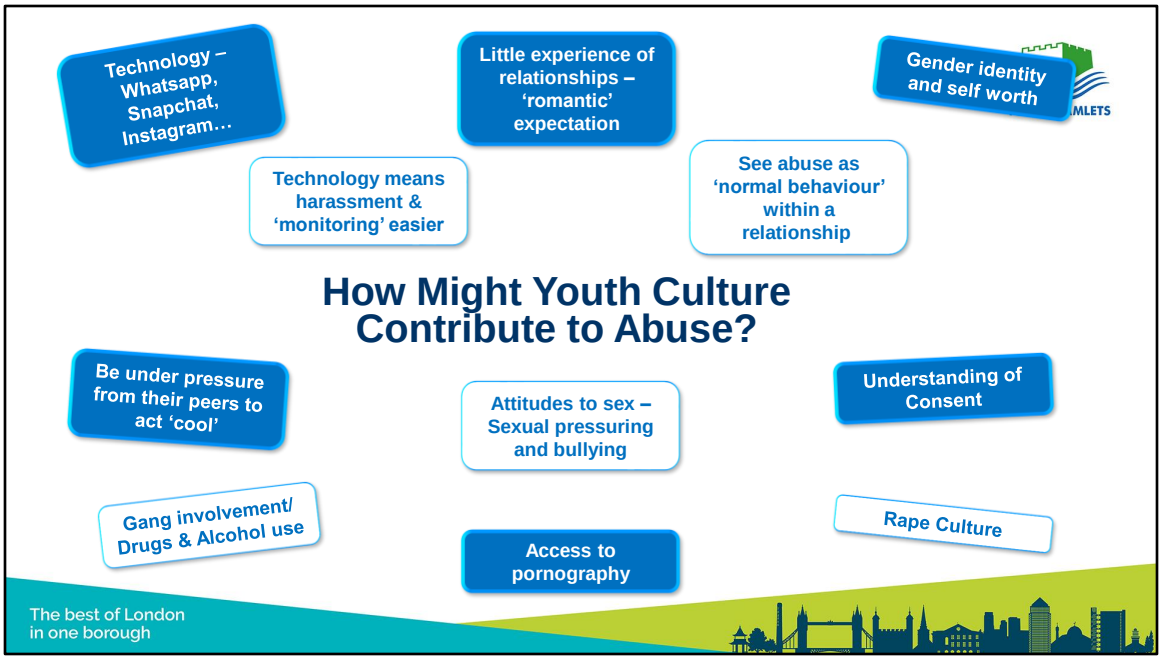
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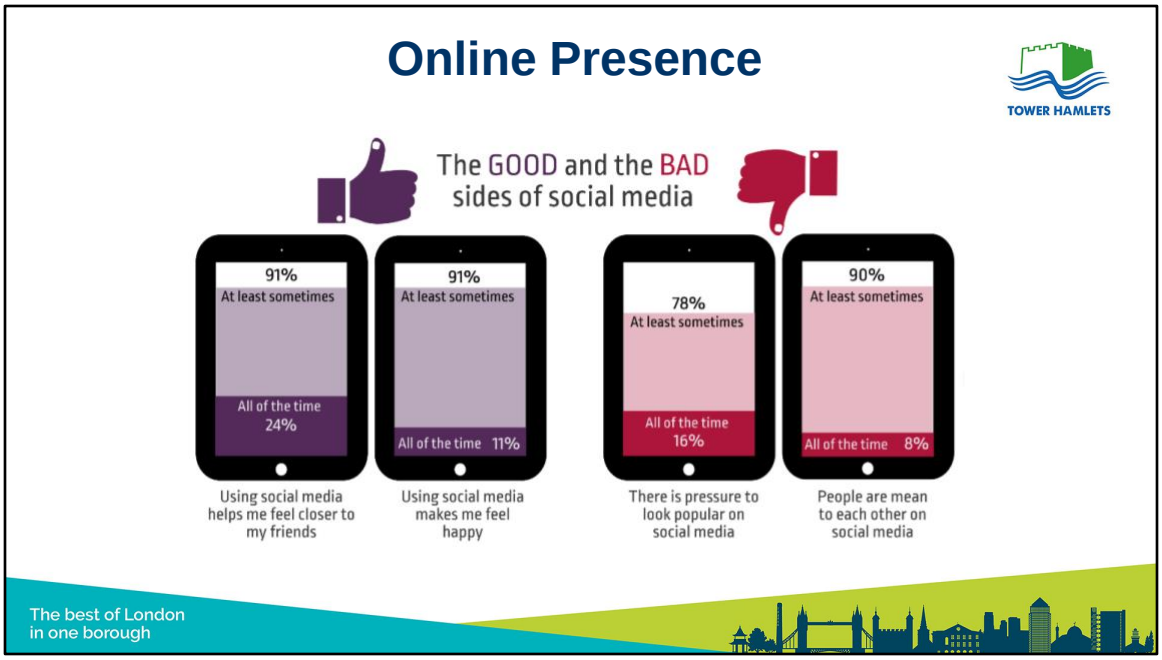


What barriers do young people have?



Why would a YP be confused and why might they be reluctant to talk


Technology – Whatsapp, Snapchat, Instagram…
Little experience of relationships – 'romantic' expectation
Gender identity and self worth
Technology means harassment & 'monitoring' easier
See abuse as 'normal behaviour' within a relationship
How Might Youth Culture Contribute to Abuse?
Be under pressure from their peers to act 'cool'
Attitudes to sex – Sexual pressuring and bullying
Understanding of Consent
Gang involvement/ Drugs & Alcohol use
Access to pornography
Rape Culture
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Yes there are risks associated with being online, as there are with all aspects of life:

- Exposure to inappropriate content
- Sharing too much personal information
- Connecting with harmful people
- Spending unhealthy amounts of time online

But most children have a positive experience online, using the internet for social networking and connecting with peers, as well as to access educational resources, information, and entertainment.
The internet opens up new opportunities for learning, creativity and expression, bringing people together to respect and celebrate differences.

Research by Ofcom showed that nine in ten social media users aged 12-15 state that this use has made them feel happy or helped them feel closer to their friends.

- In the 2019 UK Safer Internet Centre survey, 70% of young people surveyed said that being online helps them understand what's happening in the world and it inspires them towards good causes.

Keeping Children Safe Online

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O2 | NSPCC

Net Aware



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Net Aware was a partnership between O2 and NSPCC, dedicated to making online spaces safe for children. Unfortunately this ended in 2021, but they created this helpful video advising parents – it's also relevant for professionals working with young people.



So do not despair! There are simple yet incredibly impactful actions you can take as a responsible adult or parent in safeguarding against online harm. I know it's tempting to want to put strict boundaries, maybe stop young people using these platforms at all. But more than likely, they will find a way any way- but it'll be behind your back and you'll have pushed them away before you know it. Trust, openness and kindness are the best starting points to engaging young people with.

Safety Planning - Online (Resources)

Internet Matters www.internetmatters.org

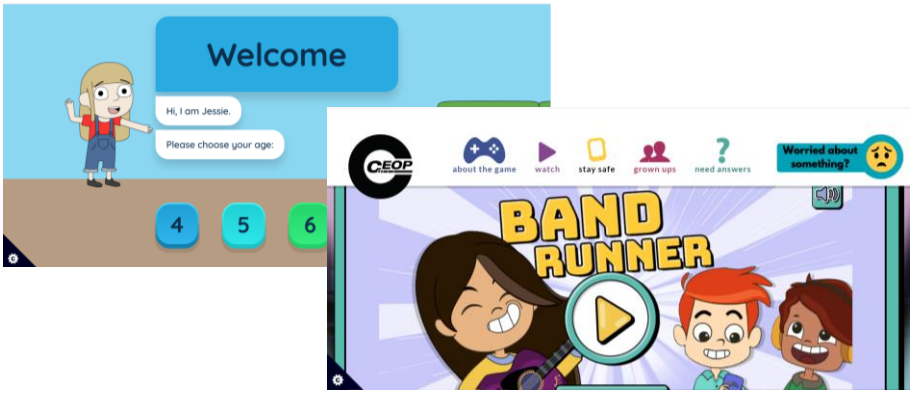
Law Stuff https://lawstuff.org.uk/

Safer Internet https://www.saferinternet.org.uk

NSPCC https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/talking-about-difficult-topics/

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Thinkuknow Website

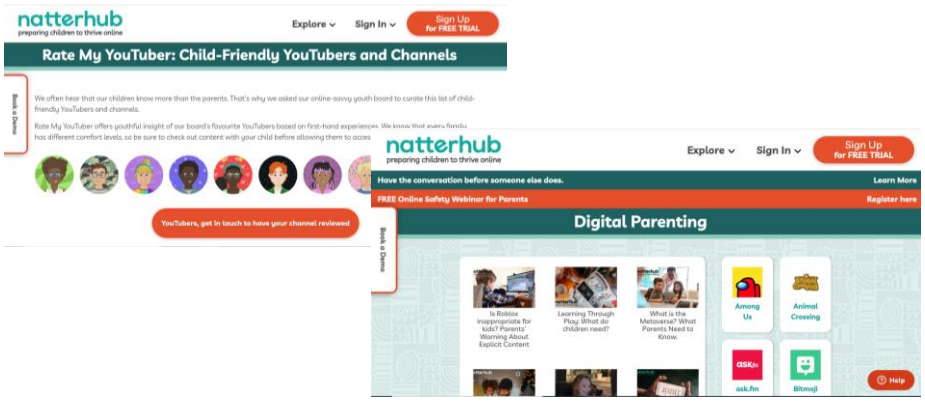


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https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/

Other resources here: https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/crime-prevention/crime-prevention-toolkits/child-sexual-exploitation/talking-about-child-sexual

Natterhub Website



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https://natterhub.com/digital-parenting

Tower Hamlets Support

NIA - Young People's Advocate 0207 683 1270

Safer London (CSE) 0207 021 0301

Safe East 0203 954 0091

Abianda (County Lines) 020 768 60520
hello@abianda.com

NSPCC (Protect and Respect) 0203 772 9905

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Parents - Coping with VAWG

- Look after yourself
- **Go to GP for yourself**
- Speak to the specialists
- **Speak to your work**
- Speak to child's school
- **Share your experience with your partner/other family**
- Keep a diary of cars/details of potential perpetrators
- **Try and do joint activities with child**
- Pick your battles and avoid conflict where possible
- **Safety plan with child**
- Photos/evidence of harm
- **Register their Oyster card on TFL**
- Considering having 'find my phone' app

Parents - Coping with VAWG

- Contract phone so you can track numbers etc.
- **Charged phones, enough money for taxis**
- Uber linked to your account
- **Continue to be the safe haven**
- Warm, positive environment when they get in
- **Hot water bottle in bed if coming back late**
- Regular routines- meals etc
- **Tell them/show them you love them**

Don’t Give Up

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