

NOT IN OUR COMMUNITY

Protecting us and our friends against
sexual exploitation.

Megan's Story

Megan had a right laugh feeling grown-up, but then found that her new friends had other plans for her...

Sexual exploitation can happen to anyone. Male or female. Regardless of background. It is never the victim's fault.

This photo story takes you through one case of exploitation based on true-life events.

It's not okay for someone to manipulate you into doing sexual things for their own or someone else's benefit. If you're under 18, this is called child sexual exploitation and it is against the law.

Grooming takes many forms and many abusers will gain the trust of their victims over time.

Do not ignore the warning signs if you or a friend are at risk of sexual exploitation. See <http://notinourcommunity.org/get-help/> to understand the options for help.

1. I don't really speak to my family much; I don't go to school either. Don't have many friends. But I liked living by myself. I thought the people I hung around with were my only real friends.



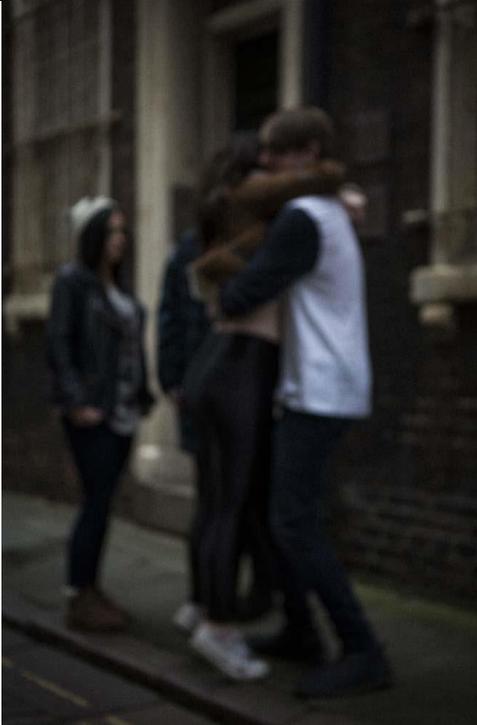
2. I mean they let me stay at theirs whenever, you know on their sofas, they'd give me drink & drugs. It was a right laugh! They didn't care that I was fourteen; it was nice to feel grown up. In control.





3. But I wasn't in control. I became dependent on these "grownups" for everything. Because I felt I owed it to them I would give blow jobs to the men they told me to, or let them have sex with me as I felt it was the least I could do, after all they'd let me stay, let me drink and gave me drugs. I got told it was a way to pay off my debt, but sometimes I had to have sex with people I'd not met before.

4. She put me in a car and drove me to loads of different places, far from where I was staying.



5. It got rough, they'd stick things inside me and have a laugh when it hurt me; I was treated like shit. When I look back now I see it was abuse. They weren't my true friends after all. I was a piece of meat to them.

6. I'm sixteen now and I have a project helping me get on with my life, without them I don't know where I'd be. I'd probably be dead.



I wasn't in control, I needed help and now I know there's always someone at the end of the phone. I can even meet up with them if I want to. I've moved away from the places I used to go, to a safe place with other people like me.

