




Summer's all right I suppose, but it can get boring particularly when you haven't got any money to do stuff.

We were hanging out near the shops when Nahid came across to talk to us.



He asked if we were hungry or wanted anything. He was funny and confident, not like the boys at school.


His mates seemed nice too, like proper men, they were really generous with cigs and driving us places.

### SOPHIE'S SUMMER



We felt real grown up hanging out with them and they said we should come round to their flat for parties, but that we should be careful who we told as it was better being just us and them.

Natalie stopped coming, but me and Tara really liked it. We were trying new kinds of drugs and things; it was exciting.

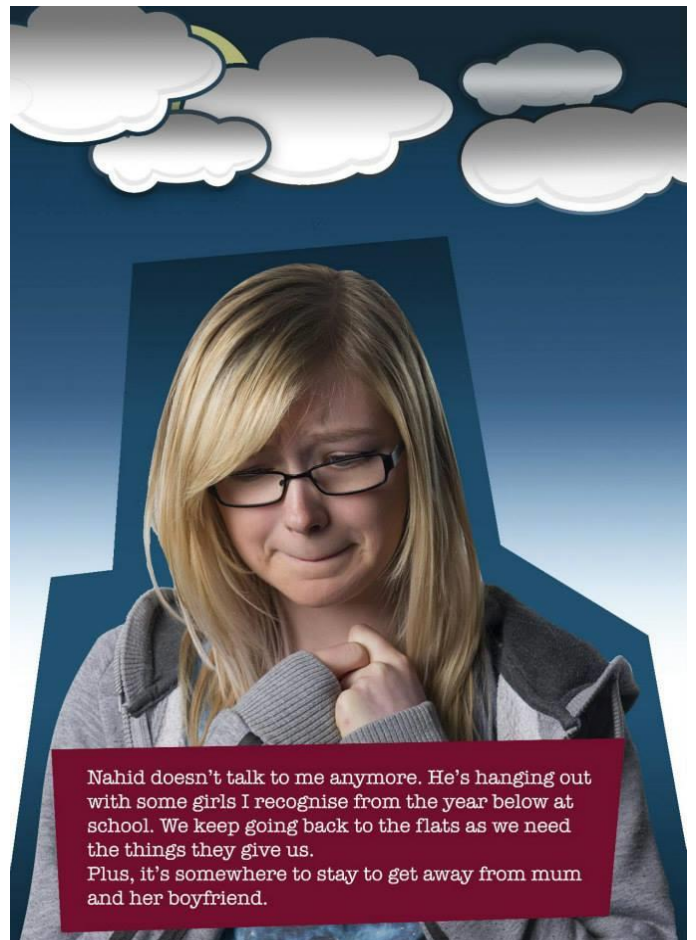


One night things got a bit weird. Tara passed out and they were doing things to her whilst she slept. They kept joking that I should hurry up and pass out too so it'd be my turn. I told Tara what had happened and we said we'd have to be more careful next time we went round.





Things were getting wild. Most of the time it was a good laugh, but we sometimes we had to have sex with them to keep them outside. They kept giving us stuff and there were a few new blokes coming round now. I hated the way some of them looked at me and the things they said.



Nahid doesn't talk to me anymore. He's hanging out with some girls I recognise from the year below at school. We keep going back to the flats as we need the things they give us. Plus, it's somewhere to stay to get away from mum and her boyfriend.

## SOPHIE'S STORY



The start of summer feels like ages ago. Tara is on something all the time and she won't talk about the stuff the blokes keep doing to us; she says that it's just something we have to put up with if we want to keep going there. Natalie says were a pair of slags and should have got out earlier. I can't talk to mum. No one understands. Everything feels dark.

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Know the signs – Hear the stories – Confidential help

[www.notinourcommunity.org](http://www.notinourcommunity.org)

- Think you might have been sexually exploited?
- Want some advice or someone to talk to?

Exploitation is **never your fault**.

If you have concerns about sexual exploitation, whether it's regarding a young person who may be at risk, or suspected offender, you can call the local police **101**.

If you think a young person is in immediate danger please dial **999**.

Alternatively, you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111**. If you are young person who needs help, you can contact:

Childline on **0800 1111** or [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

Samaritans at **08457 90 90 90** or [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

Cornerhouse (Yorkshire) on **01482 327044**