



Alfie's Story: Parts 1 and 2 – Home learning tasks

Film running time: 14 minutes

Advised session duration: 20 to 30 minutes

Film released: November 2018

Age rating: 11+

Contains references to drug taking, alcohol, drug dealing, violence and threats of violence.

Contains some scenes that viewers might find distressing.

Synopsis: Alfie's story is told from the perspective of a 13 year-old boy from Grimsby who is hurt and lone in the street and looks back at the events that led to him being there. It is based on real life events and has been written with the help of young people who have experienced grooming and child criminal exploitation.

Film link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DV_EbjNklec
Or search "Alfie's story" on YouTube.

Suggested follow-up materials: Visit www.notinourcommunity.org
Follow Not in our community on Instagram, Facebook or YouTube.

Closing message and accessing help:

Exploitation is never your fault.

If someone is in immediate danger call 999. If you have concerns about exploitation, you can call the local police on 101.

If you want to anonymously discuss concerns about grooming, sexual or criminal exploitation you can speak to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or Childline on 0800 1111 or online.

Alternatively, you could **speak with a trusted adult** such as a parent, grandparent, carer, teacher, youth, health or social worker, and you can use www.notinourcommunity.org to work out the next steps to take together. There are also local organisations here to help you listed on the "Get help" section of the website.

Reflecting on Alfie's Story

1. Watch the film.
2. Read the questions and talk through / write answers.
3. Use the suggested answers / hints section if required.
4. Familiarise yourself with the signs and how to get help.

If you're struggling to answer any of the questions below, take a look at the final page of the session plan for clues and prompts.

- 1. How did Alfie's story make you feel?**
 - *Do you think things like this happen where you live? Do you feel Alfie deserves what is happening to him?*

- 2. What do you think happened with Alex? Why did Dave say he was out the family?**
 - *What did Alex mean when he said that being given his electronic tag had given him his freedom back?*

- 3. We see Alfie forced to deal drugs from a house.
What do you think was happening with the man whose house it was?**

What do you think was happening with the young girl in the house?

- 4. Why do you think working for Dave and the family was attractive for Alife?**

Clues and prompts:

1. How did Alfie's story make you feel?

Do you think things like this happen where you live? Do you feel Alfie deserves what is happening to him?

Notes: Although moving and selling drugs is illegal, Alfie is still a child who is being controlled by adults; he is a victim

2. What do you think happened with Alex? Why did Dave say he was out the family?

- What did Alex mean when he said that being given his electronic tag had given him his freedom back?

Notes: Alex has been arrested and the police had put an ankle tag on him which meant they could see everywhere he went. Because of this, Dave did not want the police to get closer to understanding what they were doing so kicked him out the family.

Alfie was what is sometimes called "clean skin", meaning that he was not known to the police so he is more valuable to Dave as he can move and sell drugs without being watched.

3. We see Alfie forced to deal drugs from a house.

What do you think was happening with the man whose house it was?

Notes: the man in the house was addicted to drugs and was a vulnerable adult. In the story he is forced to allow Jay to use his house as a drug's operation in a way of working sometimes called "cuckooing". Possibly, the man owes Jay and Dave a debt or he has been threatened with violence if he does not do as he is told.

What do you think was happening with the young girl in the house?

Notes: We don't know much about the girl, though viewers from the Not in our community film "Maddison's story" might recognise the man she was with. We know from the other film that he pays others for time with sexually exploited girls, so it possible that she was there and given drugs to control her as part of her exploitation.

We see Alfie and the girl exchange a look. Maybe they both saw each other as victims?

5. How did Dave control and trap Alfie to continue to work for him?

Hints: he was kind and gave him money and told him that he was doing well so that Alfie felt like he was part of the "family". After that, he told Alfie that he owed it to them, threatened to hurt him and his mum, showed him that he was not afraid to have him beaten up if he did anything wrong.



6. Did you notice any similarities between the time Alfie was robbed and when he was beaten up?

Notes: the men that robbed Alfie were the same ones that beat him up when Dave told him to. Dave had arranged for Alfie to be robbed so that Alfie now owed him what had been taken. In reality, Dave will have lost nothing but tricked and trapped Alfie into something sometimes called “debt bondage” meaning that Alfie now had to do whatever Dave told him to and that he wouldn’t even get paid to do it.

7. What do you think Alfie should do next?

Notes: it won’t be easy for Alfie to get out this, though nothing will change if he doesn’t try to get help.

Whilst he might not want to involve the police, as we saw with Alex; Dave is more likely to leave him alone if the police are aware of what he is involved in. He can call the local police on 101 or if he is in immediate danger, he could call 999.

Alternatively, he could speak anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

8. What would you do if you or someone you know was at risk of or being exploited?

Notes: when someone has been groomed and exploited it is hard to understand what is going on. Often it is easier to others to see what is going on. You could try speaking to the person about what is going on or raise your concerns with a trusted adult (advice as above).