

**Alfie’s Story – Part 3 – Supporting activities**

**Film running time:** 10 minutes

**Advised session duration:**  30 to 50 minutes

**Film released:**  March 2020

**Age advisory:** 12+

Contains references to drug taking, 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 has been groomed and criminally exploited.

Part 3 follows directly on from part 2. Alfie has been exploited by Dave and the “family” and was recently punished by two older males under Dave’s order. As Alfie tries to get out and get his life back on track an even greater danger emerges.

This film is based on real life events and has been written with the help of young people who have experienced grooming and child criminal exploitation.

**Note:** It is advisable, though not essential that parts 1 & 2 of Alfie’s Story are viewed in advance of this session.

**Film link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmGUXX1O8ik&t=50s>

Or search “Alfie’s story” on YouTube.

**Suggested follow-up materials:** Visit [www.notinourcommunity.org](http://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](http://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 (part 3)**

1. **How did Alfie’s story part 3 make you feel?**

*Notes: it might be worth asking if they thought things like that happened where they live? You could ask if they feel Alfie deserves what is happening to him.*

*It is worth reminding viewers that he is a child who is being controlled by adults and that although moving and selling drugs is illegal; he is a victim.*

1. **Why do you think Liam forced Alfie to go the house where they tortured Jay?**

*Suggested considerations:*

* *To show everyone that he was in charge now by showing power over Dave’s former enforcer.*
* *To show the younger children that they are not to be messed with and so that they go on to tell other people.*
* *To involve Alfie in a crime that he’d be frightened of being involved in (although he was forced to do it!)*
* *To test Alfie to see how he was at following orders.*
* *To frighten him so that they had more control over him.*

*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.*

1. **What did Callum mean by “being on the register?”**

*Note: Callum is an adult and in addition to committing crimes of dealing drugs and assault, has been made aware that by forcing children to hide drugs through plugging (hiding in the anus or vagina) is sexual assault on a child and that they could therefore go on the “sex offenders register” for life.*

1. **What choices does Alfie have next and what should he do?**

*Suggested considerations:*

* *Do as he is told to keep him and his family safe.*
* *Note: this is understandable, but will not make things better as he’ll get more and more involved and with fewer choices.*
* *Tell his mum or a trusted adult to work out what to do next.*
* *Note: his mum showed with Dave that she was willing to go the police, though Alfie also has teachers at his new school and his aunt he could turn to.*
* *Speak to the police.*
* *Note: although he was warned by Liam, he does know that with Dave and the family that they will pursue them and send them to prison.*
* *Go into hiding.*
* *Note: this might help short-term, but they easily found him before and would do again.*

*Now watch part 4:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t48vfjoDF7o&t=354s>

**Session Leader notes.**

What is grooming?

Grooming is a process of getting someone ready to do whatever is asked of them by their abuser. It means working to build an emotional connection, complete trust and reliance, often isolating the victim completely from their support network – friends, family etc.

Once a person has been groomed, they can then be led into a number of situations they may not otherwise enter – such as sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, extremism or financial exploitation.

What does it feel like to be groomed?

IF someone is being groomed it won’t feel scary and wrong, it will feel exciting and special. Grooming is a process of building trust so that a person will often feel loved and understood. They will think they have control, that they are getting what they want and that they have changed or grown up to fit in with new friends.

Generally, they will feel happy and confident throughout this period, looking forward to new opportunities and potentially, experiencing new things (such as parties, drinking and drugs) for the first time and not realising they are in any danger.

Criminal Exploitation

It is when a young person finds themselves being asked, or forced, to do criminal things for someone else. Whilst initially they may feel part of a group or even a family, over time they will be told that there is no other option, that they owe someone, owe money or should do things out of loyalty.

Victims are groomed, sometimes by being given money, attention, status, gifts and promises of a better life. They might feel part of a group or a family so are often willing to help. They might feel or be told that they’ll be hurt or worse if they leave; they may be forced to stay with threats made against their family. They will feel trapped, scared and probably angry.

What are the signs of criminal exploitation?

* Going missing for periods of time or regularly returning home late,
* Skipping school or being disruptive in class,
* Having new things that you don’t understand how they got,
* Having lots of money all of a sudden,
* Having mood swings and changes in temperament,
* Using drugs and/or alcohol and often being hungover,
* Carrying a weapon,
* Signs of unexplained physical harm, such as bruising and cigarette burns,
* Having new friends or partners (who might be a lot older) and ignoring old friends,
* Secrecy around their phone and potentially a new phone,
* Being shady about what they are up to, or alternatively boasting about a new gang, money or experiences.

**Some of these can just be signs of growing up. However, if you spot several of these in your friend it might be worth speaking to them or a trusted adult about the situation. This can be tricky, though a good friend tries to help a friend out of a bad situation.**

*Source: Not in our community*