

**Alfie’s Story – Part 4 – Supporting activities**

**Film running time:** 7 minutes

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

**Film released:**  March 2020

**Age rating:** 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 4 follows directly on from part 3. Under threat from Liam and the group and newly in their debt, Alfie is forced to deal and recruit for the group. He and his mum have to find a way out for all of them.

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. Part 3 needs to have been in advance.

**Film link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t48vfjoDF7o&t=354s>

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 4)**

1. **How do you feel about the choices made in the film?**a. Mum flushing the drugs away.

b. Alfie working for Liam to move and sell drugs.

c. Ollie becoming a drug dealer.

d. Going to the police for help.

*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. **What are the reasons that Alfie didn’t go to the police sooner?**

*Suggested considerations:*

* *He was scared that Liam would hurt his mum or Ollie.*
* *He didn’t know any other way of life now.*
* *He was scared he’d get in trouble.*
* *He felt some loyalty to the group.*

1. **What are the signs you might see if something is being criminal exploited by an organised criminal group?**

*Hints:*

* 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.

1. **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).*

**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,
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**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*