



Behind Alfie's Story: Supporting Activities

Film running time: 22 minutes

Advised session duration: 60 minutes

Age rating: 13+

Contains swearing and references to CCE, drug taking, alcohol, drug dealing, violence and threats of violence. Contains some scenes and descriptions that viewers might find distressing.

How to use this plan:

1. Read through the questions in advance of showing the film and ask the group to consider the questions while they're watching.
2. Watch Behind Alfie's Story.
3. Discuss the questions with the group.
4. Explain and familiarise them with the signs and how to get help.

Synopsis:

Behind Alfie's Story is a documentary reflecting on the real-life experiences that inspired the Alfie's Story film. The documentary explains the challenges of Child Criminal Exploitation in North East Lincolnshire and the work being done to combat it, featuring interviews from CCE survivors, local people who took part in the filming and the professionals working to support victims and disrupt criminal gangs.

Film links:

It's advisable to watch the 'Alfie's Story' film in advance of watching the follow up documentary, 'Behind Alfie's Story'.

Alfie's Story:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DV_EbjNklec

Or search "Alfie's Story" on YouTube.

Behind Alfie's Story:

<https://youtu.be/iMLeDQeXI9o>

Or search "Behind Alfie's Story" on YouTube

Suggested follow-up materials: Visit www.notinourcommunity.org

Follow Not in our community on Instagram, Facebook or YouTube.

Reflecting on Behind Alfie's Story

1. What is Child Criminal Exploitation?

Notes: Child Criminal Exploitation is common in county lines and occurs where an individual or group takes advantage to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person.

Child Criminal Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology eg. messages via apps such as SnapChat.

2. Why are young people useful to organised criminal groups?

Notes: You may want to discuss the role of young people in criminal groups and the activities they conduct for the gang. In Alfie's Story, Alfie is used to move drugs and money because he's unknown to the police and won't have anyone watching him.

3. How do criminal groups recruit young people?

Notes: The stages of grooming should be discussed. Young people might be given gifts or money, or offered the opportunity to earn lots of money. The criminal groups might be kind to the young person, make them feel like part of the 'family' and feel as though they have status.

4. What are the things organised criminal groups do to control young people?

Notes: A young person could build up a 'debt' to the criminal group if they have had money or drugs taken from them by the police or another gang, that they must then pay off by doing illegal activities for the group. They might threaten to harm young people or members of their family to exert control.

5. Who is trying to help young people get out of child criminal exploitation?

Notes: The Child Criminal Exploitation and Organised Crime Team was set up by Humberside Police to disrupt criminal activity and safeguard vulnerable people.

Support services like the GRAFT Project supports criminal exploitation survivors.

The Not in our community campaign works with young people to raise awareness of the signs of exploitation and help young people protect themselves and their friends.

6. What lessons can we learn from the young person we hear from?

Notes: You may want to discuss why the young person might have become involved with the criminal group originally, the difficulties he faced in getting out, and how his aspirations have changed now that he is no longer working for them.

Initially, he looked up to them as role models, but after being threatened and leaving the criminal group behind, he looks forward to having a 'nice job and nice house'.

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

Notes: If someone has been groomed and exploited it can be hard for them 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 they might be going through or raise your concerns with a trusted adult.

Closing message and accessing help for young people:

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 and 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.