



'THISTLE'

A short awareness film on Child Sexual Exploitation – made by young people for young people

Following local cases of sexual exploitation the 5 Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) of South East Wales (Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire Newport and Torfaen) decided to commission a short film to raise awareness of the issues of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). The LSCBs recognised that young people are best placed to inform professionals on how to raise awareness of safeguarding messages, so they designed, developed and produced the film.

The film has been uploaded to youtube - the link is below.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m838irSbQk0>

Also you will find teaching materials to accompany the film by following the link

<http://www.blaenau-gwent-lscb.org.uk/thistle.html>

You can

- Simply highlight the film to young people
- Download the training materials and show the film as part of a lesson or group work with young people

The film has been designed to be easy to use and for teachers, youth workers, health professionals, police officers and members of the voluntary sector to use regardless of their experience of CSE. We also feel that older teenagers could use the film to raise awareness amongst other young people (peer to peer training) – it really is easy to use!

If you do wish to use the training materials with a group of young people, you will need to show the film in 4 chapters – all you need to do is stop the film at certain points and ask a series of questions to young people using the training handout. The film has been purposefully designed so that young people identify the solutions required, but we have included some presenter notes along with each set of questions to help the trainer. Just show the film from the beginning and stop at intervals highlighted below

Chapter 1 ends at 1 minute 40 seconds

Chapter 2 ends at 5 minutes 30 seconds

Chapter 3 ends at 7 minutes 55 seconds

Chapter 4 ends at film end

The film highlights a number of issues relating to Child Sexual Exploitation that were also a feature of actual local cases investigated by Gwent Police such as

- The human trafficking of young girls from a number of areas across the UK,
- The use of the internet and on-line grooming of young people
- The use of the leisure industry (hotels)
- Peer to peer grooming including grooming of parents
- Substance misuse
- The photography industry and modelling aspirations of young girls
- The public's tolerance to prostitution
- The sexualisation of young girls in society, where perpetrators are able to seize on the reality tv culture .
- not just vulnerable girls who were targeted

Gwent Police also used the proceeds of crime act to access money from perpetrators of Child Sexual Exploitation. This was very pleasing and a good use of criminal's gains. If anything this film demonstrates that local projects can be commissioned through this process, and maybe more agencies should be using it as a source of funding!

Sexual exploitation can happen anywhere and it is not just an issue common to an identified race, culture or a particular area: it is a child protection issue across society. We hope you find the film useful and encourage you to join us in raising the awareness and dangers of Child Sexual Exploitation and how young people can keep safe. For further information on Child Sexual Exploitation please do not hesitate to contact your Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Yours sincerely

Philip Diamond on behalf of

Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen Safeguarding Children Boards