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Changing childhoods.
Changing lives.

Identifying and Responding to Child Sexual Exploitation

Changing childhoods.
Changing lives.

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Trauma Informed Growth and Empowered Recovery

TIGER Service

- PAN London Service providing therapeutic intervention to young people who have experienced sexual abuse
- Working with young people who are exhibiting harmful sexual behaviours (HSB)
- Provide bespoke training
- Collaboration with the Centre for Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse
- TIGER practitioners have worked with children for many years with backgrounds in education, psychotherapy, psychology and social care

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse.

It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Working together to safeguard children, DfE 2018‘

How young people view CSE

Giving you drugs and then telling you after that you owe them and have to do this stuff to pay off your debt…..

Threatening you and making you do things that you wouldn't normally do

Totally trusting someone and thinking someone is looking after you then after a long time realizing they are making money out of you or making you do tricks for their own enjoyment

Getting to know someone, listening to them and feeling you are special to them. Trusting them and then being messed up about why they want you to have sex with someone else or sell you to someone else.

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Targeting

- Observing the child/ young person
- Selection of child/ young person
- Befriending – being nice, giving gifts, caring, taking an interest, giving compliments, tec
- Gaining and developing trust
- Sharing information about young people between other abusive adults

Friendship

- Making young people feel special
- Giving gifts and rewards
- Spending time together
- Listening and remembering
- Keeping secrets
- Being there for them
- 'No-one understands you like I do'; being their best friend
- Testing out physical contact – accidental touching
- Offering protection

Loving

- Being their boyfriend/ girlfriend
- Establishing a sexual relationship
- Lowering their inhibitions – eg showing them pornography
- Engaging them in forbidden activities – eg going to clubs, drinking, taking drugs
- Being inconsistent – building up hope and then punishing them

Abusive

- Becomes an 'unloving' sexual relationship
- Withdrawal of love and friendship
- Reinforcing dependency on them – stating young person is 'damaged goods'
- Isolation from family and friends
- Trickery and manipulation – 'you owe me'
- Threatening behaviour
- Physical violence
- Sexual assaults
- Making them have sex with other people
- Giving them drugs
- Playing on the young person's feeling of guilt, shame and fear

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Important consideration:

- Children or young people who are being sexually exploited rarely see themselves as victims and often believe they are in control of their situation. They are aware of what is expected of them but feel that engaging in sexual activity is a small trade-off for being ‘looked after’ by an abuser, or group of abusers, and want to remain in what they see as their ‘peer’ group.
- By the time they start to feel something isn’t right there can be a huge barrier to talking about it- it admitting they have made ‘mistakes’, been drinking, taking drugs and that they’ve had sex with a lot of people.

A Therapeutic Safe Space should be…

Psychologically safe: A relationship in which it is OK to experiment, be uncertain, unknowing and express emotions, where anxieties are acknowledged and contained, and dilemmas translated into doable tasks (with help provided to do tasks if needed).

Physically safe: A place that's away from other people, interruptions, and distractions, isn't overheard or overseen, has enough space, seating and a comfortable temperature, where everyone can hear the person speaking, and with toilet and refreshment facilities close at hand.

Research in Practice. Reflective Supervision Resource Pack (Ferdia Earle et al)

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Models of Exploitation

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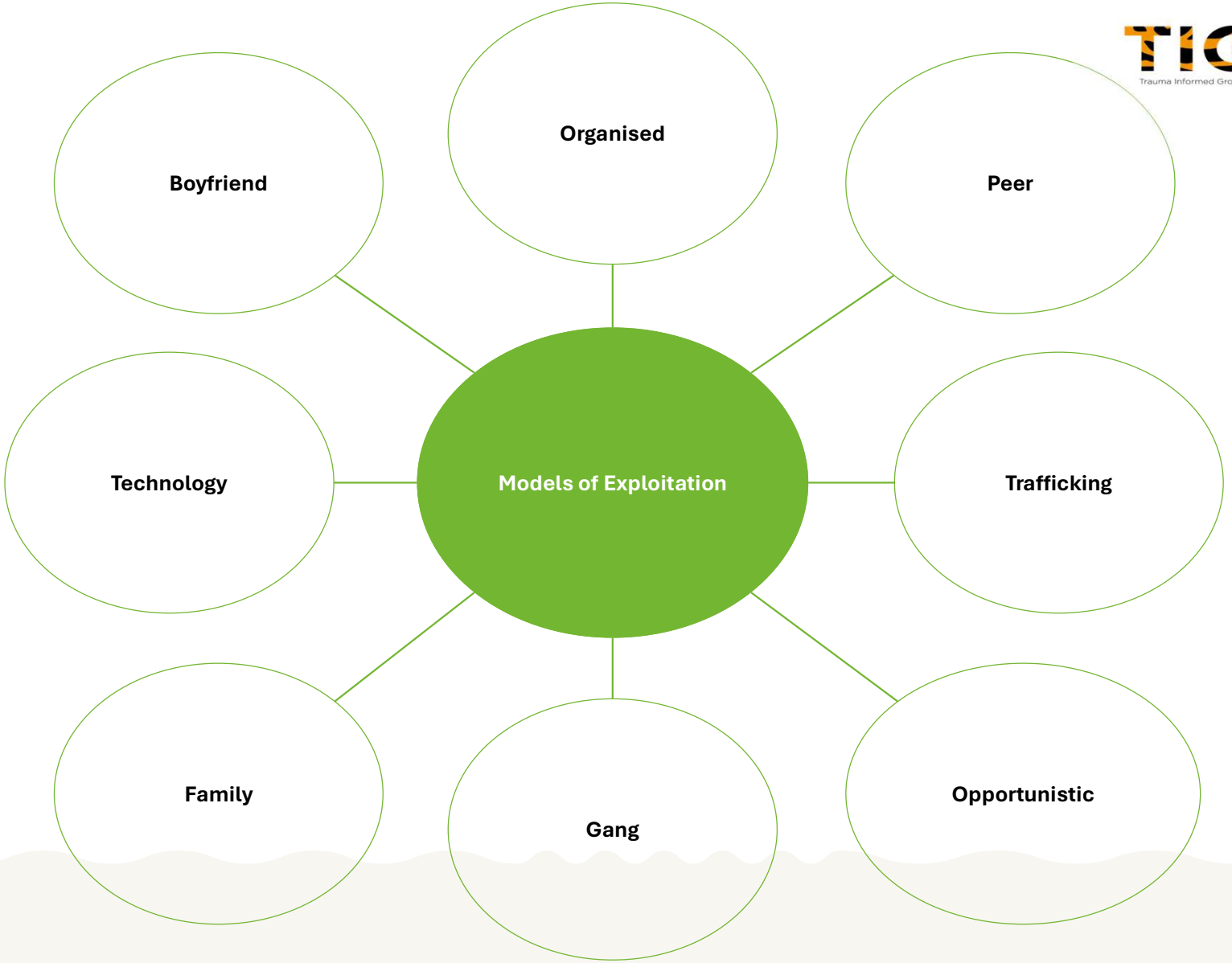
Organised
Boyfriend
Peer
Technology
Models of Exploitation
Trafficking
Family
Gang
Opportunistic

Identifying Vulnerability and Risk

Vulnerability factors – aspects of a child's historical or current circumstances which may make them more susceptible to targeting and grooming for sexual exploitation

Risk indicators – signs or 'symptoms' which might alert you that a young person could be experiencing sexual exploitation

Vulnerability factors for CSE
Living in a home affected by abuse, substance use, or poor parental mental health
Living in an areas affected by gangs
Living in temporary housing
Exposure to abuse, violence, or harmful cultural practices
Association with gangs via family, peers, or relationships (gang associated CSE only)
Living in residential care.
Unsure about their sexual orientation or unable to disclose it to family
Recent bereavement or loss.
Associating with young people who are sexually exploited.
Learning disabilities.
Lacking friends from the same age group.
Homeless
Friends with young people who are sexually exploited.
Low self-esteem or self-confidence.
Young carer

Disability

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Children with learning disabilities are more vulnerable to sexual exploitation while also facing additional barriers to accessing support and being safeguarded.

“Unprotected, Overprotected” (The Children Society, 2015)

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Indicators CSE might be happening
Missing from home or care.
Physical injuries.
Drug or alcohol misuse.
Involvement in offending.
Repeat sexually-transmitted infections, pregnancy and terminations.
Absent from school.
Change in physical appearance.
Evidence of sexual bullying and/or vulnerability through the internet and/or social networking sites.
Estranged from their family.
Receipt of gifts from unknown sources.
Recruiting others into exploitative situations.
Poor mental health.
Self-harm.
Thoughts of or attempts at suicide

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Language is important

“I don’t like victim, and I don’t like survivor. Victim says that you’re still part of that process – you’re damaged. Survivor means that you’ve got through it. The author Shy Keenan calls herself a phoenix. I like that”

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Case Study

Rebecca is a 14-year-old girl who lives with her mum and dad, and two younger siblings. Rebecca enjoyed spending time with her friends and attending her gymnastics club on the weekend. Her mum and dad are both professionals and had recently located to a new area for work. Rebecca was devastated that she had to leave all of her friends behind.

Once the family had moved into their new home, Rebecca found herself locked away in her bedroom for hours on end, playing games online and scrolling through social media posts. She would post about feeling lonely and not wanting to be at home. She received a private message by someone who claimed that they understood how she was feeling, as they were also lonely. After a few weeks of talking, this person suggested that they should meet in person and get to know each other better.

One night, Rebecca snuck out of hr house and made her way to the bus station to meet with her new 'friend'. She was approached by an older male who coerced her into drinking alcohol with him, before abusing her. Rebecca was scared and in no state to run away.

Rebecca returned home the next morning. She checked her messages online and saw that the older male had threatened her with violence and said that he will tell all of the young people at her new school about what she had done.

TIGER & Training

Email:
tigerservices@barnardos.org.uk

Website:
https://www.barnardos.org.uk/get-support/services/tiger-service

Referrals (from social services, GP, CAMHS, police, paediatricians)**:**
https://www.barnardos.org.uk/get-support/services/london-spa/tiger-referral

Training Courses Available:

Sibling sexual abuse
Harmful sexual behaviour
Child sexual abuse
Trauma informed practice
Child sexual Exploitation

Contact us to book/find out more

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