Understanding Sexual Offending and Grooming / Entrapment Process

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Emotional alert

This presentation:

- Can trigger memories of experiences which were in some way abusive;

- Can highlight areas of difficulty for individual people who are aware of others or their own personal experiences.

- Emotional impact on those working to protect children –vicarious traumatisation
Ground Rules

We acknowledge that this is a sensitive subject:
• Look after yourself and others
• Ask if you are not sure- via cpsu@nspcc.org.uk
• We will maintain confidentiality
• Please avoid distractions (checking emails)
• Contact us directly after listening if want to talk
• Signposting to helplines our contacts details.
Learning Aims

Participants to receive information to enhance their understanding of the “grooming”/entrapment process within sport.
Reflective Exercise

Sex offenders are ……………………

Complete the sentence ‘Sex Offenders Are…”

Try to do this as honestly as you can and reflect on what terms you hear in the press and wider society.
Language
Paedophile
Perverts/ Monsters/ Evil
Child Porn
Stranger Danger
Relationships
Historical abuse
Who sexually Offends

• 1/3 of those sexual abused as children are harmed by other under 18’s

• Between 4-8% of sexual offenders are women

They walk among us
What is “Grooming” - Entrapment

- Grooming means getting someone ready to do whatever is asked of them by the abuser.
- Building an emotional connection, complete trust and reliance.
- Isolating the child from their support networks, family, friends etc.
- Once a person has been groomed they can then be led in to a range of situations they may otherwise not have entered, be abused or be exploited.
- Grooming in child abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation (C.S.E.) is criminal exploitation.
Barry Bennell was jailed for 31 years in February 2018.

50 charges relating to 12 former junior players between 1979 and 1990 during his time working for City and Crewe Alexandra.

One of the country's most prolific sexual offenders, Bennell was jailed for 31 years. It was his fourth conviction for abusing boys.

Another 86 people have since come forward to make complaints of abuse against him.
'I knew where I wanted to get and I thought that this is what I had to do'.

Chris Unsworth, footballer abused by his coach Barry Bennell.
Police conducted Operation Hydrant.

NSPCC ran the national helpline following 4 ex professional footballers waiving their rights to anonymity.
  - NSPCC hotline took more than 2,500 calls.

Operation Hydrant; 839 victims in sport, ranging from 4 – 20 years old, from 1948-2016.
  - 294 named suspects.
  - 43 Police forces involved.
  - 90% of the alleged perpetrators were still involved in sport and were still a ‘live’ risk to children.
Chippenham PE coach guilty of sex crimes

Boore is a Football in the Community Coach, who has a Bsc in Sports & Exercise Science and holds coaching certificates for Football Level 2 and Cricket Level 2 and well as Level 1 certificates in hockey, rugby, badminton, tennis, emergency first aid, child protection and disabled football.

Sentence: 4 years imprisonment, 10 year Sexual Harm Prevention Order, placed on Sex Offenders Register indefinitely.
Reframing Abuse

Behaviors that create vulnerability, regardless of intent

Child Sexual Abuse
Model of grooming

David Finkelhor

Stage 1: Motivation to sexually abuse

Stage 2: Overcoming internal inhibitors

Stage 3: Overcoming external inhibitors

Stage 4: Overcoming victim’s resistance

Stage 5: Maintaining the secret.
Finkelhor’s pre-conditions to sexual abuse

1. **Motivation**
   - Strong urges or desires
   - Thinking about or wanting to do something sexual
Finkelhor’s pre-conditions to sexual abuse

2. Giving yourself permission
   - Giving in to the urge or desire
   - Fantasy
   - Making excuses
   - Justification and rationalisations
   - Overcoming your conscience
   - Overcoming guilt or fear of detection
Finkelhor’s pre-conditions to sexual abuse

3. Creating the opportunity
   - How you go about engaging in the behaviour
   - Grooming victim and others
   - Gaining access to a victim
   - Creating situations where abuse can take place
Finkelhor’s pre-conditions to sexual abuse

4. **Overcoming victim’s resistance**

Getting the victim to be compliant

- Threats
- Bribes
- Treats
- Force
- Trickery
- Hero worshiping
Finkelhor’s pre-conditions to sexual abuse

5. **Keeping it secret**

- Make the child believe they invited the abuse.
- Threaten to use violence towards the child or threats to someone close to them in order to intimidate.
- Force the child to abuse others (usually where there are large numbers e.g. CSE.)
- Convince the child that no-one will believe them, as they have groomed and deceived everyone who could protect.
Quote from former police officer

“Having spent 31 years in policing and specialising in safeguarding on a local national and international basis one thing is obvious and clear. Sexual offenders, and in particular child sexual offenders are some of the most skilled and devious criminals I have encountered. ....... Child sexual offenders will exploit our trust and use considerable skill to create an environment where we will hand responsibility and supervision to them.”
Grooming in sport

Obtains a support role or position of responsibility within a club

Builds a reputation as someone who is trustworthy, reliable and helpful (preferably indispensable)

Operates just outside the codes of conduct; (maybe passively) resists other safeguarding steps

Creates opportunity for individual time with children e.g. providing lifts, one-to-one sessions etc

Builds relationships with vulnerable children based on their needs for support/coaching/attention.............
Challenges presented by grooming include:

- behaviours can appear to be supportive and positive

- groomed children may struggle to recognise abusive behaviour as such and vulnerable children less likely to be heard or believed

- groomed environments (poor safeguarding awareness) facilitate poor practice and abuse

- groomed adults/yp less aware or open to concerns being raised and sometimes more to lose by acknowledging and responding to abuse
The Additional Vulnerability Of Elite Young Athletes

- more intense, dependent relationship with coach
- higher stakes – for young person and family
- more away, overnight trips and travel abroad
- less family and social/other support network
- relatively isolated
- reputation of coach may generate denial
- ‘win at any cost’ approach allows poor practice
- feeling responsible for whole team/sport funding
- culture of negative “mental toughness.”
Introducing Breaks in Cycle of Abuse

• What do you have in place or will put in place to reduce the risk of sexual abuse occurring in your sport?

• Consider why would a child sex offender not want to volunteer in your sport? Person can not be a child sex offender without access to child, so why not your clubs?
Reading

- Journal of Sexual Aggression – NOTA
- Sport and the Sexually Abused Male Child 2005 - M Hartill
- The experiences of children participating in organised sport in the UK Kate Alexander, Anne Stafford and Ruth Lewis 2011
- Child Protection in Sport: Reflections on Thirty Years of Science and Activism Celia H. Brackenridge and Daniel Rhind
- Interpersonal violence against children in sport in the Netherlands and Belgium T Vertommen, F Van Den Eede and N Schipper-van Veldhoven 2015
- Safeguarding the child athlete in sport: a review, a framework and recommendations for the IOC youth athlete development model -BJSM
- Final Report – Voices for Truth and Dignity www.voicesfortruthanddignity.eu
- CPSU resources/Briefing – HSB, Grooming in Sport, Abuse of trust
Thank You

www.thecpsu.org.uk

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NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000
www.nspcc.org.uk

Child Exploitation Online Protection
www.ceop.org.uk

Stop It Now UK & Ireland www.stopitnow.org.uk
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