



Teacher notes Project 10 Session 8: CHILD CRIME EXPLOITATION

Slide 2

In this lesson we will find out

- How drug gangs befriend children and groom them into doing things they don't want to do, or that are illegal.
- How children can end up getting involved in selling drugs

The children may well be aware of the concept of “county lines” as it has been in the news over the past few years. This lesson is to help them understand that they might be at risk of grooming, as there is no “typical” child who is might be targeted.

Slide 3

Information for teachers – not to be shared at this point

- A trapper is a drug dealer.
- A trap house is where drugs are sold.
- ‘County Lines’ – refers to when city drug dealers move out into smaller towns to take over the drug market. They use a mixture of tactics to push out local dealers. Often the main dealers do not come to these towns, they use other people as intermediaries.
- Children are groomed, by enticements and rewards to get involved, once they are involved, they are then exploited –made to work illegally and for little reward.
- They tend to target children who are vulnerable, for example: those who have a single parent or carer; or have parents who may be often working long hours so they are not around much; or where there is financial vulnerability. They tell the children to keep going to school and to behave – so that social workers and teachers will not be aware or concerned about them. Professionals worry less about high attending, well behaved students. (however, as time has gone on, the gangs might pick any child they think will be susceptible to their “charms”)
- The gangs use phones (hence the phrase ‘county lines’) to make the deals. Often the “order” is put into someone by phone, miles away and then the message relayed to the small town.
- The gangs also use social media to first impress and then pressurise/blackmail the children. They may even force the children to do naked or sexual acts, and filming these as a means of blackmail.
- The children are often the victim of a “fake” crime, such as a mugging when the drugs they are carrying are stolen, they are then told they have to repay the cost of the drugs. This is done to get them indebted to continuing to work for the gang





Mystery activity notes

The lesson uses a “mystery” activity (a type of thinking skill) which is in the workbook. The different parts of the story are designed to be cut up and given to small groups of children. Depending on age and ability, will depend on how much help is given as they try to “piece” together the clues and find the answers to the questions. To facilitate this, ask the children to read the cards to each other in turn. There is an extra optional step if desired in asking them to put them into their own “categories” of things they think are connected, for example, “things to do with Mia’s family” When using the slides with the questions, you are asking the children to find all/any of the cards that might help them answer that question – not just one card with the answer on it. Note – there is no one right answer to the questions – the understanding comes from discussing their choices of cards and how they see the picture building up Note – if there are too many cards for your class, choose some less relevant or crucial ones to remove.





SAFEGUARDING in partnership

Mia is 11. She is doing well in Year 6 and is looking forward to going to secondary school next year

Mia loves music and dance. She used to be in a street dance crew but after her Mum lost a good job, they could not afford for her to carry on

Mia's best friend is Jay. He also loves street dance and Fortnite.

Jay lives with his Nan and Grandpa. Money is tight as they only have their pension to live off.

Mia's Dad lives in Bristol. She likes going to see him once a month. He has a new girlfriend and baby so, who is really cute. He sends money down when he can, but it is harder now with the new baby

Mia's Mum works two jobs to try to pay the rent and bills. The rent has gone up recently. She is a cleaner in some nearby offices and works 3pm until 11pm 5 days a week and then does two shifts in the pub from 2pm until late at the weekends.

Mia and Jay make up dance routines to music on her phone. She likes Grime. Jay listens to Drill. She does not always understand the words but she likes the glamour and the shoes. Jay loves the cars. He dreams of driving one some day.

Mia would like to have more expensive trainers. She wants to make dance videos to put online and wants to look good in them

Mia's older sister Katelyn was going to a party with some friends. One of them was a guy called Drew, from Reading. Mia thought his clothes and trainers were amazing –he looked really good. He was about 17

Drew was really friendly with Mia and Jay. He showed them dance videos and watched one of their routines. He said it was really good.

Drew messaged Mia on Snapchat and Instagram

Drew said it was really good that Mia was working hard at school. She had to keep doing that. It was important

Over the next few weeks, Drew and Mia had lots of chats about how he would help her and Jay make a really good music video.

Drew shared pictures with Jay and Mia of other children their age and a little bit older in houses wearing great clothes and with knives and drugs. It all looked very glamorous. They





SAFEGUARDING in partnership

followed them on Snap Chat and they told her how great it was to make loads of money doing jobs for Drew and his friends

Drew told Jay and Mia that he would get them new trainers if they did a job for him

Drew told Mia that there was part of the job that only she could do, because she would attract less attention

Drew and a man called Leyton (22) turned up at Mia's house last Saturday with a package.

Leyton told Mia and Jay they had to get the train to Swindon. Mia then had to go on her own to meet a girl called Amelie outside a house about 5 minutes from the station. He would buy the trainers when she had done it

Mia and Jay went to Swindon. But as Mia was walking from the station to the house, she was jumped on by two boys. They stole the package

Leyton was furious that the package had been stolen. He said it had £500 in it. He threatened Mia and Jay. He said he would tell their Mum's and smash up their houses

Drew told Mia and Jay that they would have to work for Leyton now to pay back the £500

Drew told them to meet him at a house in Oxford at 8pm the next day

At the house, Drew got a phone call. He sent Mia with a wrap of drugs to the bus stop 5 minutes' walk away

Drew sold £1000 worth of drugs that night

At the bus stop, a man came up to Mia to buy the wrap of drugs

Drew got another call. This time he sent Jay out with a wrap of drugs to sell to the next person

Mia and Jay went out 17 times between them that night

Mia and Jay were paid £10 each for their work that night

Mia got a call from Leyton. He told her they still owed him money

Drew told them both to meet him in a different house in Oxford next Saturday at 3pm.

Drew gave them both a new pair of expensive trainers

Jay got sent a picture of his Nan and Grandpa out shopping and the message said they would get beaten up if either of them stopped working for Drew.





Slide 4

Key concepts about alcohol and drugs, generate a discussion: Core Concepts

- What will the group drink today
- What kind of drinks are in this picture
- What is the difference between the drinks they will have today and the drinks in the picture
- Can anyone buy the drinks in the picture?
- Can anyone drink these drinks?
- Why not?

What is a drug? Are there different types of drugs, what are they:

- Prescription drugs
- Over-the-counter drugs
- Legal highs
- Illegal drugs
- Which of these can your parent/carer buy
- Why are some drugs illegal, ideas such as: dangerous; untested; can't trust the source; can be addictive; often affect how you can manage yourself; can make you less aware of danger; may mean others get injured too; will get a police record if caught.

Development ideas

- When can you drink alcohol when you are with an adult at a restaurant
- When can you buy an alcoholic drink
- Why are there laws restricting the amount of alcohol someone can drink and still drive a car
- What could you do if you were out with friends or an adult who was drinking, and that person then offered to take you home in their car.

Why are using drugs, carrying drugs, and selling drugs, dangerous things to do, ideas such as:

- you can never know what is really in the drugs
- if they are illegal then they haven't been tested and there isn't anyone to ask and trust about whether they are safe or not
- you won't know if you will have a bad reaction to the drugs • you won't know how to look after yourself after taking the drugs
- you risk being addicted which can happen quickly
- you may have a medical condition, which the drugs make worse





Extension activities

How might all this affect your family, ideas such as:

- If you come home and seem unwell from either alcohol or drugs, they may not know what is wrong and not take steps to get you the help you need
- The effects might be that your health or life is endangered, they will be worried and upset
- If you are being exploited by a drug gang, you might be tempted to steal from your family to pay back the debt
- If you are being exploited by a drug gang, they may target your family too
- You will have wasted money on alcohol or drugs that you and your family need for other things, either essentials such as food or nonessentials such as new clothes or a night out

How might this affect the community around you, ideas such as:

- If your behaviour is altered by alcohol or drugs, this may upset or frighten your neighbours
- It may be that the people, who sell you the drugs, visit the area more and try to connect with other young people in the area
- The area may end up being littered with empty alcohol bottles/cans or drug use equipment like syringes, which are a danger to children, pets, are unsightly, and spoil the environment
- It creates more work for the local Council, and costs money to clear up
- It creates more pressure on the Police to keep communities safe

Slide 5

Read or direct the group to read the story of Jay and Mia (in the workbook).

Follow up questions might include: what kind of a person is Mia?

- Mia is 11 years old
- Doing well in Year 6
- Looking forward to secondary school
- She loves music and dance, she used to be in a street crew
- She likes Grime
- She wants to have more expensive trainers
- She wants to make dance videos and look good in them What kind of a person is Jay?
- He is Mia's best friend
- He loves street dance and Fortnite
- Jay listens to Drill
- Jay loves cars and dreams of driving one some day





Slide 5/6/7/8

You can get the group to call out what we know of the family life of both Mia and Jay.

This can be summarised on the board.

Mia's family life:

- Mia's mum is a lone parent
- Her mum lost a good job and so Mia couldn't carry on being in the street crew
- Mia's mum has two jobs so she works long hours- 3pm till 11pm weekdays, and 2pm till late at weekends
- Mia's dad lives in Bristol, Mia sees him once a month
- He has a new girlfriend and a new baby
- He sends money when he can, but that is less now he has a baby to provide for
- Mia has an older sister Katelyn

Jay's family life:

- Jay lives with his nan and grandpa
- They don't have much money as they live off their pension

Slide 9

Who is Drew:

- Drew is from Reading
- He is about 17 years old
- He is one of Mia's sister's friends
- They went to a party
- Mia thought his clothes and trainers made him look really good

What did he do:

- Drew acted very friendly with Mia and Jay, watched their dance video and said they were really good
- He started messaging Mia on Snapchat and Instagram
- He told her to keep working hard at school
- He promised to help her and Jay make a really good music video
- He showed Mia and Jay pictures of other children their age or a bit older, in houses with great clothes, knives and drugs
- Mia and Jay were able to follow the others on Snapchat

Slide 10

This is where the children have to think. They have used the cards a few times already to answer the previous questions. They can sort the cards into groups or piles or rows or put any irrelevant cards to one side.

Note: They are not looking for one card or one answer. They did what he wanted them to do because

- He showed them other children their age or a bit older, who had the things they wanted.
- He made it so they could follow these young people on Snapchat.





- The young people told them that they did jobs for Drew and his friends, and made loads of money.
- He told them that if they did a job for him, he would get them new trainers These are tricks and bribes which he is using to groom and trap them

Slide 11

How are Mia and Jay groomed?

- Drew and Leyton 22 years, asked Mia to do a job on her own because she would attract less attention, she might have felt important at this
- They told Mia she could have the trainers after that, that was a bribe

Slide 12

What is a trapper?

How did Mia and Jay end up as trappers?

- When Mia did the job, the package she was to carry was stolen from her, Leyton said it had £500 in it, this made Mia feel responsible for the fact the package was stolen.
- He threatened to tell their mothers, and smash up their family homes, this frightened them into continuing.
- Drew said Mia and Jay now had to work for Leyton to pay back the money, this meant they had to carry on working for Drew.
- Drew told them they had to meet him in Oxford at 8pm, they were expected to take drugs from the house they were in to sell to people who came to a meeting place, this meant that Mia and Drew were now selling illegal drugs, they would feel they then couldn't tell anyone.
- Despite 17 sales, they were told they still owed money, they had no way to challenge this, to stop, and to tell anyone.
- Leyton got in touch and said they now had to go to another house and do the same again, they don't know where these places are, nor who will be there, nor how long this will go on, they are powerless.
- Drew gives them the expensive trainers they wanted, this is to tempt them to think he keeps his word and they can trust him.
- Jay is threatened that they both should not to stop working for Drew, this is to frighten them and make them fear for their families.

Slide 14

Discuss the different things they could have done, ideas such as:

- Trusting their instincts that things seemed too good to be true
- Not trusting people you don't know very well
- Talking to a trusted friend and asking them to ask their parent/carer if they can get help
- Talking to trusted adults
- Ringing Childline
- Ringing the Police

