

PACT NOTICE BOARD

Grooming

Grooming is when someone builds an emotional connection with a child to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or trafficking.

Children can be groomed online or face-to-face, by a stranger or by someone they know - for example a family member, friend or professional.

Groomers may be male or female. They could be any age.

Many children don't understand that they have been groomed or that what has happened is abuse.

Once they have established trust, groomers will exploit the relationship by isolating the child from friends or family and making the child feel dependent on them. They will use any means of power or control to make a child believe they have no choice but to do what they want.

Groomers may introduce 'secrets' as a way to control or frighten the child. Sometimes they will blackmail the child, or make them feel ashamed or guilty, to stop them telling anyone about the abuse.

1 in 20 children in the UK have been sexually abused



1 in 3 children sexually abused by an adult did not tell anyone



Things you may notice:

Withdrawn - suddenly behaves differently - **anxious** - clingy
depressed - **aggressive** - **problems sleeping** - eating disorders
wets the bed - **soils clothes** - **takes risks** - **misses school**
changes in eating habits - **obsessive behaviour** - **nightmares**
drugs - **alcohol** - **self-harm** - **thoughts about suicide**

Be vigilant and report any concerns onto CPOMS

What is private fostering?

Private fostering is an arrangement by which a child under 16 does not live with a parent (or step parent),

- Is cared for by an adult who is not a close relative (a close relative is a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, including both full and half relations and relations by marriage),
- Is in a private arrangement made by the parent and the carer, Is being cared for by a carer in a different home which lasts, or is intended to last, for a continuous period of 28 days or more.

If you know or suspect that a child is being privately fostered, you must notify a DSL by completing a CPOMS referral.

Young Carers

Children may be undertaking emotional or practical tasks within their families that involve supporting an adult or sibling, undertaking household tasks, shopping, dealing with finances, and/or looking after younger siblings because the person they care for is unable to. They may require additional support. If you're aware of a young carer in your class/school please complete a CPOMS referral to alert a DSL.