

Identifying and Responding to Child Sexual Exploitation

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Today

- Understanding **how** children and young people become sexually exploited.
- The **impact** of their abuse.
- Inviting you to think about what you can do to **respond, protect** and **support** these children.

Prostitution Triangle

Child prostitute/rent
boy/sex worker



Punter/customer

Pimp/facilitator

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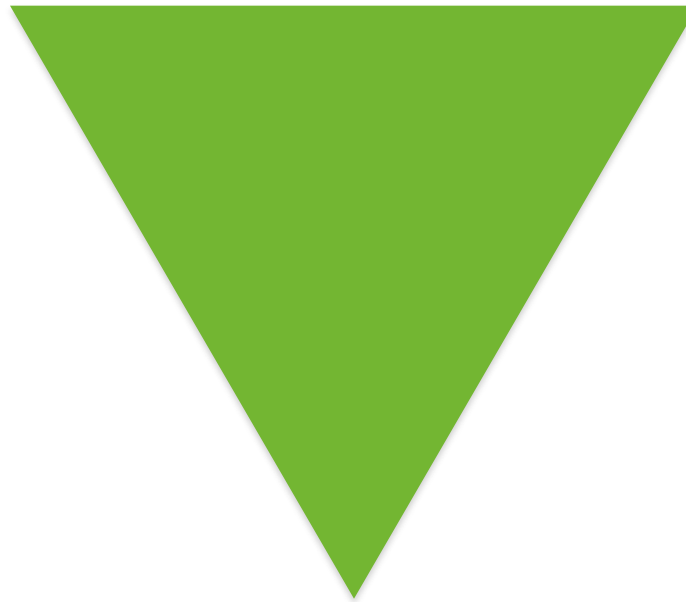
Reality Triangle



Reality Triangle

Child sex offenders

Child abusers



Abused child

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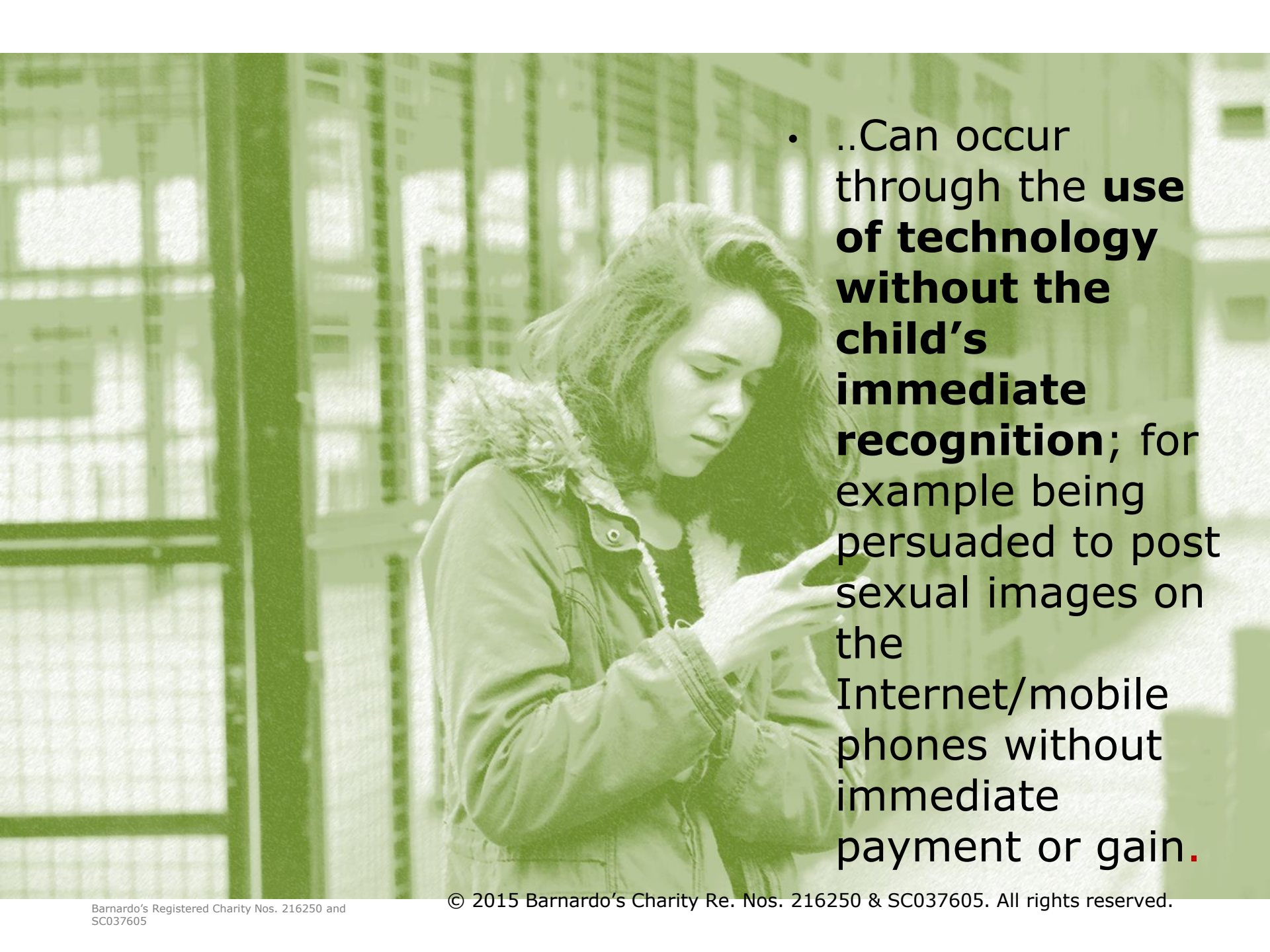
Pattern of Control

- Engagement
- Dependency
- Taking Control
- Dominance and abuse

National Guidance for Child Protection 2014

'Sexual exploitation of children and young people **under 18** involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive **'something'** (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of **them performing**, and/or another or **others performing on them, sexual activities.**

Working Together 2013, Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation

- 
- ..Can occur through the **use of technology without the child's immediate recognition**; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain.

- In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have **power over them** by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources.
- **Violence, coercion and intimidation** are common features; involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's **limited availability of choice** resulting from their social/economic and /or emotional vulnerability.'

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National Guidance for Child Protection 2014

'In some cases, the sexual activity may just take place between **one young person** and the **perpetrator** (whether an adult or peer).

In other situations, a young person may be **passed for sex** between **two or more perpetrators** or this may be **organised exploitation** (often by criminal gangs or organised groups).'

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Young Person's View of the world?



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Young People's Definitions

- When a person uses a young person for sex: to make **money** or just for their own **enjoyment**.
- Getting to know someone, listening to them and talking about their problems. Making them trust you and then **using you for sex** or **selling** you to someone else
- **Earning your trust** and making you do things that you wouldn't normally do
- Getting closer and closer to a you, but really with **intent to do you harm**.

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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, etc
- 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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The Impact of New Technology

Targeting stage

- Checking out profiles
- Looking for personal info/IP address – online research
- Creating false profile

Loving relationship stage

- Sharing photos online
- Wanting to meet up/go out

Friendship forming stage

- Friends request, wanting to chat
- ‘Likes’ your pictures
- Only wanting to chat to you
- Sharing interests
- Chatting about grown up stuff
- Requesting private chat
- Sharing Gaming tips/tools
- Keeping friendship secret

Abusive relationship stage

- Passing photos about - revenge
- Blackmailing you to do stuff
- Threats to share info/photos with family/mum and dad
- Ending contact when you don't do what they want
- Ending contact when you tell them you've told someone about them

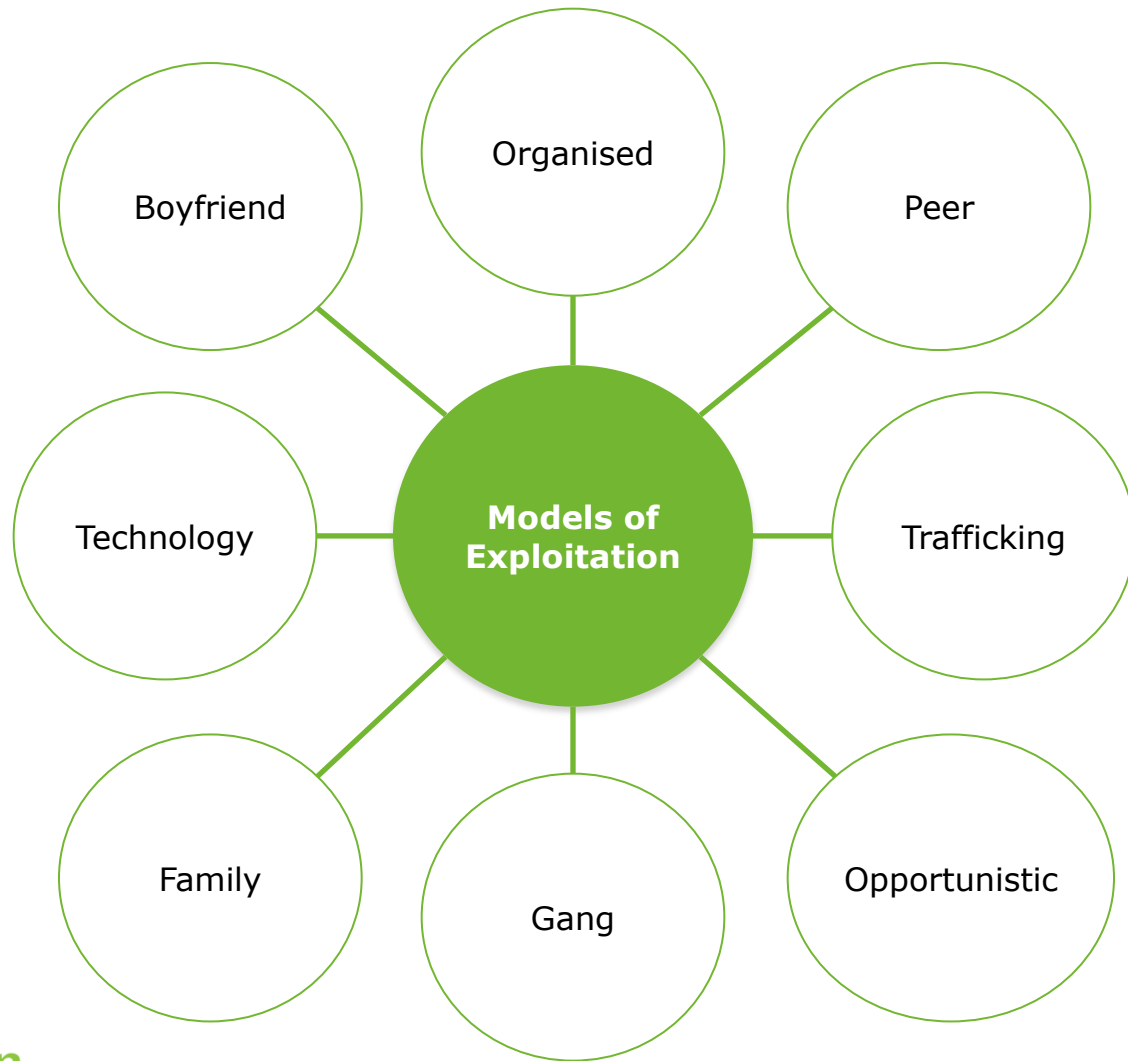
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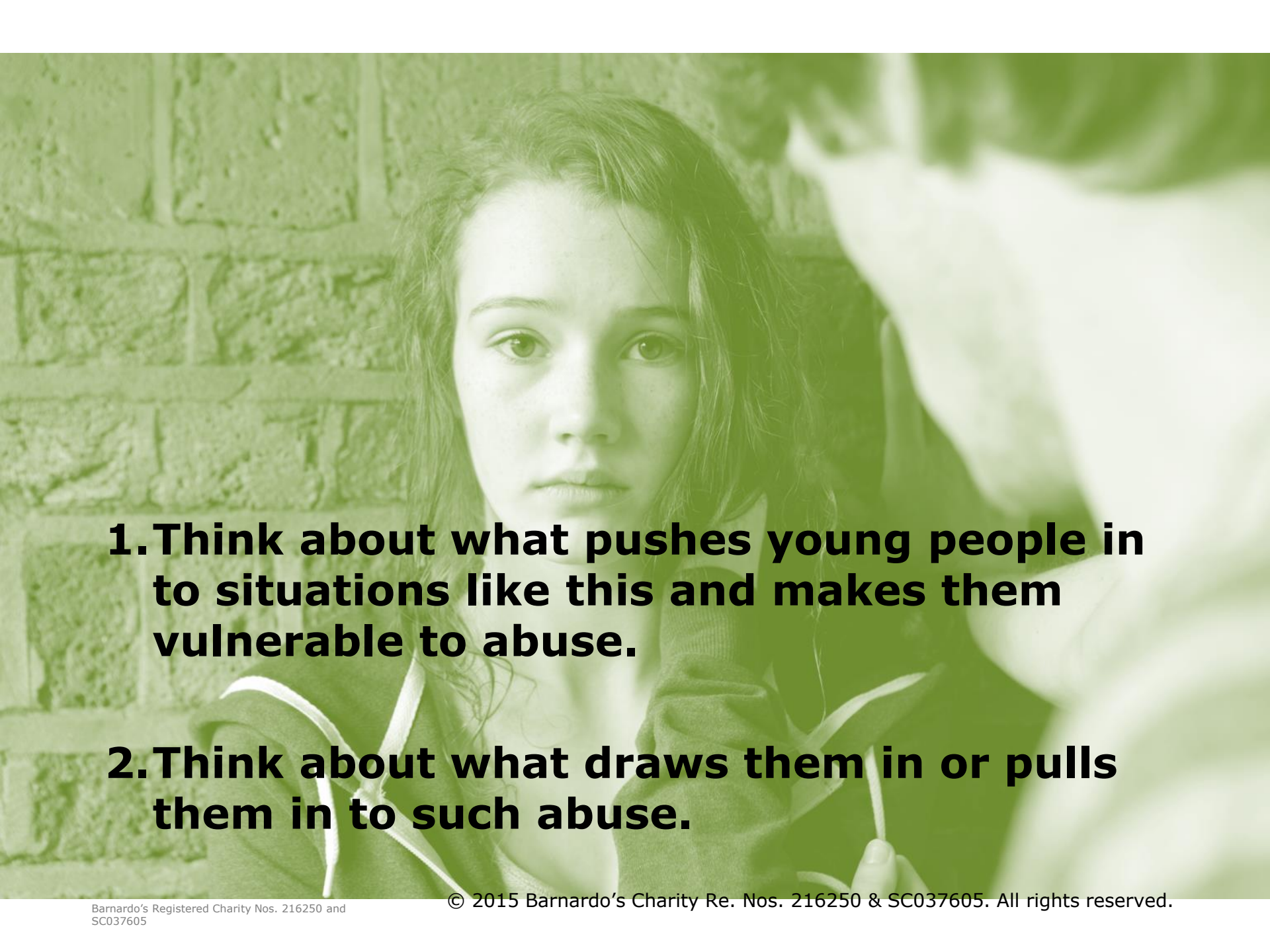
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- **Adult power**
- **Intimidation**
- **Money**
- **Isolation**
- **Emotional abuse**
- **Physical and sexual abuse**
- **Force and threats**
- **Shame and blame**
- **Adult power**



1. Think about what pushes young people in to situations like this and makes them vulnerable to abuse.

2. Think about what draws them in or pulls them in to such abuse.

Boys

- Remember the push and pull factors can be different for boys.
- And we are less good at recognising boys at risk.

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Hidden in Plain sight

- Barnardo's research found that boys are often 'missing' for longer periods before they are reported as such.
- Also this research indicates that there is a danger that professionals' attitudes towards boys and young men might be less protective than towards girls.
- [Hidden in Plain Sight](#)

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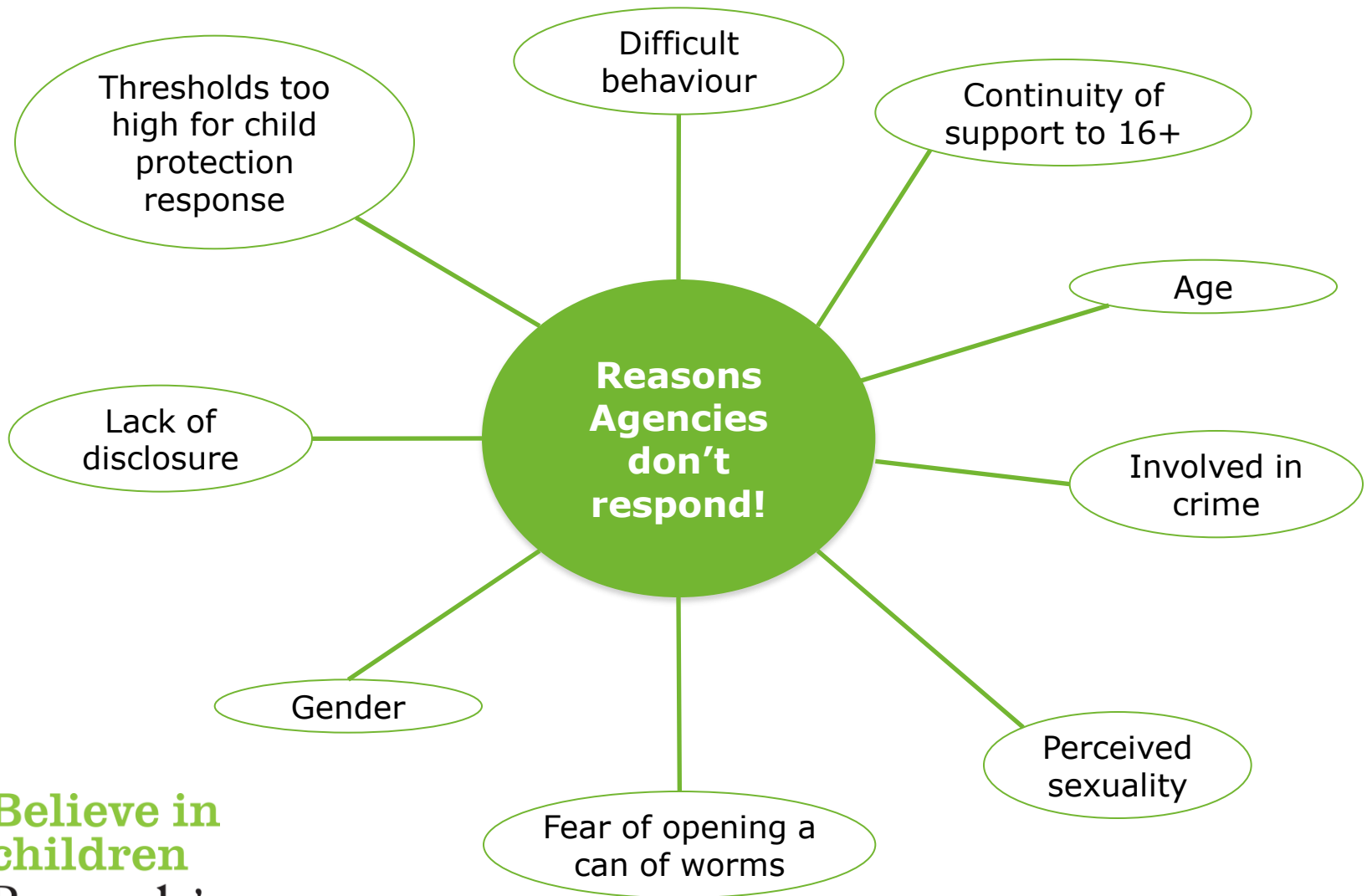
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Build up Trust and Respect



Build up Trust and Respect



Lessons Learnt from Serious Case Reviews

- Early intervention can be effective
- Professionals need to know and understand how to identify signs of vulnerability
- Sharing information robustly and communicating clearly.
- Accessing supervision
- Working in partnership
- Don't forget how isolated young person is, the power of the perpetrator and the young person's need for support.

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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

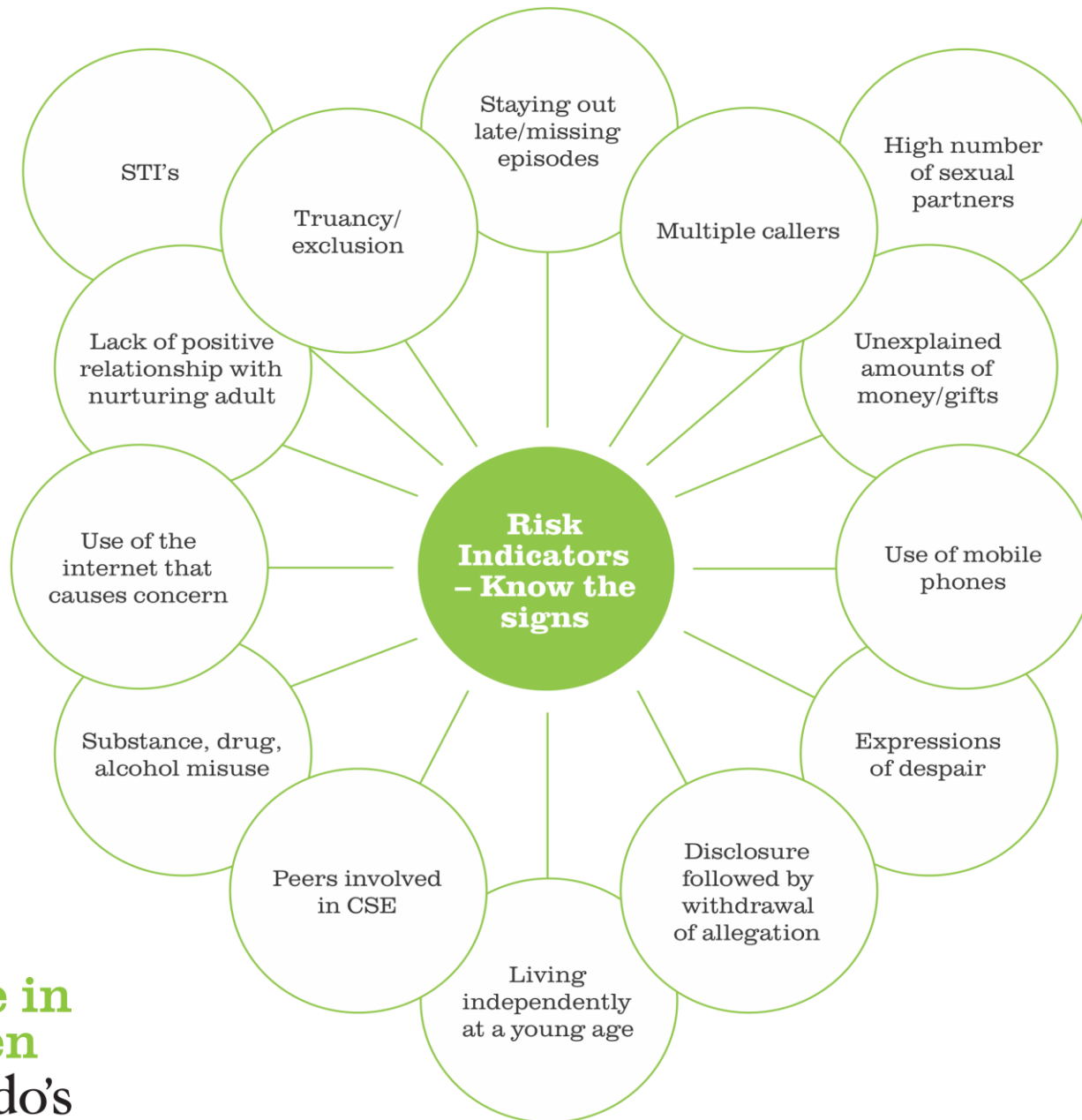


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Running away/going missing

One to one interviews with more than 40 children who had run away and had been victims of sexual exploitation before the age of 16.

Variety of reasons why children choose to runaway but pattern of how easily they can find themselves at risk and in danger of being sexually exploited.

Running away from hate to what you think is love

Barnardo's and Paradigm Research (July 2013)

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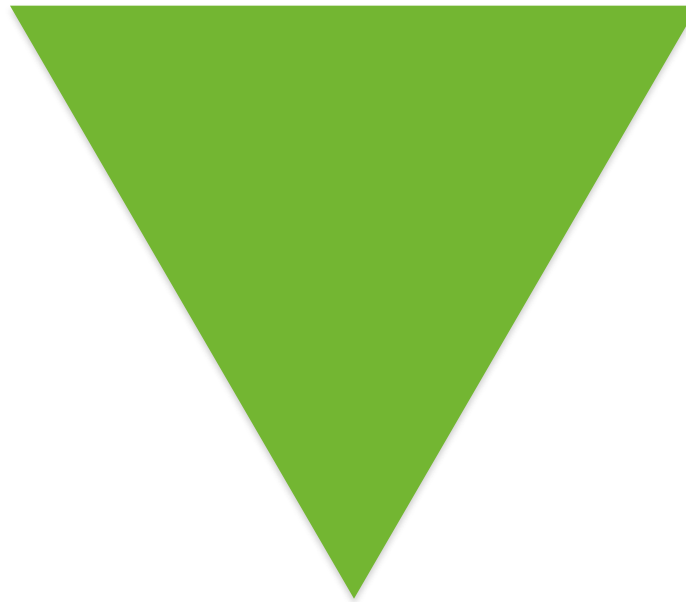
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Disruption Triangle

Perpetrators

Locations/places



Abused children

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4Ps:-

- ✓ Be **P**repared
- ✓ **P**revent child sexual exploitation
- ✓ **P**rotect children from harm
- ✓ **P**ursue offenders.

'Standing In Their Shoes'

- What is the young person likely to be feeling?
- What thoughts is the young people having?
- And so how is the young person behaving?

Things to think about when Responding to Concerns

Response to Young People

- ✓ How could I support or protect this child?
- ✓ How could I talk to them about my concerns?
- ✓ What do they need?
- ✓ What do I need?

Response as an organisation

- ✓ Who do I need to tell?
- ✓ Where can I get help?
- ✓ What's my personal and professional responsibility?

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Supporting Young People at Risk of Sexual Exploitation

- Sexual Exploitation is ABUSE – not a lifestyle choice
- Young people will rarely disclose exploitation
- Your ability to identify Vulnerability Factors, Indicators, and Push/Pull factors matters.

- So remember
- it is everyone's responsibility to share information and report concerns ...
- and talk to the child.....

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Thank you

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