



R-U-Safe?

Bucks Young Women's Service

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Bucks Young
Women's Service



A confidential service working to make
girls and young women in
Buckinghamshire safe from the harm
of Child Sexual Exploitation

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Sexual Exploitation:

'Any involvement of a child or young person below the age of 18 in sexual activity for which remuneration in cash or in kind is given to the child or young person or to a third person, or persons. The perpetrator will have power over the young person by virtue of one or more of the following: age, emotional maturity, gender, physical strength or intellect' (T.Palmer, 2001)

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Background

- Local need identified by statutory and voluntary agencies within Buckinghamshire
- Barnardos approached to carry out scoping exercise
- Joint service established by Barnardos and Addaction
- Commissioned by Local Agencies

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REMIT

- Young women aged between 11 & 18 years old
- Located in Buckinghamshire
- Priority given to Children in Care
- Meet service threshold

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Aims

- Forge trusting relationship
- Address health & well being
- Promote safety
- Increase self-esteem
- Raise aspirations
- Facilitate exit strategies

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Predisposing Factors

- Abuse
- Neglect
- Deprivation
- Family breakdown
- Domestic Violence
- Bullying in or out of school
- Living away from home
- Homelessness
- Mental Health issues



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Key Indicators

- Non/poor school attendance
- Staying out late
- Anti-social behaviour
- Inappropriate use of internet
- Older/controlling 'boyfriends'
- Unexplained acquisitions
- Isolated from family/friends
- Going missing
- Association with risky adults
- Depression, self-harm/eating disorders
- Alcohol/substance misuse
- Physical injuries
- STIs
- Pregnancy
- Attempted suicide

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Referrals

- **Consultation freely available**
- **Referrals taken from multi-agency**
- **Self-referrals**
- **Phone/text/email/fax & letter**
- **Young person's agreement for referral**

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Training and Preventative Work

- Awareness raising sessions
- Training sessions
- Targeted prevention

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MISSING SERVICE Joint Protocol TVP

- Running away is a vulnerability factor to sexual exploitation
- Partnership working with TVP established
- Service notified when any young woman returns from missing
- Risk assessment made
- level of intervention offered accordingly

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A Thank You From One Of Your Girls

Thank you for helping me and telling me a thing or two,
Thank you for helping me with the things I find hard to do.

Thank you for helping my confidence raise,

Thank you for encouraging me and giving me praise.

Thank you for making me see what life is about,

Thank you for helping me stay when I wanted to find a way out.

Thank you for your time and your care,

Thank you for taking me for me and just being there.

Thank you for all the hard work you have put in for me,

Thank you for mending the relationship with my mummy.

Thank you for helping to get me out of that relationship,

Thank you for telling me advice when my life's about to slip.



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Summary

- Specialised, complexed work
- Intense, painstaking approach
- Demand has outstripped capacity
- Success measured by Barnardos Tool

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