

# #LookCloser

## Programme of learning 7–18 March

# Hi!

We are delighted to invite you to join us for our **#LookCloser Programme of Learning**. We have developed two weeks of learning sessions based on work that the Prevention Programme, The Children's Society and partners do to tackle child exploitation and harm.

All sessions are free of charge and will be delivered via Microsoft Teams. The timetable below has links to the Eventbrite booking page for each event, where tickets can be booked. There are limited spaces for each session, so please sign up at your earliest opportunity to guarantee your place.

Please feel free to join as many of these sessions as you like throughout the weeks. Unless otherwise stated, all of our sessions have been designed to be relevant to multiple professional audiences and stakeholders.

Mon 7 March	Tue 8 March	Wed 9 March	Thu 10 March	Fri 11 March
<b>AM</b>	<b>AM</b>	<b>AM</b>	<b>AM</b>	<b>AM</b>
<b>10:00-11:30</b> <a href="#">Beyond Risk Assessments</a>			<b>10:00-11:30</b> <a href="#">Multi-Agency Approaches</a>	<b>10:00-11:30</b> <a href="#">No Perfect Victim: Challenging Stereotypes and Bias</a>
<b>PM</b>	<b>PM</b>	<b>PM</b>	<b>PM</b>	<b>PM</b>
		<b>14:00-15:30</b> <a href="#">Advocating for NRMs: First Responders and Partners</a>		

Mon 14 March	Tue 15 March	Wed 16 March	Thu 17 March	Fri 18 March
<b>AM</b>	<b>AM</b>	<b>AM</b>	<b>AM</b>	<b>AM</b>
	<b>10:00-11:30</b> <a href="#">Exploring the Digital Lives of Children and Young People</a>	<b>10:00-10:45</b> <a href="#">Spotlight Session: Abianda</a>		<b>10:00-11:30</b> <a href="#">Child Financial Exploitation</a>
<b>PM</b>	<b>PM</b>	<b>PM</b>	<b>PM</b>	<b>PM</b>
<b>18:30-19:30</b> <a href="#">#LookCloser to Home: Parent / Public Awareness</a>			<b>14:00-16:00</b> <a href="#">Engaging with Young People: overcoming barriers</a>	

# Session descriptions:

## Beyond Risk Assessments

This session brings together key learning from the Safer Young Lives Centre at the University of Bedfordshire, the Tackling Child Exploitation Programme and the Prevention Programme. **It is aimed at anyone who works with assessing children and young people who are at risk of being exploited, or known to services as being exploited.** This includes statutory services like children's social care and the police, but also for those who provide input into these processes, for example third sector frontline services.

We seek to share the learning available around the process and practice of risk assessments, including what we have learnt around children and young people's digital lives.

The session's aims are:

- To develop understanding of the evidence around the identification of child exploitation.
- To reflect on the challenges associated with assessing risk in relation to child exploitation.
- To hear about alternatives to assessment relating to different forms of exploitation.
- To consider the importance of relational practice in assessment.

For further information on University of Bedfordshire, click here: [beds.ac.uk/sylrc](https://beds.ac.uk/sylrc) and Tackling Child Exploitation Programme, click here: [tce.researchinpractice.co.uk](https://tce.researchinpractice.co.uk)

## Advocating for NRMs: for First Responders and Partners

The NRM is a key tool when working to prevent exploitation and ensure all victims are properly supported.

**Whether you are classified as a 'first responder' or you work closely with professionals who are, you have an important role to play in making sure the NRM is used effectively to identify and support victims.**

This session is designed to upskill all professionals engaging with the NRM to better understand the NRM process and the value of submitting a collaborative referral.

The session will also give attendees the opportunity to consider how they support their teams and colleagues to utilise the NRM process effectively

Topics covered will include:

- When should an NRM be submitted?
- Who are first responders and what are their statutory obligations?
- Case studies to illustrate what a good quality referral looks like.
- How you can make the most of an NRM referral to protect victims and target perpetrators.
- Becoming an ambassador within your organisation for effective use of the NRM .

## Multi-Agency Approaches

Preventing exploitation and safeguarding victims can be seen as a complex puzzle involving many different stakeholders and agencies. No single agency will ever hold all the information needed to solve that puzzle, so it is vital we work together.

**This session is for anyone supporting children and young people, who wants to make sure they are working effectively with other agencies.** Within this session we will:

- Focus on which agencies can offer support for victims.
- Explore how to ensure the whole picture of intelligence is captured, and what positives can come from a multi-agency approach.



- Consider how you can utilise other agencies to improve responses that young victims may receive.
- Explore what barriers may occur when working with other agencies and how we may be able to overcome these.

### **No Perfect Victim: Challenging Stereotypes and Bias**

Any child can be a victim of exploitation; children experiencing exploitation may not look or behave as we might expect. How do our assumptions and biases effect our ability to tackle child exploitation? You might have heard phrases such as...

**‘But he’s very resourceful’**

**‘She knows what she’s doing’**

**‘It’s a lifestyle choice they’re making’**

**‘There’s no exploitation around here, that’s an inner-city problem’**

**Join us for a session that aims to confront and dispel some of the some of the assumptions, stereotypes and biases that too often hinder attempts to tackle and prevent child exploitation.**

Throughout this session we will:

- Consider how stereotypes towards what a victim ‘could’ or ‘should’ look and act like can be problematic.
- Delve into how judgements can hinder our efforts to disrupting exploitation.
- Reframe some of the problematic narratives around victimhood, agency and offending.
- Explore how we can better protect and respect young people, to ensure that all children and young people get the support they need.

### **#LookCloser to Home: a Parent/Carer/ Public Awareness Session**

We all have a part to play in preventing child exploitation. Join us to learn more about the Prevention Programme’s work in the fight against exploitation. As part of this fight, it is crucial that members of the public understand how to spot the signs of child exploitation and how to safeguard children within our communities.

**This learning session is for parents/carers and members of the public who want to learn more about child exploitation and how they can help tackle and prevent it.**

Join us to learn about:

- The basics of child exploitation: what it is and who can be a victim?
- What to look out for: the signs and indicators that a child might be being exploited.
- Everyone’s role: the importance of joined-up community responses to prevent exploitation;
- How to report your concerns.

### **Exploring the Digital Lives of Children and Young People**

During this session, we aim to share our learning on new and emerging areas of online exploitation and facilitate a discussion around the digital lives of young people, including the harms that they may be exposed to. The session is based on our learning around online harms and professional’s responses to these for young people

**The session is designed for professionals who work both face to face with children and young people, and those who work strategically.**

This session aims to:

- Increase the confidence of professionals to engage in conversations with children and young people about their online lives.
- Increase awareness of new and emerging online exploitation themes and trends outside of child sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Provide a safe, exploratory space for partners to share and reflect on current practice.
- Consider what good practice might look like.

## Spotlight Session: Abianda – Supporting Female Survivors

Join us for a spotlight session where Abianda will talk about their crucial work working with young women and girls affected by gangs and county lines.

Abianda delivers frontline services to 150 young women aged 10-25 each year, providing a blend of rights-based advocacy and structured learning, so that they feel safe to access help, they are no longer a hidden group in our communities, and they are free from harm and abuse.

**The session is aimed at anyone who may encounter young women and girls affected by gangs and county lines.**

Attendees will come away with an enhanced understanding of:

- How young women and girls are affected by gangs and county lines.
- What stops these young women and girls getting help.
- How to respond effectively.

## Engaging with Children and Young People

Effective engagement with young people can make the difference that changes a young person's life. **How can we, as professionals, engage better with young people?** How can understanding the impact of trauma lead to better outcomes for victims?

During this session we will:

- Demystify the language of trauma
- Explore some of the barriers to effective engagement with young people
- Share some simple, practical tips to help you reach more young people, particularly those who are systemically excluded or from underrepresented groups

- Draw upon our 'Big up the Bill' campaign – created by young people to celebrate good police practice and ways to improve interactions with young people.

**This session delves into the traumatic experiences of children and young people, so please be aware we will be discussing sensitive subject matter.**

## Child Financial Exploitation

Child Financial Exploitation (CFE) is emerging as a growing concern, in which children and young people experience abuse or exploitation relating to money.

CFE can cause significant harm to a young person and can put them at risk of being pushed further into a spiral of exploitation. Despite this, child financial exploitation is often not well enough understood and can be overlooked.

At The Children's Society, we are developing our understanding of the risks linked to CFE and are advocating for professionals to view it as a separate concern, whilst understanding its context within other forms of exploitation.

**In this session for professionals working with children and young people in various contexts, we will:**

- Explore recent learning and emerging insights on Child Financial Exploitation.
- Share the experience of the Prevention Programme and partners to consider the implications for prevention, safeguarding and responses for exploited young people.
- Create an interactive opportunity to hear about how other professionals are responding to CFE.
- Provide a space to consider your own ability to respond to Child Financial Exploitation and contribute to our evidence gathering on this topic.