

Online Exploitation - Useful Information and Links

- Background Information – online sexual abuse is any type of sexual abuse that happens on the web, whether through social networks, online gaming or using mobile phones. In some cases this involves children being groomed or exploited by an adult. Any child or young person that uses the internet or has a smartphone could be a victim of online abuse regardless of their age, gender or background.
Reports of online child sexual abuse in the Thames Valley area were 146% higher in March 2020 in comparison with March 2019. We want to warn young people that those they are speaking to may not be who they say they are and to help parents and carers take action in protecting their children from falling victim to online sexual abuse.
- Thames Valley Police campaign landing page
<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/police-forces/thames-valley-police/areas/c/2017/hidden-harm/online-child-abuse/>
- Ellie's story - An account of a victim on online child abuse that was first used in our Hidden Harm campaign in 2018.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rVx9-VnLX0>
- Thinkuknow - The education programme from CEOP, part of the NCA with advice and games focusing on staying safe online.
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>
To support parents during COVID-19, Thinkuknow are producing fortnightly activity packs, tailored to four different age groups
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/support-tools/home-activity-worksheets>
- Net Aware – a collaboration between the NSPCC and O2 with advice and information on a variety of social networks, apps and games www.net-aware.org.uk
- NSPCC – adult helpline: 0808 800 5000, Childline: 0800 1111. They have received funding from the government to support their helpline during the COVID-19 pandemic www.nspcc.org.uk
- Apps to focus on – we will be focusing our attention on securing children on Snapchat, Whatsapp, Instagram, Kik and Omegle as these are the most prevalent apps that we are seeing in reports of online child sexual abuse.