

Child Exploitation – The Parents View

- TRANSCRIPT -

Parent 1: We went from a happy, easy going family to absolute torment.

Parent 2: I just thought she was being a typical teenager

Parent 1: She became very angry.

Parent 2: She was just getting worse and worse and I just thought there is something not right here. I tried to discuss it with her and she would get really defensive.

Parent 1: Her behaviour would be so erratic and aggressive, physically, her emotions were all over the place and I didn't know what was going on.

Parent 2: We just thought she was just going out with friends but then her attitude started to change, her appearance started to change, she constantly had her mobile phone in her hand, wouldn't let go of it, even take it to the bathroom.

Parent 1: She was targeted from the inside by a girl who became her friend, who came to our house to eat and sleep who basically got paid for passing children on.

Parent 2: We actually had a visit from the police who told us something to do with one of her other friends that had gone missing, and they'd asked who my daughter had been with and she told them and they said these men are possible groomers, I was so naive that I didn't even know what a groomer was

Parent 3: I think it was really when the late night phone calls started that my head started to turning to something more than regular teenage years

Parent 1: People ringing her on her phone, she been agitated, it got to the stage where she begged me to take her out of school she was attended because she was scared for her life.

Parent 3: When men started coming in, that made me starting thinking that there was something more serious shall we say going on.

Parent 2: And I thought where's that come from you know you must of got that from some body and she saying you can keep me locked up and things like that and I'm entitled to see who I want to see

Parent 3: If that phone rang it didn't matter if matter if it rang at 9oclock or 12 o'clock 3 o'clock in the morning if that phone rang she respond to it. I commented to someone that it was like she was hypnotised.

Parent 2: We used to get tears and she used to say you don't understand I have to go out I have to go out and she used to stress that all that time and her phone would be constantly receiving text messages I should say every 5 minutes, her phone is just alerting another text, another text, another text. And she would look at it secretly and then hide it again in her hand.

Parent 1: For a parent that's going through it every day is like a nightmare.

Parent 2: We used to receive phone calls from these men saying to tell my daughter to go out the house and if she didn't sometimes they'd threaten to gang rape me in front of my son, my husband and my daughter.

Parent 2: My message to other parents across West Yorkshire would be just listen, listen, that's communicate, don't give up, never stop fighting

Parent 3: Don't wait, if you suspect anything and as I already said I didn't suspect sexual exploitation in the first instance it was the last thing on my mind.

Parent 1: Be vigilant on the computers and on the telephone, on the mobile phone

Parent 2: And when it gets really tough just hang on in there. Contact the organisations, keep diaries, contact the police on a regular basis as we had to do

Parent 1: And the more you pull your daughter or your son in some cases the better it is for parents because they don't like parents that actually get involved. They prefer the children that are allowed to go out and the parents not knowing where they are.

Parent 3: We have changes, if them changes are enough to make you be thinking actually something is wrong, report it, not just to somebody but to everybody.