

Jo was 14 when she was stopped in the street by Ash. They had a laugh and he asked her for her phone number.

She gave him her mobile number and they started to talk and text each other all the time and got on really well.

Ash was a few years older than Jo but he said it didn't matter as she was so grown up.

After a couple of weeks he gave her a new phone, a secret one that he said was just for them. Ash text Jo all the time, he'd pick her up in his car and they'd drive around with his mates all night.

Jo thought her friends were really jealous that she was the special one because Ash had picked her. He started buying her lots of new clothes and told her he wanted her to look good for him.

Jo started arguing with her mum more because she was always late home or not telling her where she'd been or who she'd been with. Ash told her that she could always stay at his place if her mum was getting on at her, but she was not to tell anyone about it.

He started encouraging her to drink and smoke and even got her to try drugs.

Jo's parents started to worry, she'd changed completely, she looked different, dressed different. She was always staying out late, stopped going to school and wouldn't tell them anything.

Sometimes she went missing for hours and they'd no idea where she was or who she was with. They just put it down normal teenage behaviour.

Ash told Jo he loved her and she told him she felt the same. He became her world and she became more and more distant from her old friends.

But then things started to change. Ash introduced Jo to more and more of his friends. He asked her to help him out, do him a little favour. He said she'd only have to do it once.

But it wasn't just once, it happened again and again, with more and more of his friends.

Jo used to wake up, didn't know where she was or who was in the bed next to her, she couldn't remember what had happened the night before. It got so bad she didn't want to live anymore.

Jo finally told her Mum what was happening and she called us. (Male officer)

We're so glad she made the call. (Female officer or Jayne Bradbrook)

A Safeguarding Officer spoke to Jo and told her she didn't have to be treated like this and they could make it stop.

Jo is now getting her life back together and Ash is in prison.

We're so glad she finally spoke out. But we wish she'd come to us sooner before things got so bad.

Child sexual exploitation is the rape of young people and it's important for you to know the signs and be vigilant. Are they regularly missing from home, or school and staying out all night? Has their behaviour changed? Have they become aggressive and disruptive or conversely quiet and withdrawn? Have they received unexplained gifts or new possessions such as clothes, jewellery, mobile phones or money that can't be accounted for? Are they secretive? Has their mobile phone or online use increased or become secretive? Do they seem to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol? Are they being picked up or dropped off in cars by unknown adults, these can be men or women. Do they have a significantly older boyfriend or friend or lots of unexplained new friends? Have they suddenly become involved in crime or has their offending increased? Do they have sexual health problems? Any young person can become the victim of child sexual exploitation, it could be your child or a child you know. If you have concerns that a child you know may be a victim of child sexual exploitation report it to West Yorkshire Police by calling 101 or by calling Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.