



# The BLAST Project



**The UK's Leading Male Only Sexual  
Exploitation Service**



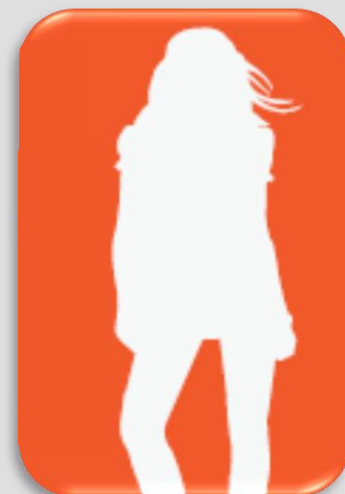


# Sam's Story – Aged 15



#CSEboys2

- Sam starts returning home late on a regular basis
- Sam is defensive when asked about whereabouts
- Sam is secretive when using the phone
- Sam is seen with a new chain and mobile phone
- Sam says they were found on the street
- Sam is seen getting out of a car late at night
- The car is driven by a 25 year old male





# Remember . . .

Don't focus  
on gender  
when  
assessing risk



# What We Know

 #CSEboys2

“Difficulties in recognising sexual exploitation among boys and young men are likely to have led to an underrepresentation of male victims.”

*CEOP – Strategic Threat Assessment of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, 2012*

“The sexual exploitation of boys and young men is often unrecognised and undisclosed; however, boys and young men are also vulnerable to sexual exploitation.”

*CEOP – ‘Out of mind out of sight’ – Breaking down the barriers to understanding child sexual exploitation, 2011*





# What We Know

 #CSEboys2

“In 2007/08, 4,780 boys rang ChildLine to disclose sexual abuse. Of these, 1,803 rang to report that they had been raped.”

“Of the boys who gave this information, nearly half (46 per cent) said they had not told anyone about their problem before calling ChildLine.”

*What boys talk about to ChildLine NSPCC, 2009*

**NSPCC**



# What We Know

 #CSEboys2

“Four of the 14 sites failed to identify any boys and young men as victims. . . . When services went looking for boys and young men who are victims, they found them.”

*I thought I was the only one. The only one in the world. The Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups Interim Report November 2012*

“Boys too often remain invisible victims, as the assumption is that only girls are subjected to these assaults.”

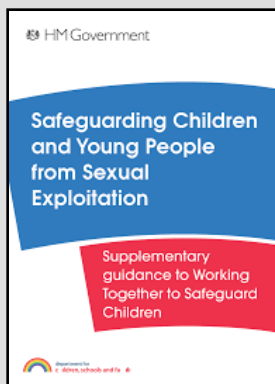
*If only someone had listened. Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups, Final Report, November 2013*



# What We Know

 #CSEboys2

“It can be more difficult to detect when boys/young men are at risk of sexual exploitation or are being sexually exploited, as they are generally harder to work with and less willing to disclose this type of information. They may also find it harder to disclose that they are being abused by other men because of issues about sexual identity.”



Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation.  
Supplementary Guidance to Working Together to Safeguard Children





# John Ford, 47 and Nicola

## Mason, 25 (Rhyl)

 #CSEboys2

What a  
poof

What a  
bitch

What a  
grass

If this  
happened to  
my son I'd  
shake his  
hand

Free sex and  
drugs at 14, he  
should be  
thanking his  
lucky stars

He deserves  
to be bullied  
at school  
because of  
this







# Jade Hatt, 21 (Swindon)

...he was a mature 11-year-old and you were an immature 20-year-old so that narrows the arithmetic age gap between you

**Judge**

He is sex mad. He would have been fully up for this experience and in many ways sees it as a notch on his belt and is totally unaffected by it.

**Dad**

I knew it was wrong and I didn't enjoy it

**The Boy**





# Breck Bednar

 #CSEboys2

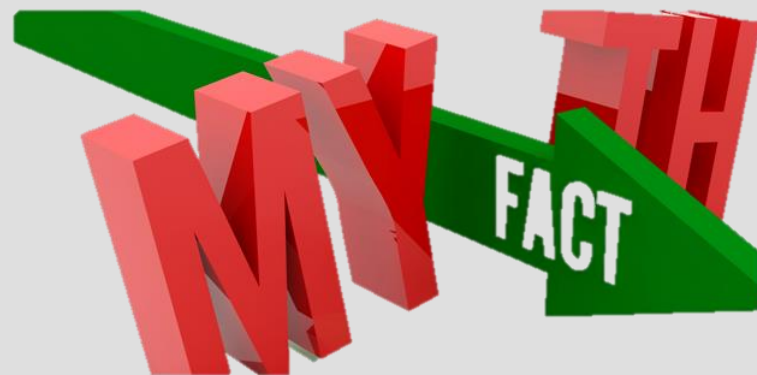




# Myths

 #CSEboys2

- Male specific risk indicators
- Male victims are gay
- Boys can “deal with it”
- Perpetrators are gay
- Victims are from “rough” backgrounds
- Boys are groomed for crime and drugs
- Boys are perpetrators, girls are victims





# A Boy's Story

What warning  
signs would  
you notice?







# Warning Signs

- Having money
- Mobile phone
- Appearing tired
- Secretive behaviour
- Staying out overnight
- Unknown whereabouts
- Unaccounted for gifts/items
- Affects of drugs and alcohol
- Fluctuating youth offending patterns
- Change in mood, behaviour, appearance





# Recommendations

 #CSEboys2

- Explicitly include boys & young men
- Make services & practice inclusive and accessible
- Challenge unequal practice and encourage referrals
- Provide opportunities
- Don't make assumptions
- Train and educate
- LOOK for boys
- And . . . . .







# Remember . . .

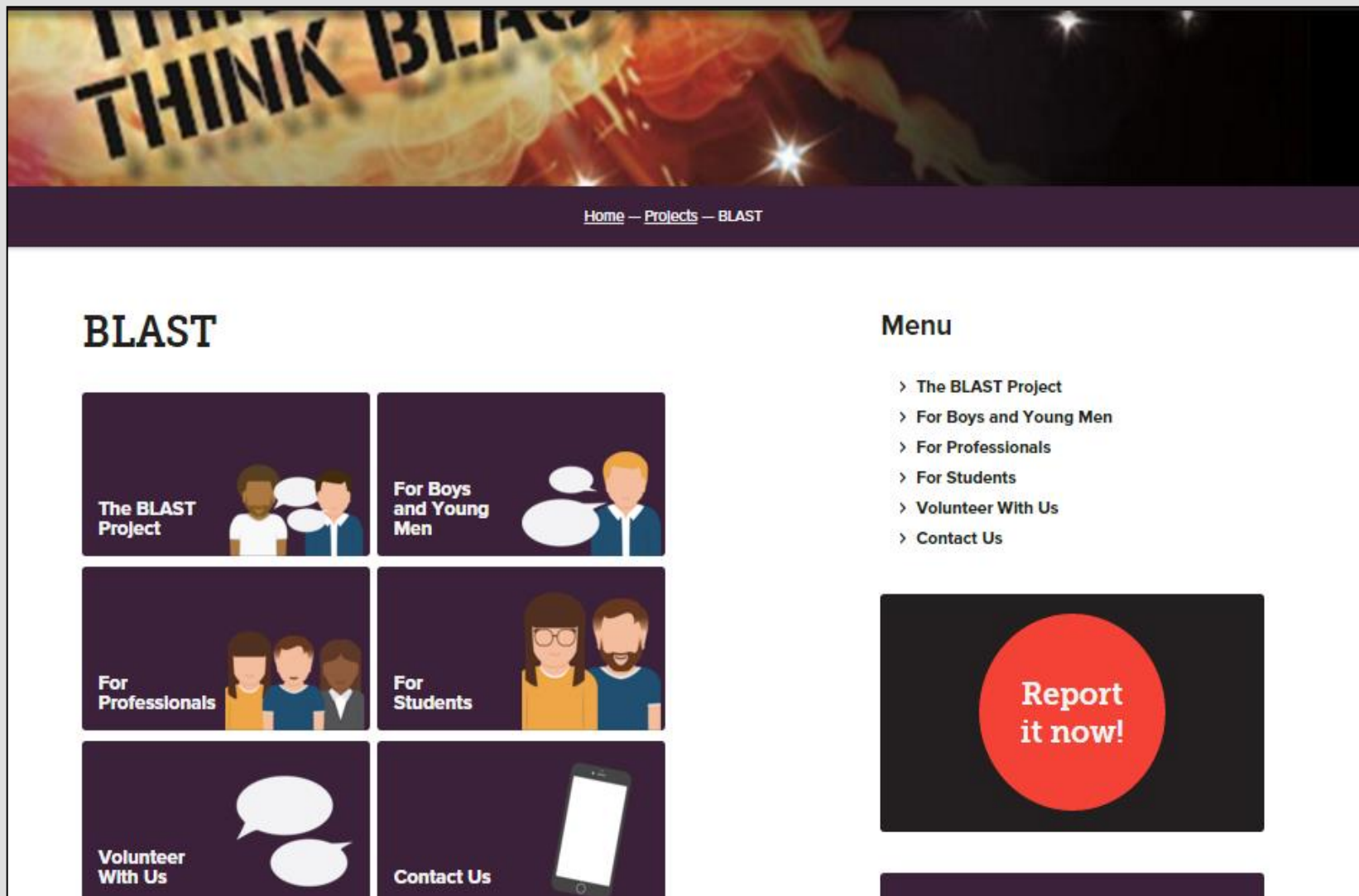
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on gender  
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# Website

[www.mesmac.co.uk/blast](http://www.mesmac.co.uk/blast)

 #CSEboys2





# Contact



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