

National Safeguarding Week: Thursday 18th November 2021

TASPB is supporting the promotion of National Safeguarding Adults Week and is working with other organisations to raise awareness around important Safeguarding issues.

Adult Grooming

Adult grooming is a process where the abuser will pick on a person and start to gain their trust, friendship or even their employment.

As it often starts with friendship, it is sometimes difficult to identify and even the person who is being groomed may not realise what is happening. You may have heard this referred to as **Mate Crime**.

Some signs to look out for is if the adult becomes withdrawn, or suddenly starts to talk about new friends, they may start to wear expensive clothes that they can't normally afford or spend lots of time on their phones or online.

Grooming can take place in person or online, where the abuser will often pretend to be somebody else, this is sometimes referred to as **Catfishing**.

There may be many reasons why somebody sets out to groom another person, some of these reasons may be to financially abuse or sexually abuse. Grooming can also be used to encourage people to commit acts of crime on behalf of the abuser or acts of terrorism.

Whatever the reason for grooming, it often starts with friendship leading on to power and control with the intention to exploit and abuse the person.

Ben's Story

Ben's story is a short film about a young man with disabilities who had employed a personal assistant in order to remain independent and live at home. The personal assistant however came to

dominate, control and degrade Ben. Once Ben realised he was being abused he told a friend who was then able to support Ben in seeking help. (Thank you to East Sussex County Council for this video)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJsmCanh_wc

Also see the link to Pennine Health Care Briefing on TASPb Website.

[Safeguarding Adults News and Events \(tameside.gov.uk\)](https://www.tameside.gov.uk/safeguarding-adults-news-and-events)

