

Sex offender training for police officers



- Are sex offenders 'wired differently' or can their behavior be 'unlearned'?
- Are all paedophiles child molesters and vice versa?
- Are people who sexually abuse children exclusively attracted to them?
- Do those adults who abuse children, also have consenting adult relationships?

It is essential for police officers to have the opportunity to debate and discuss these questions, and many more in order to explore the complexity of child sexual abuse. This will help them to work more confidently and knowledgeably with sex offenders, whether the offences are contact abuse, or downloading abusive images of children from the internet.

The Lucy Faithfull Foundation is expert in the field of child sexual abuse. Our high quality training is delivered by experienced and knowledgeable practitioners, it is grounded in up-to-date research and it is presented in a way that will make it immediately usable in day-to-day police work.

Courses offered by the Lucy Faithfull Foundation that will enhance police practice and develop skills in this area of work are described below.



A one-day course; child sexual exploitation

Sexual exploitation is a curious term, for it runs the risk of glossing over the reality of what is done to children. The reality is that each year thousands of children in England are raped and abused from as young as 11 years by people seeking to humiliate, violate and control them and the impact on their lives is often devastating ⁽¹⁾.

This training will help police officers develop their knowledge and understanding about child sexual exploitation. It will draw on the most recent research, practice and court experience to help them to develop a greater understanding and knowledge about the process of sexual exploitation. The course will:

- Explore the many complex issues involved in the sexual exploitation of children and young people, abused in groups and gangs, and by lone perpetrators.
- Challenge some commonly held beliefs and assumptions that have led to many adults in positions of responsibility not believing children when they try and tell someone what they have endured.
- Identify opportunities for intervention by understanding the behaviour of the offender and the impact issues for the young person
- Identify methods to assist with prosecution

(1) The Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation In Gangs and Groups November 2012

A one-day course; child sexual abuse and the Internet

The considerable increase to the number of individuals being investigated, cautioned or convicted for internet offences poses particular challenges for police officers. This training explores how the Internet is used as part of sexually abusive behaviour; it looks at what motivates different types of internet offender and some practical ways in which associated risks can be assessed. The course will enable police officers to better understand;

- The different types of internet abuser, their characteristics and motivations
- The apparent similarities and differences between internet-only and contact offenders
- Understanding and managing specific risks

A one-day course for understanding child sexual abusers

The training course provides a broad and informative overview of child sexual abuse by an adult male offender, it explores different ways of understanding sexual offending and how these can be applied to the decisions a police officer is required to make in their work with victims, offenders and families. Based on research, experience and current practice the course covers;

- Models to understand behaviour
- The process of sexually abusive behaviour in a variety of contexts
- The impact of child sexual abuse
- What we mean by risk and risk management
- What is included in defensible decision-making

A one-day course on women who sexually abuse children

This training course provides police officers with a broad and informative overview of child sexual abuse by an adult female offender. It will help them understand the wider implications of female sexual abuse and increase their confidence and knowledge when approaching these situations. Based on our experience, research and current practice the course covers;

- The challenges female abusers present to commonly held views about women's behaviour and how this can influence 'hearing' the victim's disclosure
- The prevalence of female sexual abuse of children
- Impact issues for victims and protective carers
- Common abuse patterns
- The differences between adult male and female offenders and the need to develop gender-responsive assessment, interventions and management strategies specific to both men and women respectively

We have these and many more courses which can be tailored to meet the needs and experience of the participant group. The courses will draw upon expert knowledge, research, and case examples.

In addition to a comprehensive training programme, we provide an extensive range of assessment services, we work directly with sex offenders and their families, and we offer specialist case advice for professionals. In addition we have specialist staff who work with children and young people who are victims of child sexual abuse, and we also work with children and young people who commit sexually harmful behaviours.

To discuss your training requirements contact Nicola Wathen on 01527 591 922, or email nwathen@lucyfaithfull.org.uk

www.lucyfaithfull.org.uk/training