

Case Study: Inform

Tackling online child sexual abuse




Stop It Now!

UK & IRELAND

Helping prevent
child sexual abuse

Inform

This is an educational programme for partners or adult family members or friends of people who have been arrested for online offending behaviour. Families are not traditionally seen as victims of such offending, even though they are often left devastated by the actions of a loved one. Inform offers a safe space in which people who are struggling with the emotional and practical impact of internet offending can bring their questions and anxieties and begin to explore them in a supportive environment.



95% of participants who completed Inform courses said they felt less isolated after the programme.



Case Study

Annabel's story

Annabel was signposted to our Stop It Now! helpline by her social worker after recently having had a baby with her partner, who had a previous conviction for accessing sexual images of children online. Following a number of calls to the helpline and a face-to-face meeting with a practitioner, Annabel was recommended to attend the Inform programme.

Annabel explained how the last year had been a very traumatic for her, largely due to the difficulties of preparing for her first baby with very little support and with a personal background of struggles with her mental health. She explained that her partner had been convicted 18 months previously of accessing sexual images of children online and was now attending a treatment programme with the probation service. As a consequence, she was left to prepare her labour plans largely unaided but was keen to ensure contact between her new born and her partner so long as it is safe to do so. She was anxious to do nothing to alienate social services who she recognises want to ensure her baby is safe. She said she was keen to complete the Inform programme and access support from others in a similar situation to herself.

How Inform helped

As her partner was undertaking an offender treatment programme, she wanted to understand some of the content that he was covering relating to the processes of offending as well as risk management. This was both for her own needs but also in order to support him in leading a better life and being a good father to their child.

Annabel expressed initial anxiety about attending a programme with a group of strangers online, but afterwards remarked how smoothly it had all gone, and how everyone contributed and she felt listened to and understood.

She said she felt the programme had helped her understand the risks attached to her partner's past behaviour and that this understanding also helped her to communicate more effectively with him and identify any relapse concerns. She said she found the information regarding offending cycles and relapse prevention the most useful.

Annabel was encouraged to use the helpline and our Family and Friends Forum in the future, should she have any worries or concerns.

Find out more about our work to protect children at:
lucyfaithfull.org.uk

Visit our Stop It Now! campaign and helpline at:
stopitnow.org.uk

Stop It Now! Scotland:
stopitnow.org.uk/scotland

Stop It Now! Wales
stopitnow.org.uk/wales

For prevention information visit:
parentsprotect.co.uk

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Confidential freephone helpline: **0808 1000 900**

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Names of case studies have been changed to protect anonymity.

**THE
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FOUNDATION**

Working to protect children