Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit
TACKLING VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Resource 1: *Understanding manipulation*

What makes a genuine friendship?

What are signs that a friendship is not genuine?

What are signs of a manipulative or controlling relationship?

How might experiencing manipulation or controlling behaviour affect someone?

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Resource 2: *Identifying child criminal exploitation*

Yarah, 15, tells her friend that if their friendship is important, she should buy Yarah the expensive gift she wants for her birthday.	Lex, Kyle and Tammi discover that a student in their year has a parent who works for a brand that is very popular. They start to pay her lots of compliments and try to separate her from her old friends, so that she can share the perks from her parent's job with them.
Ivan is 16. His friend, who is 18, often asks Ivan to look after various items and packages, saying Ivan is 'doing them a favour'. Ivan doesn't know what is inside the packages, and tells his friend he doesn't like holding them. The friend tells Ivan that if he can't do him this favour, they're not really friends.	Ola, 14, hasn't been treated well by friends in the past. But there are some older girls who live close to her – she doesn't know how old they are, but she knows they left school some years ago - who take her under their wing and give her lots of attention. Some of the things they ask her to do make her feel uncomfortable, but she wants to keep them happy so they'll continue looking out for her.
Ethan uses lots of compliments and praise with one of his classmates, so that whenever he needs something from them, they are more willing to help him. He sometimes asks the classmate if they can lend him some money, promising to pay them back at a later date, but he never returns the money.	Vanessa is 21. She gives lots of gifts to select members of her circle, including some girls much younger than her, in exchange for them doing favours for her – sometimes these include carrying out illegal activities.

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Resource 2a: *Identifying child criminal exploitation - alternative*

- Yarah, 15, wants an expensive gift for her birthday.
- Yarah tells her friend that if their friendship is important, she will buy Yarah the expensive gift.

- A student in school has a parent who works for a popular shop.
- Lex, Kyle and Tammi find out.
- They say lots of nice things to the student and separate her from her friends.
- Lex, Kyle and Tammi hope that the student will share things from her parent's shop with her.

- Ivan is 16, and has a friend who is 18.
- The friend asks Ivan to look after different items and packages, but Ivan doesn't know what is inside them.
- The friend says that if Ivan can't help him to hold the packages, they aren't friends.

- Ola is 14. She has had some friends in the past who weren't very kind to her.
- Some older girls live near to Ola.
- They invite her to spend time with them, and give her lots of attention.
- Because of how the older girls make her feel, Ola is willing to do anything they ask her to do, even if it makes her uncomfortable.

- Ethan gives lots of compliments and praise to one of his classmates.
- Sometimes Ethan asks the classmate for money.
- Ethan promises to pay the classmate back, but he never does.

- Vanessa is 21. She hangs out with a group of girls. Some are much younger than her.
- She chooses some of them to carry out tasks for her, and gives them expensive gifts if they do these tasks well.
- Sometimes she asks the girls to do illegal things in return for a gift.

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Resource 3: *An exploitative friendship*

Freddy is in Year 9. There is a group of older people on Freddy's road who he looks up to – some of them are in Year 11 and go to Freddy's school, but most are older and have built a reputation for themselves in the area. Everyone looks up to them as they've always got the newest drop in phones and fashion, which they show off on their social media. Freddy isn't exactly sure what they do to afford it all, but he likes it when they recognise him as it makes him feel popular too.

One of the group is Nate, in Year 11. He approaches Freddy in school one day and says that he saw Freddy had liked one of his latest posts on social media, where he showed some of his newest buys. He asks Freddy if he'd like to own something like that one day too. He tells Freddy he can see that he's popular and has a big influence over his friends in school, and that he carries himself in a way that stands out from others around him. He says he wants to bring him in on an opportunity to get him and his friends some money. He gives him an address to visit later in the day, but he can only come if he brings one of his friends, which he says will be easy for Freddy to do.

Freddy tells his friends about Nate's offer. Some of them are unsure as they don't know Nate well, so Freddy shows them some of the social media profiles of the older people he knows, and says he thinks this is their chance to be like them too. Eventually, one of his friends agrees to go with Freddy to the address. When they get there, Nate is nowhere to be found, but another of the older people who Freddy has seen around introduces him and his friend to a man he's never met before. The man tells them that if they like what they see, they can have it one day too – he says he likes to look after his friends. However, there are certain things they'll have to do first to prove that they can earn his trust.

He gives them both a phone to use and says he'll be in touch soon, but not to tell anyone else about it. A few days later, while he is in school, Freddy gets a message on the phone from Nate telling him to meet him that afternoon to collect something. Nate instructs him to come alone, as he can only trust Freddy with what he has – he knows him better than he knows Freddy's friend, and believes Freddy has already shown him loyalty.

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Resource 3a: *An exploitative friendship - alternative*

Freddy, in Year 9, has a group of older people on his road that he looks up to. They are popular as they like to show off their new, expensive clothes and devices on social media. Freddy doesn't know how they afford it.

Nate is part of the group. He is in Year 11 at Freddy's school. He finds Freddy in school and asks if he'd like to have some of the things Nate posted on his social media.

Nate tells Freddy he thinks that Freddy has something special about him, and that he wants to give Freddy an opportunity to make him and his friends some money.

He gives Freddy an address to visit later in the day. Nate says Freddy can only come if he brings one of his friends.

Freddy tells his friends about Nate's offer. Most of his friends are not interested, so Freddy shows them the social media posts, and says he thinks this is their chance to have the status and all the things that the older people have too.

One of Freddy's friends agrees to go to the address. They arrive, but Nate isn't there. Freddy and his friend are introduced to a man he's never met before.

The man tells them that he can look after them and get them all the things that they like. But, they have to do some things for him first, to earn his trust.

The man gives them both a phone to use and says not to tell anyone about him.

When he is back in school, Freddy gets a message on the phone from Nate. The message says to meet him later to collect something, and to go alone. Nate says that right now he can only trust Freddy, who he believes will be loyal.

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Resource 4: *Signs of manipulation*

Giving lots of gifts, including expensive items early in a friendship/relationship.	Using threatening behaviour, or putting lots of pressure on someone.	Making someone feel less powerful, or making them rely on another person.
Separating someone from their friends.	Giving rewards for carrying out tasks.	Using lots of flattery (using lots of praise that isn't genuine) to get what they want.
Making big promises without a history of being able to fulfil these.		

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