

Multi-agency learning

Kim, 18 years old, is a care leaver from a Korean / White British background. He suffered significant trauma when he was very young, and this has affected him all his life, and led to him being accommodated into care. He has learning needs.

Kim had displayed sexualised behaviour from a young age, despite saying he was not sexually active. He had made inappropriate comments to teachers and his peers at school. Carers have found collections of pictures on his computer of young girls. Police in another part of the UK investigated the suspected grooming of Kim by an older female online whereby sexual images were shared.

When Kim was 13, there were CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation) concerns due to him posting sexualised and inappropriate images on Facebook. He was found to be communicating with a much older man online.

At age 14, Kim was cautioned twice by Police in another part of the UK for sexual assault of two young girls and was spoken to by Met Police about inappropriate contact with a 9 year old girl near his home address.

At 17 Kim was arrested by police in a different part of the UK for following a female home from a supermarket and assaulting her whilst trying to gain access to her home. He was also arrested for an unrelated attempted housebreaking into a property where two young girls resided.

He was on bail for these matters and moved down to London when he was arrested by Police in London for grooming girls over the internet and Released Under Investigation (RUI).

Kim was referred to MARVE by his placement following this arrest in Summer 2019. The referral was highly unusual as it was written by Kim himself and was not adequate in identifying the background history and current high risk of harm he posed to others.

In late 2019, Kim escaped the scene following the sexual assault of a young adult female. He was arrested after the CSE Police Team suggested Kim as a potential suspect from knowledge of his profile and MO (Modus Operandi). On arrest further evidence of grooming offences was found on his computer. This has led to him being remanded into custody and referred to MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection

Arrangements) with a Sexual Harm Prevention Order being applied for to manage his risk.

We have learnt that

- the best MARVE referrals are a mixture of the young person's voice (if appropriate) and multi-agency views about strengths, grey areas, risks and needs;
- it's best to ensure all young people have support around sexual health, even if they are not sexually active, or saying they are not active;
- when young people return to their home boroughs who were previously known for MARVE concerns, we should ensure an updated MARVE risk assessment is carried out and any current risks identified and escalated as required.
- we should note, share and act on concerns for HSB (Harmful Sexual Behaviour) at early stages, so that preventive work can be undertaken by all involved agencies.