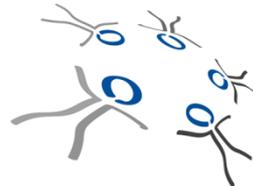


Robert:

Risk taking online behaviour empowerment through research and training

By Turid Heiberg

Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS) Secretariat



CHILD CENTRE

Expert Group for Cooperation on
Children at Risk, EGCC

Methodology

- Project period: June 2010 – June 2012
- Partners: Universities – UK, Estonia, Sweden, Save the Children and NGOs in Germany, Russia, Netherlands
- Analysed recent and relevant articles from 21 countries
- 269 publications on online sexual abuse of children in the database: www.childcentre.info/robert/database/
- 27 young people who had experienced online sexual abuse from Sweden, Germany, Italy, Denmark, Russia, UK interviewed – using Grounded theory
- 27 focus groups – 185 young people (general, disabilities, LGBT) – Frame work analysis
- 12 offenders of online sexual abuse involved in the Sex Offender Treatment Programme in Italy and UK – Grounded Theory

Mostly - children navigate safely online

- The majority of children/young people navigate safely online
- Children are mostly aware of possible risks
- Some young people manage even aggressive solicitation – blocking sender or just keeping a distance online
- Young people think online contact is easier than off line ones
- Half of European teenagers - subject to sexual harassment online
- Many young people have sent sexy images and received them
- 1 in 10 older teens have posted sexy pictures of themselves
- Sexting – sending and receiving sexy messages is part of online sexual behavior of some young people
- Watching pornography is common – even if content is experienced as disgusting

Risk patterns

- Increasing risk of getting sexual messages with age (18 – 20)
- Girls 2-4 times more at risk of being sexually solicited online
- Boys use internet more frequently for sexual activities than girls
- No evidence that young LGBT people are harmed more often
- No evidence of children with disabilities are more at risk online
- Young people in residential care less aware of negative consequences of posting pictures with sexual content
- Young people with origin from another country – may be more at risk of being approached online by adults for sex
- Having a challenging background with sexual abuse/difficult family relations – more vulnerable online...

Something missing – loneliness

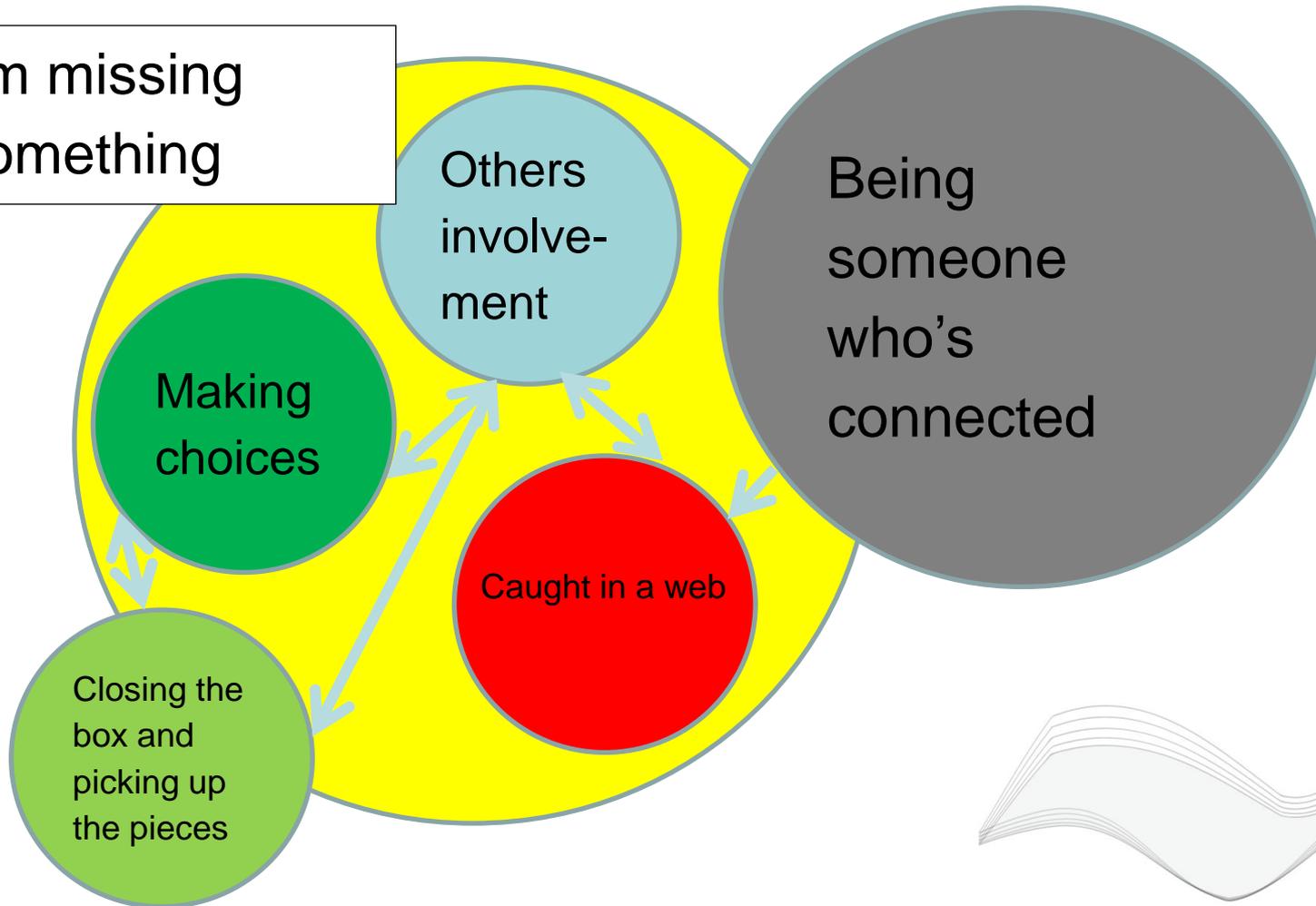
- A majority of children reveal that they feel something is being wrong with them, something missing in their lives – that going online may make better. Be understood, a space on their own and explore sex
- Children who feels unhappy and lonely – more likely to respond to sexual requests and to chat online at a personal and intimate level
- Difficult to talk about sexual abuse. When it happens in the online world even more difficult to talk about – and less likely to be reported
- When photographs and films made – very sensitive/difficult
- Children exposed to online abuse – do not contact and seek support from adults
- Some felt good about speaking about the abuse to adults

Online grooming

- Adults use various techniques to contact young people
- Young people get attractive offers and they feel grown-up
- But as a number of messages have increased – less in control
- Increasingly, when also involving mobile, sms, calls ending in face – to –face meeting
- Young people feel bad lying to parents – blame themselves
- Keeping secrets - young people consider ok and normal
- The offenders told they lie about age, their looks and so on
- Adults convince young people that the relationship is important and that they would be there for them
- Young people described they felt relieved of having found somebody close to feel close to...

A tentative model of online behaviour related to sexual abuse (Lars Lööf)

I'm missing something



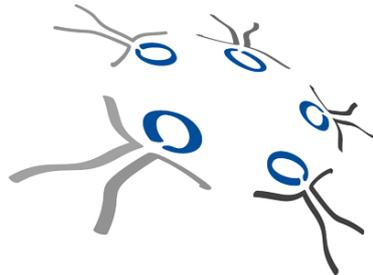
Safe online interaction

- Pay attention to which people are known both online and offline - and which only online
- Adults wanting to meet young people for sex may create an impression that they are connected in more ways than is actually the case
- Sharing online experiences with friends and trusted adults is protective in itself
- Be cautious if an online contact want to communicate through mobile – and using multiple chat sites
- Other young people, even those you know, may behave exploitative and harmful online
- There is a link between being a victim to online bullying – and becoming a victim of grooming....
- www.saferinternet.org – someone to talk to.....

Turid Heiberg

Turid.heiberg@cbss.org

www.childcentre.info/Robert



CHILD CENTRE

Expert Group for Cooperation on
Children at Risk, EGCC

