



Dear Parent or Carer.

We'd like to invite you to an open session which aims to raise awareness of the criminal and sexual exploitation of children.

Nationally, there has been an increase in media coverage of child exploitation and we're keen to help parents recognise the signs and provide advice on how you can protect your child and their friends.

Exploitation can happen to any child, or young person under the age of 18, from any background. It happens to boys and young men as well as girls and young women.

The session is being held purely to inform parents and to provide you with an opportunity to ask questions of the police and other specialist practitioners. Please rest assured there is no need to be concerned or alarmed.

The session will take place at **The Guild Hall, Fore Street, Chard from 6pm on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July.** It is open to all parents of CAFOS schools and Axe Valley (Holyrood, Axe Valley Avishayes, Manor Court, Redstart, Combe St Nicholas, Buckland St Mary, Ashill, Tatworth, Winsham and Neroche).

If you'd like to come but are unable to make it, you can find information at [www.thisisnotanexcuse.org](http://www.thisisnotanexcuse.org).

Yours faithfully,

Androulla Nicolaou  
Avon and Somerset Police