

Facilitators Handbook



For more information

savemeinfo@enfield.gov.uk



A message from the writer/ director



Amani Simpson

Making this film has been both joyful and painful. On one hand I'm proud of my writer/director debut but equally I'm sad that everyday young people across our country are struggling to navigate nightmare situations like Fiona and Dean. Having to put myself in their shoes to this story has made me even more determined to use my platforms to help our most marginalised young people!

As a teenager I was groomed into a county lines operation by someone I thought was my friend, and while I was lucky to get out before it was too late, too many children are still being trapped in terrifying cycles of exploitation and abuse.

In creating this new film, the team and I wanted it to be a tool to help society fight back against those who seek to take advantage of our vulnerable young people. Contextual safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and my hope is that this project travels widely through community and influential spaces to empower the difficult conversations that will create sustained and systemic change for our children and young people.

"Yes, it takes a village to raise a child; but it takes a community to raise a generation"

I want to thank each of you for the part you play in keeping our children safe. I stand side by side with you as we continue to fight the good fight! If you'd like to know more about my story, watch my award-winning short film 'AMANI' or get in touch, please visit AmaniSimpson.com

Peace and God Bless

Amani Simpson
Award-Winning Youth Coach and Filmmaker
Founder & CEO of AVIARD Inspires

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The Story



Please note this synopsis includes spoilers.

SAVE ME tells the story of Fiona, 15, who finds herself struggling to navigate several unsafe situations. After seeing Dean, 13, being bullied she innocently befriends him. During their conversation Dean reveals that he is grieving the loss of his mum, as is she in some ways. Unbeknownst to Dean, Fiona's older boyfriend Damian has his eyes on him and begins coercing Fiona to groom Dean into his county lines gang.

Back at home, Fiona's situation is toxic. It becomes apparent that she is being emotionally and sexually abused by her Mum and Step-Dad. This leaves her feeling that no-one cares for her.


The next day Fiona and Dean bunk off school and experience a sense of fun and freedom in each other's company for the first time in a long time. This causes them to deepen their bond with each other. Later that day Fiona takes Dean with her to secretly deliver some drugs to Strykez, a young man who has also been taking advantage of her.

Later that week, Dean is invited to Fiona's local youth club where he is shown a video of Fiona engaging in a sexual act with Strykez before it's shared widely. Strykez then encourages him to join his group just as Fiona quietly enters the youth club and sees them together. As she sits down, she notices that everyone seems to be pointing and laughing in her direction which makes her feel embarrassed and overwhelmed. She runs back out distraught and texts Damian, now agreeing to bring Dean to the Trap house on Saturday night.

En route in their mini cab on Saturday, Dean asks to stop for some food. When they pull up, he reveals to Fiona that he saw the shocking video and encourages her to be careful, proving that he genuinely cares for her. This makes Fiona reconsider her plans but after pleading with Damian she knows it's too late.

Once they arrive at the location and knock, Damian, Strykez and their gang open the door to Dean's horror. They try to entice him into the house for a chat, but he backs away causing them to run after him. As they catch him and begin dragging him back the police suddenly arrive and arrest the gang, saving the pair just in time. It turns out that Khaled, their cab driver noticed small red flags during the journey and decided to alert the authorities when they parked up.

Two months later, Fiona has been removed from her home and is now living with a kind-hearted carer. The film ends with her preparing to start a new, more hopeful chapter in her life.



Aims of the Handbook

This handbook is designed to accompany the 'SAVE ME' short film.

It offers the facilitator prompts to provoke meaningful discussions about each important moment and key themes with groups of young people, practitioners, and stakeholders in children's well-being. Most of the questions in the book are aimed at younger audiences so please feel free to be creative and adjust to suit your needs.

We recommend that anyone facilitating sessions watches 'SAVE ME' (33 mins), the accompanying videos and reads this resource in full to familiarise yourself with the story and content. Then on page 9 you will see some suggestions on how to facilitate a dynamic exploration of the film and introduce the concept of contextual safeguarding.

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships and associations that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse.

Perpetrators of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) are operating in our communities right now. They are grooming young people through the guise of friendly relationships so it's important that we afford our young people and communities with some tools to fight back, improving their levels of awareness and self-protection.



The film's aim is to provide a reflection of many peoples lived experience through the medium of film.

The aim of the facilitator's handbook is:

- To provide anyone with a blueprint of how to deliver a successful contextual safeguarding workshop to young people.
- To spark conversation and debate about the complexities of extra familial harm.
- To facilitate a safe space for young people to question the reality of the main characters and apply it to their own situations.
- To empower and mobilise the community by raising awareness of extra familial harm and question what more they can do to safeguard the young and vulnerable.
- To improve young people's self-protection skills through education of risks and escape plans.

Key Characters



Fiona

Fiona's story will be recognised by many. Everywhere she turns someone wants something from her.

Fiona tries to keep everyone happy, and we watch as she deals with the impact of some of her decisions.

Fiona's role in the extra familial harm will spark debate and controversy. She is neither completely innocent or completely guilty.



Dean

Dean's Mother has sadly passed away from cancer. He also gets bullied at school. He finds a friend in Fiona.

Dean represents thousands of young people across the UK who, through no fault of their own, become targeted and groomed by exploiters wanting to cause them harm.

We follow Dean throughout the film and watch on as the decisions that other people make impact and affect him.



Khaled

Khaled is a cab driver who is just getting on with his day before crossing paths with Fiona and Dean.

As the journey progresses, he notices little things that don't sit right with him and so he decides to act.



Damian

Damian is a controlling and scary individual.

Although he is much older, he's in a relationship with Fiona and grooms her with gifts and intimidates her with threats and his demeanour.

Damian tries to use Fiona to recruit Dean for his criminal enterprise.

Key Characters



Strykez

Strykez is a lieutenant in Damian's criminal gang.

After filming a sexual interaction with Fiona, he shares the video at the youth club, which devastates Fiona.

As the story unfolds, we find out that may have also been groomed.



Dante

Dante is one of Strykez' closest friends but is making different choices to him.

He can see his friend is on a downward spiral and is trying to be the positive voice of reason before it's too late.



Jenny

Jenny is Fiona's mum and is an addict.

She's regularly abusive to Fiona and blames her for ending her dance career.

Jenny encourages Fiona to use her relationship with Damian to get her drugs.



Steve

Steve is Fiona's stepdad.

On the surface he seems kind but is using his position to sexually abuse her.



Tips for Facilitation

Available Resources

We've created a video play list on YouTube featuring additional content to help with discussion.

These incl.

- [Film introduction](#) and [Workshop introduction](#) from Amani Simpson
- Link to the [film](#) (33 mins) and [trailer](#) (1 min)
- A [walk through of key moments](#) and memories from creating SAVE ME with Amani Simpson and Elle Davis (Fiona) - This video is segmented into chapters on YouTube for easy navigation.
- Clips of the 17 key moments mentioned in this handbook.
- A [Director's Masterclass](#) with Amani Simpson exploring the process of making SAVE ME - This video is segmented into chapters on YouTube for easy navigation.
- [Behind the scenes footage](#) and interviews with cast, crew, and key stakeholders
- You can access the play list via www.enfield.gov.uk/savemefilm
- When planning workshops, we recommend making a note of the key moments and/or themes you want to explore in advance.
- We want to empower you to frame the conversation to suit the outcomes you want for your workshop; our questions for each moment are just suggestions.

Tips for Facilitation

Managing the workshops

- Set up the environment so that everybody can sit comfortably to see and hear the film.
- Ensure the video is working and the sound is on before the group arrive.
- Remove any distractions from the room
- It's recommended that you allocate half a day to fully explore the themes and moments from SAVE ME, however as this may not always be possible, we have provided two potential frameworks for workshops.

Minimum of 60 mins:

E.g. When facilitating within Youth / School settings

- Introduce workshop incl. overview of key themes, use of paper, about the space (5 mins)
- Play film intro video from Amani - 90 secs
- Play film – 33 mins
- Leave 15-20 mins to discuss key moments and thoughts from the film. You probably won't have time to review each moment again.
- Facilitator to capture key thoughts and comments from the room and complete our evaluation form on our website to help us track impact

Key Discussion Points

- While you were watching SAVE ME, what did you see?
- What were your initial opinions about Fiona... and how did it change as the film went on?
- After watching SAVE ME, has anything changed about your mindset?

90 mins – 2 hours+:

E.g. When facilitating Community, Practitioner or Stakeholder Training

- Introduce workshop (5 mins)
- Discuss key themes (10 mins)
- Play film intro video from Amani (90 secs)
- Play film (33 mins)
- Play workshop intro video from Amani (1 min)
- Have extended time to discuss key moments and where possible review clips of each moment and/or watch the walk through video to get more context from Amani and Elle (30 mins+)
- Ask all attendees to complete our evaluation form on their devices - via the QR code on our website or directly via the URL provided (5 mins)



Tips for Facilitation

Facilitating the group

- Try to create an open and honest atmosphere and be as non-judgemental as possible.
- Ask open ended questions to promote discussion.
- Challenge views and create teachable moments.
- Role model good listening and communication skills.
- Be empathetic
- Where possible please provide pens, paper and tables so the group can make notes as they watch the film.
- Encourage the group to introduce themselves if they don't know one another.
- Explain that we will be discussing themes of abuse and that if anyone needs a break or needs to leave the room then they can. If you have prior knowledge that a young person has been exposed to the themes explored in 'Save Me' then you please warn them privately beforehand.
- We would strongly encourage everyone to respect other opinions and confidential information.
- To help us measure the impact of 'SAVE ME' the team would love to hear about your experiences after each workshop so please ask everyone in attendance to scan the QR code and complete our short survey. If this is not possible, for example if a student doesn't have a phone, please capture any thoughts on their behalf.

Tips for Facilitation

After-care

- If you are concerned any of the group may be at risk of harm please raise your concerns following your safeguarding procedures. If you're outside of an organisation contact your respective Children's Services department for advice.
- Please ensure young people are reminded of who they can talk to and how they can access support.
- Adults may also need support after watching Save Me so please create a safe space for them to reflect and open up.



Key Terms & Themes

To encourage a healthy discussion and to maximise learning it's important the group is confident in using the correct language, the concepts and terminology. Use the themes below as prompts and ask the group whether they have heard of them and whether they can describe what they mean. These could be written on a whiteboard as a visual aid.

Use the terms below as prompts. Ask the group whether anyone has heard of these words and whether anyone can describe what they mean? You could write these on a white board prior to showing the film.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Is a type of sexual abuse where a child or young person is coerced, tricked, manipulated and/or deceived into sexual activity with an abuser.

Child Criminal Exploitation

Is child abuse where children and young people are manipulated and coerced into committing crimes.

Grooming

When someone builds a relationship, trust and emotional connection with a child or young person so they can manipulate, exploit and abuse them.

Intimidation & Control

An act or a pattern of acts to assert dominance over another person. It can involve threats, humiliation, fear and even physical abuse to manipulate.



Neglect

The ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs such as their health, their education or failing to make them feel safe, valued and accepted.



Emotional Abuse

Involves controlling another person by using emotions to criticise, embarrass, shame, blame or otherwise manipulate them.



Physical Abuse

When someone deliberately physically hurts or harms a person which can include hitting, slapping, punching or harming them using an implement.



Sexual Abuse

Forcing or enticing someone to take part in sexual activities where consent hasn't been given.



Safety Opportunity

An opportunity for someone to step in and safeguard someone by asking questions about what is happening and take action to keep the person safe.



County Lines

Where children are exploited into transporting and selling illegal drugs from one area to another. The 'County Line' refers to the phone line to order drugs.



Cyber Bullying

Is the sharing, sending, and posting of harmful information online which is aimed to embarrass, and hurt another person. This information could be false or personal.



Indecent Images of Children

It's illegal to make, possess and share indecent images and videos of children under the age of 18. This can include sexual posing. It also includes children committing sexual acts.

Key Moments

Moment 1

Khaled picks up Fiona & Dean *(duration 1:19)*

- What were your first thoughts about this situation?
- What should Khaled notice here?
- What did you notice about Fiona's phone call?
- [Walk through chapter: The Journey Begins](#)

Themes covered:

Grooming - Fiona lies and calls Damian 'sis' on the phone indicating that she's trying to deceive Dean.

Safety Opportunity - Khaled notices the age gap between Dean and Fiona.



Moment 2

Strykez & Dante

(duration 0:29)

- What was your impression of Fiona at this point?
- What did you notice about the conversation between the boys?
- [Walk through chapter: Strykez & Dante](#)

Themes covered:

Child Sexual Exploitation - It's implied that Fiona performed a sex act on Strykez, which he filmed. This is creating an indecent video of themselves which is illegal to possess and distribute. It's implied that Fiona is being used to perform sex acts for Strykez who is part of Damian's gang.

Child Criminal Exploitation - Strykez gives Fiona a package of contraband.

Safety Opportunity - Fiona objects to Strykez showing the video to Dante. Dante challenges Strykez about showing the video. The film implies that the video is a sex act, which is illegal to possess and share.



Moment 3

Dante's role in the film

(duration 0:19)

- What did you notice about Dante's character throughout the film?
- How accurate do you think this character is? i.e. always having one friend trying to help you make the right choices.
- [Walk through chapter: Strykez & Dante](#)

Themes covered:

Safety Opportunity - Dante challenges Strykez on the video that he shows him.

Indecent Images of Children - Fiona and Strykez are under the age of 18 and therefore the video of them (performing a sex act) is illegal to possess and share.

Emotional Abuse - Fiona asks Strykez to delete the video. Strykez sharing this video is emotionally harmful to Fiona.



Moment 4

Dean gets bullied

(duration 0:26)

- What should have happened in this situation?

Themes covered:

Safety Opportunity - The coach missed an opportunity to challenge the older boys, ostracising Dean and causing him to run off.



Moment 5

Fiona & Dean get to know each other

(duration 1:54)

- What did you notice about their conversation?
- Do you think Fiona was being genuine from the start?
- [Walk through chapter: Fiona & Dean get to know each other](#)

Themes covered:

Grooming - Fiona encourages Dean to miss school. This drives Dean away from safe relationships and people that stop him coming to harm.



Moment 6

Fiona meets Damian

(duration 2:33)

- What are your thoughts on the relationship between Fiona and Damian?
- What did you notice about their conversation and interaction?
- [Walk through chapter: Fiona meets Damian](#)

Themes covered:

Grooming - Damian 'love bombs' Fiona by calling her Princess and complementing her on the fact she always delivers. He also gives her a chain. Fiona likes this affection. This makes Fiona more likely to do what Damian asks.

Intimidation & Control - Damian cuts Fiona off when she's speaking and tells her what to do. This is rude. Fiona then follows Damian's orders about taking drugs to her Mum. Fiona also follows Damian's orders about exploiting Dean even though she doesn't want to.

Child Criminal Exploitation - Fiona follows Damian's orders about taking drugs to her Mum. This is a criminal offence and can carry prison time.

Child Sexual Exploitation - Does Damian really love Fiona? Or is he pretending to be her boyfriend and use her to exploit others.



Moment 7

Fiona's home life

(duration 3:24)

- What did you notice about her home situation?
- How did her home life change the way you saw Fiona?
- [Walk through chapter: Fiona's home life](#)

Maybe facilitator could offer some advice in this moment? Childline, tell a friend or trusted adult and don't be upset if they tell an adult on your behalf, safeguarding lead.

Themes covered:

Neglect - Fiona's Mum is using her to source drugs without any money. Fiona's Mum is not protecting her from harm or danger.

Emotional Abuse - Fiona's Mum is really mean to Fiona, calling her cheap, blaming her for ending her dance career, and telling her that she wishes she had aborted Fiona.

Grooming - Fiona's stepfather is sympathetic to Fiona and calls her beautiful. He is trying to communicate with Fiona that he is safe person, when in reality he is trying to sexually abuse her.

Intimidation & Control - Fiona's stepfather comes into the bedroom and locks the door and tells Fiona she needs a cuddle.

Sexual Abuse - Fiona's stepfather.



Moment 8

Fiona & Dean at The Green

(duration 1:42)

- What do you think the moment in the trolley meant to Fiona and Dean?
- How do you think Strykez's comment to his boys would make Fiona feel?
- What could be done to safeguard the pair while in the shopping centre?
- What could be done to safeguard the boys on the roof?

Themes covered:

Intimidation & Control - Strykez boasts to his boys about his sexual activity with Fiona. This would've affected her self-worth and reminded her of the video recorded.

Safety Opportunity - Fiona and Dean are in the shopping centre during a school day. They go on to meet a group of boys who also seem not to be in education or employment.

Child Criminal Exploitation - Fiona hands Strykez a pack of drugs that she got from Damian.



Moment 9

Dean sees Auntie Emma

(duration 0:44)

- What else could she have done in this situation?
- [Walk through chapter: Dean sees Auntie Emma](#)

Themes covered:

Safety Opportunity - Auntie Emma could have contacted the school or Dean's Dad. Auntie Emma was only thinking about Fiona and Dean missing school and didn't make the connection that both children were vulnerable to CSE and CCE.



Moment 10

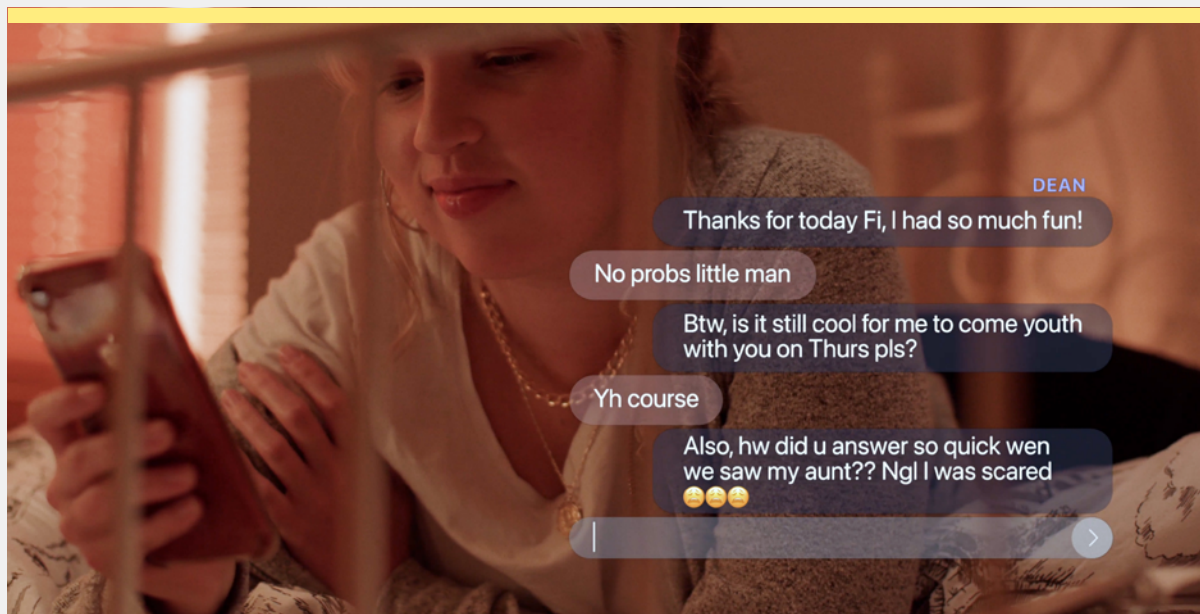
Fiona texting in her bedroom

(duration 1:42)

- Do you think Fiona and Dean's relationship is genuine?
- What do you think about Fiona's text to Damian?

Themes covered:

Intimidation & Control - Damian asks Fiona for an update on Dean. This puts her under pressure to exploit Dean.



Moment 11

The video goes viral around the youth club

(duration 1:41)

- How could the youth workers and young leaders handle this situation?
- What would you do in this situation?
- [Walk through chapter: The video goes viral around the youth club](#)

Themes covered:

Safety Opportunity - The video being shown is illegal as it contains an indecent video of children performing sex acts. Other people in the club didn't have to watch the video and could have alerted the youth club staff. The children (including Dean) could also challenge whoever sent it to them.

Emotional Abuse - Fiona suffers as she thinks/knows a video of her performing a sex act is being persistently watched by everyone.



Moment 12

Fiona agrees to set up Dean

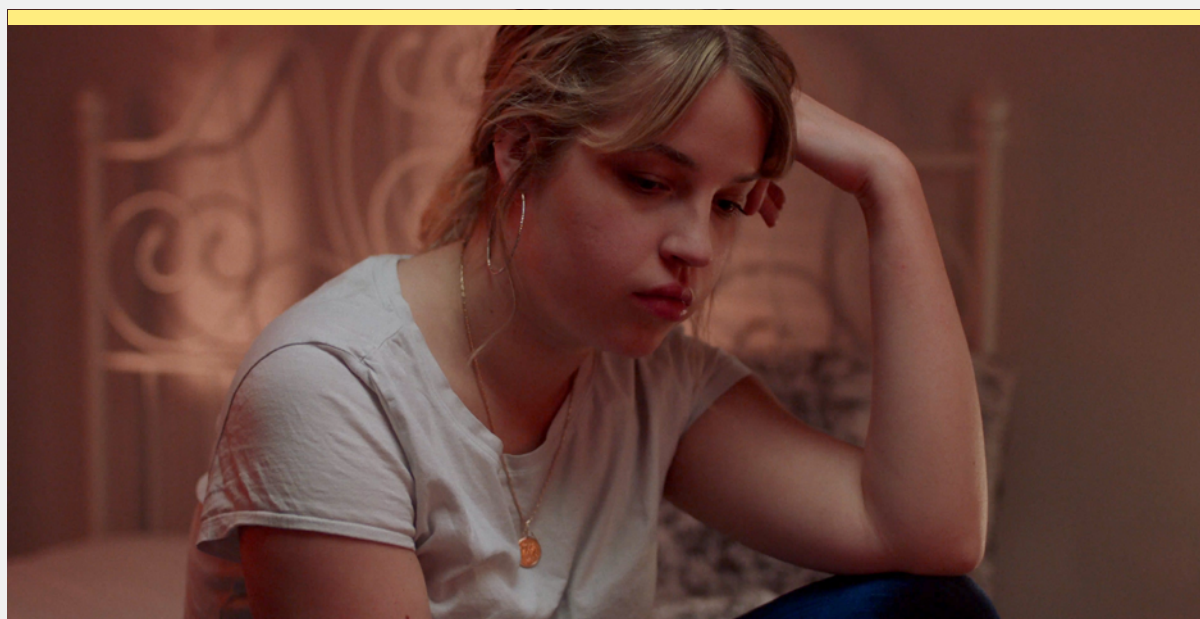
(duration 1:25)

- What were your thoughts about how Fiona reacted?
- How do you think Fiona was feeling when she sent her text to Damian?

Themes covered:

Child Criminal Exploitation - Fiona is setting up Dean to be exploited.

Grooming - Fiona pretends to be Dean's friend and invites him to a party. She's really upset with him about the video incident in the youth club. Also Fiona continues the idea of helping her 'sis' setup a party to win Dean's trust.



Moment 13

Dean encourages Fiona

(duration 1:45)

- What are your thoughts on what Dean said to Fiona?
- [Walk through chapter: Dean and Fiona have regrets](#)

Themes covered:

Safety Opportunity - Fiona has an opportunity to tell Dean what is happening and take action to stop him from being exploited.

Indecent Images of Children - Fiona confronts Dean about him watching the video of her at the Youth Club.



Moment 14

Fiona changes her mind

(duration 1:34)

- What are your thoughts on Fiona's conversation with Damian?
- [Walk through chapter: Dean and Fiona have regrets](#)

Themes covered:

Intimidation & Control - Fiona tries to back out of setting Dean up but Damian tells her to carry on and calls her a silly little girl and threatens her.

Safety Opportunity - Khaled understands more of Dean and Fiona's situation by hearing Dean and Fiona as well as Damian and Fiona.



Moment 15

Outside the trap house

(duration 2:33)

- What do you think about how Strykez reacted to being arrested?
- [Walk through chapter: The trap house](#)

Themes covered:

Intimidation & Control - Damian is very intimidating to Dean at the door. Strykez and his boys follow Damian's orders. Damian eyeballs Fiona clearly demonstrating he is not happy with Dean's behaviour and that she is responsible.

Child Criminal Exploitation - We learn that Damian and Strykez are working together, and Fiona is being criminally exploited by both Damian and Strykez; even though Strykez was probably also groomed himself. Dean is now being set up by the gang for Child Criminal Exploitation.

Physical Abuse - Dean is tackled by Strykez whilst trying to get away. Dean is then tackled and held by 3 other boys. Fiona tries to help Dean and she is tackled by Damian. These are both assaults.

Emotional Abuse - Fiona and Dean are likely to be traumatised by this whole incident and could suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.



Moment 16

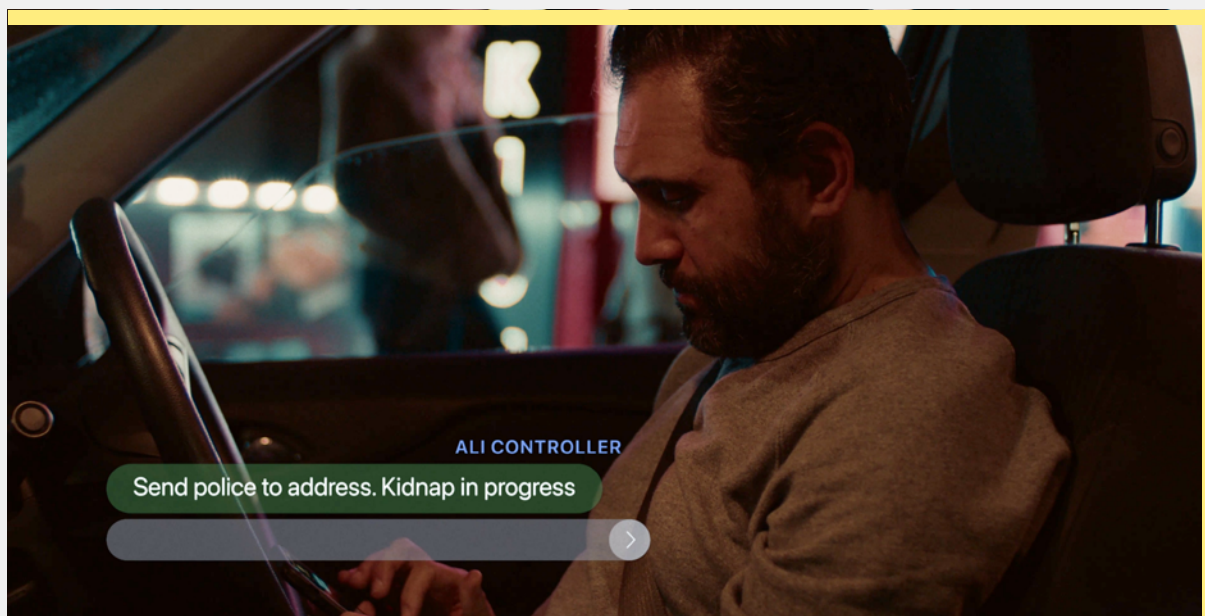
Khaled saves the day

(duration 2:03)

- Were you expecting that twist?
- What do you think both Fiona and Dean are thinking?
- What are your thoughts on the picture Khaled touches at the end?
- [Walk through chapter: Khaled saves the day](#)

Themes covered:

Safety Opportunity - Khaled has put together all the information he has seen in the film and has called the police to stop Dean from being harmed. Fiona and Dean now have an opportunity to tell someone in authority what is happening to them.



Moment 17

Fiona's fresh start

(duration 0:56)

- What did you think about this outcome for Fiona?
- What do you hope has happened to Dean?
- What do you hope has happened to Strykez?
- [Walk through chapter: Fiona's fresh start](#)

Explanation of the outcome for the audience

- Fiona is in care because her home environment was not safe for her. Sometimes this really is the best intervention for a vulnerable young person.
- Being in care is not always a happy situation. It can be very tough to live away from your family (even if it's better for you).

Themes covered:

Safety Opportunity - Fiona looks happy in her new environment and has trust in her foster carer. Adults only know what your life is like if you tell them.





Moment 18

Final quote

(duration 0:08)

- What do you think this quote means?
- What are you going to do differently after watching SAVE ME?

Yes, it takes a village to raise a child...
But it takes a community to raise a generation

Helpful Contacts

Where can you get help?

Talk to someone that YOU trust such as – parents/Aunts/Uncles/School, GP, Police, health professionals, mentors, sports coaches.

Enfield Children's Portal

If you support young people within the borough of Enfield, you can make a referral for child protection or Early Help and gain information advice and guidance via the Children, Young People and Families Portal (enfield.gov.uk). If you have a safeguarding concern that can't wait for a referral form, you should call the MASH on 020 8379 5555.

Childline

Charity providing a telephone counselling service for children and young people in danger and distress. Tel 0800 11 11 (24-hour free helpline).

The Samaritans

Charity providing 24-hour support for people feeling depressed, isolated or in despair. Tel 116 123.

Crime Stoppers

Provides an anonymous free phone number for callers who have information about crime in the UK. Tel 0800 555 111.

Credits

Handbook created by:

Amani Simpson Founder & CEO - AVIARD Inspires

Dionne Lindezey Deputy Team Manager, Early Help - Enfield Council

Paul Wright Contextual Safeguarding Hub Team Manager - Enfield Council

Anne Stoker Director of Children and Family Services - Enfield Council

Ivana Price Head of Service, Early Help - Enfield Council

Design by:

Everyone's a WINNER