

Kayleigh's Love Story

Kayleigh Haywood began speaking to Luke Harlow, a man she had never met, on 31 October 2015.

Over the course of 13 days they exchanged 2643 messages. He told the 15 year old many things a young teenage girl wants to hear. He told her that she was special, beautiful and that he cared for her.

Harlow was grooming Kayleigh, along with two other young girls he had also been speaking to. However, it was Kayleigh that finally agreed to his requests to spend the night of Friday 13 November 2015 at his house.

She spent the next day with him too, and in the early hours of Sunday 15 November, having been held against her will by Harlow and by his next door neighbour Stephen Beadman, Kayleigh was raped and murdered by Beadman.

Online grooming and the dangers of speaking to people online

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) under children and young people under the age of 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships (or third party involvement) whereby they receive something such as food, drugs, alcohol, gifts, money, cigarettes or accommodation as a result of them giving something back in return and performing sexual activities on or with them.

With the support of Kayleigh's family, Leicestershire Police has made a film about aspects of the last two weeks of her life.

Kayleigh's Love Story is as a warning to young people, both girls and boys, about the dangers of speaking to people they don't know online. The film highlights just how quick and easy it can be for children to be groomed online without their parents or those around them knowing it is even happening. The purpose of this is to protect children now or in the future and to prevent another family losing a child in this way.