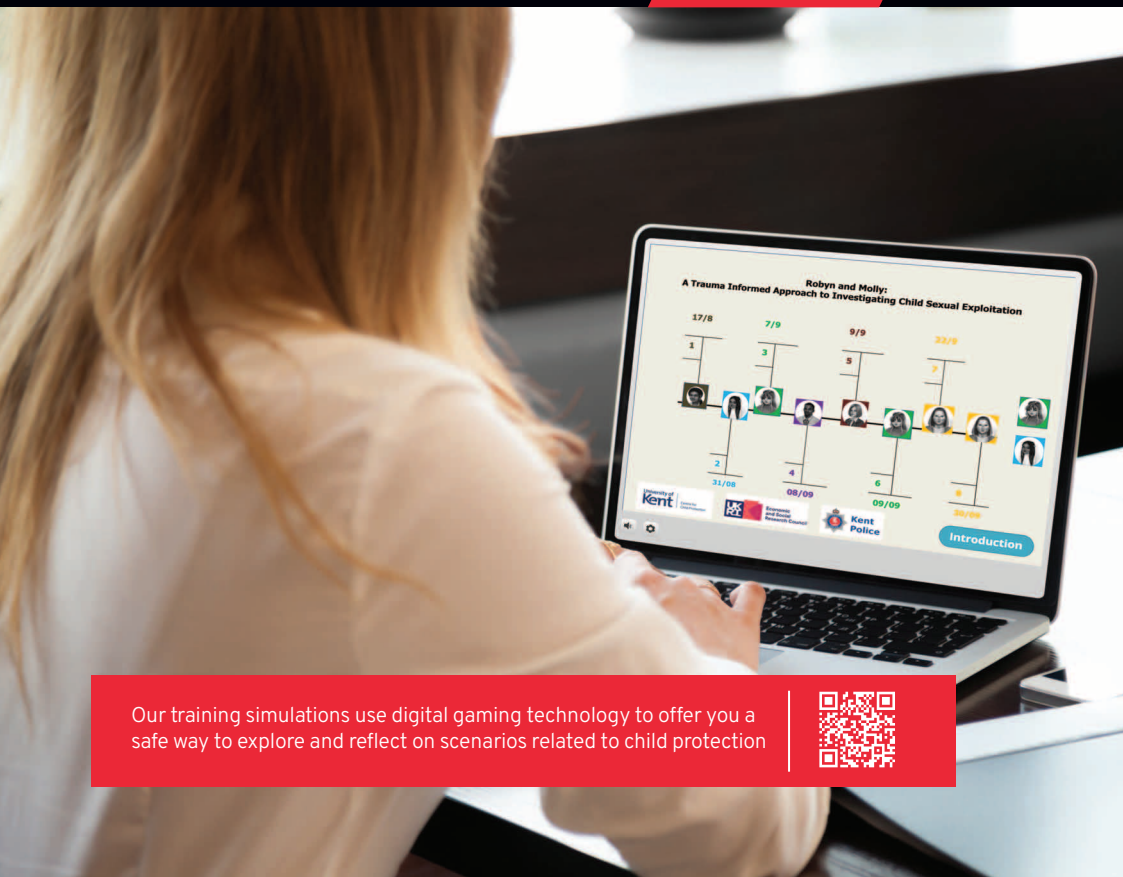


# **MOLLY AND ROBYN: A SIMULATED INNOVATIVE TOOL FOR THE TRAINING OF POLICE OFFICERS**



Our training simulations use digital gaming technology to offer you a safe way to explore and reflect on scenarios related to child protection



# Molly and Robyn training tool

## Background

During 2021/22 in England and Wales, there were 17,486 crimes logged by police where children had been sexually exploited – an average of 48 offences a day (NSPCC 2022). The impact of sexual exploitation can be wide ranging and children can develop trauma responses to experiences of abuse. Many sexually exploited children experience trauma (Hickle 2019). In providing public protection, police should understand trauma and be able to respond to traumatised girls with lived experiences of child sexual exploitation (CSE). A trauma-informed approach (TIA) is regarded as an essential framework to support these children and promote their physical and psychological recovery (UNCRC 1989 Art 39).

In response, the training tool called 'Robyn and Molly: A Trauma-Informed Approach to Investigating Child Sexual Exploitation' was developed as part of a collaborative project between the Centre for Child Protection (CCP) and Kent Police supported through Economic and Social Research Council funding. This project utilises a proven, innovative technology and the established pedagogy of 'serious game' simulation training, with a focus on the sexual exploitation of children. The simulation was co-created with 77 police officers trained in the pilot simulation. It was fully evaluated and received a Strategic Prevention Head of Command Award. Police officers who participated in the pilot training found the training relevant and 99% of them found the course to be helpful or very helpful in improving their knowledge and understanding of trauma-informed investigation of CSE cases.

## The simulation

This simulation is for police officers to promote a TIA to working with victims and witnesses in cases involving CSE. It engages with Robyn and Molly's experiences of CSE and follows trainee detective constable Sue Jackson's growing understanding of her role in providing a positive police response.

Interactive features include:

- Window of Tolerance, to enable an understanding of how trauma manifests in sexually exploited young people
- AWARE principles, to remind investigators of the key areas of observation when investigating CSE and engaging victims and witnesses
- Betari's Box, to promote reflection on effective communication strategies when working with victims and witnesses
- Push/pull factors of CSE, to promote a holistic understanding of children in their context
- Trauma-informed principles, to establish a firm foundation of the core elements of a TIA
- Frequent discussion points, to promote shared and scaffolded learning facilitated by experienced trainers.

## Learning outcomes

- Develop knowledge around the identification and recognition of child sexual exploitation
- Develop skills to engage with children who have lived experiences of child sexual exploitation
- Improve understanding of how to support victims of child sexual exploitation in a trauma-informed way during an investigation, after an investigation and during court proceedings
- Enhance skills around the active investigation of child sexual exploitation

- Increase understanding of how to prepare and present child sexual exploitation cases to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)
- Learn to recognise and respond to secondary trauma in oneself and colleagues.

## The training

The training is a full-day session and covers:

- Overview of CSE
- Fundamentals of trauma and its impact on victims and witnesses
- Recognising and responding to secondary trauma
- Good practice when undertaking a post-missing intervention with children
- Reflection on problematic victim-blaming language
- Importance of planning, preparation and debriefs in achieving best evidence
- Value of multi-agency working.

Exclusive expert videos on:

- Effective ways of developing suspect strategy
- Overview of offences committed against children subjected to sexual exploitation
- Good practice when preparing and presenting CSE cases to CPS.

## Contact

Email: [Issjri@kent.ac.uk](mailto:Issjri@kent.ac.uk) to arrange a chat with our trainer to discuss your training needs. For more details, visit [kent.ac.uk/ccp/robyn-and-molly](http://kent.ac.uk/ccp/robyn-and-molly)



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Police**

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**Kent**

Centre for  
Child Protection

## More from the CCP

### Simulation training:

- **'Rosie 2'**: Assessing complex neglect
- **my Courtroom**: Rosie's Family Goes to Court: Developing court skills in the family justice system
- **'Looking out for Lottie'**: Tackling child sexual exploitation and online grooming
- **Maryam and Joe: Behind Closed Doors'**: Prevent safeguarding; Routes to Radicalisation and Extremism
- **Crossing the Line**: Disrupting criminal exploitation of children
- **May and Bay**: Awareness raising on sextortion and other forms of child exploitation online

### Study with us

- **MA in Advanced Child Protection**: MA, Postgraduate Diploma, or Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Child Protection
- **Standalone modules**

## Testimonials

// This was a really well-prepared and modern training course! //

// Very professional, in-depth training. //



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