

THE COM



COUNTER
TERRORISM
POLICING
.....
WEST MIDLANDS CTU

ROCU
.....
WEST MIDLANDS REGION

ANYONE CAN JOIN THE CHAT...

WHAT IT IS

Community 'Com' Networks are online groups involved in child sexual abuse, cybercrime and offline violence. However, not all cases involve all three.

The **majority of those involved are children** under the age of 18.

Perpetrators may target children who are discussing topics online such as mental health disorders, neurodiversity or self-harm but they are active on virtually all social media and online gaming platforms. Discord and Telegram are particularly popular.

The communities share extreme material which may include:

- Child sexual abuse
- Violence and gore
- Animal abuse or torture
- Misogynistic and 'incel' beliefs
- Extreme/violent pornography
- Racist and occultist materials
- Hacking tools and exploits

HOW TO GET SUPPORT

Any concerns should be reported to one of the following for **safeguarding and diversion support; reference "Operation Driftglen"**:

- Local police forces call '101' (non-emergency)
- School safeguarding lead (DSL)
- Local social services
- Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 (anonymous)
- **Cyber Prevent/NCA/NCSC** and or **CT Prevent**

INDICATIONS OF CONCERN

The following behaviours are indicators that a young person **may be involved in** an abusive relationship with a Com group:

- Self-harm (cutting letters/symbols is of particular note)
- Numbers, letters, symbols written in blood on walls
- Interest in extreme themes
- Disengaging in education
- Obsession with new online friends
- Unexplained injuries to pets or siblings
- Unexplained money or gifts

