X is a 14-year-old female with additional learning needs and functions much younger than her chronological age. X was groomed for 3 years online by a 21-year-old from Canada, who flew to the UK to meet with X. The perpetrator was giving X information about how to avoid parental controls and monitoring to enable them to and decide to meet up.

The perpetrator met X and they both caught a train to a local city. They stayed in a hotel overnight where X’s appearance was changed such as dying her hair. X and the perpetrator then got a taxi from the local city to London at a cost of £600, with a plan of travelling to Denmark to collect another young person. Whilst they were at Victoria station, they were asking staff for information to travel to Denmark which alerted staff and British transport were informed of their suspicions. The perpetrator was arrested, and X was interviewed. Meanwhile, X’s parents had reported her missing and police were able to return her home.

On examination of the perpetrators phone and laptop by the police, it was discovered the perpetrator was in contact with 38 young people and there was over 700 pieces of evidence against her. The perpetrator was remanded in custody March 2024. The perpetrator pleaded guilty to all charges and was extradited back to Canada.

X was referred to the Health and Wellbeing team for support around the risks she took and the possible consequences of her actions. X spent several months being supported until the risks were lowered and she understood what could have happened to her. Hopefully this will prevent something like this happening to her again.