

# ANTSER CASE STUDY

## EALING VIRTUAL REALITY PILOT

Using Antser Virtual Reality to reduce the number of criminally exploited children within Ealing Council



**Ealing**

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## ANTSER PARTNERED WITH EALING COUNCIL TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF CRIMINALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN

For the first time, Antser's pioneering virtual reality (VR) technology is being used with young people thanks to a ground-breaking partnership with Ealing Council's Youth Justice Service (YJS) in a bid to reduce the number of children and young people being criminally exploited.

The pilot scheme, which will run for an initial four months, aims to increase awareness of harmful behaviour and exploitative relationships of young people already involved with the YJS, or known to them, and seeks to support young people to recognise high-risk situations while developing skills to avoid these situations and people.

**"As a service we are constantly looking at new and innovative ways to deliver interventions and so the pilot with Antser has given us the opportunity to use a range of resources that we would otherwise not have access to."**

Lizzie Gittens, Interventions Officer at Ealing

According to The Punishing Abuse report, published by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner: "The majority of children in the youth justice system have been subject to abuse, trauma or poverty."

The research, which is based on the lives of 80 children in the criminal justice system, found that nine in 10 children are known or suspected to have been abused.



**Overseen by the Ealing Council youth justice service (YJS) our virtual reality technology is used in a bid to reduce the number of children being criminally exploited**

## EALING USES ANTSER VIRTUAL REALITY AS A BEHAVIOUR CHANGE TOOL TO HELP VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE

Using VR headsets and 360-degree immersive films designed by Antser, children and young people from Ealing's YJS will find themselves immersed in the young people's experience, providing them with an opportunity to safely explore the issues of risk, how to identify it, how to avoid it and how to protect themselves.

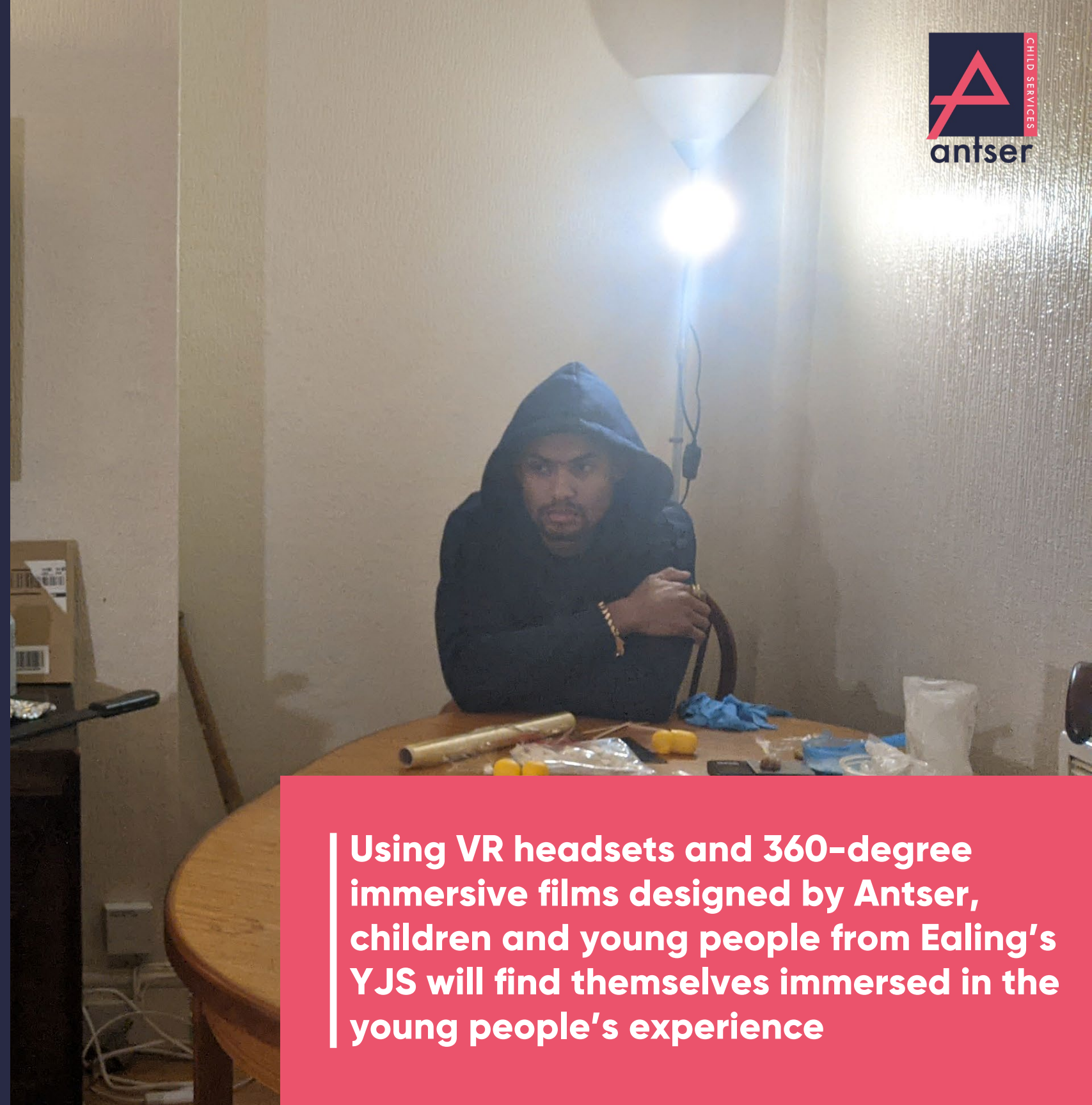
Alison Alexander, Strategic Director at Antser, said of the partnership: "Our VR technology is currently used across 45% of local authorities across the country, but this is the first time our films are being used to work directly with young people, so we are delighted to be working with Ealing's YJS to utilise this powerful tool to help protect vulnerable young people.

"We are confident that our VR will not only have a positive impact on those being exploited, but those thousands of children and young people who are also at risk of being exploited, continuing our commitment to providing positive outcomes for children and young people."

**"In 2020 we recorded that 27 young people were referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) due to concerns of modern-day slavery and exploitation.**

Lizzie Gittens, Interventions Officer at Ealing

Antser has developed hard-hitting films depicting the realities of child criminal exploitation as part of its VR-enabled behaviour change programmes for those working within children's services, including education, health, local authorities and the police, in a bid to deliver positive change and improved outcomes for vulnerable children, adults, families and communities.



**Using VR headsets and 360-degree immersive films designed by Antser, children and young people from Ealing's YJS will find themselves immersed in the young people's experience**



## THE OUTCOMES: YOUNG PEOPLE EXPLORED THE RISKS OF CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION WITHIN A SAFE SPACE THAT WILL ENABLE THEM TO APPLY LEARNINGS TO REAL-LIFE SCENARIOS

The use of our immersive virtual reality films around grooming and criminal exploitation allowed the young person to see how situations can escalate and become exploitative/ increasingly dangerous using realistic examples that young people may encounter. Ultimately, they also displayed the stages a young person may go through and how a seemingly fun and positive friendship can escalate and pose a risk.

### Comments from the young people...



“I learnt how to avoid being groomed and the warning signs...”

“It’s important to look out for ways out of a situation...”



## THE OUTCOMES

- ✓ A deeper understanding of being at risk of criminal exploitation
- ✓ A deeper understanding of situations where someone is forced to action against their will
- ✓ Increased awareness of dangers that certain individuals may pose to young people
- ✓ Increased confidence in applying learnings to real-life scenarios
- ✓ Development of skills to aid in prevention and overcoming of criminal exploitation

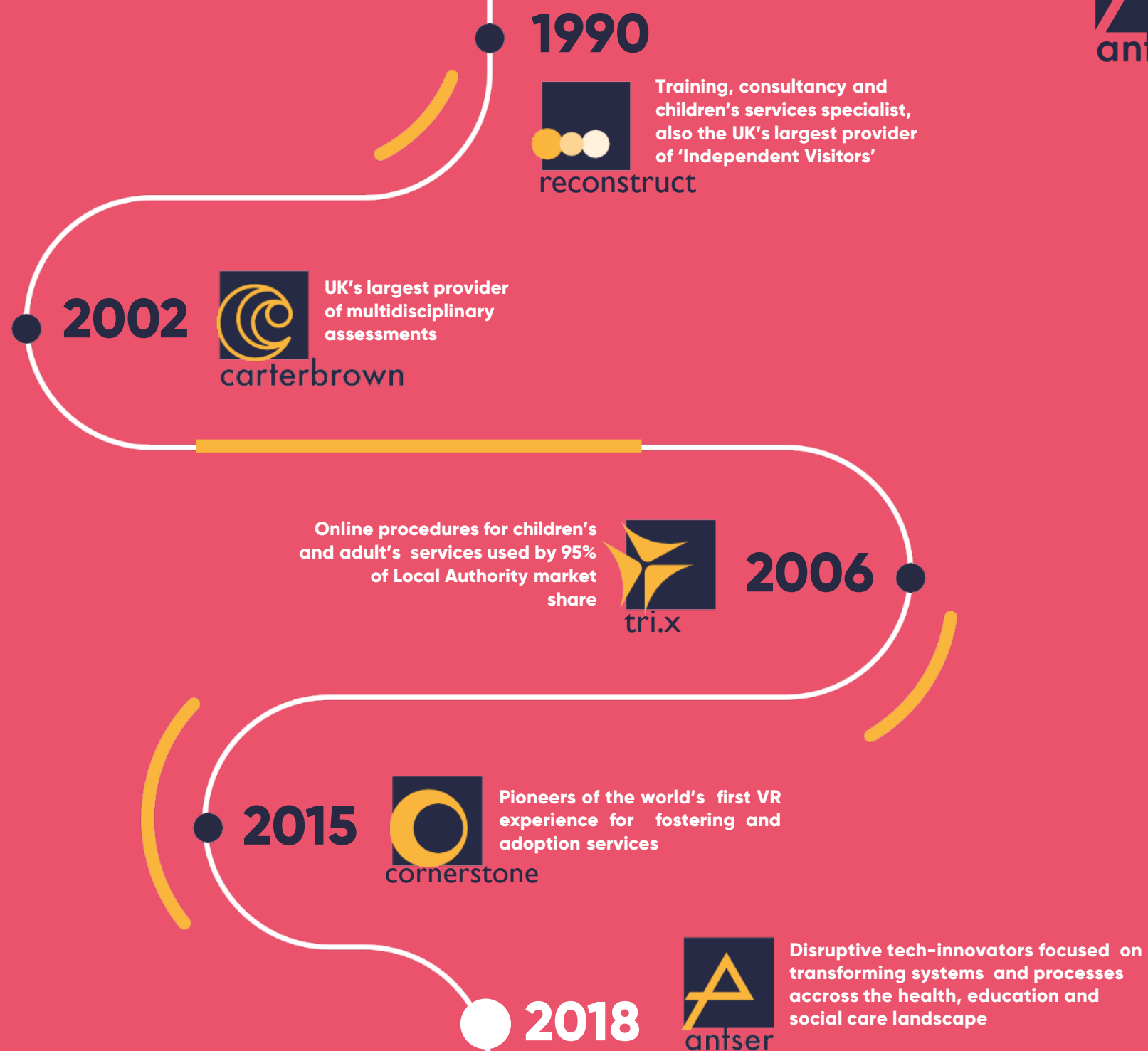


# ABOUT ANTSER

Antser is an integrated organisation delivering transformation in health, education and social care.

We deliver end-to-end services to the children's and adult's social care sector, in partnership with local authority and independent providers. We also support the wider team working with children in, or on the edge of, care in the areas of health, education, community teams, police and judiciary.

Our solutions range from core compliance to transformation and technology all with one aim in mind – to deliver better outcomes.



A photograph of a family sitting at a light-colored wooden table. On the left, a man with short brown hair is looking towards the center. In the middle, a young girl with brown hair is looking towards the right. On the right, a woman with curly brown hair is looking towards the girl. On the table, there are several items: a yellow stuffed bear, a white container with a heart pattern, and a blue box. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. There are decorative colored shapes: a pink square in the top left, a dark blue square below it, a pink square in the bottom right, and a yellow square in the bottom right corner.

**For further information on any of  
our solutions please get in touch**

**[hello@antser.com](mailto:hello@antser.com)**

**0800 0209 858**

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