



## Key points

# Breck's Story

### Key points about what happened

- Breck Bednar was a 14-year-old schoolboy who loved gaming and computing. He had a group of friends around him at school who enjoyed the same things.
- One day one of them invited him to join an online gaming group run by a guy called Lewis. Lewis was very impressive: he told the boys he was 17, lived in New York (though he was from Essex originally), worked for the FBI and a big tech firm, had his own apartment and had also set up his own company. This company had made more than £2 million in Bitcoin.
- Breck and his friends enjoyed gaming with Lewis, but gradually Breck's friends noticed that all Lewis's attention was focused on Breck. Lewis would take Breck into private chat rooms, tell Breck he was 'gifted' and give him special attention. Breck's friends got fed up and dropped away from the gaming group but Breck stayed because he enjoyed talking to Lewis.
- Breck's mum, Lorin, was very worried because she could see Breck was changing. She thought he was being groomed. He was becoming isolated from his friends, losing interest in hobbies, becoming defiant and only interested in gaming online with Lewis. She challenged him about Lewis, saying that Lewis must be lying and sounded older than 17, but Breck didn't want to listen. He thought his mum was worrying too much.
- Lorin sought help from friends, family, and then police. The police suggested she take away Breck's tech to stop the grooming. Lorin did this, but Lewis then sent Breck a secret phone so they could carry on communicating. Lorin didn't know about the phone and thought the grooming had stopped.
- Lewis asked Breck to come and meet him at his flat because he had fallen very ill and could no longer run his company. He said he wanted to give his company to Breck because Breck was the only person he knew who had the tech skills to run it.
- Breck lied to his parents and told them he was going to a different friend's house. But instead he got into a taxi booked by Lewis, and went to Lewis's flat in Essex.
- Sadly, Lewis was not a good person. He attacked and killed Breck.
- Lorin set up the Breck Foundation so we could all learn lessons from Breck's story about keeping smart and savvy when we are online.