

Factsheet 2020

NWG Network is a unique child sexual exploitation (CSE) network offering strategic and operational support across the voluntary/statutory agencies tackling child exploitation, particularly sexual exploitation with links across Europe, South East Asia, Africa, Canada and USA. Over the past few years we have expanded our reach to incorporate the wider vulnerabilities and exploitation.

- The NWG Network in the UK spans across over 230 organisations with over 13,000 + points of contact to disseminate information on the issue of child sexual exploitation.
- Our Knowledge hub holds over 1,400 CSE, CE and related resources.
- Our reach and national oversight allow us to address the issues surrounding child exploitation from Central Government level all the way through to hotel workers.
- Over 3 years the NWG received 2797 requests for support, working with 25,624 professionals to increase skills and capacity.
- The NWG Network has worked in all regions to assist identifying gaps and supporting Strategic Development, particularly around transition from adolescence into adulthood.
- NWG engage with every police force in England and Wales, and some forces in Scotland and the Channel Islands through a network in excess of 300 officers.
- NWG Network holds approximately 60 events every year that bring a range of organisations together to continually improve how we tackle CSE in the UK and across the world.
- NWG have shared expertise of others through 10 seminars in 2019 covering subjects such as County Lines, Gang Awareness and Self Harm & Suicide Intervention
- NWG Network is committed to practitioner training and has developed 11 different courses. Delivering 94 training days to more than 1000 delegates since April 2017

Child abuse in the UK

- Over 50,000 children in the UK have been identified as needing protection from abuse
- Both males and females can be abused, although more girls call Childline than boys. Both males and females can be abusers
- It's not just adults that abuse children: 65.9% of the contact sexual abuse reported by children and young people was perpetrated by other children and young people
- A child is usually abused by someone they know or trust, such as a teacher, Scout leader, someone from church, or at home. Over 90% of sexually abused children are abused by someone they know

- An abuser will try many tactics to keep their victim silent, such as giving gifts, threatening or blackmailing them and also playing on their fear, embarrassment or guilt about the abuse
- There has been a 60% increase in child sexual abuse reported to the police in England and Wales in the past four years. But arrests for child abuse offences have fallen 9%
- Over 23,000 sexual offences against children were recorded in the UK last year, of which over 5,500 were against children under 11
- Neglect effects up to 1 in 10 children in the UK – or more than one child on every street in the country
- 73% of UK children know another child who is suffering from neglect
- Neglect is the most frequent reason for a child protection referral to social services and emotional abuse is second
- One in 14 children have experienced emotional abuse by a parent or guardian
- Research by the NSPCC found that “all forms of abuse in childhood were generally associated with poorer mental health and elevated delinquent behaviour”. This can include suicidal thoughts and self-harm
- Sexual exploitation among gangs has been prevalent in the UK. South Yorkshire has recorded a 577% increase in reports of abuse following the Scandal in Rotherham. Gangs have also been uncovered in Oldham, Rochdale and Derby
- Over 6,800 children were identified as needing protection from physical abuse last year
- 1 in 14 children have been physically abused
- It is a myth that those abused as children will become abusers as adults

For more information

Child abuse NSPCC’s 2011 report – Child abuse and neglect in the UK today

Child neglect Action for Children report – Child neglect: the scandal that never breaks

Adults who have suffered abuse as a child NAPAC

<https://www.compassion.com/poverty/child-abuse.htm>

GET THE FACTS ABOUT Global CHILD ABUSE AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN.

Child abuse is a heart-breaking reality for many children living in poverty, and it comes in many forms ... physical, sexual, spiritual and emotional. Child abuse includes neglect, exploitation and child labour. Whatever the form, these facts about child abuse describe an urgent and growing need. Millions of children around the world are suffering and need someone to speak up on their behalf.

- Globally in 2014, 1 billion children aged 2–17 years experienced physical, sexual, emotional or multiple types of violence.
- A quarter of all adult's report having been physically abused as children.
- One in five women and one in 13 men report having been sexually abused as a child. ²
- In 2014, children comprised 28 percent of detected trafficking victims.
- Every year, there are an estimated 41,000 homicide deaths in children under 15 years of age.
- US\$7 trillion is lost due to violence against children each year equivalent to 8 percent of global GDP.
- 3,020 children on child protection plans for sexual abuse in England and Wales in 2016/17 Source: Department of Education Children in Need census 2016/17 and Welsh Government Children Receiving Care and Support census 2016/17.
- 29,600 children assessed at risk of CSA by children's services in England in 2016/17 Source: Department for Education Children in Need census 2016/17.
- 8,995 children identified as CSE victims or at-risk Source: National Police Chiefs' Council (2017) Regional CSE problem profiles, includes non-recent offences.
- 65,548 CSA offences recorded by police in England and Wales in 2016/17 Source: Police recorded crime and outcomes open data tables, updated 25 January 2018.
- Research by the NSPCC has identified that 1 in 20 children have been sexually abused, 90% of them by someone they knew. However, of the 43,000 children in England who are subject to a child protection plan at any given time, only around 5% are on a plan for sexual abuse. (NSPCC 2014)
- More than one in three children (34%) who experienced contact sexual abuse by an adult did not tell anyone else about it. (NSPCC 2014)
- Four out of five children (82.7%) who experienced contact sexual abuse from a peer did not tell anyone else about it. (NSPCC 2014)