

Indecent images of children: guidance for young people



The Home Office has published guidance to help young people understand the law on making or sharing indecent images of children.

The guidance includes:

- definitions of some of the terms used in legislation;
- examples of situations covered by the law;
- three short films highlighting the harm that viewing indecent images of children can cause.

Child sexual exploitation offences in Greater Manchester

Ann Coffey MP has published a report looking at child sexual exploitation in the Greater Manchester area.

Figures from Greater Manchester Police (GMP) show:

- there were 714 recorded sexual offences that were flagged for child sexual exploitation (CSE) in 2016, compared with 146 in 2013;
- and a survey of 2,452 Year 10 children in the area found that 12% of 14-year-olds reported sending a text message or image, while 22% said they had received one.

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Investigating child sexual abuse: the length of criminal investigations



The Children's Commissioner for England has published a report looking at the length of criminal justice processes in child sexual abuse (CSA) cases in England from the point of initial report to finalisation in court.

Findings from the study of Home Office data from 18 police forces and national data from the Crown Prosecution Service show that:

- in 2015/16, the median length of time associated with investigations of child sexual abuse cases was 248 days, however 25% of cases took 393 days or longer;
- the average length of investigative process for CSA cases is considerably longer than the average for adult sexual offences, taking 101 days more.

Young parents' advice website

Family Rights Group has launched a website for young parents whose children are involved with children's services whether as children in need, deemed at risk, in care or adopted.

The website includes information and tips to help young parents:

- understand their rights and options; seek the support they need for their children; get ready for meetings with their child's social worker;
- know what to expect if care proceedings begin.

Includes also:

- tailored information for young fathers, young parents who are themselves care leavers, and young parents experiencing domestic violence.

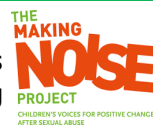


Child sexual abuse in the family

The University of Bedfordshire in partnership with the NSPCC has published a report looking at children's experiences of help-seeking and support after sexual abuse in the family.

Findings from interviews with 53 children aged between 5 and 19 across England along with focus groups and a survey of wider groups of children show that:

- professionals often fail to pick up signs of child sexual abuse;
- many victims wait months or years before accessing appropriate therapeutic support;
- young people are more likely to disclose experiences of sexual abuse to peers than professionals;
- children's familial ties to the perpetrator have significant implications for the impacts on families;
- disabled children and young people, those from some minority ethnic communities, boys and young men and care experienced children and young people face additional barriers to identification or disclosure, and accessing services.



The University of Bedfordshire in partnership with the NSPCC has released a short animation to help practitioners gain insight into the feelings and perspectives of children affected by child sexual abuse in the family.

The film puts the focus on children and young people's voices for positive change after sexual abuse, and was produced in partnership with a group of young people who advised on the Making Noise research project

and its dissemination.



Support services for children and families

Eleanor Schooling, Ofsted's National Director, Social Care has set out what makes an effective front-door service, providing access to all services for children and families, responding quickly and appropriately to children and child protection concerns.



Elements of a good front-door service include:

- good quality advice;
- gathering and analysing information so that risks are properly understood and the right decisions can be made;
- taking in to account and analysing historical factors about children and families;
- a responsive out-of-hours service;
- and a culture that places the welfare of the child at the centre.

Childhood neglect and abuse: evidence review



Department for Education

The Department for Education (DfE) has published an evidence review examining the effects of abuse and neglect on children, and whether different placement types affect their outcomes.

Findings from the review of UK research from 2000 to 2016 includes:

- neglect is the most prevalent form of maltreatment;
- providing earlier, effective and holistic support to parents, whilst keeping the child's welfare in mind, can reduce the risk of maltreatment;
- the age of the child at entry to care has been consistently found to be associated with the stability of placements and children's well-being;
- positive changes to the caregiving environment can help children to recover from their experiences of maltreatment;
- children and young people may also need specialist therapeutic support to help them recover from adverse impacts of maltreatment and to make sense of their experiences.

UK child trafficking statistics 2016



The National Crime Agency (NCA) has published modern slavery and human trafficking statistics showing the number of potential victims referred to the National Referral Mechanism, (a framework for identifying victims of human trafficking or modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support) in 2016.

Statistics show that:

- 1278 (more than a third) of potential victims of trafficking were children aged 18 and under, an increase of 30% on 2015;
- 215 UK national children reported being trafficked for sexual exploitation, a 104.8% increase on the previous year; the majority of children (468) reported experiencing labour exploitation.

Serious case review



Bristol Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) has published the report of the serious case review (SCR) into the death of a new mother and her four-day-old daughter.

Key issues include:

- professionals lost focus on the unborn child, and appeared more focused on the needs of the mother who had mental health problems;
- professionals felt intimidated by an unpredictable and hostile service user, and became less confident in using their skills and expertise;
- the range of individual services working with pregnant women with mental ill-health made it difficult to coordinate multi-organisational working.

Stability for children in care

The Children's Commissioner for England has published a report on the stability of the lives of children in care.



Preliminary findings include:

- children in care say that changes in their home, relationships with adults and peers, making it difficult to trust others and build connections;
- it is estimated that, during the year ending 31st March 2016, 71% of all children in care in England experienced a change in their placement, school, or their social worker.

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