



Centre of  
expertise  
on child  
sexual abuse

# Responding to the National Panel report

“I wanted them all to notice”

Anna Glinski, Deputy director

10<sup>th</sup> March 2026

# The CSA Centre

We are the Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse (CSA Centre). We want children to be able to live **free from the threat and harm of sexual abuse.**

Our aim is to reduce the impact of child sexual abuse through improved prevention and better response.

We are a **multi-disciplinary team** that works closely with key partners from academic institutions, local authorities, health, education, police and the voluntary sector



# What we'll cover in this session

**Setting the context**

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graph TD; A[Setting the context] --> B["I wanted them all to notice"]; B --> C[Knowledge, skills and resources]; C --> D[Workforce development]
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**“I wanted them all to notice”**

**Knowledge, skills and resources**

**Workforce development**

# Setting the context

**More than one in ten children** has been sexually abused by the age of 16 – and this is much higher for girls than for boys



# Far more children are sexually abused than services identify

Child sexual abuse in 2023/24: Trends in official data  
csacentre.org.uk



2,200 children on a child protection plan due to child sexual abuse (England)

10,500 children seen by sexual assault referral centres (England and Wales)

45,000 children assessed at risk of sexual abuse\* (England)

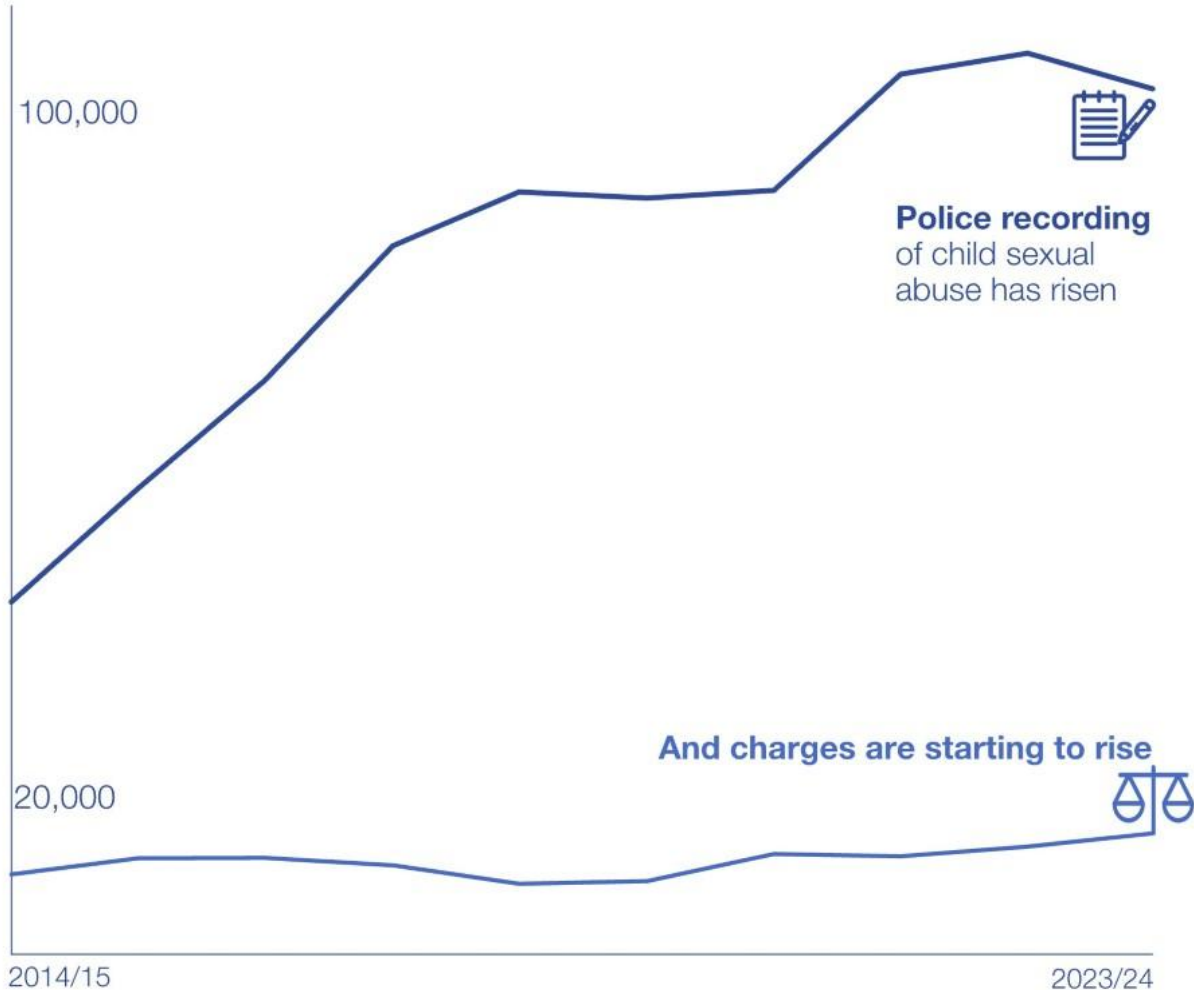
101,000 child sexual abuse offences recorded by the police (England and Wales)

500,000

children are estimated to be sexually abused every year\*\*

Sources: Home Office, Police recorded crime and outcomes, 2023/24; Department for Education, Characteristics of Children in Need, 2023/24; NHS England 2025. \*Includes assessments recording concerns of child sexual abuse and exploitation.\*\* Estimate calculated using single-year prevalence estimated by age group (Radford et al. 2011, Childhood abuse and neglect in the UK today) and the Office for National Statistics mid-year population estimates, 2023. Please note: numbers are rounded to the nearest hundred/thousand.

# More recording of child sexual abuse but it takes longer to complete at court



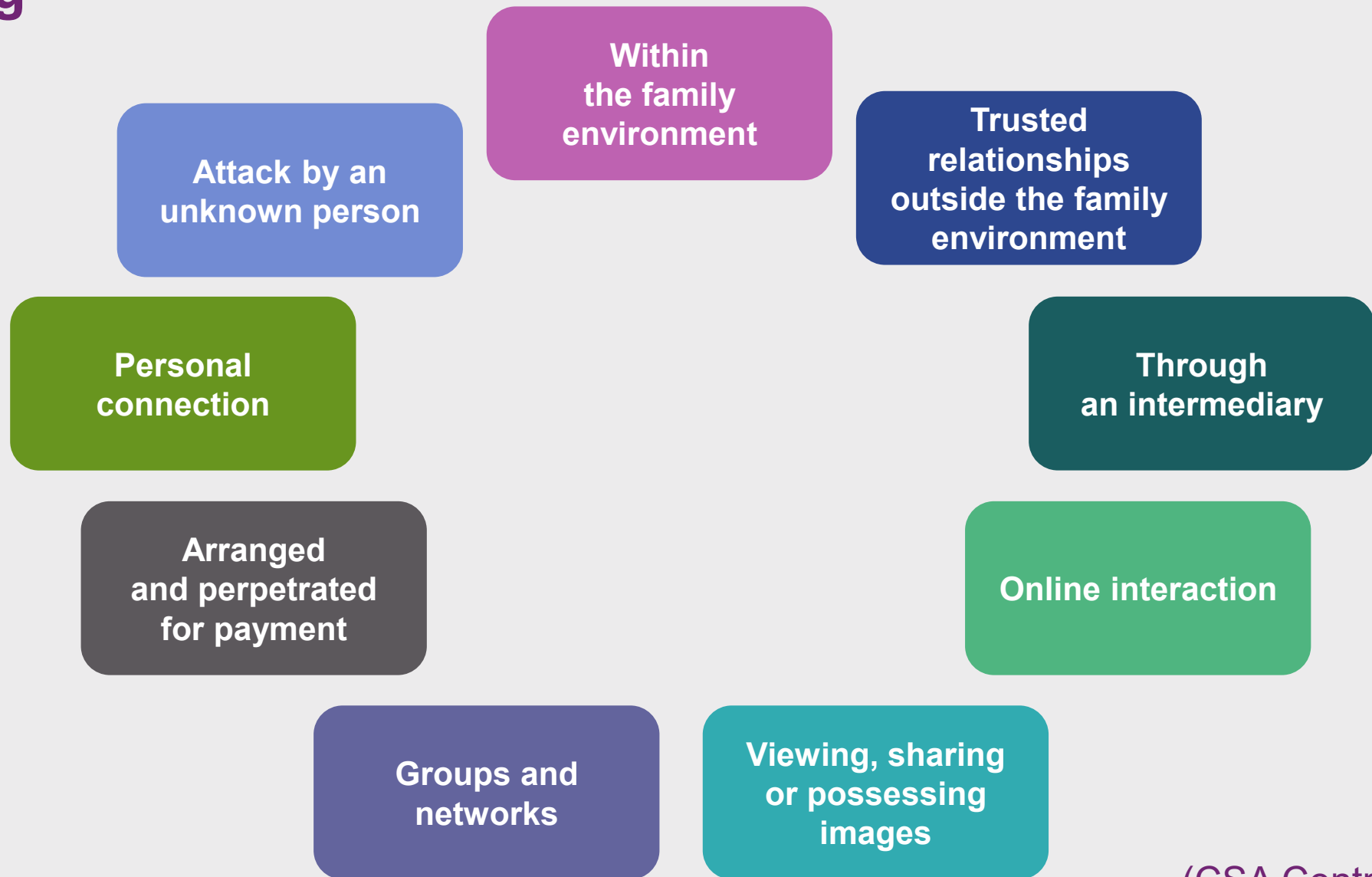
Average time from recording to charge



Average time from charge to completion at court

**The time taken for a case to progress from charge to completion has increased by 29% while time from recording to charge has fallen slightly.**

# Understanding the different contexts of child sexual abuse offending



**“I wanted them all to notice”**

The findings of this national review highlight a **systemic failure across all services** to recognise and respond when children are at risk of, or are already, being sexually abused by someone in their family environment.

**“I wanted  
them all  
to notice”**

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Protecting children and responding  
to child sexual abuse within the  
family environment

## Key findings

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Not hearing children's voices and understanding their needs

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Understanding parents' and carers' contexts, vulnerabilities and needs

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Challenges in identifying signs, understanding risk and raising concerns

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Issues in responding to concerns of intrafamilial child sexual abuse

# Recommendations for safeguarding partners

Strategic  
planning

Professional  
knowledge,  
skills and  
confidence

Enquiries and  
investigations

Assessment of  
people  
presenting risk  
of sexual harm

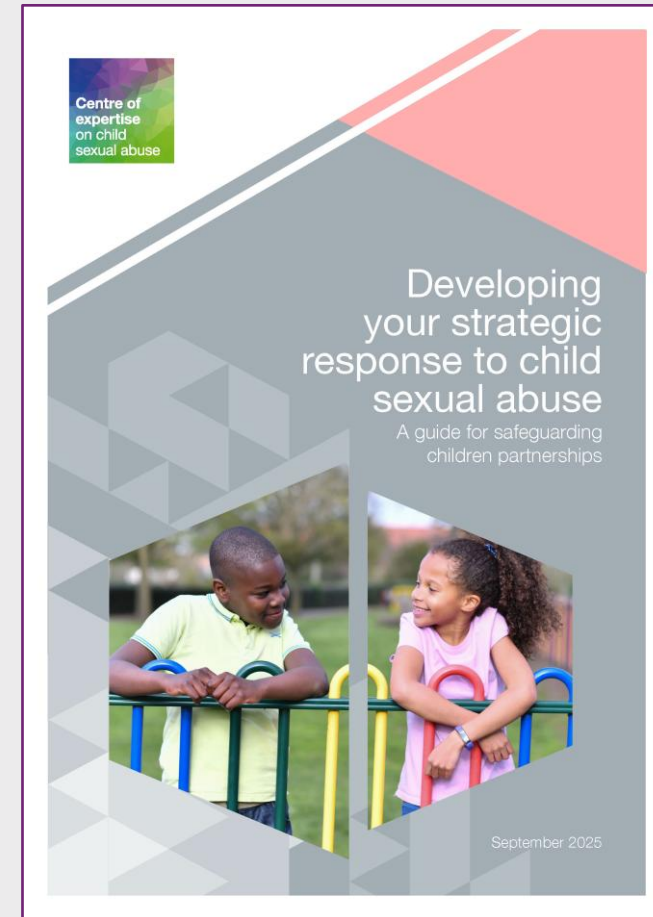
Talking to  
children

Health

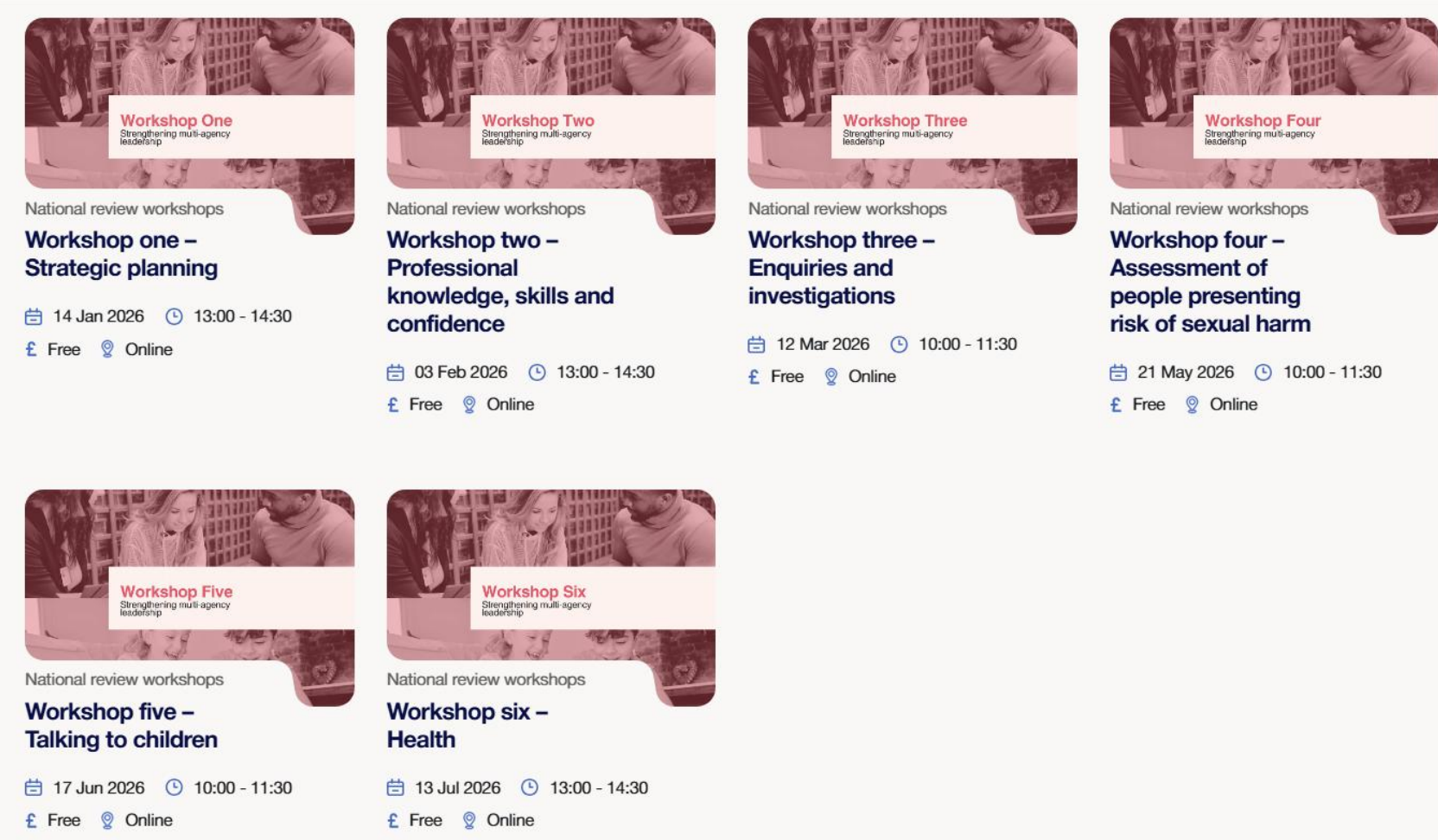
# Developing your strategic response to child sexual abuse

This guide enables **safeguarding children partnerships** to develop an effective, evidence-based strategy to address all forms of child sexual abuse

By using this guide, partnerships can **build a shared vision** of their response to child sexual abuse, and each agency can **confidently take ownership** of their strategy, understand the role they play in the overall response, and know where **accountability** sits



# Strengthening multi-agency leadership in responding to intra-familial child sexual abuse workshop series



**Workshop One**  
Strengthening multi-agency leadership

National review workshops  
**Workshop one – Strategic planning**

📅 14 Jan 2026 ⌚ 13:00 - 14:30  
£ Free 🌐 Online

**Workshop Two**  
Strengthening multi-agency leadership

National review workshops  
**Workshop two – Professional knowledge, skills and confidence**

📅 03 Feb 2026 ⌚ 13:00 - 14:30  
£ Free 🌐 Online

**Workshop Three**  
Strengthening multi-agency leadership

National review workshops  
**Workshop three – Enquiries and investigations**

📅 12 Mar 2026 ⌚ 10:00 - 11:30  
£ Free 🌐 Online

**Workshop Four**  
Strengthening multi-agency leadership

National review workshops  
**Workshop four – Assessment of people presenting risk of sexual harm**

📅 21 May 2026 ⌚ 10:00 - 11:30  
£ Free 🌐 Online

**Workshop Five**  
Strengthening multi-agency leadership

National review workshops  
**Workshop five – Talking to children**

📅 17 Jun 2026 ⌚ 10:00 - 11:30  
£ Free 🌐 Online

**Workshop Six**  
Strengthening multi-agency leadership

National review workshops  
**Workshop six – Health**

📅 13 Jul 2026 ⌚ 13:00 - 14:30  
£ Free 🌐 Online

# Knowledge, skills and resources

## Recommendation 2: Professional knowledge, skills and confidence

Safeguarding partners should undertake a **multi-agency training needs assessment**, to ensure that their practitioners are able to fulfil their roles and responsibilities in this area. This should include the achieving best evidence joint training.

The response to this assessment may require multi-agency and single-agency training initiatives, in a range of formats, **supported by evidence informed resources**.

They should additionally give specific attention to the role of schools, early years and other education settings and how they can identify and help children affected by child sexual abuse.



# Knowledge gaps

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Communicating with children about child sexual abuse

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Communicating with families about child sexual abuse

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How domestic abuse and coercive control impacts parental capacity to protect

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The signs and indicators of child sexual abuse

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The signs and indicators of sexually abusive behaviour

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Risk assessment

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Thresholds for intervention

# Know your workforce



Undertake a multi-agency training needs assessment



Undertake an audit of available resources to support practice



Think about staff wellbeing and care

Training framework		
Group A	Anyone whose role brings them into contact with children/families	Understanding child sexual abuse contexts (online, familial, extra-familial) How and where to report concerns
Group B	Early-career or non-specialist practitioners	Responding when children tell Recognising signs/indicators Understanding risk factors
Group C	Practitioners who respond and decide next actions	Information-sharing Multi-agency child sexual abuse responses Understanding what action to take
Group D	Safeguarding decision-makers	Assessing/managing child sexual abuse risk Effective referrals and protection planning Chairing/attending complex meeting
Group E	Senior operational leaders managing escalated/complex child sexual abuse decisions	Escalation procedures Workforce supervision/oversight Strengthening strategic child sexual abuse responses
Group F	Executive governance	Commissioning to close child sexual abuse service gaps Oversight of reviews and data Leading system-wide improvement

# The Child Sexual Abuse Response Pathway

An interactive online resource to guide professionals through how they can protect and support children and their families when there are concerns of sexual abuse.

- The Response Pathway sets out **how to respond to concerns of child sexual abuse at key points**: from first concerns and early help safeguarding through to child protection and criminal justice. Throughout, the Response Pathway focuses on meeting the needs of children and their families.
- It is designed to **empower professionals** to understand the role they, and their colleagues, can play to best protect and support children. It doesn't just tell professionals what to do, **it helps them to understand how to do it.**



<http://www.csacentre.org.uk/response-pathway>

# Explore our free practice resources

Build your knowledge and skills for working with children and families, and have the confidence to act.



Signs and indicators of child sexual abuse →



Communicating with children →



Supporting parents and carers →



Sibling sexual abuse and behaviour →



Managing risk and trauma after online sexual offending →



Resources for education settings →



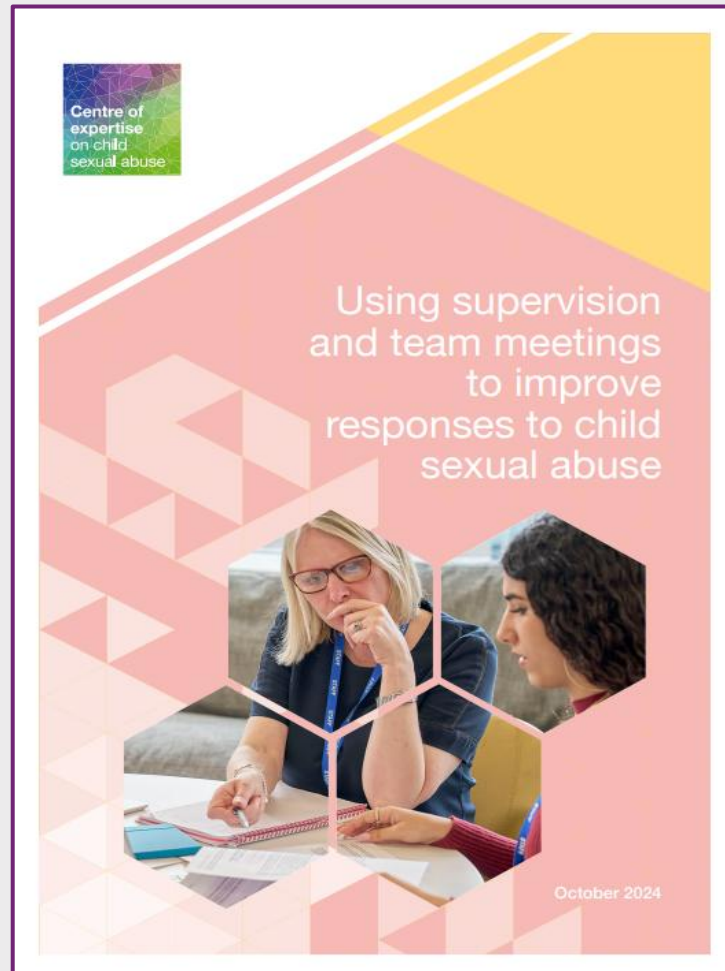
Using supervision and team meetings →



Medical examinations →

Centre of expertise  
on child sexual abuse

# Supporting line managers



Our **Using supervision and team meetings to improve responses to child sexual abuse** guide helps professionals **start discussions** about child sexual abuse within their teams, **reflect on** the experiences of children and families they are working with, **explore** their team's and their own **welfare**, and consider how the evidence might inform and **develop their practice**.


Free to download:

<http://www.csacentre.org.uk/knowledge-in-practice/practice-improvement/>

## Events

The latest opportunities from the CSA Centre; including our free introductory webinars, exclusive training events and research workshops and discussions.

All categories ▾




**Workshop One**  
Strengthening multi-agency leadership

National review workshops

**Workshop one – Strategic planning**

📅 14 Jan 2026 ⌚ 13:00 - 14:30

£ Free 📍 Online




Introductory webinars

**Supporting parents / carers when their child may have been sexually abused**

📅 21 Jan 2026 ⌚ 12:30 - 13:30

£ Free 📍 Online



Introductory webinars

**Putting the Child Sexual Abuse Response Pathway into practice**

📅 27 Jan 2026 ⌚ 12:30 - 13:30

£ Free 📍 Online

# Supporting practice film series

12 short films, building on our resources, to give professionals the confidence to identify and respond to concerns of child sexual abuse.

# Workforce development

# Building capacity and ensuring sustainability



Workforce  
development



Train the Trainer  
programme



Practice Leads  
Programme

## eLearning course:

### Identifying and responding to intra-familial child sexual abuse

This course is designed for **anyone working with children** to understand what intra-familial child sexual abuse is, provide guidance on how to identify concerns and build knowledge and confidence in how to respond to support both the children and their wider family.

For professionals at **all stages of their career**; for those without any training on child sexual abuse, or as a helpful refresher.

It is **completely free** and should take no more than **90 minutes** to complete.



# Picking your brains

# Sign up to our newsletter



- ✓ Latest research
- ✓ Practice guidance
- ✓ Comment
- ✓ News
- ✓ Training
- ✓ Events
- ✓ Ideas

<https://www.csacentre.org.uk/newsletter/>

## Find a support service



Being able to access support, as a child, young person or adult, is crucial to mitigating the impacts of child sexual abuse.

To help make this easier, the CSA Centre has created a directory containing **over 350 child sexual abuse support services in England and Wales.**

The **accessible, searchable Support Services Directory** is a simple way for victims and survivors, their families, or professionals, to find services that can help.

Find support services and get help today.

[csacentre.org.uk/get-support/](https://csacentre.org.uk/get-support/)

# Thank you!

For more information please contact:  
[info@csacentre.org.uk](mailto:info@csacentre.org.uk)



Centre of expertise  
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Tanners Lane  
Barkingside, Ilford  
Essex IG6 1QG

 @CSACentre  
info@csacentre.org.uk  
csacentre.org.uk

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