

# Prioritising child sexual abuse

Welcome to an engaging day of presentations in partnership with the Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse (CSA Centre). This online event will help you and your colleagues identify and respond to child sexual abuse, and work confidently with children and families. Throughout the day we will signpost you to useful advice and guidance to help you give victims, survivors and families affected by child sexual abuse the support they need. Explore the full schedule below.

**10:00 AM** **Welcome and introduction**  
[Kate Green, Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor](#)

**10:15 AM** **Impacts of child sexual abuse**  
Keynote 1  
[May Baxter-Thornton](#)

This keynote considers the lifelong impact of child sexual abuse on the child, adolescent, and adult. May uses her own experience of child sexual abuse within the family environment to discuss the stigma and judgements inflicted upon those who disclose abuse.

**11:00 AM** Break

**11:15 AM** **The scale and nature of child sexual abuse and responding in practice**  
Keynote 2  
[Anna Glinski](#)

To tackle child sexual abuse, we need to properly understand its causes, scope, scale, and impact. There has been increasing awareness of child sexual abuse and its impact on victims and survivors in recent years. Despite this, there are still many gaps in our knowledge and understanding which limit how we can best protect and support those affected.

This session will provide an overview of what we know about the scale of child sexual abuse, both locally and nationally; the contexts in which sexual abuse takes place; the characteristics of those affected; and who it is who perpetrates abuse. It will consider the key challenges professionals face in the identification and response to child sexual abuse, setting the scene for the afternoon's workshops.

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12:00 AM  
Keynote 3

## **The Child Sexual Abuse Response Pathway**

Jane Wiffin and Suzanne Taylor

This session will provide an overview of the CSA Centre's Child Sexual Abuse Response Pathway - a dynamic, online resource for all professionals working with children to help them understand the steps they can take to protect and support children and their families.

The Response Pathway sets out how to respond to concerns of child sexual abuse at key points in the safeguarding and criminal justice processes, focusing the response on meeting the needs of children and their families throughout. It is designed to empower professionals to understand the role they and their professional colleagues can play, to best protect and support children. We will focus on why the Response Pathway is needed, how it was designed, piloting its implementation and how you can use it in practice. This session will also include considerations of the local pathway.

## Afternoon presentations

We are hosting **two blocks of engaging practice-focused presentations** to help strengthen how you and your team identify and respond to child sexual abuse.

The presentations will run from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM, and 2:45 PM to 3:45 PM. There is a 15-minute break between each presentation block.

There are 7 presentations in the list below, and you can select two to attend - one in each presentation block. **Please contact your local Safeguarding Children Partnership to select which two presentations you would like to attend, and they will book your place for you.**

### **A) The signs and indicators of child sexual abuse**

Paul Burnside

*'Professionals rely too heavily on children to verbally disclose'* - Report into child sexual abuse in the family environment JTAI 2020.

This workshop will introduce delegates to the CSA Centre's Signs and indicators template to enable professionals to feel confident in building a picture of the signs and indicators in a child's behaviour and presentation, alongside those in the person of concern, and the vulnerabilities in the child's family and wider environment. This workshop includes a collaborative opportunity to put the Signs and indicators template into practice and to consider how this tool can be used effectively within your organisation.

This workshop is for all professionals working directly with children and families, including those who work only with parents.

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## B) Sibling sexual behaviour and abuse

Suzanne Taylor

Child sexual abuse takes many forms, but research suggests that a significant amount is carried out within the family environment, including by brothers and sisters. Research indicates that identifying and responding to sibling sexual behaviour and abuse can feel particularly difficult, not least because it challenges commonly held perceptions of sibling relationships

Despite having the core skills to respond to sibling sexual behaviour and abuse, many professionals report a lack of knowledge or experience to feel confident in doing so effectively. But responding to these issues actually requires the same skills needed for addressing other concerns in our practice. This session aims to build participants confidence in identifying and understanding sibling sexual behaviour and responding effectively, using our [Sibling sexual behaviour guide](#). This workshop is suitable for all professionals working with children, young people, and families.



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## C) Communicating with children

Jane Wiffin

We know that professionals and children face many barriers in talking about sexual abuse. It is vital that anyone who works with children knows how to recognise when something may be wrong and understands how to give children the confidence to communicate what is happening to them.

This workshop gives professionals the knowledge and confidence to act, using the CSA Centre's [Communicating with children guide](#). We will explain what may be going on for children when they are being sexually abused, what prevents them from talking about their abuse, and vitally what professionals can do to help children speak about what is happening. This workshop is suitable for all professionals who work with children.

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## D) The professional role in limiting the impacts of child sexual abuse

Nici Evans

Child sexual abuse can impact all areas of a child's development and throughout a person's life, though everyone is affected differently, in different ways and at different times. Research shows identification and support from professionals is really important as it can play a crucial role in limiting the impact of child sexual abuse and helping adults and children onto the best possible path.

Using videos and interactive discussions, this workshop will consider the ways in which people are impacted by childhood sexual abuse, including the impact sexual abuse can have on families, and the factors that can mediate the harm. Research with victims and survivors of sexual abuse is clear that those who experience it want professionals to have hope about their recovery. With the right support people can and do recover from their experiences.

This workshop is suitable for all professionals working with children or adults.

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## E) Harmful sexual behaviour in online contexts

Emma Hodgson

The internet and technology-based communications are now embedded in the daily lives of both adults and children. These digital platforms and devices can bring freedom and opportunity, but online contexts now feature in almost all types of child sexual abuse, so there is also the potential for harm. This can include harmful sexual behaviour displayed by under-18s, which may be harmful towards themselves or another child, young person or adult. In these situations, it is important that professionals can confidently build a detailed understanding of a child's broader behaviours - both online and offline – in order to intervene.

This workshop will provide a useful introduction to harmful sexual behaviour in online contexts. It will introduce participants to the context and emergence of this form of harm, and show why it is such an important subject for professionals to be aware of. While the session will have a specific focus on those who display these behaviours, we will also consider the impact on children and young people. This workshop is suitable for all professionals working with children and young people.

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## F) Managing risk and trauma after online sexual offending

Natasha Sabin

Each month hundreds of families find out a parent or carer has accessed child sexual abuse material. Understanding how and why this experience can be traumatising for families is the first step to effectively supporting them; getting the professional response right is pivotal in helping mitigate the impact.

This workshop will introduce delegates to the CSA Centre's Managing risk and trauma after online sexual offending guide. It will highlight the research evidence on this type of offending and provide practical advice for professionals on how to safeguard and support families at a time of great emotional distress. This workshop is particularly suitable for social workers and police officers, and for those supporting either children or adults who are affected by online sexual offending.

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## G) Safety planning in education

Lorraine Myles

Professionals in education settings are managing increasing numbers of incidents where there are concerns about harmful sexual behaviour – sexual discussions or acts, involving children and young people, that are inappropriate for their age or stage of development. Often, this is with limited or conflicting advice about how to assess risk for both the child who has been harmed, and the child who has caused harm, and how to develop an effective safety plan.

This workshop will introduce the CSA Centre's Safety planning in education guide - for professionals supporting children following incidents of harmful sexual behaviour. It has been developed to support professionals in their thinking and decision making where there has been an incident of harmful sexual behaviour in their education setting, and gives examples of how professionals can best respond to children's needs and safety when incidents occur. This workshop is suitable for professionals from education, agencies supporting education, sports and leisure, and other related settings.

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3:45 to  
4:00 PM

**Summary, closing remarks and getting your feedback**

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## Speakers

The day will start with a thought-provoking introduction from a local leader in Greater Manchester, followed by a speaker who will discuss her own experiences of sexual abuse as a child in her powerful keynote presentation.

You will also see presentations from the CSA Centre's Knowledge and Practice Development team, who will offer useful practice advice informed by their many years responding to child sexual abuse in social work, policing, education, youth justice and health.

### Kate Green

#### **Deputy Mayor for Safer and Stronger Communities, Greater Manchester**

Kate Green was appointed as Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester with responsibility for Safer and Stronger Communities in January 2023. From 2010 to 2022, she served as the Member of Parliament for Stretford and Urmston. While in parliament, Kate held a number of shadow ministerial posts, including Shadow Secretary of State for Education, and Shadow Minister for Women and Equalities, and served on the Justice, Home Affairs and Work and Pensions select committees, and the Public Accounts Committee.

Prior to her election to parliament, Kate was Chief Executive of the Child Poverty Action Group and before that Director of the National Council for One Parent Families (now Gingerbread). She worked in the Home Office between 1997 and 2010 on community safety, criminal justice and police reform, with a focus on performance measurement.

Kate served as a magistrate for 16 years. She is a member of the board of governors at Manchester Metropolitan University, sits on the Museum of Science and Industry Advisory Board, and is a trustee of Manchester Camerata.

### May Baxter-Thornton

#### **Accomplished public speaker and trainer**

May strives to raise awareness of complexities around child sexual abuse. Recently May was part of the Victims & Survivors Consultative Panel (VSCP) for the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), in the capacity of both a survivor of child sexual abuse and for working with survivors of child sexual abuse, and was specifically recruited due to 15+ years working in the field of domestic violence, supporting child and adult survivors of child sexual abuse in refuges across the North East of England.

### Anna Glinski

#### **Deputy Director for Knowledge and Practice Development, CSA Centre**

Anna heads up the Practice Improvement Team at the CSA Centre, leading their work creating practice resources, devising training and advising individuals and organisations on how to improve their response to child sexual abuse. She is a qualified social worker and prior to joining the CSA Centre worked within statutory front line child protection and specialist services as a practitioner and manager. She was the practice development lead for child sexual abuse at East Sussex Children's Services and contributed to local and regional service and policy development. Here she developed and led a multi-disciplinary specialist sexual abuse team, which provided assessments, interventions, supervision, consultation and training.

Anna has specialised in child sexual abuse work for the majority of her career, including acting as an expert witness in the family courts on child sexual abuse case in her previous role. In her current role Anna offers expert input on a number of national strategic projects relating to child sexual abuse. She is an Associate Tutor at the University of Sussex and is the Editor of NOTA News, the quarterly magazine for members of the National Organisation for the Treatment of Abuse.

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## Paul Burnside

### Practice Improvement Advisor (Policing), CSA Centre

Paul is a retired Public Protection Detective Inspector with Lancashire Police and was an Inspector on the HMIC Child Protection inspections. He authored the first Lancashire Standard Operating procedures for child sexual exploitation, creating the first Lancashire Safeguarding Children's Board Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan, and the first Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) manual.

Paul's current role at the CSA Centre involves working with police forces across England and Wales to better understand their effectiveness in tackling and preventing child sexual abuse and influencing good practice. As well as this, using their research and resources, Paul works with the wider team to inform national policy and response.

## Nici Evans

### Practice Improvement Advisor, CSA Centre

Nici has worked in healthcare for more than 25 years, initially working as a nurse and lecturer specialising in cancer and palliative care. In 2007, she became immersed in the complexities involved in the delivery of public services as the Head of Partnerships for Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and as the lead officer for addressing human exploitation for the Cardiff Public Service Board. In this role, she developed her passion for working with vulnerable people and set up robust multi-agency processes to support those working in the sex industry and victims and survivors of human trafficking and slavery in Cardiff. Nici is a UKCP trainee psychotherapist and works at a local comprehensive school in Cardiff to ensure that she remains connected to children and young people and remains grounded in practice.

## Emma Hodgson

### Practice Improvement Advisor, CSA Centre

Emma is a qualified social worker and practice educator. Prior to joining the CSA Centre Emma worked for the NSPCC for almost two decades in the field of children and young people who display harmful sexual behaviour and child sexual abuse recovery services; with 15 in direct practice and then as a development social worker.

Her role as a practice educator focused on delivering training, workshops and resources for a wide range of professionals working with children and families. During this time she developed guidance and training for professionals working directly with technology-assisted harmful sexual behaviour, including completing an MSc in forensic psychology exploring this issue, and the tools and resources available to be used by professionals working with young people. Emma is currently undertaking a PhD in the same topic.

## Lorraine Myles

### Practice Improvement Advisor (Education), CSA Centre

Lorraine is a qualified teacher with almost 30 years' experience in education, from key stage one to four. Starting out in mainstream schools, Lorraine moved into the special education sector where she worked extensively with children and young people who experienced abuse and trauma.

During the course of her career, she has worked as an education advisor, headteacher of a Local Authority virtual school for children in care and then as the headteacher for three special schools in the South-East. This included day and residential school settings, pupil referral units and a secure school – each making dedicated provisions for children with social, emotional, and mental health needs.

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## Dr Natasha Sabin

### Practice Improvement Advisor, CSA Centre

Natasha is a Forensic Psychologist with professional experience in child sexual abuse. She has worked within Youth Justice as a practitioner and manager specialising in harmful sexual behaviour. Natasha has also had roles within secure hospitals and custodial environments where she has predominantly worked with adult males who have committed sexual offences.

Natasha is a visiting lecturer at the University of Birmingham, facilitating teaching sessions to Forensic and Clinical Psychologists in training.

## Suzanne Taylor

### Practice Improvement Advisor, CSA Centre

Suzanne is an experienced strategic leader who has worked across the statutory and charity sector over the last 20 years. A proud Youth Worker by profession, she has experience in practice and leadership of highly successful specialist services for children, young people and their families.

Prior to joining the CSA Centre, Suzanne led Barnardo's national work on placed based systems change to support improvements in the response to children who have been sexually abused or criminally exploited.

Much of her career has been spent in the leadership of Youth Justice Services across the North West, holding many additional responsibilities including Greater Manchester Resettlement Consortium Coordinator, Local Safeguarding Children Partnership Board member and member of the Youth Justice Board Workforce Development Council. She is experienced in working collaboratively to influence wide-scale cultural change by focussing on co-production with children, families, and professionals and bringing research closer to practice.

## Jane Wiffin

### Practice Improvement Advisor, CSA Centre

Jane is a social worker by profession with over 25 years' experience of practice across Children's Services in safeguarding roles. As part of this work, she has been the author of over 90 Serious Case Reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews.

Jane is an experienced trainer and policy advisor with a specialist interest in child and adolescent neglect, intra-familial sexual abuse, their impact across the life course and trauma-informed approaches to child and adult safeguarding.

Visit the CSA Centre website to find out more

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