

The logo features a square with a geometric, low-poly pattern in shades of blue, purple, and green. The text is white and positioned in the lower-left corner of the square.

Centre of
expertise
on child
sexual abuse

CSA - Community of Practice Workshop

Mid & West Wales Regional Safeguarding Board

Child sexual abuse in Wales and the way forward

September 27th 2023

About the CSA Centre

- We were established to help bring about **significant and system-wide change**
- We are funded by the **Home Office**, hosted by **Barnardo's** and work closely and in partnership with wider institutions
- We aim to identify, generate and share high quality evidence to **tackle and prevent child sexual abuse** and to improve practice



Looking after yourself – health warning

Sexual abuse can be difficult to think about and talk about. Thinking about it and talking about it will affect us all in **different ways**, at **different times**.

We know that a high number of people experience child sexual abuse and that many of them have never told anyone about it.

We can therefore assume that there will be people in this room today who have either experienced sexual abuse themselves, or who have a family member or friend who has been sexually abused – this may be their own child, a partner, a parent.

It is therefore important that we...

- Be aware of the feelings and experiences of other delegates
 - Be kind to ourselves (personally and professionally)
 - Respect each other's learning journey

What we're going to cover today

Child sexual abuse in Wales and the next steps

Understanding the scale of child sexual abuse in Wales

Explore the reasons that we may not be identifying and responding to concerns of child sexual abuse

Share a selection of the resources that the CSA Centre

Who is responsible for addressing child sexual abuse in Wales?

Simple answer is everyone! In terms of governance and accountability Welsh Government has the duty to ensure that legislation and the systems to support safeguarding children and adults are in place across Wales.

Child sexual abuse sits within the Safeguarding and Advocacy Department of Social Services & Integration in Welsh Government and the responsible person is the Minister for Social Services Julie Morgan, MS. The new Senior Policy Manager Children's Safeguarding is [Lucy Blackwood](#)

The Regional Safeguarding Boards were set up following the publication of the Social Services & Well-Being Act Wales (2014) to oversee the safety of children and well-being of children and adults across Wales and are key in supporting organisations and services to address child sexual abuse. Each RSB in Wales has its own structure and mechanisms of working with a focus on local delivery groups

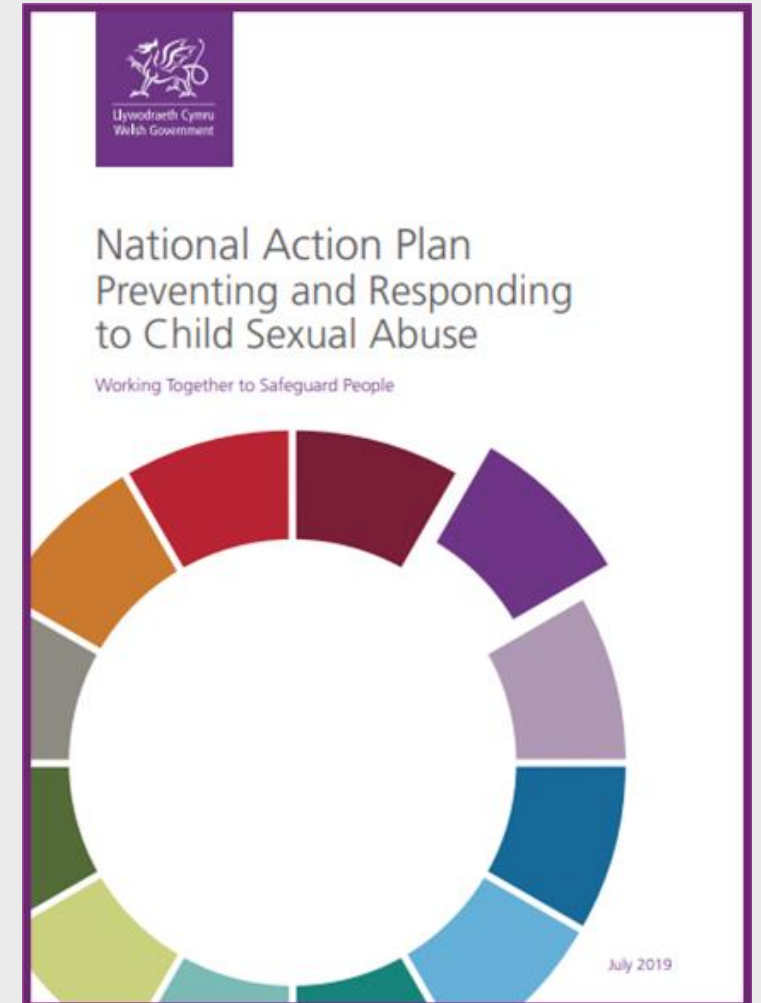
To date.....National Action Plan: Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse (2019)

The Plan set out the actions that Welsh Government wanted to take to prevent child sexual abuse, to protect children from child sexual abuse and to support children who have been sexually abused

The Plan had 33 actions against 10 key objectives under the strategic aims of:

- Prevention
- Protection
- Support

The 3-year plan came to an end in June 2022 along with the completion of the Independent Inquiry (IICSA) into Child Sexual Abuse in October 2022



What Next?

For WG, there have been a number of reports which will need to be considered for the development of the next National CSA Action Plan: -

Welsh Government Final Report on Delivery of Actions Under the National Action Plan “Preventing and responding to Child Sexual Abuse” [Social Services and Well-being \(Wales\) Act 2014 \(gov.wales\)](#)

Response to IICSA recommendations [Welsh Government response to the independent inquiry into child sexual abuse | GOV.WALES](#)

Cross Party Group on Preventing Child Sexual Abuse in response to the WG National CSA Action Plan [Legacy Report from Saving Futures.pdf \(senedd.wales\)](#)

Stakeholder views relating to the WG National Action Plan (Children’s Society)

The CSA National Action Plan Delivery Report

“Welsh Government will work with partners on developing a new National Action Plan, as well as drawing on, where appropriate, the findings of the recently published report by IICSA, to make sure we do everything we can to protect children and young people in Wales from sexual and other forms of abuse”

Julie Morgan MS, Deputy Minister for Social Services December 2022

<https://www.gov.wales/written-statement-delivery-plan-national-action-plan-preventing-and-responding-child-sexual-abuse>

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

The Inquiry was set up in March 2015 under the Inquiries Act (2005) and concluded in October 2023.

There were: -

15 inquiry investigations

52 reports published (1 interim report, 19 investigation reports, 24 research reports and 8 engagement reports)

325 public hearings

2.5 million pages of evidence processed

725 witnesses gave evidence

6,200 victims and survivors shared their experience with the Truth project

Over 1,700 Victims and Survivors' Forum members have engaged with the Inquiry

Over 32,500 total correspondences with the Inquiry

Outcome of 20 key recommendations published

Some significant recommendations from the IICSA Report requiring a response from WG

Recommendation 1	A single core data set
Recommendation 2	Child Protection Authorities for England and Wales
Recommendation 3	A Cabinet Minister for Children
Recommendation 4	Public awareness
Recommendation 13	Mandatory reporting
Recommendation 16	Specialist therapeutic support for child victims of sexual abuse
Recommendation 18	Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme *
Recommendation 19	Redress scheme*

6 of the recommendations fall directly to WG but there will be cross over with UK government in several other recommendations where certain areas are devolved eg DBS implementation (10)

Legacy Report from Saving Futures: Cross Party Group on Preventing Child Sexual Abuse in response to the WG Action Plan

The cross-party group is calling for the following to be included in the next CSA National Action Plan: -

- i. CSA training should be built into undergraduate courses before professionals qualify
- ii. Data collection and evaluation should be improved
- iii. CSA policy work should intersect with other violence, prevention and equalities work
- iv. On-line harm must be recognised as a significant risk
- v. Peer on peer sexual abuse must be tackled as a priority
- vi. Prevention work must be included and central to the plan
- vii. Funding of response and support services should be sustainable

Similar calls have been made by key stakeholders across Wales in the Children's Society report.

What lies ahead???

We are now in a much stronger position to address child sexual abuse in Wales and the challenge for Welsh Government, organisations and services working with those affected by child sexual abuse (adults and children), victims and survivors of child sexual abuse, Regional Safeguarding Boards, communities, families and society is to come together and support the development of the second Welsh Government National Child Sexual Abuse Action Plan.

Work is underway and it is anticipated that this will be published in 2024, so watch this space.....