

Each month we will be focusing on a different safeguarding theme to raise awareness and signpost to resources.

Child Sexual Abuse
Think the Unthinkable



For October, our theme is
Child Sexual Abuse

#CSAspotthesigns
#Bcurious



Follow us on:



Or via email:

safeguardingpartnership@swindon.gov.uk



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Context

- Child sexual abuse has a long-term impact on the child lasting well into adulthood and potentially causing physical and psychological problems later in life (Source: [The impacts of child sexual abuse | CSA Centre](#)).
- This type of abuse is one of the most difficult for children, young people and adults to speak about and for family members and professionals to identify, and often remains hidden even in plain sight (Source: [Truth Project | IICSA Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse](#))
- Sexual abuse is just as common as other forms of childhood abuse. Children who have been sexually abused may display a range of emotional and behavioural reactions which professionals should be alert to (see [Effects | The National Child Traumatic Stress Network \(nctsn.org\)](#)).



What is Child Sexual Abuse

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 (page 162) clearly defines sexual abuse:

- Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.
- The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts, such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing, and touching outside of clothing.
- They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse.
- Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse.
- Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males.
- Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.



What is Child Sexual Abuse continued

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 (page 154) clearly defines child sexual exploitation:

- Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity
 - (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or
 - (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.
- The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual.
- Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.



Harmful sexual behaviour including child on child sexual abuse

- Harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) is developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour displayed by children and young people which is harmful or abusive. Source: [Harmful sexual behaviour \(HSB\) or peer-on-peer sexual abuse | NSPCC Learning](#)
- Peer-on-peer sexual abuse is a form of HSB where sexual abuse takes place between children of a similar age or stage of development. Child-on-child sexual abuse is a form of HSB that takes place between children of any age or stage of development. Source: [Harmful sexual behaviour \(HSB\) or peer-on-peer sexual abuse | NSPCC Learning](#)
- [Please see the resources section to find out more.](#)



Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSAE) offending can take a number of different forms, which include:

- **Online Grooming** - the act of developing a relationship with a child to enable their abuse and exploitation both online and offline.
- **Live Streaming** – Live streaming services can be used by Child Sex Offenders (CSOs) to incite victims to commit or watch sexual acts via webcam. CSOs also stream or watch live contact sexual abuse or indecent images of children with other offenders.
- **Online coercion and blackmail** – coercion or blackmail of a child by technological means, using sexual images and/or videos depicting that child, for the purposes of sexual gain (e.g. obtain new IIOC or bring about a sexual encounter), financial gain or other personal gain.
- **Possession, production and sharing of IIOC and Prohibited Images**– CSOs can use online platforms to store and share IIOC and prohibited images. Online platforms can also be used to facilitate the production of IIOC, for example screen-recording of CSEA perpetrated over live streaming.
- **Indecent Images of Children (IIOC)** are images of, or depicting, a child or part of a child which are judged to be in breach of recognised standards of propriety. IIOC includes photographs, videos, pseudo-photographs and tracings.
- **Prohibited Images of Children** are non-photographic images, for example CGI, cartoons etc, which portray a child engaging in sexual activity, a sexual act being performed in the presence of a child or focus on the child's genital or anal region.

Further information is available on the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) website [What is online child sexual abuse \(ceop.police.uk\)](https://www.ceop.police.uk).



Important to Remember!

- Children and young people may not always understand that they are being sexually abused (IICSA, 2022).
- Children and young people of any age, including very young children and babies, can experience sexual abuse.



Source: [Protecting children from sexual abuse | NSPCC Learning](#)



How Many Children Experience Sexual Abuse?

The following slides includes infographics and data from the [NSPCC](#), [Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse](#), and [Vulnerability Knowledge & Practice Programme, National Police Chiefs Council \(NPCC\)](#)

Data can only ever tell part of the story.

Sexual abuse is usually hidden from view.

Adults in the child or young person's life may not recognise the signs of sexual abuse and the child may be too young, too scared or too ashamed to tell anyone what is happening to them.



NSPCC Briefing

Child sexual abuse: NSPCC briefing published in February 2024 suggests:

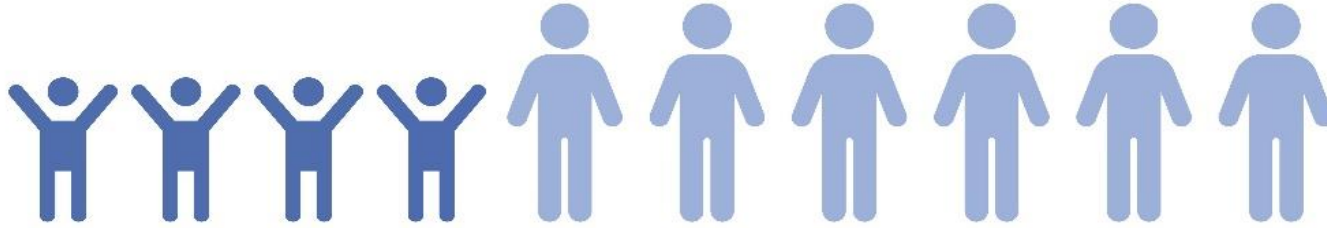
- An estimated 1 in 20 children in the UK have been sexually abused
- Concerns around sexual abuse have been identified for over 2,400 children in the UK who are the subject of a child protection plan or on a child protection register.
- Over a third of all police-recorded sexual offences are against children.
- Girls and older children are more likely to experience sexual abuse.
- The vast majority of children who experience contact sexual abuse were abused by someone they knew.

Further information about the available data and statistics about child sexual abuse can be found in the briefing [Statistics on child sexual abuse | NSPCC Learning](#)

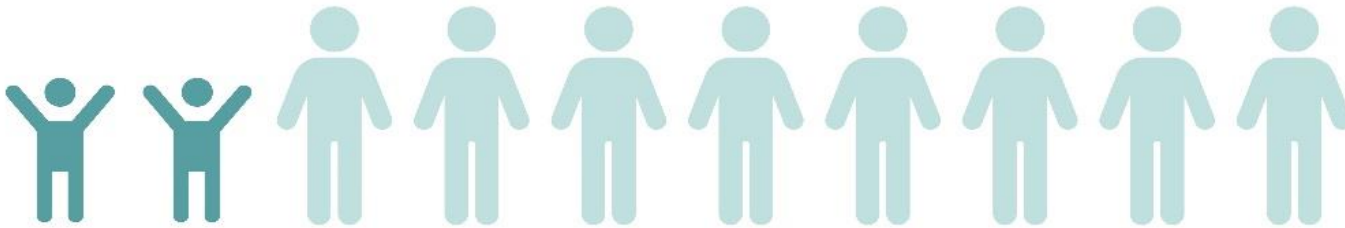


Children are disproportionately likely to be victims of sexual offences

Child sexual abuse in 2022/23: Trends in official data
csacentre.org.uk



They are the victims in 40% of all sexual offences



Yet make up only 20% of the population

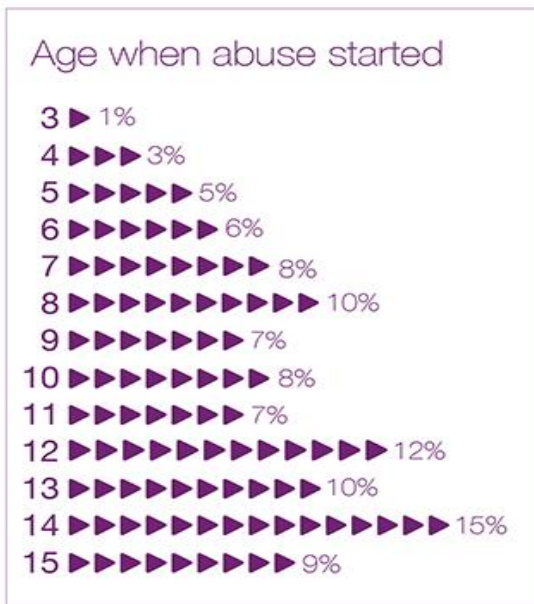
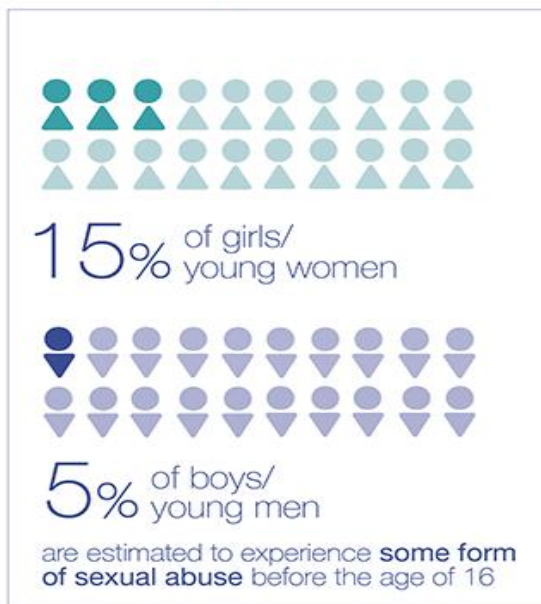
We must formally recognise that children represent a significant proportion of victims and ensure their specific needs are met with sufficient and appropriate support.

Source: Office for National Statistics, 2023: Sexual offences prevalence and victim characteristics, England and Wales...

Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse

A snapshot of child sexual abuse

Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse



Disabled adults are **2x** as likely as non-disabled adults to say they had been abused in their childhood

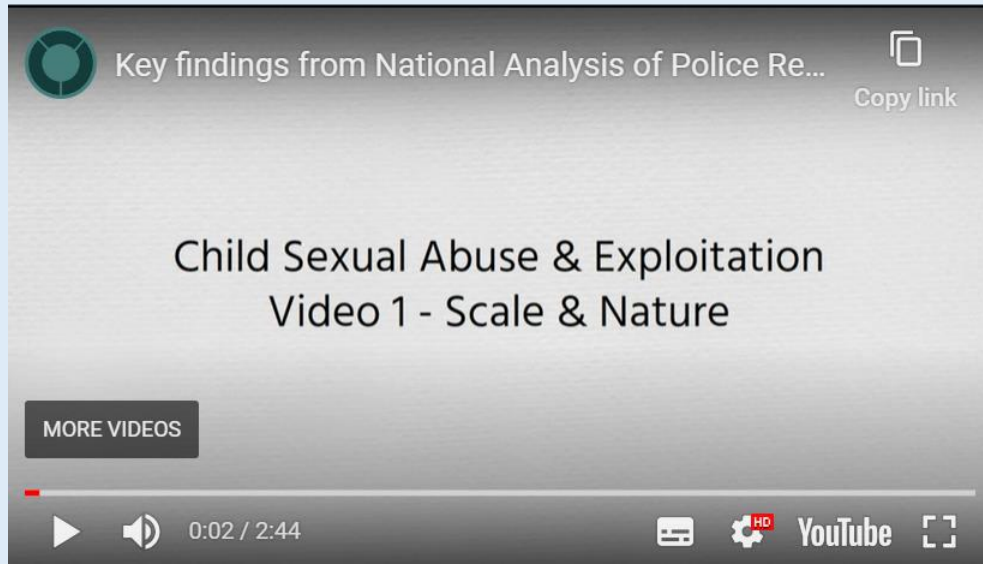
1 in 4 of those who had lived in a care home reported experiences of child sexual abuse - almost 4x as many as those living with family / carers

92% of child sexual abuse images depicted girls only in 2019

92% of perpetrators of child sexual abuse are **male**

References: Department for Education: Characteristics of children in need: 2019 to 2020. Home Office Police Recorded Crime and Outcomes, year ending March 2020, updated 28 October 2020. Calculated using single-year prevalence estimates by age group (Radford et al, 2011, Childhood abuse and neglect in the UK today) and the Office for National Statistics 2019 population estimates. To read the full report - The scale and nature of child sexual abuse: Review of evidence 2021 - visit www.csacentre.org.uk

National Analysis of Police-Recorded Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Crimes Report 2022



Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOGVS91_iuM&t=137s

Duration 2:44 minutes

Webpage: [National Analysis of Police Recorded Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation \(CSAE\) Crimes Report 2022, published by VKPP and NPCC.](#)

Report: <https://www.vkpp.org.uk/assets/Files/Publications/National-Analysis-of-police-recorded-CSAE-Crimes-Report-2022-external.pdf>

Key findings:

- **Around 107,000 offences reported in 2022 – 7.6% increase compared to 2021, nearly quadruple what it was 10 years ago.** Evidence continues to suggest many crimes remains unreported.
- **Around 75% of CSAE offences** related to sexual offences committed directly against children, and **around 25% relate to online offences of Indecent Images of Children.**
- **Crime types regarding CSAE are changing.** For example, historically **Child-on-Child abuse** accounted for around third of offences. The data in the report suggests that today this is **just over half.**
- **CSAE within the family environment** remains a **common form** of reported abuse, accounting for an estimated **33% of reported contact CSAE crime.** Parents and siblings were the two most common relationships featuring.



Continued on the next slide



National Analysis of Police-Recorded Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Crimes Report 2022

- **Group-based CSAE accounts for 5% of all identified and reported CSAE** ranging from unorganised peer group sharing of imagery, to more organised complex high harm cases with high community impact.
- **Reported CSAE is heavily gendered, as expected, with males (82% of all CSAE perpetrators) predominantly abusing females (79% of victims).** Sexual offending involving male victims are more common in offences involving indecent images and younger children.
- **The number of recorded incidents of Online Sexual Abuse continues to grow. It accounts for at least 32% of CSAE.**
- **52% of all CSAE cases involved reports of children (aged 10 to 17) offending against other children with 14 being the most common age. This is a growing and concerning trend** involving a wide range of offending. Whilst some include exploratory online sexual behaviours, some of the most prevalent forms include serious sexual assaults, including rape.



Recognising the signs

- Sexual abuse is difficult for children and young people to talk about. Research, guidance and children themselves have told us to notice the signs and indicators of child sexual abuse.
- Children need to be listened to and professionals need to be professionally curious and ask children what is happening to them and not wait for them to tell a professional or otherwise.
- Not all children will recognise that they are being abused, particularly if they have been groomed.
- Many children will not disclose if they are being or have experienced any other type of abuse.
- Research indicates that professionals are least confident in dealing with this category of abuse.



Remember: Be Professionally Curious!
Think the Unthinkable!



Recognising the signs

Below are some physical, emotional and behavioural indicators that may be a sign that a child has experienced sexual abuse. **This is not an exhaustive list – see the resources to find out more.**

- Avoiding being alone with or frightened of people or a person they know.
- Language or sexual behaviour you would not expect them to know.
- Having nightmares or bed-wetting.
- Sudden mood changes and/or frequent crying.
- Becoming withdrawn, quiet, emotionally flat and disinterested and isolated.
- Becoming hyperactive and/or aggressive.
- School problems – poor attendance and/or poor school work.
- Alcohol or drug misuse.
- Self-harm.
- Changes in eating habits or developing an eating problem.
- Bruises, bleeding, discharge, pains or soreness in their genital or anal area.
- Sexually transmitted infections.
- Pregnancy

Important to remember!

**There may be no physical signs on examination.
There may be no overt signs/behaviours being displayed.**



**Remember: Be Professionally Curious!
Think the Unthinkable!**



Signs in babies and young children

- It can be difficult to recognise and identify that a baby or very young child is experiencing sexual abuse. Children at these early developmental stages can't always communicate their experiences.
- Children in their early years experiencing sexual abuse might display disruption or regression of normal development such as toilet training, eating and interacting with other children. They may also resist or become distressed with intimate care such as nappy changing. Source: (Birch, 2022; CSA Centre, 2021).

Useful resources to find out more:

- [Communicating-with-children-guide.pdf - csacentre.org.uk](#)).
- [Identifying and responding to disclosures of child sexual abuse | CSA Centre](#)
- [Protecting children from sexual abuse | NSPCC Learning](#)
- [eLearning | CSA Centre identifying and responding to intra-familial child sexual abuse](#)



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Think the Unthinkable!



Disclosures

- Disclosure is the process by which children/young people start to share their experiences of abuse with others.
- This can take place over a long period of time – it is a journey, not one act or action.
- Children may disclose directly or indirectly and sometimes they may start sharing details of abuse before they are ready to put their thoughts and feelings in order.
- Not all disclosures will lead to a formal report of abuse or a case being made or a case being taken to court, but all disclosures should be taken seriously.
- It takes extraordinary courage for a child to go through the journey of disclosing abuse.
- It's vital that anyone who works with children and young people undertaking this journey is able to provide them with the support they need.
- Children and young people may disclose abuse in a variety of ways, including:
 - directly– making specific verbal statements about what's happened to them
 - indirectly – making ambiguous verbal statements which suggest something is wrong
 - behaviourally – displaying behaviour that signals something is wrong (this may or may not be deliberate)
 - non-verbally – writing letters, drawing pictures or trying to communicate in other ways
 - Children/young people may not always be aware that they are disclosing abuse through their actions and behaviour.



Source: NSPCC Recognising and responding to abuse Recognising and responding to child abuse and neglect | NSPCC Learning



Disclosures continued

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Source: NSPCC Recognising and responding to abuse Recognising and responding to child abuse and neglect | NSPCC Learning



Disclosures continued

- Sometimes children and young people make partial disclosures of abuse. This means they give some details about what they've experienced, but not the whole picture. They may withhold some information because they:
 - are afraid they will get in trouble with or upset their family
 - want to deflect blame in case of family difficulties as a result of the disclosure
 - feel ashamed and/or guilty
 - need to protect themselves from having to relive traumatic events.
- When children do speak out it is often many years after the abuse has taken place (McElvaney, 2015).
- See Video clip [Responding to a Child's Disclosure of Abuse | NSPCC Learning \(youtube.com\)](#) (duration 2:13 minutes)



Source: NSPCC Recognising and responding to abuse [Recognising and responding to child abuse and neglect | NSPCC Learning](#)



Language Matters

- Language is powerful. It is important to consider the words, phrases and jargon used when speaking to/about children/young people and adults.
- This includes language used verbally and written in files, referrals, assessments and reports. Rarely do individuals intend to use victim-blaming language but may do so unconsciously.
- Any language suggesting a child/young person is responsible for their abuse and/or crime they are subjected to must be avoided. A failure to do so may mean that the child/ren are not safeguarded appropriately.
- Victim blaming language is any language or action that implies (whether intentionally or unintentionally) that a person is partially or wholly responsible for abuse that has happened to them. It is harmful and can wrongfully place responsibility, shame or blame onto a victim, making them feel that they are complicit or responsible for the harm they have experienced. Source: [Challenging victim blaming language and behaviours when dealing with the online experiences of children and young people - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)



Language Matters

- Victim blaming language may reinforce messages from perpetrators around shame and guilt. This in turn may prevent the person from disclosing their abuse as they may feel fear of being blamed by professionals.
- Unclear language can lead to confusion, misunderstanding or even harm, as in the case of the term 'child pornography'.
- This phrase, continues to be used today, is a perfect example of how harmful language can be.
- Child sexual abuse material is a result of children being groomed, coerced, and exploited by their abusers, and is a form of child sexual abuse. Using the term 'child pornography' implies it is a sub-category of legally acceptable pornography, rather than a form of child abuse and a crime. Source: NSPCC Blog: [Why language matters: why we should never use 'child pornography' and always say child sexual abuse material | NSPCC Learning](#)



Resources to find out more



This short video clip helps to understand the impact on young people of victim blaming language (clip lasts 1:46)

Source Waltham Forest Council. [Victim blaming language \(youtube.com\)](#)

Other resources to find out more:

- ✓ [Language practice briefs for those at risk of exploitation - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- ✓ [Why language matters: why to avoid the term 'victim' to refer to children who have experienced abuse | NSPCC Learning](#)
- ✓ [Why language matters: how using terms like 'recruited' and 'working' minimise children's experiences of criminal exploitation | NSPCC Learning](#)
- ✓ [Challenging victim blaming language and behaviours when dealing with the online experiences of children and young people - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- ✓ Video clip - [Carlene Firmin - Language in Social Work - Contextual Safeguarding \(youtube.com\)](#) Language in Social Work but also relevant to other professionals. Source: YouTube. Clip lasts 4:47.



Adultification

- National and local reviews have highlighted incidents where it appears some young people have been treated differently from their peers by professionals and the criminal justice system.
- As defined in statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children, the term 'child' refers to anyone under the age of 18.
- Adultification is a type of bias which skews the perception of certain children leading to professionals viewing them as more grown up than their peers which can lead to lapses in safeguarding and unfair treatment.
- There are various contexts in which adultification occurs, all of which relate to a child's personal characteristics, socio-economic influences and/or lived experiences, for example –
 - transphobia,
 - homelessness,
 - young carers,
 - domestic abuse,
 - poverty,
 - being a Cared For or Care Experienced child.



Continued on the next slide



Adultification

- Research has shown that black children are more likely to experience adultification, where professionals think about black children differently from their peers and do not recognise their own discrimination and bias. Child Q's review where a young black girl was strip searched inappropriately is an example of adultification.
- Intersectionality plays a part in this concept. Age, gender, ethnicity and sexuality all affect how children are viewed by professionals.
- Black girls can be seen stereotypically as innately hypersexual and this can impact on how they are identified as victims of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA). Another stereotype is that black children are seen as resilient and strong.



Resources to find out more



- Watch this clip where Jahnine Davis explains the adultification bias after black schoolgirl strip searched by police.
- Link: [Jahnine Davis explains the adultification bias after black schoolgirl strip searched by police \(youtube.com\)](#)
Duration 1:55 minutes)

Find out more:

- [NSPCC learning resource](#)
- SSP 7 minute brief
- adultification (*pending update*) [7-minute briefs and learning resources to improve practice - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- Child Q [Child Q - safeguarding practice review - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- [Adultification bias in child protection & safeguarding - Russell Webster](#)
- [Adultification bias within child protection and safeguarding \(PDF, 528 kB\)](#)
- [Adultification bias of black children: Q&A with Jahnine Davis \(farrer.co.uk\)](#)



Responding to concerns

- If you are concerned that a child or young person has suffered harm, neglect or abuse, notify Contact Swindon
- Telephone: 01793 464646
- E-mail: contactswindon@swindon.gov.uk

If a child is at immediate risk of harm, call the Police on 999.

- [The Right Help at Right Time guidance - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#) will also assist in assessing the levels of need and identifying the most appropriate support.

The resources below may also assist you to evidence your concerns.

- [CSA centre resource: Signs and indicators of child sexual abuse | CSA Centre](#)
- [Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework \(CERAF\): Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework \(CERAF\) - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)

Consider should there be a medical examination?

Professionals should be familiar with forensic timescales when responding to disclosures of child sexual abuse

See next slides for information about medical examinations



Forensic Medical Examinations

Professionals should be familiar with forensic timescales when responding to disclosures of child sexual abuse.

- Consideration of a medical examination should be discussed during any strategy discussion held and health professionals invited as per local guidance. See Health Attendance at Strategy Discussions - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership - flowcharts on pages 14 & 15 provide further information.
- **Forensic Medical examinations** for children living in Swindon are conducted at The Bridge Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), Bristol. Refer to The Bridge webpage for up to date guidance Professionals – The Bridge (thebridgecanhelp.org.uk) there is a document titled Timescales for Medical Care which offers further advice <https://www.thebridgecanhelp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Timescales-for-Medical-Care.pdf>
- As of 25/9/24 the timescales for medical care guidance indicates that *The Bridge will see all children (aged 0-18 years) up to 7 days following an allegation or suspicion of sexual assault, regardless of the type of incident. Forensic timescales vary on the type of assault and whether or not the child is pre-pubertal or post-pubertal, however it will be the decision of the Paediatric Sexual Offences Medicine Specialist which forensic samples to take. For all children under 18 who have experienced a recent sexual assault, please contact The Bridge and an expert will be able to provide advice, information and support.*



Non-Recent Medical Examinations

- If the suspected sexual abuse is outside of the forensic window, a medical examination may still be appropriate as there may be therapeutic benefits of a medical examination including mental health and well-being/reassurance.
- Swindon has a non-recent CSA service and will see children following a strategy discussion and social work referral.
- Dr's at Great Western Hospital are able to offer non-recent medical examinations. There is no time limit to be offered a medical examination and its aim is to empower the young person and ensure they are getting support/reassurance.
- Children should be offered a medical examination even if there is no police investigation. The safeguarding team and also The Bridge SARC should be invited to strategy discussions.
- if the individual does not wish to have a medical examination, it may be advisable to consider a sexual health referral. However, the individual should not be sent directly to the service at Carfax street.



See also: [Health Attendance at Strategy Discussions - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)



Useful Information, Training and Resources for Professionals

The information on the next slides is not an exhaustive list – if you are aware of any additional resources then please let the safeguarding partnership know email
Safeguarding Partnership: safeguardingpartnership@swindon.gov.uk .



Understanding Local Pathways for Supporting Those Impacted by Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)



Understand Local Pathways for Supporting Those Impacted by Child Sexual Abuse

Date/time:

15th October 2024 – 09:30 – 11:00 am

Venue: Online via MS Teams

Book a place by clicking on the link below or use the QR code.

<https://forms.office.com/e/nw5vzUvG0k>

or use the QR code below.



This webinar is being facilitated by colleagues from Barnardo's, CAMHS, FearFree, First Light, NSPCC, The Bridge, We Stand and Swindon Borough Council.

This will be relevant to all frontline professionals who work with children, families and adults in Swindon.

This will be opportunity to find out more about the local services available for those who are impacted by child sexual abuse.

This will include information about:

- ✓ Local support services available
- ✓ Who can access the service
- ✓ How to access the service
- ✓ Update on Swindon's Early Intervention Youth and Community Strategy 2023-2027.

If you have any questions regarding this event please contact Safeguarding Partnership via email: safeguardingpartnership@swindon.gov.uk

Date/time: 15th October 2024 – 09:30 – 11:00 am
Free Online via MS Teams

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- Local support services available
- Who can access the service
- How to access the service
- Update on Swindon's Early Intervention Youth and Community Strategy 2023-2027.

Book a place by clicking on this link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/nw5vzUvG0k>

This session will be recorded and added to the SSP website



SWINDON

**COMMUNITY SAFETY
PARTNERSHIP**

Recognising and responding to child sexual abuse

Places still available at the time of publishing

- **15 October 2024** 0930-1600
- **Face-to-Face**

Aims and objectives

- Identify the stages of sexual development throughout childhood.
- Be able to identify the signs and indicators of child sexual abuse.
- Develop skills in responding to allegations and disclosures of sexual abuse.
- Develop an understanding of the child's perspective on abuse and the emotional impact on them, as well as the wider family.
- Develop an understanding of the issues relating to the abuser and the theoretical perspectives on child sexual abuse.
- Identify the principles for intervention and how to respond to child sexual abuse.
- Consider the impact of working with child sexual abuse on your own professional practice
- Find out more/book a place click on the link below:
- [Recognising and responding to child sexual abuse - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)



NSPCC Train The Trainer Developing an Understanding of CSA

- During October 2024 several local practitioners from a range of partner agencies will be completing the NSPCC Train The Trainer course to deliver the NSPCC Developing an Understanding of Child Sexual Abuse course.
- This will increase our capacity to deliver training on this important theme and raise awareness of child sexual abuse.
- Further information will be provided in due course.



New Child Sexual Abuse Webpage

- We are developing a CSA webpage where we have collated information and resources for you.
- The location will be [For professionals Information - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- Once live please visit the webpage and let us know if you would anything else to be included.



Local Support Services

This is not an exhaustive list.

Please view the websites for further information about the services provided.

- [SARC The Bridge - Help after rape and sexual assault \(thebridgecanhelp.org.uk\)](http://thebridgecanhelp.org.uk)
- First Light Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) [Swindon & Wiltshire - First Light](#)
- Animation: [Sexual assault referral centres animation \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)
- Barnardo's Swindon & Wiltshire Phoenix Project [Swindon & Wiltshire Phoenix Project | Swindon & Wiltshire Phoenix Project \(barnardos.org.uk\)](#)
- FearFree: [Swindon and Wiltshire Sexual Violence Therapeutic Service - FearFree](#)
- Letting the Future In NSPCC therapeutic service for children who have been sexually abused. Find out more via this link <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/services-children-families/letting-the-future-in>. To make a referral please Contact NSPCC Swindon on [01793 683100](tel:01793683100)



Local Support Services

- We Stand support for families impacted by child sexual abuse.
- Victim Support: <https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/you-co/types-crime/>
- Swindon survivor pathway is a guide for anyone wanting to know more about specialist sexual violence support services in Swindon <https://www.survivorpathway.org.uk/swindon/>
- BeU Swindon - FREE, Early Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Support service for Children and Young People in Swindon. Website: beuswindon.co.uk



NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe Schools Service

Speak out. Stay safe - Giving children a voice

- It's vital to build safe and trusting relationships with children so they can speak out about any problems they are experiencing. This involves teaching children what abuse is and how they can get help.
- **Speak out. Stay safe** [Speak out Stay safe programme | NSPCC Learning](#)
- Speak out Stay safe is a safeguarding programme for children aged 5- to 11-years-old. It is available to all primary schools in the UK and Channel Islands. It helps children understand:
 - abuse in all its forms and how to recognise the signs of abuse
 - that abuse is never a child's fault and they have the right to be safe
 - where to get help and the sources of help available to them, including our Childline service.
- Sexual abuse is discussed in an age-appropriate way which children can understand.

Further information about what is covered in Key Stage 1 & 2 is included on the next slides.

Every child has the right to be safe

How Speak out Stay safe helps children at school learn about their rights, what's OK and not OK, and what to do if they're ever worried or scared.



NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe Schools Service

KS1 Sexual abuse is defined as

- **When privates are not private** - Sometimes people may want children to do things with their body which might make them feel uncomfortable or unsure. Sometimes this involves the private parts of the body which are the parts covered by underwear. This could happen online or face to face.

KS2, the term sexual abuse is introduced and defined as

- **Sexual abuse** - When a child is being made, asked, or rewarded for doing anything with their body that frightens or worries them or being made to do this to somebody else. It can involve touching, kissing, or being made to show private parts of the body, or
- being made to do this to another person. It can involve being shown inappropriate films or pictures in books, magazines, on TV, mobile phones or online. The private parts of the body are those covered by underwear.



NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe Schools Service

- Where we have volunteer capacity, we are able to supplement the school's delivery of the programme with volunteer led workshops for Y2, Y5 and Y6. Workshops for Y5 and 6 contains a section specifically relating to sexual abuse. During this activity, children are asked to consider 4 scenarios which could involve sexual abuse. They work in groups to decide whether they think each scenario is OK, Not OK or it depends.
- Together with the volunteer they then discuss what makes a situation OK or Not ok and what factors this depend on with the key learning being that their bodies belong to them and if a situation ever makes a child feel, uncomfortable, worried, upset or scared, they have the right to talk to a safe adult or ChildLine and get the help they need.



Find out more



Click on this link to view the recording
<https://youtu.be/kqplfY140Qk>

- In 2023-24, Speak out Stay safe was delivered in 89 schools across Swindon, Wiltshire and BANES reaching 19,369 children. And thanks to our wonderful volunteers, 42 schools were able to receive workshops.

To find out more you can:

- Visit the NSPCC Webpage [Speak out Stay safe | NSPCC](#)
- Watch the recorded presentation from Sarah Smith (duration 24 minutes)
- Contact Sarah Smith, NSPCC Schools Coordinator – BANES, Wiltshire & Swindon via mobile: 07562 204886 or email: Sarah.Smith@NSPCC.org.uk



Local Support Services

Please view the websites for further information about the services provided. This is not an exhaustive list.

- [SARC The Bridge - Help after rape and sexual assault \(thebridgecanhelp.org.uk\)](http://thebridgecanhelp.org.uk)
- [First Light Sexual Assault Referral Centre \(SARC\) Swindon & Wiltshire - First Light](#)
- [Sexual assault referral centres animation \(youtube.com\)](http://youtube.com)
- [Barnardo's Swindon & Wiltshire Phoenix Project Swindon & Wiltshire Phoenix Project | Swindon & Wiltshire Phoenix Project \(barnardos.org.uk\)](http://barnardos.org.uk)
- [FearFree: Swindon and Wiltshire Sexual Violence Therapeutic Service - FearFree](#)
- [Letting the Future In NSPCC therapeutic service for children who have been sexually abused. You can find out more via this link https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/services-children-families/letting-the-future-in.](https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/services-children-families/letting-the-future-in) If you wish to make a referral please Contact NSPCC Swindon on [01793 683100](tel:01793683100)
- [We Stand](#) support for families impacted by child sexual abuse.
- [BeU Swindon - FREE, Early Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Support service for Children and Young People in Swindon. Website: beuswindon.co.uk](http://beuswindon.co.uk)
- [Swindon survivor pathway is a guide for anyone wanting to know more about specialist sexual violence support services in Swindon https://www.survivorpathway.org.uk/swindon/](https://www.survivorpathway.org.uk/swindon/)



Beyond Therapy Festival

- Beyond Therapy Festival focuses on Child Sexual Abuse and takes place in Bristol.
- This years event happened in the Spring and you can find out more about that and details of the 2025 event when published by clicking on the link below.
- Webpage: [Beyond Therapy 2024 Films - The Green House \(the-green-house.org.uk\)](https://the-green-house.org.uk)



Local Policies, Procedures and Guidance for Professional

- **South West Child Protection Procedures (SWCPP)** <https://swcpp-swindon.trixonline.co.uk/>
- **Swindon Safeguarding Partnership (SSP) children and young people policies and guidance** https://safeguardingpartnership.swindon.gov.uk/info/14/policies_and_publications/67/children_and_young_people_policies_and_guidance
- **SSP webpages for professional's full directory:** https://safeguardingpartnership.swindon.gov.uk/info/15/for_professionals

Some useful webpages are included below

- Early Intervention Youth and Community Strategy https://safeguardingpartnership.swindon.gov.uk/info/15/for_professionals/116/early_intervention_youth_and_community_strategy
- Child Exploitation https://safeguardingpartnership.swindon.gov.uk/info/15/for_professionals/37/child_exploitation
- Harm Outside the Home https://safeguardingpartnership.swindon.gov.uk/info/11/children_and_young_people/90/risk_outside_the_home_roth_-_adopting_a_contextual_safeguarding_approach
- Request for help an support https://safeguardingpartnership.swindon.gov.uk/info/15/for_professionals/34/request_for_help_and_support_guidelines_and_contact_information
- The Right Help at The Right Time https://safeguardingpartnership.swindon.gov.uk/info/15/for_professionals/77/the_right_help_at_the_right_time
- Neglect https://safeguardingpartnership.swindon.gov.uk/info/15/for_professionals/45/neglect
- HSB https://safeguardingpartnership.swindon.gov.uk/info/15/for_professionals/43/harmful_sexual_behaviour
- Learning from reviews https://safeguardingpartnership.swindon.gov.uk/info/15/for_professionals/49/local_child_safeguarding_practice_reviews_and_case_learning_leaflets



Useful SSP Resources – 7 Minute and Practice Briefs and eLearning

- [Child Q - safeguarding practice review - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- [Child sexual abuse - Intra-familial sexual abuse, harmful sexual behaviour, peer-on-peer abuse and consent - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- [SSP Practice brief - female genital mutilation October 2022 - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- [Parents guide to online exploitation - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- [Language practice briefs for those at risk of exploitation - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- [Resource pack - Professional Curiosity - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- [Safeguarding adolescents resource pack - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- [Trauma-informed practice learning from reviews - Practice brief - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- [Sarahs Law and CSODS – child sex offender disclosure scheme - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- [Capturing the voice of the child in records - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)

eLearning

- [Supporting and Exploring Child Development \(awareness level\) - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- [Child sexual exploitation - 'Keep them safe' - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)



The Centre for Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse

The Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse: <https://www.csacentre.org.uk/> offers a range of resources. These include:

- **Signs and Indicators:** template for identifying and responding to concerns of child sexual abuse - helps professionals to gather the wider signs and indicators of sexual abuse and build a picture of their concerns. <https://www.csacentre.org.uk/research-resources/practice-resources/signs-and-indicators/> also a supporting video: <https://youtu.be/Ox7PiWaqbnc>
- **Understanding medical examinations for child sexual abuse concerns - Understanding medical examinations for child sexual abuse concerns (The CSA Centre) - YouTube**
- **Communicating with children:** A guide for those working with children who have or may have been sexually abused. <https://www.csacentre.org.uk/research-resources/practice-resources/communicating-with-children/>
- **Supporting parents and carers:** A guide for those working with families affected by child sexual abuse. <https://www.csacentre.org.uk/research-resources/practice-resources/supporting-parents-and-carers/>
- **12 part short film series:** distils key information from resources for professionals. <https://www.csacentre.org.uk/research-resources/practice-resources/film-series/>
- **Introductory eLearning Course - Identifying and responding to intra-familial child sexual abuse:** relevant 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. <https://www.csacentre.org.uk/training-events/elearning/>
- **Events** some of which are free to attend can be found on this webpage: <https://www.csacentre.org.uk/events/>
- **Key Messages from Research:** <https://www.csacentre.org.uk/research-resources/key-messages/>
- **Resources for Education: a range of resources can be found on this webpage** [Resources for education settings | CSA Centre](#)



NSPCC Resources

- [Protecting children from sexual abuse | NSPCC Learning](#)
- NSPCC (2020) [Definitions and signs of child abuse](#)
- [Sexual abuse | NSPCC](#)

Learning from case review briefings:

- [Child sexual abuse: learning from case reviews | NSPCC Learning](#)
- [Child sexual exploitation: learning from case reviews | NSPCC Learning](#)
- [Understanding sexualised behaviour in children – NSPCC](#)
- [CSA Resources and Information for Professionals](#)
- Statistics Briefing Child Sexual Abuse: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/statistics-briefings/child-sexual-abuse>
- Children and Young People's experience in disclosing child sexual abuse <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/2023/disclosing-child-sexual-abuse-children-and-young-peoples-experiences>
- PANTS resources for schools and teachers: [PANTS resources for schools and teachers | NSPCC Learning](#).
- **Learning from Reviews** <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/learning-from-case-reviews/child-sexual-abuse>
- **Harmful Sexual Behaviour includes a range of podcasts:**
 - [Podcast: harmful sexual behaviour in schools](#)
 - [Podcast: assessing sexualised behaviour](#)
 - [Podcast: preventing harmful sexual behaviour | NSPCC Learning](#)
- **Talk Relationships** [Talk Relationships: resources to deliver sex and relationships education | NSPCC Learning](#) a service to ensure secondary school-aged young people across all four nations can learn about sex and relationships in a safe education environment that recognises, responds to, and prevents abuse.
- **AGENDA.** [AGENDA: Promoting positive relationships in schools and communities | NSPCC Learning](#)
- **It's Not OK** [It's Not OK: online teaching resources | NSPCC Learning](#)



Other National Resources

- **Barnardo's** [Child sexual abuse and exploitation | Barnardo's \(barnardos.org.uk\)](https://www.barnardos.org.uk)
- **UK Trauma Council has a range of resources and articles on childhood trauma** Website: [UK Trauma Council](https://www.uktraumacouncil.org/)
- Effects of CSA - [Effects | The National Child Traumatic Stress Network \(nctsn.org\)](https://www.nctsn.org/)
- **Recorded webinar Anti- social Media Webinar** - The violent, sexual and illegal content children are viewing on one of their most popular apps [Anti-social Media Webinar - YouTube \(2023 – Duration 1.20 minutes\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)
- **Stop it Now** - run by the Lucy Faithfull Foundation, the only UK-wide charity dedicated solely to preventing child sexual abuse. We are here for anyone with concerns about child sexual abuse and its prevention. Webpage – a range of information and resources - [Stop It Now | Preventing child sexual abuse](https://www.stopitnow.org.uk/) and [FAQ s about child sexual abuse - Stop It Now](https://www.stopitnow.org.uk/faq)
- Research (2024) [Situational prevention: the practical approach to preventing child sexual abuse \(lucyfaithfull.org.uk\)](https://www.lucyfaithfull.org.uk/)
- Rights of Women [Home | Rights of Women](https://www.rightsofwomen.org.uk/)
- [From report to court: A handbook for adult survivors of sexual violence | Rights of Women](https://www.rightsofwomen.org.uk/) handbook which explains the different stages of the legal process, from deciding whether to report the incident to the police, through the trial, outcome of the trial and sentence.
- [Understand, identify, intervene: Support young people in relation to peer-on-peer abuse, domestic and sexual violence | Rights of Women](https://www.rightsofwomen.org.uk/) – legal guide for to find out more about legal options available to young people experiencing particular forms of violence, including sexual violence and peer- on -peer abuse.



Online

- **Safer Internet** - [Homepage - UK Safer Internet Centre](#) information for professionals and children, parents and carers
- CEOP: [What is online child sexual abuse \(ceop.police.uk\)](http://ceop.police.uk)
- [Online abuse | NSPCC](#)
- [Eliminating Child Sexual Abuse Online | Internet Watch Foundation IWF](#)
- Centre of expertise on CSA: <https://www.csacentre.org.uk/research-resources/key-messages/key-messages-from-research-on-child-sexual-abuse-by-adults-in-online-contexts/>



Useful Resources for children, young people, parents and carers

The information on the next slides is not an exhaustive list – if you are aware of any additional resources then please let the safeguarding partnership know email Safeguarding Partnership: safeguardingpartnership@swindon.gov.uk



Local Support Services

Please view the websites for further information about the services provided.

- SARC The Bridge - Help after rape and sexual assault (thebridgecanhelp.org.uk)
- First Light Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) Swindon & Wiltshire - First Light
- Sexual assault referral centres animation (youtube.com)
- Barnardo's Swindon & Wiltshire Phoenix Project Swindon & Wiltshire Phoenix Project | Swindon & Wiltshire Phoenix Project (barnardos.org.uk)
- FearFree: Swindon and Wiltshire Sexual Violence Therapeutic Service - FearFree
- We Stand support for families impacted by child sexual abuse.
- BeU Swindon - FREE, Early Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Support service for Children and Young People in Swindon. Website: beuswindon.co.uk



Support for children/young people

In addition to some of the services on the previous slide

- Childline - whether it's happening now or happened in the past, Childline can be contacted 24/7. Calls to 0800 1111 are free and confidential. Children can also contact Childline online.
- Childline has information and advice for children and young people about sexual abuse and rape and sexual assault.
- For young people worried about sexual behaviour Shore (shorespace.org.uk)
- Victim Support: <https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/you-co/types-crime/>
- Swindon survivor pathway is a guide for anyone wanting to know more about specialist sexual violence support services in Swindon <https://www.survivorpathway.org.uk/swindon/>
- Fearless - <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless/what-is-fearless>



Support for Parents /Carers

- [Supporting parents and carers | CSA Centre](#)
- [Let's talk PANTS | NSPCC](#)
- [Talk Relationships: delivering sex and relationships education - NSPCC website](#)
- [Parents Protect - Effects of sexual abuse on children](#)
- <https://ivisontrust.org.uk/about-ivison/>
- <https://www.bespaceaware.co.uk/>
- [Sarah's Law \(Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme\) | Wiltshire Police](#)
- **Stop it Now** - run by the Lucy Faithfull Foundation, the only UK-wide charity dedicated solely to preventing child sexual abuse. A range of information and resources for anyone with concerns about child sexual abuse and its prevention webpage [Stop It Now | Preventing child sexual abuse](#) and [FAQ s about child sexual abuse - Stop It Now](#)
- There is a connected site for parents and carers - [Parents Protect](#) with films, tips and resources to support with safety planning.
 - [Parents Protect - Leaflets for parents and carers](#)
 - [Parents Protect - Create a family safety plan](#)
 - [How to tell if a childs sexual behaviour is appropriate for their age - Parents Protect](#)
 - [Parents Protect - Internet safety handouts for parents and children](#)
- Swindon survivor pathway is a guide for anyone wanting to know more about specialist sexual violence support services in Swindon <https://www.survivorpathway.org.uk/swindon/>
- [Rights of Women Home | Rights of Women](#)
- [From report to court: A handbook for adult survivors of sexual violence | Rights of Women](#) handbook which explains the different stages of the legal process, from deciding whether to report the incident to the police, through the trial, outcome of the trial and sentence.
- [Understand, identify, intervene: Support young people in relation to peer-on-peer abuse, domestic and sexual violence | Rights of Women](#) – legal guide for to find out more about legal options available to young people experiencing particular forms of violence, including sexual violence and peer- on -peer abuse.
- [We Stand](#) support for families impacted by child sexual abuse.
Victim Support - <https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/>



In case you missed some of our earlier themes...

You can still access the resources for 2024

- January: [SSP Safeguarding theme - keep warm stay safe - January 2024 - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- February: [Safeguarding theme February 2024 - Staying safe online - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- March: [Safeguarding theme March 2024 - Safeguarding unborn babies and under 2s - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- April: [Safeguarding theme April 2024 - All age exploitation - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- May: [Safeguarding theme May 2024 - Mental health awareness - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- June: [Safeguarding theme June 2024 - Child neglect - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- July: [SSP Safeguarding Theme Self Neglect - July 2024 - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- August: [SSP Safeguarding Theme Think Family August 2024 - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- September: [Safeguarding theme September 2024 - Prevent - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)



Email signature

If appropriate please add the text below to your email signature

Swindon Safeguarding Partnership's Theme for October 2024 is

Child Sexual Abuse

Find out more by visiting the SSP Events webpage

[Events - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)

or follow us on

@SwindonSafegua1

#CSASpotthesigns

#Bcurious

**Child Sexual
Abuse
Think the
Unthinkable**



And finally...

Please let us know if the information and resources have been helpful to you.

You can give your feedback by clicking on the link below
<https://forms.office.com/e/VwQ1wMyDiq>

or scanning the QR code.



It will take you two minutes!



Are you on our circulation list?

Do you want to be kept updated about SSP related matters such as training, learning resources and our newsletter?

You can sign up to our circulation list circulation list by clicking on this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/f7CRNF6Wax>

Or using the QR code.



You can ask to be removed at any time by emailing safeguardingpartnership@swindon.gov.uk

