Child Sexual Abuse Strategy 2026-2029

Executive Summary

Child Sexual Abuse is a significant and largely hidden form of harm with lifelong impacts on children, families and communities. National and local evidence shows that CSA is under-identified, with many children not recognised or supported at the time the abuse occurs. In response, the Swindon Safeguarding Partnership has identified Child Sexual Abuse as a strategic priority for 2026–2029.



The multi-agency strategy sets out Swindon's collective commitment to preventing, identifying and responding to all forms of Child Sexual Abuse, including intra-familial abuse, harmful sexual behaviour, child sexual exploitation and online abuse. It is grounded in national legislation and guidance and informed by learning from local and national safeguarding reviews.

Our shared vision is that children in Swindon are safe, listened to and supported. We will create environments where children feel empowered to speak and where their voices, behaviours and experiences are consistently heard and acted upon. Central to this is ensuring that professionals across all agencies are confident, skilled and supported to recognise the signs of Child Sexual Abuse and respond early, effectively and compassionately.

The strategy focuses on strengthening prevention and disruption of abuse, improving early identification, and ensuring timely and effective responses for children and families. A strengthened partnership approach to data will improve understanding of the prevalence, contexts and impact of Child Sexual Abuse in Swindon and support evidence-informed decision-making.

Key priorities include enhancing prevention activity across families, communities and online environments; increasing professional curiosity and recognition of harmful sexual behaviour as a potential indicator of abuse; ensuring clear thresholds, pathways and access to health, medical and therapeutic support; and building workforce capability through evidence-based guidance, tools and training.

Delivery of the strategy will be overseen by the Child Sexual Abuse Strategic Group, reporting through the Safeguarding Partnership governance structure. Impact will be measured through Outcomes Based Accountability scorecards aligned to the Safeguarding Partnership Strategic Business Plan, evidencing improvements in identification, practitioner confidence, service access and the experiences of children and families.

Through this strategy, the Swindon Safeguarding Partnership reaffirms its commitment to working together to reduce the prevalence and impact of Child Sexual Abuse and to ensure that every child affected is recognised, protected and supported.