

**Child Sexual Abuse Round Table;**  
**with particular focus on Child Sexual Exploitation**  
**Children's Commissioner for Wales**

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| <b>CSA Round Table Written update</b>   |
| <b>*This written update should particularly focus on impact of the <u>COVID-19</u> outbreak on children and young people who are at risk of or have been sexually abused, with a particular focus on CSE and the services that support them.</b>  |
| <b>Name of Agency and person: Sam Clutton, Welsh Government</b>   |
| <b>Date of update: 1 July 2020</b>  |
| <b>Part 1: Child Sexual Abuse (not including CSE)</b><br>(Please complete as relevant)  |
| <p><b>New Developments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public facing radio and social media campaign to encourage people to report concerns they have that any children or adults in their family or community are at risk launches 6 July supported by the comedian Rhod Gilbert.</li> <li>• Practice Guide to support practitioners across agencies to spot the signs of harm, abuse or neglect, report concerns and handle disclosures as lockdown is eased to be issued 6 July (subject to Ministerial Approval).</li> <li>• Working with CCfW Office and National Independent Safeguarding Board, in consultation with WG Vulnerable Children, Young People and Safeguarding external advisory group, adolescent safeguarding group and Cardiff University on developing messages and information for children and young people on asking for help and what will happen if they 'tell'. Resource for families on asking for help and speaking out about concerns in the family also to be developed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguarding reports in relation to children at risk saw a marked decrease at the start of the lockdown period. Rates have recovered to expected levels in most local authorities but maintaining a watching brief as not fully stabilised.</li> <li>• Concerns raised about increased online grooming and abuse but not yet reflected in police data.</li> </ul> |

**Blocks/Challenges/Concerns:**

- Delay in initiating work in relation to delivery of actions under the National Action Plan on preventing and responding to CSA. Unable to commission work as redeployed to Covid-19 response and budgets subject to prioritisation around response.
- Awaiting Ministerial approval to deliver all actions planned for this year but over a longer period. Subject to this hope to start commissioning over the summer.
- Meeting with Safeguarding Boards end of July to confirm arrangements.

**Good Practice:**

- Stop it Now/Lucy Faithfull Foundation were successful in two Sustainable Social Services Third Sector Grants focussed on prevention and early intervention in relation to child sexual abuse. These are 3 year national projects started on 1 April, approach adapted because of Covid-19 impact but work underway and meeting with Safeguarding Boards has taken place.

**Part 2: Child Sexual Exploitation**

Under the following headings, please highlight the following (if relevant) :-  
New Developments; Trends; Blocks/Challenges/Concerns; Good Practice.

- Final drafting of statutory guidance on CSE delayed as a result of Covid-19 response and Legal services are redeployed to Covid-19 response, it is not yet clear when they will have capacity at WG, MOJ and Home Office- who all need to provide legal clearance. This is likely to further delay publication of statutory guidance on CSE. Will update once am able to.
- Awaiting final Ministerial approval on budget in order to commission Dr Sophie Hallett to develop online training modules based on Keeping Safe Research which will support evidence based practice with children and young people at risk or abused through CSE and other forms of exploitation and extra-familial abuse.