

- The use of secure care/out of area placements in response to concerns about CSE: whilst we recognise the drivers for this, we also recognise the potential negative implications that this can have for a child/young person. This can include potentially compromising their safety by moving them away from positive relationships and support, and giving them the message that they are the ones being punished for having been abused (**HB/13; HB/25**). The use of relocation for extra-familial harm (including CSE) is currently being explored in our Securing Safety research, that will report on phase one of the work in April 2020.
- Criminal justice responses to (organised networked) CSE: This is perhaps the most frequently identified source of dissatisfaction with institutional responses to CSE, both by children and young people themselves and those who care for/work with them. In response to the Inquiry's reference to ensuring 'child victims are treated with empathy, concern and respect', our research repeatedly shows this to be lacking in how children and young people describe their experiences of the criminal justice system. Again the issue of consistency is critical here. Across our criminal justice programme of research, we have observed examples of improving and promising practice in terms of how police (and prosecutors) engage with those who experience CSE, and officers who do clearly demonstrate empathy, concern and respect in both their attitudes and actions. However the absence of the same is equally observable in others, and we continue to observe a gap between policy/guidance and practice on the ground, as also observed by Plotnikoff and Woolfson (**HB/22**) in their wider review of young witness policy and practice (**HB/10; HB/8; HB/27**; ongoing Learning from the Experts research; due to report autumn 2020).
- In terms of responses to offenders, our policing strand of work demonstrates that police are increasingly exploring use of profiling and disruption techniques when working in the field of (organised networked) CSE, which is to be welcomed. However the work has also found that both the nature and use of approaches varies across forces, and there is very limited collated evidence as to their use or impact (**HB/2**). The same variation in approach can be observed more generally across policing, although we observe that concerted efforts are underway, through the National Policing Vulnerability Coordination Centre, to drive improvements in this field, and to ensure that this is informed by an up-to-date evidence base.