The Government’s vision for preventing and tackling child sexual exploitation

- Insights from the Home Office about the next steps in safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation
- Examining the government’s response to the March 2016 Statutory Definition of Child Sexual Exploitation consultation
- Driving improvements across all parts of the system including health, social care, education, law enforcement and criminal justice agencies
- Effectively supporting local authorities and the police to get the first response right
- Ensuring better protection and improving support for victims throughout the criminal justice process
- Working in partnership with the police and local authorities to help secure robust prosecutions and increase conviction rates
7%

Of adults aged 16-59 report experiencing any type of sexual assault during childhood (2.2m adults)

5%

of 11-17 year olds have ever experienced contact sexual abuse (220,000 children)

- 22% increase in offences recorded from June 2015 to June 2016
- 14% increase in prosecutions and 19% increase in convictions recorded from December 2015 to December 2016

What we are doing

1. Tackling Offending
2. Reducing Vulnerability
3. Supporting Victims and Survivors
What we are doing

1. **Tackling offending**
2. **Reducing vulnerability**
3. **Supporting victims and survivors**

- **Prioritised child sexual abuse as a national threat** in the Strategic Policing Requirement.
- Provided £1.5m in 2015/16 to fund a new network of **regional child sexual abuse coordinators and analysts** in Regional Organised Crime Units.
- Provided **an additional £10m funding to the National Crime Agency’s Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (CEOP).**
- Rolled out the groundbreaking new **Child Abuse Image Database (CAID)** to all police forces.
- **Introduced new police powers** to close down establishments that might be used for sexual activity with a child and implemented **Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPOs).**
- Recruited **100 additional Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) prosecutors and started four early investigative advice pilots** to identify best practice for the Crown Prosecution Service and police working together on RASSO cases.
What we are doing

1. **Tackling offending**

2. **Reducing vulnerability**

3. **Supporting victims and survivors**

- **Introduced new joint targeted area inspections** by Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission, HMI Constabulary and HMI Probation, which judge local areas on the ability of their law enforcement, education and health services to work together to protect and respond to children at risk or affected by CSE or going missing.

- NHS England is delivering the **Child Protection Information Sharing project** which will flag to health workers when a child is subject to a child protection plan or being looked after, including in A&E, walk-in centres, ambulance services and maternity wards.

- Provided £1.24m to establish the **Child Sexual Exploitation Response Unit** led by the National Working Group Network, which will provide enhanced advice and support to local areas.

- Launched a **new national whistle-blowing helpline** with NSPCC for employees concerned about how their organisation is dealing with a safeguarding concern.

- **Leading the global response to online sexual exploitation** bringing governments, companies and civil society organisations together with the United Arab Emirates for the second WePROTECT global summit last year.
What we are doing

1. Tackling offending
2. Reducing vulnerability
3. Supporting victims and survivors

- Provided £7m increase in funding for non-statutory organisations which directly support victims and survivors of sexual abuse, with an additional £7m in 2016/17.
- Trialling a flexible, high-supervision model of accommodation in two children’s homes in London through St Christopher’s Safe Steps Innovation Project.
- Investing an additional £1.4bn in Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services over the course of this Parliament. This will benefit a wider group of children who need mental health support, including those affected by sexual abuse.
- Trialled Independent Child Trafficking Advocates (ICTAs) and rolling out ICTAs in three early adopter sites.
- Creating a £3m Child Trafficking Protection Fund to fund local work to protect victims of trafficking.
- NHS England has almost doubled its investment in Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) services from £9.7m to £16m per annum. Under 18s make up 30-50% of clients seen in SARC in England.
What more we will do

1. **Revised definition of CSE**
   - To be published shortly alongside new guidance for professionals tackling child sexual exploitation.

2. **Reporting and acting on child abuse and neglect**
   - Considering responses to consultation on strengthening arrangements to report and act on abuse.

3. **Centre of Expertise on CSE**
   - Centre run by a consortium of academic institutions, statutory agencies and other partners to be launched soon.
But there are still gaps in our response

- Patchy response from law enforcement, health, social work, education, communities and business
- Too little early education and prevention (online and contact abuse)
- We are not keeping pace with tackling online abuse and sexting
- From report to court is taking far too long
- Criminal justice system is overwhelmed
- Further improvements in support for victims is needed
Delivering more: working together

A step change is required in how we work together in our response:

- More joined up
  - Better sharing of information where it will keep children safe
  - Using the same tools
  - Cross-agency case management

- More focused
  - Increased knowledge and awareness at both top level and frontline of agencies
  - Quicker research to build the evidence base
  - Effective dissemination of what works

- Strengthened leadership
  - Local leaders understanding joint and individual responsibilities and accountabilities
  - Strong capability among these leaders to lead work to tackle CSE
An update to the *Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation* report will be published in the coming months which will set out progress to date on what we have achieved in tackling offending, reducing vulnerability and supporting victims and survivors of child sexual abuse. It will also set out the Government’s future programme of work to tackle child sexual abuse.
Jeremy Oppenheim,
Director, Safeguarding Unit, Home Office

jeremy.oppenheim@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk