

A. Children’s Rights Impact Assessment

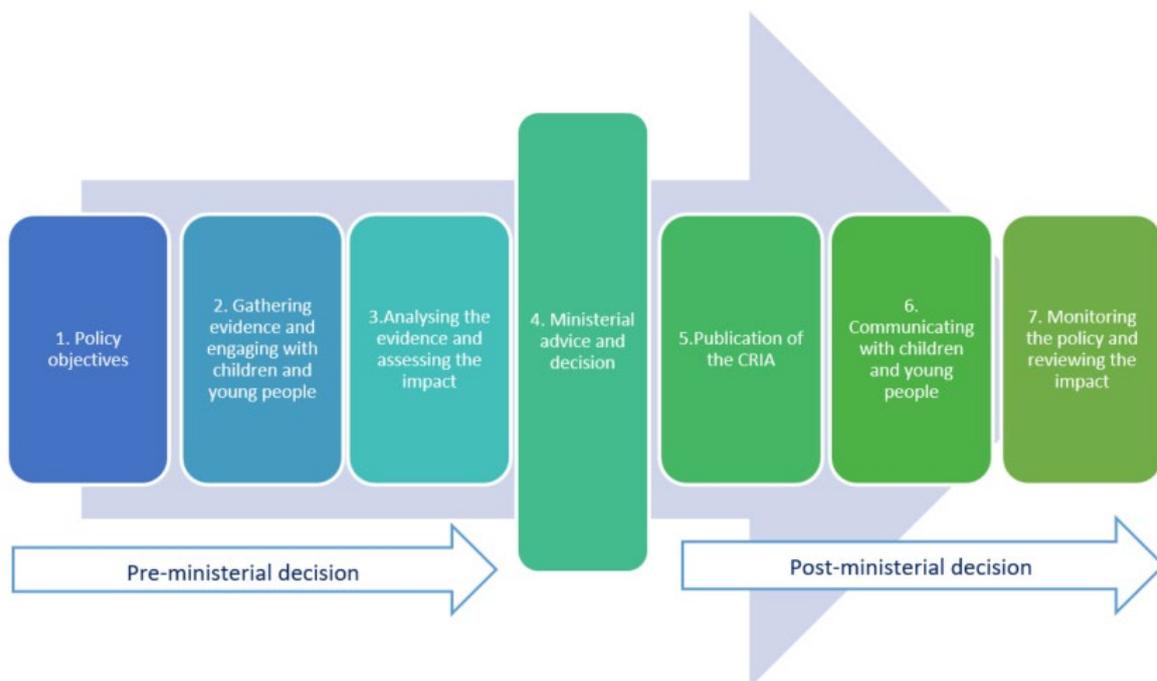
All completed Children’s Rights Impact Assessments must be sent to the CRIA@gov.wales mailbox

The Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011 places a duty on the Welsh Ministers to pay due regard to the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(UNCRC\)](#) and its [Optional Protocols](#) when exercising any of their functions.

The CRIA process is the agreed mechanism officials should use to support Ministers to meet this duty and ensure they give balanced consideration to children’s rights in their decision making. A CRIA should be used to inform ministerial advice and **must** be completed prior to a ministerial decision being made. Once a decision has been reached,

Please note we have an established Children’s Rights Advisory Group (CRAG), comprising the Children’s Commissioner for Wales’s office, UNICEF, the Wales Observatory on Human Rights of Children and Young People, and Children in Wales, who can be used to discuss or test your draft CRIA. Please contact the Children’s Branch CRIA@gov.wales for further information.

your CRIA must also be published.



For further advice and guidance on the CRIA process, please consult the [Children’s Rights Manual for Staff](#) or contact the Children’s Branch CRIA@gov.wales

Children's Rights Impact Assessment: National Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse (2026-2036)

Policy objectives

The Welsh Government plan to publish a ten-year strategy for preventing and responding to child sexual abuse in Wales. This has been developed in response to calls from stakeholders for a longer-term vision for addressing child sexual abuse following the delivery of the three-year National Delivery Plan (2019-2022) for Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse.

The Strategy addresses all sexual harm affecting individuals under 18, including babies, children, and young people, and covers adult survivors, such as parents or caregivers.

Child sexual abuse is a profound violation of a child's rights, with devastating and often lifelong consequences for victim-survivors, their families, and society. Tackling this issue demands a comprehensive, coordinated approach encompassing prevention, early identification, effective response, and sustained support.

A whole-system response relies on strong, coordinated partnerships across all safeguarding agencies, from political and strategic leaders to frontline practitioners, and spans universal prevention through to statutory interventions.

Effective multi-agency collaboration must be rooted in **mutual respect, shared understanding, and a collective commitment to act decisively and together**. To achieve this, we must:

- Develop a common understanding of child sexual abuse.
- Clarify roles and responsibilities across agencies and organisations.
- Prioritise timely and effective information sharing.
- Ensure support for children, families, and victim-survivors is well-coordinated and responsive to their needs.

This strategy tackles child sexual abuse and its effects throughout life, addressing every setting, online or offline; within institutions, families, social groups, and communities; and whether it is committed by individuals, groups, adults, or other children.

This cross-government strategy is a ten-year commitment to addressing child sexual abuse and the strategic vision is that,

‘All children in Wales live free from the harm of sexual abuse and all those affected are protected and supported across the lifespan’.

High-level strategic objectives of the Strategy are:

- Preventing child sexual abuse
- Protecting and responding effectively to children when there are concerns about child sexual abuse;
- Supporting children, non-abusing parents/caregivers, siblings and other family members to recover; and
- Supporting adult victim-survivors to recover.

We have identified cross-cutting areas within the Welsh Government and have detailed the policy domains that offer substantial evidence to support the Strategy.

This has included consultation with the following policy areas:

- Violence Against Women Domestic Assault and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)
- Support for children and young people who are care experienced and/or unaccompanied asylum seekers
- Modern slavery
- Equity in education covering safeguarding in education
- Health safeguarding
- NYTH/NEST
- Traumatic Stress Wales
- Trauma Informed Framework
- Housing
- Childcare and early years
- Internet safety/online harm

Each of these policy areas intersect with the aims of our strategy and we will be establishing an internal policy advisory group to ensure cohesiveness of delivery going forward.

As an appendix to the Strategy, we have included a reference grid and narrative that explains the interrelationships with these policy areas.

The following are cross cutting plans that contribute to the achievement of this strategy and which this strategy will contribute to over the next ten years:

- Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan

- LGBTQ+ Action Plan
- Action on Disability: The Right to Independent Living
- Gender Equality Plan

To note: This is a Children's Rights Impact Assessment specifically for the National Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse (2026-2036). However, other key Welsh Government policies that underpin the Strategy also have their own impact assessments and have also been used to inform the development. These Impact Assessments will also have been developed through ongoing engagement with children and young people.

The UNCRC introduces the fundamental principle that the protection of children from harm is the responsibility of all individuals and agencies working with children and their families, and with adults who may pose a risk to children. The Strategy directly relates to the following articles:

- Article 2 – right to life - applies to everyone whatever their race, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say and whatever type of family they come from.
- Article 3 - all decisions and actions regarding children must prioritise their best interests.
- Article 6 – to live and to develop healthily
- Article 12 - have their voice heard in decisions that affect them
- Article 13 - to information
- Article 16 – to privacy
- Article 17 – to reliable information
- Article 19 - be protected from violence, abuse and neglect
- Article 23 – disabled children should have special care and support
- Article 24 - the best possible health
- Article 29 - children's education should foster their full development, human rights, cultural diversity, and the environment,
- Article 34 - to be kept safe from sexual abuse and exploitation
- Article 36 - to be kept safe from harm to their development
- Article 39 - recovery from trauma and reintegration
- Article 42 – to have knowledge of the UNCRC convention

In addition, we have adopted a children's rights-based approach to the development of the Strategy in accordance with the principles of The Right Way (Children's Commissioner for Wales).

Prevalence

In respect of prevalence, the Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse published a report in June 2021 entitled, 'The scale and nature of child sexual abuse: Review of evidence'¹. (*This is a revised edition of the evidence review completed by the CSA Centre Measuring the scale and changing nature of child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation, originally published in 2017 and updated in 2018.*)

This report identified the following headlines about child sexual abuse in England and Wales:

- 500,000 children and young people who are sexually abused each year in England and Wales
- 15% of females and 5% of males in England and Wales experience sexual abuse before the age of 16
- Children and young people are the victims in 40% of all sexual offences and yet make up only 20% of the population
- Far more children experience abuse than are being recorded by police or identified by child protection services.
- Where a child lives affects the likelihood that their abuse will be identified and responded to.
- Children from minority ethnic backgrounds are under-represented in all agency data.

It is estimated that 25,000 children and young people are sexually abused each year in Wales. In Wales, the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse's *Child sexual abuse in 2023/24: Trends in official data*² shows that close to 6,000 child sexual abuse offences were recorded by the police in 2023/24 but only 14% of investigations in Wales resulted in a decision to charge the offender(s).

To note: some of this may be related to recording practices and children's names being added to the Child Protection Register under other categories e.g. neglect. Further work is taking place to understand this better.

The number of children placed on the child protection register under the category of sexual abuse has declined steadily in Wales over the past 20 years (Karsna and Kelly, 2021). In 2023/24, just under 200 children in Wales were registered on the

¹ [The scale and nature of child sexual abuse: Review of evidence](#)

² [Child sexual abuse in 2023/24: Trends in official data](#)

Child Protection Register due to sexual abuse, 15% fewer than in the previous year and accounting for only 5% of all registrations in that year.

The variation among local authorities in the use of registrations due to sexual abuse is significant: the proportion of children whose registration included sexual abuse as a reason, ranged from 0% to 19% of all child protection registrations in 2023/24.

Child Protection Registration is only one measure we use as an indicator of the prevalence of child sexual abuse in Wales. This refers to the number of children and young people who have a care and support protection plan in place and their names have been added to the Child Protection Register because of sexual harm/abuse.

Figure 1 below illustrates the pervasive hidden nature of child sexual abuse and demonstrates that statutory services are currently supporting a small minority of children who have experienced sexual abuse whose names have been added to the Child Protection Register, whilst many others will be supported on a care and support plan, many children may not have come to the attention of child protection services at all. This is supported by other research findings.³



Children at higher risk of experiencing sexual abuse

CSA can affect any child, but some groups are at higher risk due to individual, family, social, and contextual factors.

Key child, family and environmental-level vulnerabilities linked with increased likelihood of child sexual abuse identified through the evidence base of the strategy:-

³ [CSA-in-Wales-childrens-services-Briefing.pdf](#), Roberts S. 2020

- Girls are significantly more likely to be victims; 82% of under-18 victims are female.
- Adolescents (12–17) are the age group at highest risk, making up 66% of CSA victims under 18.
- Children under 4 are also at increased risk due to dependence and limited communication abilities.
- Children with physical, intellectual, developmental disabilities or chronic health conditions face elevated vulnerability due to communication barriers and reliance on caregivers.
- Additional needs increase caregiver strain, which is recognised as a risk factor.
- Prior sexual abuse of the child or siblings.
- Previous victimisation of any kind.
- Domestic abuse, high conflict, poor communication, and intimate partner violence increase risk.
- Parental mental health issues, substance misuse or high parenting stress are associated vulnerabilities.
- Families experiencing social isolation also show elevated risks.
- A parental history of child abuse.
- Racially minoritised children.
- Migrant children.
- Children experiencing socioeconomic deprivation.
- Children heavily engaged in digital spaces without appropriate supervision or safeguards.

Children with the **highest combined risk** often present with multiple overlapping factors (intersectionality), such as:

- Female adolescents (12–17) with previous victimisation
- Children with disabilities in families experiencing domestic abuse or social isolation
- Children from marginalised communities with limited access to safeguarding-responsive services
- Young people extensively using online platforms without adequate adult oversight

Each factor strengthens vulnerability, and **cumulative risk significantly amplifies harm.**

A summary of research regarding specific forms of sexual harm e.g. sibling sexual abuse, harmful sexual behaviours, child sexual exploitation can be found in the strategy document.

The voices of children and young people

Child sexual abuse is a very difficult topic for anyone. To reduce the risk of re-traumatising children and young people, we commissioned a Rapid Review of the last five years of international research that included talking and listening to children; and in which they had expressed views on the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding response to child sexual abuse. The author was asked to capture any good practice identified by children and young people and conversely to capture any messages from them about improvements.

The rapid review focused on UK and international research carried out within the last 5 years regarding child sexual abuse with a focus on:

1. Exploring children's views and experiences when they have experienced or been affected by child sexual abuse, including sexual exploitation and harmful sexual behaviours.
2. Identifying examples of good practice identified by children and young people in either preventing them from experiencing child sexual abuse or responding to them.
3. Identifying any gaps in the knowledge base about children and young people's views on child sexual abuse and recommend how these gaps can be addressed.

Key messages from children

A summary of issues identified by children and young people from this work has been used to develop statements that describe what good practice should look like. These are set out in the table below with an additional column that describes how we are addressing the issue in the Strategy and delivery plan and how children's rights will be upheld.

Issue identified	Good looks like	Inclusion in the strategy / impact on children's rights
<p>Online safety courses are either non-existent or insufficient to protect them against the threats they face online.</p>	<p>Online safety courses are available and cover issues around child sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviours.</p>	<p>An action has been added to the delivery plan to collaborate with education policy teams on RSE lesson content, and we will also consider how the children and young people's advisory group can support these developments.</p> <p>This approach upholds children's right to be heard, as outlined in Article 12 of UNCRC. By involving children and young people in the co-design of the curriculum and seeking their views through the advisory group, the Strategy ensures that their perspectives are not only considered but have a tangible impact on the educational content that affects them.</p> <p>By improving and updating RSE lesson content to make it more relevant and useful, the action supports children's right to access appropriate information (Article 17, UNCRC). This empowers young people with the knowledge and skills they need to protect themselves from harm, including child sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviours.</p> <p>These measures promote the right to education that develops children's abilities to the fullest potential and equips them for a safe and healthy life (Article 29, UNCRC). By ensuring that both the curriculum and the process of its development are inclusive and child-centred, the Strategy strengthens children's rights to participation, protection, and education.</p>
<p>Children and young people did not feel that they were given the right tools to manage their safety online.</p>	<p>Safety education provides children and young people with the tools and knowledge to reduce their risk of child sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviours.</p>	<p>We will conduct a review of current resources for children and assess areas where enhancements or additional support may be required.</p> <p>By ensuring that resources are current, relevant, and comprehensive, children's right to access appropriate information (Article 17, UNCRC) is promoted. This empowers them to protect themselves from harm and make informed decisions regarding their safety and wellbeing.</p>

		<p>This approach demonstrates a commitment to children’s right to education that develops their abilities to the fullest potential (Article 29, UNCRC). By continuously improving resources, the Strategy ensures that children receive high-quality, accurate information that equips them for a safe and healthy life. It also upholds children’s rights to participation and protection, as the process involves actively considering their needs and experiences in shaping the support and information they receive.</p>
<p>Adults not understanding the importance of the online world to children and young people, and of the risks they face.</p>	<p>Caregivers and other significant adults have sufficient knowledge of online safety and risk to support children and young people.</p>	<p>In year one a communications and engagement plan will be developed, existing resources for parents/caregivers will be mapped and any gaps/needs for further improvement will be identified and addressed.</p> <p>Providing parents and caregivers with current information supports children’s right to access appropriate resources (Article 17, UNCRC). This enables adults to offer accurate guidance, helps children make informed choices, and allows caregivers to take protective actions.</p> <p>Identifying and addressing gaps in existing resources ensures that children’s needs are at the centre of ongoing improvements. This ongoing review process demonstrates a commitment to providing high-quality, comprehensive information that supports children’s right to education aimed at developing their abilities to the fullest potential and preparing them for a safe, healthy life (Article 29, UNCRC).</p> <p>By developing a communications and engagement plan, the action supports children’s right to participation (Article 12, UNCRC) by fostering open dialogue between children, parents/caregivers, and professionals. This inclusive approach ensures that children’s views and experiences inform the development and delivery of support, further upholding their rights to protection, participation, and education.</p>

<p>Sexual education in schools is out of date and insufficient.</p>	<p>Sexual education curriculum is codesigned with children and young people, ensuring that the content is relevant and useful.</p>	<p>The delivery plan includes collaborating with education policy teams to inform RSE lesson content.</p> <p>This approach helps ensure that sexual education is co-designed with children and young people, making the curriculum more relevant and useful to their lived experiences. It upholds children’s right to access appropriate and information (Article 17, UNCRC), empowering them to make informed choices about their safety and wellbeing.</p> <p>Involving children and young people in shaping RSE lesson content supports their right to participate in decisions affecting them (Article 12, UNCRC). It recognises their voices and experiences, ensuring that the education they receive is tailored to their needs and concerns. This participatory approach also contributes to children’s right to education that develops their abilities to the fullest potential (Article 29, UNCRC), as lessons become more engaging, comprehensive, and effective in preparing them for safe and healthy relationships.</p> <p>Overall, this action demonstrates a commitment to creating a learning environment where children’s rights to protection, education, and participation are actively promoted and safeguarded.</p>
<p>Online platform providers not taking responsibility for the safety of their users.</p>	<p>Online platform providers are proactive in their approach to protecting their users, focusing on preventing harm and taking action when harms/crimes are identified.</p>	<p>Additional regulations for platform providers have been implemented through the Online Safety Act. We are committed to monitoring emerging developments in this area and will collaborate with the Digital Safety and Resilience Team, as well as other Welsh Government departments, to ensure that we incorporate any insights and consider further actions where appropriate.</p> <p>Prioritising the safety of young people online and taking these measures will help protect children from harm, supporting their right to protection as outlined in Article 19 of the UNCRC. Working collaboratively with teams such as the Digital Safety and Resilience Team ensures that children’s lived experiences and evolving risks are</p>

		<p>recognised and addressed, which demonstrates a proactive approach to safeguarding.</p> <p>Staying responsive to new challenges and continually seeking improvements reflects a commitment to providing children with access to safe digital environments. This supports their right to access information (Article 17, UNCRC) in a manner that does not compromise their wellbeing. Additionally, involving expert teams and remaining open to learning encourages a participatory process, whereby children’s voices and needs can be considered in shaping online safety policies, aligning with their right to participate in decisions that affect them (Article 12, UNCRC).</p> <p>Overall, these actions reinforce children’s rights to protection, participation, and access to reliable information, creating a safer and more supportive online experience.</p>
<p>Family and other adults (including schools) feeling uncomfortable talking about bodies and sex, leading to abuse being even harder to discuss.</p>	<p>Caregivers and other relevant adults combat stigma through open discussion of topics associated with bodies and sex.</p>	<p>This is a cultural issue that we need to change and one of the reasons we need a ten-year strategy with three-year delivery plans as changing culture takes time. Actions in the delivery plan relating to this include raising awareness with parents/caregivers, professionals and communities to ensure people can recognise risk or actual child sexual abuse and feel confident to report this.</p> <p>By raising awareness among parents/caregivers, professionals and communities, these actions help ensure that child sexual abuse is recognised and reported, which supports children’s right to protection from all forms of harm (Article 19, UNCRC). Empowering adults to identify risks and respond confidently creates safer environments for children, helping to prevent abuse and facilitate early intervention.</p> <p>Encouraging open dialogue and reducing stigma around the human body and sex fosters a culture where children feel able to speak up about their experiences. This participatory approach respects children’s right to have their voices heard in matters affecting them (Article 12, UNCRC) and</p>

		<p>supports their right to education that promotes their wellbeing and fullest potential (Article 29, UNCRC). Again, by involving children and young people in shaping lesson content and safeguarding policies, the Strategy ensures their needs and perspectives are considered, further reinforcing their right to participate and access reliable information (Article 17, UNCRC).</p>
<p>Cultural barriers such as victim blaming and shame or stigma around abuse prevent disclosure.</p> <p>Cultural barriers to disclosure for boys and young men, and LGBTQ+. Including not being seen as a victim and feeling that they would not be believed.</p>	<p>The evidence base has been utilised to increase understanding of the nature of child sexual behaviour and harmful sexual behaviours in both children and young people, and the adults who respond to them.</p>	<p>Actions in the delivery plan relating to this include raising awareness with parents/caregivers, professionals and communities to ensure people are trauma-informed in their approaches, do not use victim blaming language, understand how difficult it can be for boys and young men, young people who identify as LGBTQ+ and young people who have transitioned gender/preparing to transition, to seek help.</p> <p>These actions support children’s rights to protection from all forms of harm (Article 19, UNCRC) by ensuring adults are equipped to recognise and respond appropriately to signs of abuse, regardless of a child’s gender identity or sexual orientation. By fostering environments where stigma and shame are actively challenged, it becomes easier for children to disclose abuse and seek help, thereby facilitating early intervention and safeguarding their wellbeing.</p> <p>By ensuring that adults are sensitive to the unique barriers faced by certain groups, the Strategy respects children’s right to participate in decisions affecting them (Article 12, UNCRC). Trauma-informed approaches and inclusive language help create a culture where children feel heard and validated, encouraging them to share their experiences and views without fear of judgement.</p> <p>These actions also reinforce children’s rights to access reliable information and support (Article 17, UNCRC), empowering them to understand their rights and the resources available to them.</p> <p>By challenging cultural barriers and improving the knowledge base of those who support children, the Strategy helps ensure that every child can access protection and support in a manner that</p>

		respects their dignity and individual circumstances.
<p>Shame and guilt act as a barrier to disclosure and seeking support.</p> <p>Concern for the wellbeing of the offender if they had disclosed, and concern as a preventative factor in disclosure.</p> <p>Disclosure delays due to children and young people not considering the abuse to be serious at the time the abuse took place.</p>	<p>Children and young people are educated about child sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviours, including aspects such as the age of consent and legal definitions of harm and abuse.</p>	<p>The delivery plan includes an initiative to collaborate with policy teams within the education sector to inform the content of RSE lessons, while also exploring opportunities for co-production with children and young people.</p> <p>The Strategy aims to create environments in which children and young people feel able to talk openly about relationships and sexuality in their homes as well as their schools.</p> <p>By actively engaging children in the development of lesson material, The Strategy upholds Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which affirms children’s right to participate in decisions affecting them. This approach ensures their voices are heard and their perspectives are valued within the educational setting.</p> <p>By fostering environments where children and young people can discuss relationships and sexuality openly both at home and at school, the Strategy promotes their right to access reliable information (Article 17, UNCRC). This empowers them to make informed choices about their wellbeing, relationships, and safety. It also supports children’s right to protection from harm (Article 19, UNCRC), as increased awareness and open dialogue can lead to earlier disclosure of abuse and more effective safeguarding responses.</p>
<p>Fear of stigma when accessing psychological and emotional support.</p>	<p>Society recognises the benefit of psychological support, and this is reinforced with children and young people by those around them.</p>	<p>Awareness raising campaigning and embedding a training framework for child sexual abuse that is underpinned by a trauma informed approach will increase knowledge in our society about the benefits of psychological support and how to access support when it is needed.</p> <p>Supporting children’s right to access reliable information (Article 17, UNCRC) ensures that both children and the adults supporting them are well-informed about the benefits of psychological support and the pathways to access such help.</p>

		<p>This equips children with the knowledge needed to make informed decisions about their wellbeing and safety.</p> <p>By normalising psychological support and reducing the stigma associated with seeking help, these actions promote children’s rights to protection from harm (Article 19, UNCRC). When children and young people feel confident and empowered to seek support without fear of judgement, they are more likely to disclose abuse early, enabling more effective safeguarding responses.</p> <p>The commitment to a trauma-informed approach and regular training ensures that professionals respond with sensitivity and understanding, further upholding children’s dignity and individual circumstances. This holistic approach strengthens the realisation of their rights, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are prioritised in both policy and practice.</p>
<p>Low awareness of disclosure routes and mechanisms.</p> <p>Low awareness of support options and what happens after disclosure.</p>	<p>Sexual education in schools includes details of where to disclose and what will happen afterwards, including support services, criminal justice and other relevant processes (e.g. medical)</p>	<p>There is an action in the delivery plan to work with policy teams in education to inform RSE lesson content and consider how this could be co-produced with children and young people. These lessons should include how they can access support and what happens once they have disclosed or someone has raised a concern about them.</p> <p>A national campaign will be delivered each year to increase awareness of child sexual abuse and encourage reporting and support-seeking.</p> <p>By involving children in shaping lesson content, their right to be heard and participate in decisions affecting their lives (Article 12, UNCRC) is respected and promoted. This approach ensures that the information provided is relevant, accessible, and meaningful to children, empowering them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing and safety.</p> <p>Providing transparent guidance regarding access to support services and the procedures following disclosure aligns with children’s rights to obtain accurate information (Article 17, UNCRC).</p>

		<p>Ensuring that children are informed about avenues for assistance and subsequent steps enables them to seek help confidently and without apprehension, thereby enhancing their protection from harm (Article 19, UNCRC).</p> <p>The commitment to running an annual national awareness raising campaign supports children's rights by normalising conversations around child sexual abuse, reducing stigma, and encouraging both children and adults to seek help when needed. This not only promotes a culture of openness and support but also enhances safety by ensuring that children feel confident to speak up and are met with understanding and appropriate responses.</p> <p>Overall, these measures collectively reinforce the realisation of children's rights by ensuring their voices are valued, their access to information is prioritised, and barriers to support are actively addressed within both educational settings and the wider community.</p>
<p>Professionals receiving disclosure of online sexual abuse do not understand the nature of the crime/harm and how to respond.</p>	<p>Professionals keep up to date with online forms of harm and abuse to respond effectively to disclosure.</p>	<p>Technology assisted child sexual abuse and exploitation is rapidly expanding and changing. Those implementing the Strategy need to be live to emerging threats and risks. This means the Strategy needs to be reviewed and revised regularly as well as re-shaping and adding or amending actions in our delivery plans.</p> <p>Technology assisted child sexual abuse and exploitation will be included in the development of the training framework we have committed to developing. Mechanisms will need to be established to ensure professionals are up to date with changes and assist agencies to adapt their responses, for example, through established forums/networks, using the Wales Safeguarding Procedures as a central hub for resources.</p> <p>The recognition of evolving technology-assisted child sexual abuse and exploitation within the Strategy has a significant positive impact on children's rights. Regularly reviewing and updating the Strategy, alongside adapting delivery plans, demonstrates an active commitment to</p>

		<p>upholding children’s right to protection from all forms of harm as set out in Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).</p> <p>By ensuring that responses reflect the latest forms of abuse and exploitation, children are better safeguarded against emerging risks in digital environments.</p> <p>Including technology-assisted abuse in the development of the training framework also directly supports children’s rights to information (Article 17, UNCRC) and to be protected from sexual exploitation and abuse (Article 34, UNCRC). Keeping professionals up to date ensures they are equipped to recognise and respond appropriately to disclosures/identify risk earlier. This in turn fosters an environment where children feel safe to speak up and are more likely to be believed. This approach aligns with the trauma informed, child-centred practices described in the surrounding context, ensuring that professionals have the knowledge and skills to support children effectively.</p> <p>Establishing mechanisms such as forums, networks, and centralised resource hubs like the Wales Safeguarding Procedures ensures ongoing professional development and adaptability. This supports children’s rights to access effective remedies and support services, reinforcing the broader aim of reducing barriers to disclosure and ensuring children’s voices are heard and acted upon.</p> <p>Ultimately, these measures contribute to a safer digital environment, increased confidence among children to seek help, and a more robust realisation of their rights in the face of evolving online threats.</p>
<p>Children and young people disclose and are not believed.</p> <p>Professionals do not know how to relate to children and young people who disclose</p>	<p>Children and young people are believed by those they report to as they have the skills and knowledge to receive disclosure from young people.</p>	<p>Embedding the training framework for child sexual abuse that is underpinned by a trauma informed approach coupled with the centralisation of resources for professionals will increase knowledge in how to communicate with children and young people about sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviours.</p>

<p>child sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviours.</p>		<p>This empowers children by making it more likely that their disclosures will be met with understanding, belief, and appropriate action, thereby upholding their right to protection from all forms of harm (Article 19, UNCRC).</p> <p>By centralising resources and providing ongoing training, professionals are better able to inform children of their rights and the processes involved when making a disclosure. This addresses children’s rights to information (Article 17, UNCRC) and their right to be protected from sexual exploitation and abuse (Article 34, UNCRC). When children understand what will happen after a disclosure and know that professionals are trained to respond sensitively, they are more likely to feel safe and confident in seeking help.</p> <p>This approach also supports children’s rights to access effective remedies and support services, as professionals are better prepared to guide young people through the necessary steps and ensure they receive the support they need. By fostering a culture where children are believed and supported, barriers to disclosure are reduced, and children’s voices are more likely to be heard and acted upon, contributing to a safer and more rights-respecting environment overall.</p>
<p>Concerns about confidentiality and anonymity following disclosure act as a barrier to reporting.</p> <p>Negative experiences of statutory service responses to disclosure discourage future disclosure.</p>	<p>Children and young people are assured of their rights and are confident in the measures in place to ensure them.</p> <p>Activities in relation to improving the response to child sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviour are widely publicised, including to schools and practitioners specifically.</p>	<p>Embedding the training framework for child sexual abuse that is underpinned by a trauma informed approach coupled with the centralisation of resources for professionals will increase knowledge in how to communicate with children and young people about processes and their rights in those processes.</p> <p>By equipping professionals with the skills and knowledge to communicate effectively with children and young people about both the processes involved and their rights within those processes, several key rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) are upheld.</p> <p>This approach directly supports children’s rights to protection from all forms of harm (Article 19,</p>

		<p>UNCRC) by ensuring that disclosures are met with understanding and appropriate action. When professionals are well-trained, children are more likely to be believed and supported, making them feel safer and more confident in seeking help.</p> <p>By informing children about what will happen after a disclosure and their rights within those processes, the framework upholds their right to information (Article 17, UNCRC) and their right to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (Article 34, UNCRC). Children who understand the system are empowered to make informed choices and are less likely to be discouraged by uncertainty or fear of negative responses.</p> <p>This approach ensures that children have access to effective remedies and support services, reinforcing their right to be heard and to participate in decisions affecting them (Article 12, UNCRC). When professionals are properly trained, they can guide children through the necessary steps and ensure that support is both accessible and responsive to individual needs, thereby fostering a more rights-respecting and child-centred environment.</p>
<p>Long wait times for support to begin resulted in children and young people feeling that they were not important and increased worries around not being believed.</p> <p>Limited numbers of sessions prevented any meaningful therapeutic intervention, often serving only to retraumatise the young person.</p> <p>Inconsistent support provision where support ended without warning or the practitioner was</p>	<p>Support happens immediately, or where there are waiting lists for services the child is informed of this and kept updated. Other options for support are suggested for the interim period.</p> <p>Support is tailored to the individual's needs and there is a clear sense of the objectives and outcomes of the therapeutic intervention which the child has been supported to identify.</p>	<p>The aim of strategic objectives 3 and 4: supporting children and their parents/caregivers/siblings and other family members and supporting adult victim-survivors aims to improve access to services, reducing time delays and ensure everyone has the right support at the right time for them, in a way that meets their needs.</p> <p>By prioritising accessibility and responsiveness, these objectives uphold the right of every child to receive the help they need when they need it, as enshrined in the UNCRC, particularly Articles 19 (protection from all forms of violence), 24 (right to health and healthcare services), and 39 (recovery and reintegration).</p> <p>Ensuring that support is available without undue delay and is tailored to the child's individual needs also reinforces the principle of the child's best interests (Article 3), while involving families and</p>

<p>changed without consultation.</p> <p>Difficulty in accessing support services due to rural locations and the need to travel long distances.</p> <p>Lack of choice in the type of support provided.</p> <p>Lack of choice in the practitioner delivering the support.</p>	<p>Changes are communicated clearly and in good time.</p> <p>Children and young people living in rural and remote areas enjoy parity of access with those in urban and suburban areas.</p> <p>The type of support is determined by the individual and the needs they have been supported to identify.</p> <p>Services can take time to match practitioners and service users. Where effective therapeutic relationships do not develop the process for reallocation does not disadvantage the service user.</p>	<p>caregivers acknowledges the importance of the child’s wider environment in their recovery and wellbeing. Furthermore, by aiming to provide the right support at the right time, these objectives address issues of parity and non-discrimination, ensuring that all children—including those in rural or remote areas, or from diverse backgrounds—enjoy equal access to support services. This alignment with children’s rights frameworks not only promotes their recovery and protection but also affirms their right to participate in decisions affecting their lives.</p>
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Wider key messages from the review

- The need for further research into children and young people’s experiences of online safety programmes and their effectiveness in preventing and responding to violence and abuse.
- Emerging cultural factors and social trends influencing children and young people should be identified promptly and incorporated into the evidence base. For example, the rise of misogynistic influencers, as noted in the recent Hand (2025) report on child sexual abuse in the Republic of Ireland, illustrates the importance of monitoring such developments.
- A significant gap in empirical research concerns the absence of children and young people’s perspectives on group-based sexual exploitation. Victims of these forms of abuse may be included in existing studies, but their experiences are often obscured by insufficient detail regarding participant characteristics or the use of vague terminology, such as “abused by several men.” Greater specificity in research is required to identify and address these knowledge gaps.

- Targeted recruitment strategies should be used to ensure inclusion of the voices of underrepresented groups, such as disabled children, care-experienced children, neurodivergent children, and those whose everyday experiences differ from national norms—for example, children with caring responsibilities or those for whom English is an additional language.
- The lack of research on preventative measures and protective factors that reduce the risk of online child sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviours. This gap may be compounded by recruitment practices that focus exclusively on individuals who have experienced abuse, as well as the inherent difficulty of evidencing the absence of harm and establishing causal links. While contact abuse presents different dynamics, this issue is particularly relevant to online abuse, where children may have greater capacity to distance themselves from perpetrators as identified by some young people in the rapid review.
- Research exploring protective behaviours—such as instances where children successfully avoided engagement with an abuser—would provide valuable insights into strategies for staying safe online.
- Evidence indicates that children and young people are more likely to disclose abuse initially to peers and seek emotional support from them (Warrington et al., 2022). This finding underscores the need for broader engagement with those who have not accessed formal services and raises important considerations regarding peers as repositories of unreported serious crimes and the emotional impact on them. Given that peers are already fulfilling this role, further examination of peer-to-peer disclosure is essential.
- During the review, details of participation methods were collated as part of the methodological analysis. Further work is required to map the landscape of provision. Specialist service providers in Wales are already implementing innovative approaches that prioritise meaningful engagement based on reciprocity, enabling children and young people to acquire new skills through participation. These approaches are characterised by their two-way design, allowing children and young people to influence agendas beyond issues already identified by services and law enforcement.

Alongside the draft ten-year strategy for Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse, a child-friendly version of the Strategy and consultation questions were published. Services were encouraged to raise awareness of these materials both within their own organisations and more widely.

Representation of the views of children were presented in the responses from key sector organisations (e.g. Barnardo's Cymru) thus protecting children's rights in ensuring confidentiality and data protection compliance. The consultation response document, published on the 19 December 2025 contains a summary of combined

responses and can be accessed via this link: [National strategy for preventing and responding to child sexual abuse | GOV.WALES](#)

Key issues raised by the children and young people who responded echo many similar issues as the rapid review.

One young person, who responded to the consultation *stated “Carers don’t always understand how to care for children who have been sexually abused. Children don’t know what to say, how to talk to people. They remove you from the unsafe situation but then don’t always understand how its impacted on you and how it affects all parts of your life”.*

Another young person, who responded to the consultation highlighted the importance of training for professionals and carers. *“Sexual abuse should be training for all professionals, including carers. They need a better understanding of sexual abuse and understanding the behaviour and reasons for it. It’s not because we want attention, it’s for lots of reasons.”*

In respect of cultural attitudes, one young person who responded to the consultation said, *“There’s so much victim blaming attitudes in the media, it’s important that we learn something to counter these”.*

How the proposal is likely to impact on children’s rights

The rapid review of the literature gives us a clear account of the views of children and young people on what matters, what works well and what needs to be improved. These have been incorporated into the final version of the Strategy and used to shape actions in the first three-year delivery plan alongside identifying how the Strategy upholds the rights of children.

A children and young people’s advisory group will be established that will not be passive recipients of professional ideas but drive their own ideas forward and hold organisations to account for the progress being made.

Welsh Government has committed to embedding our response to the UNCRC Concluding Observations recommendations in our policy development and delivery. In relation to this policy area:

The UNCRC Observations include that Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) Reports highlight the worrying drop in child protection plans for CSA in Wales, with the number of children on the register because of CSA declining by 28% over 10 years. This is despite high number of calls to national helplines about abuse and neglect. During lockdown, specialist services working with child survivors highlighted concerns that support could not be provided to young children who couldn’t access virtual support independently, including play-therapy. This will have had ongoing ramifications for

children’s recovery as well as for specialist support services meeting growing demand.

They were concerned about the availability of specialist support services; waiting times for Sexual Assault Referral Centres; support being inconsistent across Wales and future funding levels being uncertain. They recommended the following:

- Adopt a long-term, sustainable, trauma-informed response to safeguarding children against violence and neglect
- Ensure that children who have experienced abuse can access appropriate, child centred therapeutic services when needed
- Take a public health approach to child sexual abuse and
- Commit to publishing a refreshed strategy alongside an impact assessment.

The Strategy is a 10year vision that takes a public health approach to child sexual abuse, focusing on prevention, responsivity, reducing barriers and improving access to support for all people affected by child sexual abuse in Wales.

Three-year Delivery Plans will sit beneath the Strategy. These will be reviewed annually in a summary of progress and will be revised/added to, ensuring learning directly feeds back into action.

UNCRC table – the below table explains how the Strategy contributes to specific UNCRC articles.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNCRC Articles or Optional Protocol 	Enhances (X)	Challenges (X)	Explanation
<i>Article 2 The Convention applies to everyone whatever their race, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say and whatever type of family they come from.</i>	X		Protected characteristics e.g age and any intersecting factors will be considered in the design of actions and written into the structure being developed to deliver the Strategy. Equally the need for specific actions to be undertaken to meet diverse needs has been considered in the development of the Strategy and delivery plan and continued engagement with a variety of

			stakeholders will ensure this continues.
<i>Article 3 All decisions and actions regarding children must prioritise their best interests, ensure appropriate protection and care, and guarantee that institutions responsible for their welfare meet established standards for safety, health, staffing, and supervision.</i>	X		<p>The Strategy prioritises the welfare, safety, and dignity of children and young people by implementing robust confidentiality protocols, ensuring that personal experiences shared within advisory groups remain protected. This approach safeguards children from potential harm or stigma and fosters an environment where their voices can be heard without fear of reprisal.</p> <p>By opening group membership to interested children and young people and reframing the group as a group for prevention and response rather than a space for victim-survivors, the Strategy avoids stigmatisation and promotes inclusivity. The use of trained specialists to facilitate interactions will ensure that children’s needs are addressed sensitively and professionally, further upholding their best interests. Informed consent procedures and secure data protection practices, in line with the Data Protection Act and GDPR, guarantee that children’s rights to privacy and autonomy are respected.</p> <p>The Strategy’s commitment to creating safe spaces for dialogue, including anonymous feedback mechanisms and private sessions, empowers children to participate actively in shaping responses to</p>

			<p>abuse and strengthens their sense of agency. Regular reviews of engagement practices demonstrate a proactive approach to maintaining trust and addressing emerging concerns.</p>
<p><i>Article 6 All children have the right of life. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily.</i></p>	X		<p>Child sexual abuse has a proven negative impact on the health and wellbeing of children. Children who have experienced sexual abuse may self-harm, attempt suicide, have suicidal ideation, have physical health issues as a result of the abuse or chronic pain conditions, gastrointestinal conditions and more and have mental health issues across their lifespan.</p> <p>The Strategy will enhance the rights of children under Article 6 by firstly, reducing the risk of them experiencing sexual harm. Secondly, ensuring they have access to the physical health, mental health and emotional wellbeing support they require to recover from sexual abuse and to ensure their needs are promptly and effectively responded to.</p> <p>The Strategy also aims to support the adults around them e.g. parents/caregivers and professionals; to understand child sexual abuse and empower them to create safer environments for the children and young people they care for/support.</p> <p>The Strategy aims to empower children and young people by giving</p>

			<p>them information about keeping themselves and others safe, what child sexual abuse looks like, how to disclose concerns and access support, without losing sight of the responsibility of the adults around them to keep them safe.</p>
<p><i>Article 12 Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account</i></p>	X		<p>The Strategy aims to empower children to have their say about services they receive; to ensure the adults around them respect and value their input into decisions being made that may affect them.</p> <p>A children and young people’s advisory group will be established to support the delivery of the Strategy and ensure that the voices of children and young people are heard throughout the lifetime of the Strategy .</p> <p>All consultation with children and young people will be guided by specialists and delivered with sensitivity and support.</p> <p>A consultation and engagement plan being developed in year one, will clearly set out the role of the advisory group and how the views of the group will be fed into workstreams.</p> <p>Engagement and consultation work will protect confidentiality and address associated concerns by having:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist facilitation to ensure information is handled appropriately and

			<p>that no further harm is cause through the engagement process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear confidentiality protocols outlining how personal information will be protected and under what circumstances it may be disclosed. The protocols will be made available to both children and their guardians • Informed consent – ensuring clear expectations about the purpose of engagement, how information will be used and the limits of confidentiality (such as safeguarding obligations) • Safe spaces for dialogue where children feel comfortable sharing their views without fer of judgement or unwanted disclosure e.g. anonymous feedback mechanisms or one – to one sessions with trusted adults. • Data protection compliance ensuring all data and storage practices comply with relevant data protection laws and regulations (GDPR). • Ongoing review – regular review and potential update of engagement practices to respond to emerging issues or feedback from children and specialists. <p>By embedding these safeguards, the engagement process will respect</p>
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			and protect the privacy of all children and young people involved, while ensuring their voices are heard safely and effectively.
<i>Article 13 Children have the right to get and to share information as long as the information is not damaging to them or to others</i>	X		The Strategy will build on resources already developed under the original National Action Plan for Child Sexual Abuse to ensure that children have the right information at the right time that is made available to them in the spaces they spend time and in a variety of formats.
<i>Article 16 Children have a right to privacy. The law should protect them from attacks against their way of life, their good name, their families and their homes.</i>	X		<p>The Strategy aims to prevent sexual abuse of children and young people.</p> <p>The Strategy includes actions being taken to prevent and respond to sexual abuse online and sexual abuse using Artificial Intelligence.</p> <p>The children and young people’s advisory group will be open to children and young people who have experienced child sexual abuse and those who have not. The group will be described as ‘a forum for children and young people who are interested in how we prevent and respond to child sexual abuse’ thus not identifying members as victim-survivors.</p> <p>Their contact details will be securely stored, and we will advise them of their rights under the DP Act and GDPR.</p> <p>Right to privacy will be assured as follows:</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt a multi-layered approach to safeguarding privacy and confidentiality, based on best practice and legal compliance. • Implement clear confidentiality protocols for all advisory group discussions, prohibiting disclosure of personal experiences outside the group. • Communicate confidentiality protocols to members from the outset, emphasising their importance and the consequences of breaches. • Open group membership to all interested children and young people, avoiding identification of members as victim-survivors by describing the group as a forum for preventing and responding to child sexual abuse. • Use trained specialists to facilitate all group interactions, reinforcing confidentiality and intervening as needed. • Obtain informed consent from all members (and parents/guardians where appropriate), explaining information protection, use, and confidentiality limits. • Store contact details and personal data securely in line with the Data Protection Act and GDPR, and inform members of their rights.
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create safe spaces for dialogue, including anonymous feedback mechanisms and private sessions, to encourage open participation. • Regularly review engagement practices to address any emerging confidentiality or privacy concerns, maintaining a culture of trust and respect.
<p><i>Article 17 Children have the right to reliable information from the mass media. Television, radio and newspapers should provide information that children can understand, and should not promote materials that could harm children</i></p>	X		<p>A large part of the Strategy entails awareness raising with children, parents/caregivers, professionals and the public so that everyone knows how to identify child sexual abuse and how to report it.</p> <p>National and local campaigns to raise awareness, dispel misconceptions and provide accurate information will be delivered on an annual basis.</p>
<p><i>Article 19 Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for, and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.</i></p>	X		<p>This is a key article underpinning the Strategy. It promotes prevention of harm, protection from harm and empowering children and the adults around them to take action when they have concerns.</p> <p>It is a key aim of the Strategy to deliver equity of access, protection and outcomes for all children in Wales whether they live with their parents, other members of the family, are looked after or 16 and 17 and living semi/independently.</p>

		<p>It includes ensuring that all services that come into contact with children have robust safeguarding systems in place whether they are registered with an Inspectorate or not.</p> <p>This is a cross government and cross sector strategy that includes working closely with statutory and third sector services, regional safeguarding boards and the national independent safeguarding board who all have responsibilities to keep children safe from sexual harm/abuse, to deliver the Strategy over the next decade.</p> <p>The second strategic objective of the Strategy: Protecting and responding to children when there are concerns about child sexual abuse includes actions that will be undertaken to ensure the multi-agency response to child sexual abuse is prompt, effective and promotes recovery.</p> <p>A training framework for child sexual abuse will be implemented and will ensure all volunteers and professionals have the information they need to keep children safe and respond to them in a way that promotes their recovery.</p> <p>In the first 2 years resources available/ required for groups of children and young people who may be more vulnerable to sexual abuse, will be mapped and any gaps identified. Specific groups at higher risk include children who are care experienced, disabled children,</p>
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			children who are unaccompanied asylum seekers, children who go missing from home or care.
<i>Article 23 Children who have any kind of disability should have special care and support so that they can lead full and independent lives</i>	X		<p>The specific needs of children who have disabilities will be met via targeted actions. Children who have disabilities are at a higher risk of experiencing abuse and neglect and this includes sexual abuse. The impact of their disability may mean they are unable to identify or understand when something is wrong. Additionally, they may require support to manage their personal care thus there is more potential for someone to use these opportunities to sexually abuse children.</p> <p>This prevention, protection and support strategy applies to all children regardless of protected characteristics. However, we will ensure that any materials we produce are available in a variety of communication methods.</p>
<i>Article 29 Children's education should foster their full development, respect for human rights, cultural diversity, and the environment</i>	X		<p>Central to the Strategy is the prioritisation of children and young people's welfare, safety, and dignity. This is achieved through robust confidentiality protocols that ensure personal experiences shared within advisory groups remain protected, thus fostering an environment where children can speak freely without fear of stigma or reprisal. By using trained specialists to facilitate group interactions and securing informed</p>

		<p>consent from all participants, the Strategy ensures that children’s voices are heard in a sensitive and professional manner, supporting their personal growth and autonomy.</p> <p>Additionally, the Strategy promotes inclusivity by opening group membership to interested children and young people, reframing the group as a space for prevention and response rather than one solely for victim-survivors. This approach avoids stigmatisation and encourages respect for each child’s cultural identity and values, as stipulated in Article 29.</p> <p>The creation of safe spaces for open dialogue—including anonymous feedback mechanisms and private sessions—empowers children to engage meaningfully, fostering their sense of agency and responsibility in shaping responses to abuse. Regular reviews of engagement practices further demonstrate a commitment to maintaining trust, addressing emerging concerns, and ensuring that educational and participatory settings conform to high standards, in line with both national values and the requirements of the UNCRC.</p>
<p><i>Article 34 The Government should protect children from sexual abuse.</i></p>	<p>X</p>	<p>This is the purpose of the Strategy. It incorporates all forms of child sexual abuse including harmful sexual behaviour, sexual exploitation, intra-familial, extra-familial, peer on peer, online and offline and different from the original plan, we have included adult</p>

			<p>survivors of childhood sexual abuse recognising the need to ensure their support needs are met and they are empowered to protect their own children and children in their communities/professional roles from sexual abuse.</p> <p>One of the key actions is to prevent child sexual abuse from taking place by raising awareness with communities, children and young people, parents/caregivers and volunteers and professionals about the different types and presentations of child sexual abuse and how to report their concerns.</p> <p>The other objectives in the Strategy seek to ensure earlier identification and intervention and promote the recovery of children who have experienced sexual abuse in whatever form.</p>
<p><i>Article 35 The Government should make sure that children are not abducted or sold.</i></p>	X		<p>Child sexual exploitation, modern slavery and child trafficking are all included in the Strategy though we work with other policy areas on modern slavery and trafficking. Actions include refreshing All Wales Practice Guides in relation to trafficking and developing a pathway for modern slavery which will include children who are enslaved in domestic servitude, forced labour and exploitation.</p>

<p><i>Article 36 Children should be protected from any activities that could harm their development.</i></p>	<p>X</p>		<p>The Strategy aims to protect children in the spaces they spend time e.g. offline and online. It includes actions to raise awareness of child sexual abuse and its impact and empower children to report any concerns they have. It also includes actions to address peer to peer sexual harassment and harmful sexual behaviour.</p>
<p><i>Article 39 Children who have been neglected or abused should receive special help to restore their self respect.</i></p>	<p>X</p>		<p>The Strategy aims to ensure equity of support for children and adult victim-survivors of child sexual abuse. This is linked to work being undertaken by Traumatic Stress Wales and the ACEs hub to develop an understanding of trauma informed practice across sectors so that all professionals supporting children understand and tailor their approaches to children based on this understanding. Trauma informed approaches will be incorporated into the training framework for CSA.</p>
<p><i>Article 42 – Governments should make the UNCRC convention known to children and parents.</i></p>	<p>X</p>		<p>There is an action in the delivery plan to work with policy teams in education to inform RSE lesson content and will include the existing embedded approach across multiple policy workstreams within the Welsh Government.</p> <p>Compliance with article 42 is achieved through education programmes in schools, the publication of accessible materials—such as child-friendly</p>

			<p>versions of the UNCRC—and collaboration with organisations like the Children’s Commissioner for Wales. Awareness-raising campaigns, resources in both English and Welsh, and training for professionals working with children ensure that information about children’s rights is widely disseminated.</p> <p>In addition, the Welsh Government integrates UNCRC principles into the school curriculum, encouraging teachers to discuss rights and responsibilities as part of everyday learning. Regular engagement with children and families, including consultations and feedback forums, provides opportunities to reinforce understanding of the Convention. By embedding the UNCRC within national policy and practice, the Welsh Government ensures that children and parents are not only informed of their rights but also supported in exercising them in daily life.</p>
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- **How will your analysis of these impacts inform your ministerial advice?**

Our assessment is that the ten-year strategy for Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse is expected to yield substantial positive outcomes for children and the adults who support them. The proposed measures will enhance equity of access, experiences, and outcomes for children and young people affected by sexual abuse, aligning with the five principles of ‘The Right Way’ (Children’s Commissioner for Wales). Furthermore, the strategy upholds the rights of children as set forth in the Articles of the UNCRC.

The overall policy intent of the proposals is to promote child well-being to reduce vulnerability to abuse, take actions to prevent abuse, set out requirements in relation

to protecting and responding to children who are at risk of or have experienced abuse, support the adults who care for and support them to recover.

The ten-year strategy will be published with a three-year delivery plan that sits beneath. Implementation and outcomes will be monitored through a structure that includes a Strategic Implementation and Oversight Board (chaired by Welsh Government), an internal Welsh Government policy advisory group to manage cross cutting issues, a children and young people's advisory group and a victim-survivors advisory group.

Feedback from children and young people has been incorporated into the Summary of Consultation Responses that has been published and reflected in the final version of the Strategy. A Children and Young People's, an Easy Read and BSL version of the Strategy will be published alongside the Strategy and delivery plan and this impact assessment.

During the lifetime of the Strategy, a summary of progress detailing what we have done in response to what the group has raised will be provided to the Children and Young People's Advisory Group annually. When using other methodologies for engaging and consulting e.g. surveys, events we will ensure that the 'You Said, We Did' pro forma is published and shared.

Regular opportunities to review and update the CRIA will occur, including:

- Annual summaries of progress.
- Comprehensive reviews of the progress made every three years.

Both processes may necessitate revisions to the Strategy document and delivery plan, thereby prompting a corresponding review of the CRIA. Officials in the Safeguarding and Advocacy team will be responsible for updating the CRIA when required. A website will be developed for the Strategy and associated work where all these documents will be accessible following updates in accessible formats.

Monitoring and Review

The CRIA has been updated following consultation and rapid review, however, we will review the CRIA every three years to ensure it remains aligned to the evaluation of the Strategy.