



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse in Wales – Delivery Plan

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2026-2029



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Introduction

This delivery plan supports Wales's national Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse (2026–2036). It sets out specific actions to be undertaken by the Welsh Government and partners to deliver the Strategy's vision and objectives.

The actions within this plan will be progressed over the next three years. The development of a short, focused plan enables regular reflection and evaluation, ensuring activity remains effective and aligned with our strategic objectives. Implementation of the actions will take an intersectional approach, recognising and responding to the specific needs of different populations.

To Note: To reflect ongoing learning and emerging themes, actions in the delivery plan will mature and develop over time.

This document should be read in conjunction with the Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse 2026–2036.

Our vision and strategic objectives

All children in Wales live their lives free from the harm of child sexual abuse and all those affected by child sexual abuse are protected and supported across their lifespan.

1

Preventing child sexual abuse

2

Protecting children when there are concerns about child sexual abuse

3

Supporting children, non-abusing parents /caregivers, siblings and other family members

4

Supporting adult victim-survivors

Section 1:

Delivering the strategy

– Governance and Structure

High level action	Who is leading the work	What we will do	When	Intended outcomes	Key delivery partners
1.1 Establish structured mechanisms to ensure collaboration between Welsh Government policy teams and UK Government for non-devolved matters to support delivery of strategy	Safeguarding and Advocacy team Welsh Government	Establish cross government policy advisory group and ensure policy cohesion	Year 1 on-wards	Cross-government collaboration to support delivery of strategy	Welsh Government
		Regularly engage with Home Office, Ministry of Justice, DfE, DoH and ensure cross government engagement	Year 1 on-wards		Home Office
		Identify opportunities for collaborative working across policy areas to achieve strategic vision	Year 1 on-wards		Ministry of Justice Department of Health Department of Education
1.2 Establish governance arrangements to monitor delivery and effectiveness of strategy delivery	Safeguarding and Advocacy team Welsh Government	Establish a Strategic Implementation and Oversight Board (SIO Board) with membership from key stakeholder partners	Year 1	Robust national accountability and transparency of delivery	Welsh Government
		Establish sub-groups/task and finish groups which will report to the SIO Board.	Year 1		Local Authorities
		Establish reporting mechanisms including to Ministers and publication of annual updates on progress	Year 1		Police Probation Service
		Develop and deliver a progress report for publication every three years that assess impact and identifies opportunities for continuous improvement.	Year 1-3		Youth Justice Health Boards Regional Safeguarding Boards Children's Commissioner for Wales Older People's Commissioner Academia

High level action	Who is leading the work	What we will do	When	Intended outcomes	Key delivery partners
<p>1.3 Establish mechanisms to ensure delivery is informed and guided by adult victim survivors</p>	<p>Safeguarding and Advocacy team Welsh Government</p>	<p>Establish an adult victim-survivors advisory group – established and supported in a way that is safe, ethical and trauma informed, appointing a Chair, Vice Chair and members with diverse lived experiences.</p> <p>Conduct engagement exercises with victim-survivor/lived experience expert groups across Wales.</p> <p>Advisory group to develop work plan to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributing to a practitioner programme • Shape priorities within the Strategy and Delivery plan • Advise on progress based on the group’s perspectives and delivery progress • Co-develop work plan for 2029–2032 	<p>Year 1 and 2</p> <p>Year 1 onwards</p> <p>Year 2 and 3</p>	<p>Delivery is informed and guided by adult victim-survivors’ lived experience</p>	<p>Welsh Government</p> <p>Third sector organisations supporting people who have been affected by child sexual abuse</p>

High level action	Who is leading the work	What we will do	When	Intended outcomes	Key delivery partners
<p>1.4 Establish mechanisms to ensure delivery is informed and guided by children and young people victim survivors</p>	<p>Safeguarding and Advocacy team Welsh Government</p>	<p>Establish a children and young people victim-survivors advisory group – established and supported in a way that is safe, ethical and trauma informed, appointing a Chair, Vice Chair and members with diverse lived experiences.</p>	<p>Year 1</p>	<p>Delivery is shaped and guided by children and young people</p>	<p>Welsh Government Third sector organisations supporting people who have been affected by child sexual abuse</p>
		<p>Conduct engagement exercises with victim-survivor/lived experience expert groups across Wales</p>	<p>Year 1 onwards</p>		
		<p>Advisory group to develop work plan to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributing to a practitioner programme • Shape priorities within the Strategy and Delivery plan • Advise on progress based on the group’s perspectives and delivery progress • Co-develop work plan for 2029–2032 	<p>Year 2 and 3</p>		

High level action	Who is leading the work	What we will do	When	Intended outcomes	Key delivery partners
<p>1.5 Develop a core data set for child sexual abuse that is used to inform the commissioning of services and development of practice in Wales</p>	<p>Safeguarding and Advocacy team Welsh Government</p>	<p>Establish a cross sector, and government task and finish group to improve data and reporting relating to child sexual abuse.</p> <p>Identify current data sets (national, regional and local) across partner organisations to identify the scale and prevalence of child sexual abuse.</p> <p>Identify gaps and make recommendations as to how those gaps could be addressed.</p> <p>Develop a route map detailing how and when these improvements to data collection and reporting will be made.</p>	<p>Year 1</p> <p>Year 1</p> <p>Year 1 and 2</p> <p>Year 1 and 2</p>	<p>National consistently collected dataset for child sexual abuse to demonstrate prevalence, scale, and nature.</p> <p>Agreed core data set in place for child sexual abuse to enable national analysis</p> <p>The commissioning of services and practice development is founded on reliable and standardised data sets.</p>	<p>National Independent Safeguarding Board</p> <p>Academia</p> <p>Regional Safeguarding Boards</p> <p>Home Office</p> <p>Ministry of Justice</p> <p>Policing in Wales</p> <p>Local authorities</p> <p>Local Health Boards</p> <p>Public Health Wales</p> <p>Third sector organisations supporting people who have been affected by child sexual abuse</p>

High level action	Who is leading the work	What we will do	When	Intended outcomes	Key delivery partners
<p>1.6 Hold a national conference end of 2028/29 to share learning from the first three years of the strategy</p>	<p>Safeguarding and Advocacy team, Welsh Government</p>	<p>Plan and deliver a national conference to be held end of 2028/beginning of 2029.</p> <p>Outputs from the conference to shape actions for the subsequent three-year delivery plan.</p>	<p>Year 2 and 3</p> <p>Year 3</p>	<p>Share learning and best practice to drive improvement</p>	<p>Welsh Government</p> <p>Regional Safeguarding Boards</p> <p>National Independent Safeguarding Board</p> <p>Statutory partners - local authorities, police, probation, youth justice and health boards and trusts</p> <p>Third sector organisations that support people who have been affected by child sexual abuse</p>

Section 2:

Preventing child sexual abuse

Long term outcomes we want to achieve:

- 1.** Create and maintain a culture of openness and understanding where everyone feels safe and confident to talk about all forms of child sexual abuse.
- 2.** Children and young people and adults around them are empowered to keep children safe from sexual abuse and know how to report concerns.
- 3.** Communities recognise, respond and report concerns of child sexual abuse.
- 4.** There is an effective response to those who sexually abuse children, or who have thoughts of sexually abusing children that prevents further harm.

High level action	Who is leading the work	What we will do	When	Intended outcomes	Key delivery partners
2.1 Develop a communication and engagement plan that explains how we will meet the awareness raising needs of all audiences we need to reach.	Prevent Workstream group	Work with key stakeholders to identify all target audiences, including those with protected characteristics, children, young people, parents, caregivers, unpaid carers, and seldom-heard groups.	Year 1	Robust understanding of the groups we want to engage and how we will do this; we have identified resources currently available that can be shared with these groups in a format that meets their needs; we have identified what is missing and developed and launched resources to address these gaps.	Welsh Government
		Develop and publish a Communication and Engagement Plan.	Year 1		Children and young people's advisory group
		Map resources currently available to these audiences, including in what format they are available and if this meets their needs.	Year 1		Adult victim-survivors advisory group
		Identify gaps and prioritise resources that need to be created to address these gaps.	Year 1 and 2		Parents/caregivers and siblings
		Centralise existing resources already available.	Year 2 onwards		Regional Safeguarding Boards
		Ensure all resources are bilingual and available in formats that meet the needs of people with protected characteristics, for example, Easy Read, BSL.	Year 2 onwards		National Independent Safeguarding Board
		Engage with diverse communities to understand cultural and language sensitivities around child sexual abuse.	Year 2 onwards		Statutory partners – local authorities, police, probation, youth justice and health boards and trusts
		Develop targeted resources for specific vulnerable groups, such as children with disabilities, looked after children and children who have a parent that has been arrested/convicted of online abuse/exploitation/CSAM offences.	Year 2 onwards		Third sector organisations that support people who have been affected by child sexual abuse
				Welsh Government BSL Stakeholder group.	
				Welsh Government Disability Rights group	

High level action	Who is leading the work	What we will do	When	Intended outcomes	Key delivery partners
2.1	Prevent Workstream group	<p>Explore creating child sexual abuse prevention ambassadors within each community who can continue to support the dissemination of information and resources (e.g. town council, victim-survivors' groups or local voluntary community organisations).</p> <p>Conduct a thorough evaluation of resource effectiveness and impact, include partner organisations and children and young people's feedback, adult victim-survivors feedback, data and other information.</p> <p>Use these findings to inform the triennial progress report, changes to the strategy and develop actions for the delivery plan for 2029-2032.</p> <p>Review and revise the Communication and Engagement Plan to reflect any learning from the first 3 years.</p>	<p>Year 3 onwards</p> <p>Year 3 onwards</p> <p>Mid-Year 3 onwards</p> <p>Year 3</p>	<p>Robust understanding of the groups we want to engage and how we will do this, we have identified resources currently available that can be shared with these groups in a format that meets their needs, we have identified what is missing and developed and launched resources to address these gaps.</p>	<p>Welsh Government</p> <p>Children and young people's advisory group</p> <p>Adult victim-survivors advisory group</p> <p>Parents/caregivers and siblings</p> <p>Regional Safeguarding Boards</p> <p>National Independent Safeguarding Board</p> <p>Statutory partners - local authorities, police, probation, youth justice and health boards and trusts</p> <p>Third sector organisations that support people who have been affected by child sexual abuse</p> <p>Welsh Government BSL Stakeholder group.</p> <p>Welsh Government Disability Rights group</p>

High level action	Who is leading the work	What we will do	When	Intended outcomes	Key delivery partners
<p>2.2 Develop and launch national and local campaigns to raise awareness about the prevalence of child sexual abuse, the harm it can cause, how to identify and report concerns.</p>	<p>Prevent workstream group</p>	<p>Develop a central webpage to hold all resources, strategy document, delivery plans, guidance, links to written statements and other products.</p> <p>Deliver awareness raising campaigns and evaluate their outcomes.</p> <p>Use these findings to inform the triennial progress report and develop actions for the delivery plan for 2029-2032.</p>	<p>Year 1 and 2</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Year 3</p>	<p>Raised awareness across Wales about the forms of sexual abuse that happen to children, the harm it can cause, how to identify indicators of child sexual abuse and exploitation and how to report concerns.</p>	<p>Children and Young People’s Advisory Group</p> <p>Adult Victim-survivors Advisory group</p> <p>Welsh Government</p> <p>Regional Safeguarding Boards</p> <p>National Independent Safeguarding Board</p> <p>Statutory partners – local authorities, police, probation, youth justice and health boards and trusts</p> <p>Third sector organisations that support people who have been affected by child sexual abuse</p> <p>Welsh Government BSL Stakeholder group.</p> <p>Welsh Government Disability Rights group</p>

High level action	Who is leading the work	What we will do	When	Intended outcomes	Key delivery partners
<p>2.3 Work with education and childcare policy to raise the awareness of professionals and volunteers in relation to the healthy sexual development of children</p>	<p>Prevent workstream group</p>	<p>Identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> public facing materials and centralise these resources with other resources for children and young people, parents/caregivers and professionals. other awareness raising activity being undertaken and training being delivered. Map gaps and address. 	<p>Year 2 onwards</p> <p>Year 2 onwards</p>	<p>Professionals and volunteers have a robust understanding of healthy sexual development that supports them to respond effectively to concerns raised about inappropriate/unhealthy behaviours</p>	<p>Welsh Government</p> <p>Regional Safeguarding Boards</p> <p>National Independent Safeguarding Board</p> <p>Statutory partners – local authorities, police, probation, youth justice and health boards and trusts</p> <p>Third sector organisations that support people who have been affected by child sexual abuse</p>

High level action	Who is leading the work	What we will do	When	Intended outcomes	Key delivery partners
<p>2.4 Engage with organisations and bodies to develop a better understanding of adults who have thoughts about sexually abusing children and the services available to support them</p>	<p>Prevent workstream group</p>	<p>Conduct a comprehensive scoping exercise to ensure a robust picture of people accessing support.</p>	<p>Year 1</p>	<p>Better understanding of adults who have thoughts about sexually abusing children, their needs and how they are being supported that will enable us to plan and shape support services required across Wales.</p>	<p>Welsh Government</p>
		<p>Develop a resource directory that can be offered to support people who have thoughts of harming children.</p>	<p>Year 2</p>	<p>Adults in Wales who have thoughts of sexually abusing children receive timely and proportionate support to prevent any harmful escalation to abuse.</p> <p>Adults in Wales who have sexually abused and harmed children will receive the support and help that they need.</p>	<p>Regional Safeguarding Boards</p> <p>National Independent Safeguarding Board</p> <p>Statutory partners – local authorities, police, probation, youth justice and health boards and trusts</p> <p>National Independent Safeguarding Board</p> <p>Statutory partners – local authorities, police, probation, youth justice and health boards and trusts</p> <p>Internet Watch Foundation</p>

Section 3:

Protecting children and responding effectively when there are concerns about child sexual abuse

Long term outcomes we want to achieve:

- 1.** All professionals have child sexual abuse training at a level appropriate to their roles and can identify and respond to sexual abuse, can support children and their families and assess and manage risks associated with sexual abuse.
- 2.** Parents and caregivers receive timely support if their child is at risk of child sexual abuse, is or has been sexually abused or is engaging in harmful sexual behaviour.
- 3.** There is a consistent multi-agency response to concerns of child sexual abuse across Wales.
- 4.** Professionals can access specialist advice to support their work with children, families and adult victims-survivors.
- 5.** Children and young people know they will be seen, heard and understood if they are being sexually abused or feel at risk of child sexual abuse.

High level action	Who is leading the work	What we will do	When	Intended outcomes	Key delivery partners
3.1 Support practitioners to access expert advice about child sexual abuse and exploitation when required	Protect workstream group	Scope:		All practitioners can access expert advice on child sexual abuse to improve support and outcomes for children and families.	Welsh Government Regional Safeguarding Boards National Independent Safeguarding Board Statutory partners - local authorities, police, probation, youth justice and health boards and trusts Third sector organisations that support people who have been affected by child sexual abuse
		• current arrangements in place in Wales for accessing expert child sexual abuse advice.	Year 1		
		• potential of establishing child sexual abuse expert hubs (virtual) with key stakeholders.	Year 1		
		• the costs that would be associated with establishing such arrangements including the development and implementation of an All-Wales Lead Practitioner Programme.	Year 1		
Scoping report recommendations to inform next steps as to how access to expert advice about child sexual abuse can be strengthened.	Year 2				
3.2 Develop and implement a nationally agreed pathway for responding to child sexual abuse and exploitation	Safeguarding and Advocacy team Welsh Government	Establish a cross-sector group to be chaired by Safeguarding and Advocacy team, Welsh Government.	Year 1	A national pathway for responding to child sexual abuse is accessible to all professionals and provides clear, advice and guidance that is well understood and this improves the consistency of the multi-agency response across Wales.	Welsh Government Regional Safeguarding Boards National Independent Safeguarding Board Statutory partners - local authorities, police, probation, youth justice and health boards and trusts Third sector organisations that support people who have been affected by child sexual abuse
		Engage more widely with stakeholders across sectors.	Year 1		
		Assess the costs associated with developing an interactive pathway and provide recommendations for subsequent actions.	Year 1		

High level action	Who is leading the work	What we will do	When	Intended outcomes	Key delivery partners
3.3 Review all national policy, procedures and practice guidance (Welsh Government Guidance and Wales Safeguarding Procedures) relating to the sexual abuse of children, to assess progress made, outcomes achieved and impact in practice and identify further actions required to raise awareness, further develop, implement and embed in practice	Protect Workstream group	Review the effectiveness of the implementation of policy documents, procedures and practice guidance currently available and refine if required.	Year 1	Robust understanding of the effectiveness of the implementation of child sexual abuse policy and procedures. Identified and taken further actions to ensure good practice continues and we have a plan in place to ensure policies and procedures remain live to developing issues.	Welsh Government
		Identify and carry out additional actions to increase awareness, continue development, implement, and firmly establish these practices.	Year 1 and 2		National Independent Safeguarding Board
		Develop, launch and centralise any additional/ amended supporting resources for practitioners.	Year 2		Regional Safeguarding Boards
		Develop and implement a maintenance plan to ensure policies and procedures remain live to developing issues.	Year 2 onwards		Office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales
					Office of the Older People's Commissioner for Wales
					Statutory organisations
					Third sector organisations
					Inspectorates
					Academics/ researchers

High level action	Who is leading the work	What we will do	When	Intended outcomes	Key delivery partners
<p>3.4 Implement the training framework for child sexual abuse developed by the Centre of Expertise for Child Sexual Abuse in a Welsh context</p>	<p>Safeguarding and Advocacy team Welsh Government</p>	<p>Establish a cross-sector task and finish group to implement, monitor and evaluate.</p> <p>Consult stakeholders to confirm the framework meets training needs.</p>	<p>Year 1 onwards</p> <p>Year 1 onwards</p>	<p>Every professional and volunteer in Wales has access to a rolling programme of training on child sexual abuse, that is live to new issues as they develop, accessible in different formats and commensurate with the role the person undertakes.</p>	<p>Welsh Government</p> <p>Regional Safeguarding Boards</p> <p>Social Care Wales</p> <p>Care Inspectorate Wales</p> <p>Healthcare Inspectorate Wales</p> <p>Estyn</p> <p>National Independent Safeguarding Board</p> <p>Statutory partners – local authorities, police, probation, youth justice and health boards and trusts</p> <p>Third sector organisations that support people who have been affected by child sexual abuse</p> <p>Social Care Wales and other workforce regulators</p>

High level action	Who is leading the work	What we will do	When	Intended outcomes	Key delivery partners
3.5 Develop/source training, supervision, and reflective practice materials to support practitioners working with those affected by child sexual abuse	Protect workstream group	Scope the resources that are currently accessible to specialist practitioners to aid their work with children and families. Explore the potential requirement for sector-specific task and finish groups that contribute input to this process.	Year 1 and 2	Practitioners and managers can access a range of materials to support them in working with children and young people, non-abusing parents/caregivers, siblings and other family members who have been affected by child sexual abuse.	Welsh Government
		Identify required developments, prioritise and add actions to delivery plan to address.	Year 1 and 2		Regional Safeguarding Boards
		Centralise evidence-based resources on web page and develop further materials to support practitioner/manager understanding.	Year 2 and 3		National Independent Safeguarding Board
					Statutory partners – local authorities, police, probation, youth justice and health boards and trusts
					Third sector organisations that support people who have been affected by child sexual abuse
					Traumatic Stress Wales

Section 4:

Supporting Children, Young People, non-abusing parents/caregivers and siblings

Long term outcomes we want to achieve:

1. All children and young people who have been affected by child sexual abuse will have access to appropriate and timely support that meets their needs.
2. All services and practitioners can provide the right support at the right time to children, young people and those around them who have been affected by child sexual abuse.
3. Families and those around children and young people who have been affected by child sexual abuse have access to support that meets their needs.

High level action	Who is leading the work	What we will do	When	Intended outcomes	Key delivery partners
<p>4.1 Develop a detailed picture of support provision available to children and young people, non-abusing parents/caregivers, siblings and other family members in Wales, including children who have a parent that has been arrested/convicted of online abuse/exploitation/CSAM offences.</p>	<p>Support for children and families workstream group</p>	<p>Map available support and funding mechanisms.</p> <p>Prepare a needs analysis and recommendations on service provision.</p> <p>Develop and publish commissioning guidance.</p>	<p>Year 1</p> <p>Year 1 and 2</p> <p>Year 3</p>	<p>Clear picture of support provision available for children and young people, siblings and non-abusing parents/caregivers that will inform the future commissioning of support services across Wales.</p>	<p>Welsh Government</p> <p>Regional Safeguarding Boards</p> <p>National Independent Safeguarding Board</p> <p>Statutory partners - local authorities, police, probation, youth justice and health boards and trusts</p> <p>Third sector organisations that support people who have been affected by child sexual abuse</p> <p>Parents/caregivers, siblings</p>

High level action	Who is leading the work	What we will do	When	Intended outcomes	Key delivery partners
<p>4.2 Map advice and guidance for children, young people (including those who have a parent that has been arrested/convicted of online abuse/exploitation/CSAM offences), non-abusing parents/caregivers and siblings who have been affected by child sexual abuse</p>	<p>Support for children and families workstream group.</p>	<p>Map advice and guidance available, particularly around the criminal courts and family courts, for children, young people, siblings and for non-abusing parents/caregivers.</p> <p>Centralise resources with other resources for families, identify gaps and develop resources to meet the identified gaps.</p>	<p>Year 1</p> <p>Year 2 and 3</p>	<p>All children, young people affected, non-abusing parents/caregivers and siblings will be able to access information that supports them to access their rights and get the support they need at the time they need it.</p>	<p>Adult victim-survivors advisory group</p> <p>Children and young people's advisory group.</p> <p>Welsh Government</p> <p>Criminal and family courts</p> <p>CAFCASS Cymru</p> <p>Statutory organisations - local authorities, police, probation, youth justice and health boards and trusts</p> <p>Third sector organisations that support people who have been affected by child sexual abuse</p>

High level action	Who is leading the work	What we will do	When	Intended outcomes	Key delivery partners
<p>4.3 Work with other workstream groups to ensure that a trauma informed, whole family support approach underpins all training and awareness raising</p>	<p>Support for children and families workstream group.</p>	<p>Ensure that trauma-informed approaches are central to the planning and delivery of all supportive interventions in Wales.</p>	<p>Year 1-3</p>	<p>Trauma informed approaches are promoted and integral to the work being delivered under the strategy.</p>	<p>Welsh Government</p> <p>Statutory organisations – local authorities, police, probation, youth justice and health boards and trusts</p> <p>Third sector organisations that support people who have been affected by child sexual abuse</p>

Section 5:

Supporting adult victim-survivors

Long term outcomes we want to achieve:

- 1.** Creating and maintaining a culture of openness and understanding, and an environment where adults feel safe and confident to talk about sexual abuse that happened to them when they were children.
- 2.** All young people and their families affected by sexual abuse are given access to support across their transition into adulthood and beyond.
- 3.** All services and practitioners provide the right support at the right time to adults who have been affected by sexual abuse as children or young people.

High level action	Who is leading the work	What we will do	When	Intended outcomes	Key delivery partners
<p>5.1 Establish a Routine Enquiry project group to develop and roll out training to help all practitioners to routinely ask about child sexual abuse with adults.</p>	<p>Support for adults workstream group</p>	<p>Establish a task and finish group to establish what routine enquiry training is available in the UK and undertake an evaluation of existing Ask the Question/Routine Enquiry projects.</p> <p>In collaboration with partners, design an All-Wales Ask the Question/Routine Enquiry training programme that will be delivered consistently across Wales.</p> <p>Roll-out plan for Ask the Question/Routine Enquiry across Wales.</p>	<p>Year 1</p> <p>Year 1 and 2</p> <p>Year 3</p>	<p>All practitioners working with adults in Wales will have the knowledge, confidence and skills to ask sensitively and routinely about child sexual abuse</p> <p>The right support will be provided at the right time to adults who have been affected by sexual abuse.</p>	<p>Victim-survivors advisory group</p> <p>Victim-survivor groups across Wales</p> <p>Welsh Government</p> <p>Regional Safeguarding Boards</p> <p>Statutory organisations - local authorities, police, probation, youth justice and health boards and trusts</p> <p>Third sector organisations that support people who have been affected by child sexual abuse</p>

High level action	Who is leading the work	What we will do	When	Intended outcomes	Key delivery partners
5.2 Develop guidance for local authorities about eligibility criteria, care and support for adult victim-survivors of child sexual abuse, including situational capacity.	Support for adults workstream group	Collaborate with local authorities on developing guidance, including eligibility criteria for accessing care and support for adult victim-survivors and considerations of situational capacity.	Year 1	Adult social care services are clear about their role and responsibilities towards adult survivors of child sexual abuse under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. The right support will be provided at the right time to adults who have been affected by sexual abuse.	Victim-survivors advisory group
		Develop the guidance and implement its rollout throughout Wales.	Year 1 and 2		Victim-survivor groups across Wales
		Assess if the guidance is well-integrated and effectively used, and review as needed.	Year 3		Regional Safeguarding Boards
					Statutory organisations - local authorities, police, probation, youth justice and health boards and trusts
					Third sector organisations that support people who have been affected by child sexual abuse

High level action	Who is leading the work	What we will do	When	Intended outcomes	Key delivery partners
5.3 Identify unmet service needs for adult survivors of child sexual abuse in Wales and conduct a needs analysis to recommend actions further actions.	Support for adults workstream group	Engage with victims-survivors and family members affected by child sexual abuse to establish what works and what matters in recovery support	Year 1 onwards	Comprehensive understanding and baseline about the provision of recovery, counselling and support services for adult survivors of child sexual abuse Commissioners will be well informed about the needs of adult survivors and what provision is available in their areas' Adult survivors of child sexual abuse in Wales can access counselling and related support services that will help with healing and recovery when required	Victim-survivors advisory group
		Map available support services and how they are funded.	Year 1 and 2		Victim-survivor groups across Wales Welsh Government
		Produce a needs analysis and recommendations for Welsh Government and Regional Safeguarding Boards about service provision for adult survivors of child sexual abuse.	Year 2		Regional Safeguarding Boards Providers
		Support young people who have exhibited harmful sexual behaviours as children to transition to adulthood by ensuring access to specialist support to guide assessments of their parenting capacity	Year 3		Statutory organisations - local authorities, police, probation, youth justice and health boards and trusts Third sector organisations that support people who have been affected by child sexual abuse

High level action	Who is leading the work	What we will do	When	Intended outcomes	Key delivery partners
<p>5.4 Collaborate with forums across Wales to support adult victim-survivors.</p>	<p>Support for adults workstream group</p>	<p>Establish a small planning team to bring those groups together to scope the potential for establishing an adult victim-survivor network in Wales and develop a plan to put in place if this is agreed.</p> <p>Design an All-Wales victim-survivor of child sexual abuse networking event to plan future activity.</p>	<p>Year 2 and 3</p> <p>Year 3</p>	<p>The strategy will be developed and implemented with victim-survivors of child sexual abuse as its core, ensuring their voices are heard throughout the process.</p>	<p>Victim-survivors advisory group</p> <p>Victim-survivor groups across Wales</p> <p>Welsh Government</p> <p>Regional Safeguarding Boards</p> <p>Statutory organisations - local authorities, police, probation, youth justice and health boards and trusts</p> <p>Third sector organisations that support people who have been affected by child sexual abuse</p>

Actions from wider Welsh Government strategies and action plans that are relevant to achieving our vision and strategic objectives

NB: These are not the only Welsh Government strategies and action plans that relate, but they are those most closely related to the strategy for Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse. Wider relevant policy areas are included in the strategy document.

Relevant strategy /action plan	Intention	How it relates to the vision and strategic objectives of our strategy and how we will manage the cross overs
<p>Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) – blueprint high level action plan</p> <p>(Relevant to strategic objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4 of this strategy)</p>	<p>Challenge the public attitude to violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence across the Welsh population through awareness raising and space for public discussion with the aim to decrease its occurrence.</p>	<p>Whilst the VAWDASV strategy involves addressing all aspects of interrelationship abuse it is important to note that child sexual abuse is a form of sexual violence. Therefore, the VAWDASV strategy correlates directly with the national strategy for Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse 2026–2036.</p>
	<p>Increase awareness in children, young people and adults of the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships and empowering them to positive personal choices.</p>	<p>There are opportunities for us to collaborate on public awareness raising of sexual violence, raising awareness with children and young people and promoting healthy relationships, all of which sit in our Preventing Child Sexual Abuse workstream, particularly high-level actions 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3.</p>
	<p>Increase the focus on holding those who commit abuse to account and supporting those who may carry out abusive or violent behaviour to change their behaviour and avoid offending.</p>	<p>Both strategies aim to hold people to account for abusive behaviour and prevent offending so there are some synergy and potential for some people to perpetrate sexual violence/ abuse against children and young people and adults. Research tells us there is a strong correlation between domestic abuse and other forms of abuse like child sexual abuse. It is important therefore for each policy area to be sighted on the work being completed to address abusive behaviours.</p>
	<p>Make early intervention and prevention a priority.</p>	<p>Two of our four strategic objectives relate to support – 3) support children, non-abusing parents/caregivers, siblings and other family members; and 4) support adult victim-survivors.</p>
	<p>Relevant professionals are trained to provide effective, timely and appropriate responses to victims and survivors.</p>	<p>There is a clear relationship with the VAWDASV objective to provide support for those who have been affected by sexual violence. Both strategies cover the lifespan.</p>
	<p>Provide all victims with equal access to appropriately resourced, high quality, needs-led, strength-based, inter-sectional and responsive services across ales.</p>	<p>We will manage the relationship between these strategies by ensuring VAWDASV policy is represented on the internal policy advisory group, the Strategic Implementation and Oversight Board and relevant workstream groups.</p> <p>Equally, representatives from the Safeguarding and Advocacy policy team will continue to attend the VAWDASV workstream groups for children and young people and older people.</p> <p>We are currently exploring the idea of a shared Children and Young People’s Advisory group.</p>

Relevant strategy /action plan	Intention	How it relates to the vision and strategic objectives of our strategy and how we will manage the cross overs
<p>Peer on peer sexual harassment plan published January 2024</p> <p>(Relevant to strategic objectives 1 and 2 of this strategy)</p>	<p>The Peer-on-peer sexual harassment action plan outlines the actions the Welsh Government, working with partners, are undertaking to prevent and respond to the issue of peer-on-peer sexual harassment and harmful sexual behaviour in education settings. A fundamental part of this work is supporting education settings and the wider school community to understand their roles and responsibilities in creating a safe learning environment - one where all children and young people are protected and where peer on peer sexual harassment is consistently identified, challenged and addressed.</p>	<p>Peer on peer sexual harassment is a way of describing children and young people exhibiting Harmful Sexual Behaviours to other children and young people. Though this Action Plan is specific to education settings, there are considerable synergies across both strategies in relation to addressing harmful sexual behaviours using a whole family, trauma informed approach.</p> <p>Under our strategic objective Preventing child sexual abuse, we aim to promote information for professionals about healthy sexual development and raise awareness of healthy relationships with children and young people. There is considerable potential for us to work across these areas to learn from each other and identify opportunities to collaborate and coproduce advice and information for various groups that require it.</p> <p>We have already committed in this delivery plan to working with colleagues in the RSE policy team to ensure that children and young people are provided with the right information to enable them to identify risk and report concerns to a trusted adult but also to ensure that the professionals who deliver these programmes have access to advice, information and resources that support them.</p> <p>RSE policy officials and officials from Digital Resilience, Safeguarding in Education, Additional Learning Needs and Education otherwise than at school will be part of the internal policy advisory group and participate in relevant workstream groups. This collaborative cross policy working will ensure a cohesive approach to tackling all forms of child sexual abuse.</p> <p>We will ensure that the Young People’s Advisory Group established under this Action Plan will be included in any wider consultation we undertake about child sexual abuse and that the Children and Young People’s Advisory group we will be establishing will maintain regular contact with the other group.</p> <p>The Safeguarding and Advocacy team that leads on the strategy for child sexual abuse have contributed to ongoing reviews of statutory guidance for the education sector including the Handling Allegations Guidance, Keeping Learners Safe Guidance and Anti-Bullying Guidance.</p> <p>It will continue to be essential to ensure that when strategies, action plans, campaigns, guidance and other resources are developed or revised, that relate to safeguarding children from sexual abuse of any kind, that the relevant workstream group under this strategy be involved. This will ensure that these documents have been developed in conjunction with experts in the field and strengthen cohesion across policy areas.</p>

Relevant strategy /action plan	Intention	How it relates to the vision and strategic objectives of our strategy and how we will manage the cross overs
<p>Peer on peer sexual harassment plan published January 2024</p> <p>(Relevant to strategic objectives 1 and 2 of this strategy)</p>	<p>This action plan incorporates actions being taken to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the recommendations of Estyn’s report following a thematic review into experiences of peer-on-peer sexual harassment among pupils in secondary schools in Wales, published in December 2021 • the CYPE Committee inquiry into peer-on-peer sexual harassment, published in 2022 • the recommendations of Estyn’s report following a thematic review into peer-on-peer sexual harassment in FEIs, published in June 2023. 	<p>Two significant actions within this delivery plan will support professionals in education settings: the first is the development of a training framework for child sexual abuse; and the second is the work on ensuring professionals have access to specialist child sexual abuse advice when they need it.</p> <p>We aim to centralise all evidence-based child sexual abuse tools/resources/links from a range of sources for parents/caregivers, children and young people and professionals in a website we will develop that will include all information about the strategy. This will also include links to cross over strategies, action plans and resources, the strategy delivery plans and progress reports.</p> <p>In the strategy we have recognised that there are some groups of children who are at a higher risk of experiencing sexual abuse. This includes disabled children, children with additional learning needs, LGBTQ+ young people and neurodivergent children. When reviewing resources available and identifying the gaps we will also be considering whether the information meets the needs of all children and parents/caregivers and will develop further resources if required to ensure they are accessible to everyone who needs them.</p>

Relevant strategy /action plan	Intention	How it relates to the vision and strategic objectives of our strategy and how we will manage the cross overs
<p>Enhancing digital resilience in education: An action plan to protect children and young people online</p> <p>(Relevant to strategic objectives 1 and 2 of this strategy)</p> <p>Enhancing digital resilience in education: An action plan to protect children and young people online - Hwb</p>	<p>The Enhancing Digital Resilience in Education action plan sets out the work we are leading to help protect children and young people from illegal, harmful and misleading content online, while promoting safe, responsible and respectful behaviour.</p> <p>These actions support our mission to strengthen safeguarding practices and empower the whole school community to work together in addressing online safety issues.</p> <p>A core element of this action plan is the provision of advice and support. Through collaboration with expert partners, local authorities, schools and our Keeping Safe Online youth group, we continually review and develop the Keeping Safe Online area of Hwb. This ensures that schools, practitioners, learners and their families have access to up to date guidance and resources that reflect emerging online trends and challenges.</p>	<p>Several of the actions in this Action Plan feature in the Peer-on-Peer Sexual Harassment Action Plan as well. To avoid repetition, we have only added any outstanding information in this section.</p> <p>Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA) is an area that continues to grow. Data shows that the number of young people becoming involved with police due to these kinds of issues is also growing. It is critical that we remain live to issues that continue to emerge around this form of child sexual abuse and exploitation.</p> <p>The Digital Resilience Team in Education policy work on a regular basis with several key organisations e.g. Internet Matters, Internet Watch Foundation, National Crime Agency (CEOP Education), UK Safer Internet Centre and others. By including representatives from this policy area in our workstream groups, combined with experts working in the field, we can ensure that we maintain an up-to-date knowledge and adapt to changes promptly.</p>

Relevant strategy /action plan	Intention	How it relates to the vision and strategic objectives of our strategy and how we will manage the cross overs
<p>Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2035</p> <p>(Relevant to strategic objectives 2, 3 and 4 of this strategy)</p>	<p>Work towards Wales becoming a trauma informed nation, by building an individual, community, and organisational understanding of trauma and adversity, its prevalence, impact on people, communities, and services, and how we can all support those affected by trauma.</p>	<p>The work being undertaken under the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2035 relates to embedding trauma informed practice, across organisations and the public, aims to improve access to mental health service provision across a spectrum of need and embeds a strengths-based approach to mental health.</p>
	<p>Develop a new approach to delivering early intervention care, with a view to introducing same day open access psychological care based on single session approaches accessible across Wales at the point of need.</p>	<p>Embedding a trauma informed approach is critical in reducing stigma and improving the response to people who are affected by child sexual abuse. Victim-survivors whether children or adults may approach professionals from any service or organisation and want to disclose their experiences. That first response is important and can set the tone for all other professional interactions. That is why the training strategy for child sexual abuse that we will be developing will include materials on trauma informed ways of responding.</p>
	<p>Further develop a model of community mental health support that is recovery orientated.</p>	<p>People who have been affected by child sexual abuse can develop mental health and/or wellbeing issues because of the trauma they have experienced. We also know that many victim-survivors and their families report difficulties in navigating the mental health provision that is available. This strategy also promotes a recovery-oriented focus.</p>
	<p>Improve Access to Psychological Interventions and Therapies. This will include a focus on common mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression as well as supporting people with psychosis, bipolar disorder and conditions arising from trauma and people with long term physical health conditions.</p>	

NB: Annual summaries of progress will be provided to Ministers and made publicly available on the website. Actions in the delivery plan will be matured over the next three years to reflect learning.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse in Wales – Delivery Plan

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