



January 2024

The VKPP Bulletin

Coordinating and improving the policing response to vulnerability

Welcome to the January edition of The VKPP Bulletin from the Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme designed, to keep you updated with our work.

There's a lot to look forward to in 2024 and the team have been busy over the last few months improving the policing response to vulnerability and public protection as it continues to evolve nationally.

Work in the VKPP is pushing on at pace with regards to developing a National Policing Vulnerability Strategy which builds upon the approaches advocated in the National Vulnerability Action Plan and insight from Soteria, VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) and other national programmes. There is an interlinked deep dive on governance around vulnerability and public protection, with nine visits to forces planned between January and March. This in combination with the professionalising public protection work commenced by the College of Policing, which we are contributing to. Together these presents significant opportunities to simplify and join up the current operating landscape and the support which is on offer.

If you haven't already done so, please do sign up to our annual conference which takes place on the 7th - 8th March, in collaboration with the Hydrant Programme and Tackling Organised Exploitation (TOEX) programme. You can find all the details further details below.

You may have seen we had a busy start to 2024 with the publication of a ground-breaking new report: The National Analysis of Police-Recorded Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Crimes (CSAE) Report 2022. You can view it [here](#).

The report has attracted considerable coverage in the national media and beyond, and we are grateful for stakeholders in amplifying the findings and keeping the conversations around the harms that children face centre-stage in the policy, practice, and public narrative.

Following publication key work is now being taken forward with

partners and stakeholders to improve the prevention, disruption, and investigation of these appalling crimes against children.

In April 2024 the VKPP will be making an exciting transition to join the College of Policing with significant opportunities to build and enhance our combined existing offer. We both share the same vision in supporting policing, partners, and stakeholders to improve the response to vulnerability, reducing threat and harm, as well as increasing trust and confidence, especially for victims.

The move is a testament of the scope and ambition of the work that we undertake and the impact we seek to achieve in the vulnerability space, and we would like to thank all those involved in supporting the transition.

We will keep you updated on developments as the year unfolds.

Gareth Edwards, Director of VKPP



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The National Analysis of Police-Recorded Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Crimes (CSAE) Report 2022

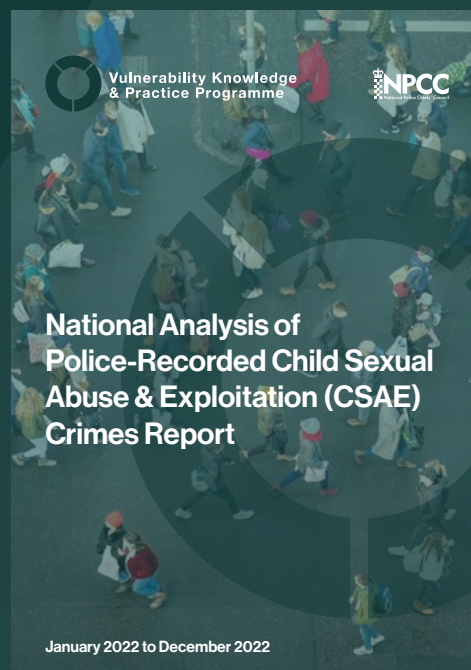
For the first time, this new analysis from the VKPP sets out publicly a clear, detailed picture of reported Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSAE) crimes across England and Wales.

Published on 10 January 2024 and based on datasets collected from 42 police forces, this national snapshot gives insight and analysis into the scale and nature of CSAE, trends in offending, including crime types, where they were committed, and presents profiles of both victims and perpetrators.

- There were around 107,000 offences reported in 2022 – a 7.6% increase compared to 2021, nearly quadruple what it is was 10 years ago. Evidence continues to suggest many crimes remains unreported.
- 52% of CSAE offences were committed by children, a significant increase from what was previously known.
- The report also shows that over a third of CSAE contact crimes take place within the family environment.
- Group-based CSAE accounts for 5% of all identified and reported CSAE.

We have also produced a short animation that distils the main findings - [here](#).

To learn more about the key findings and to read the report in full [here](#).



Vulnerability and Exploitation Conference 2024 – registrations still open

There is still time to register for The National Vulnerability and Exploitation Conference taking place on **Thursday 7 and Friday 8 March 2024**, hosted by the Hydrant Programme, Tackling Organised Exploitation (TOEX) Programme and Vulnerability, Knowledge, and Practice Programme (VKPP).

The conference would benefit **investigators/practitioners** or those who are involved in developing, shaping and **leading** safeguarding and public protection responses. The conference would also benefit those in the **research community** who are leading, commissioning, and undertaking research in this area.

Delegates will be able to attend the conference either **in-person for free** (accommodation is not included), at the College of Policing in Ryton, or **virtually**.

We already have an exciting range of inputs from victims and survivors, as well as key-note speakers, both internal and external to policing. These include Ian Critchley QPM, NPCC lead for child protection, Nicola Haywood, head of Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Organised Child Sexual Abuse Unit, Annie Hudson, Chair of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and Simon Bailey QPM, reflecting on system changes.

The National Association for People Abused in Childhood (NAPAC) are hosting a workshop as part of a wider input on what justice means to victims/

survivors and the Football Association are taking part in a panel reflecting on their experiences of policing, the criminal justice system and the impacts their abuse had on their lives. Findings from Year 2 VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) STRA (Strategic Threat Risk Assessment) will be presented, and attendees asked to consider the 'so what' and how the findings can support local activity.

As in-person delegate places are limited, we encourage anyone who is interested to register as soon as possible via the link below.

For more details and to register for the conference, please use the following link: [Vulnerability and Exploitation Conference 2024 \(swoogo.com\)](https://www.swoogo.com)



Domestic Homicide Report year 3



The VKPP's Domestic Homicide Project team are finalising the year 3 report and are aiming to publish in February 2024. The report focusses on how policing can improve its response to domestic abuse and domestic homicide and presents ground-breaking new work on victim suicide after domestic abuse.

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Annual Report



Following the establishment of a new partnership with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel in August 2023, the Data Insights Team at the VKPP have been busily working on analysis of rapid reviews and local child safeguarding practice reviews which will be featured in the Panel's Annual Report being released shortly.

Stakeholder News

Support Matters: The landscape of child sexual abuse support services in England and Wales – Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse – 22 January 2024

The CSA Centre has published a comprehensive report on the provision and availability of support for children and adults affected by child sexual abuse. The report is available on [CSA website](#) and reported on [BBC website](#).

The research provides important insights into the landscape of child sexual abuse support services in England and Wales today and the challenges they face:

- Estimates that more than 55,000 people in England and Wales are currently held on waiting lists for support following child sexual abuse.
- Waiting times for services for children who have been sexually abused look to have more than doubled since 2015.
- On average, victims/survivors, both children and adults, are now waiting six months for much-needed support and one in nine support services hold waiting lists extending over a year.



NSPCC Helpline

The NSPCC launched a campaign alongside the Home Office to help tackle child sexual abuse across the UK and raise awareness of the NSPCC Helpline. The NSPCC is calling for people to contact the Helpline if they are concerned a child might be experiencing sexual abuse or could be at risk. The campaign includes a film for professionals explaining how to use the Helpline. To read more visit [NSPCC News](#)

Conference PIER24: Tackling online harms: Transforming the whole system approach

PIER's (Policing Institute for the Eastern Region) annual conference will take place 20-22 May 2024. This important hybrid event brings together the highest profile national and international speakers dedicated to tackling the global challenge of sexual abuse of children online. For full details and to register visit [PIER24](#)

Crimestoppers Sexual Harassment campaign

This campaign follows a major report commissioned by Crimestoppers from the University of Suffolk, 'Sexual harassment in public spaces', which identified that there are men in the streets who feel they are able to abuse women for their own sexual enjoyment and are entitled to being demeaning to women in public spaces. The campaign encourages challenging sexual entitlement and reporting it. [Sexual harassment | Crimestoppers](#)

Safer Internet Day 2024

Ahead of Safer Internet Day on 6 February 2024, The UK Safer Internet Centre has created a new advice page to support parents and carers. It addresses online safety concerns around: online games; new devices; and the content children engage with online. The page is designed to be shared by schools and other organisations. Full details here [Safer Internet Day 2024](#)