



Stakeholder Bulletin

September 2023

Coordinating and improving the
policing response to vulnerability



Welcome to your September edition of the VKPP bulletin

The team have been extremely busy over the last few months as our work in improving the policing response to vulnerability and public protection continues to evolve nationally.

Since being formed back in 2018 the VKPP has grown significantly in terms of the scope and ambition of the work that we undertake and the impact that we seek to achieve in the vulnerability space. To that end we are embarking on an exciting transition to join the College of Policing in April 2024. It is planned that the VKPP will sit as a unique team within the College, sharing the opportunities and synergy that it brings. 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. We will keep you updated on developments.

Also looking forward, the VKPP is currently working on three key projects that have been commissioned and are being developed at pace to address vulnerability responses nationally.

To read more about VKPP priorities in 2023/24 please visit www.vkpp.org.uk/about-us/vision-and-mission/ and for detail on the VKPP's purpose, role and function, do visit www.vkpp.org.uk/about-us/purpose



Context

Ongoing national analysis of serious case reviews by the VKPP show that a number of persistent or perennial issues, which if focussed on and tackled effectively, would reduce and prevent appalling crimes against the most vulnerable, give confidence to victims and witnesses to come forward and bring more offenders to justice. The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and College of Policing previously established the National Vulnerability Action Plan (NVAP), an evidence-based end to end plan to enable an effective response to vulnerability.

Significant opportunities exist to develop and coordinate this learning as well as from other national work including Operation Soteria (transforming the investigation of rape) and the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) programmes.

Three key projects

Building on this foundation, the VKPP are progressing three important pieces of work in collaboration with the College of Policing and NPCC leads:

1. The development of a new **National Policing Vulnerability Strategy**, led by the VKPP, which builds upon the National Vulnerability Action Plan (NVAP) The aim is to bring the range of vulnerability strategies together into one coherent, comprehensive plan which will both inform and support police at a national and force level.

Please note that during this development phase, the NVAP will continue to be utilised by forces alongside other support available from across NPCC, College and VKPP.

2. The **Professionalising Public Protection Programme** – led by the College of Policing which seeks to review and enhance training and leadership across policing at every level with an appropriate accreditation offer relating to public protection.

3. A review of **governance arrangements** with opportunities to streamline and improve current national, regional and local approaches. Conduct an evidence-based review to inform policing's understanding of internal governance structures and the join up with external partnership structures.

Consultation work with forces, stakeholders and partners is taking place as this work progresses. We will be hosting two drop-in events to talk in more detail about the work we are progressing, giving you an opportunity to ask any questions and also to influence the direction of travel.

Friday 29th September – 11:00am - 12.30pm

Wednesday 11th October - 1:00pm - 2.30pm

If you would like to attend one of these events, please click the following link <https://forms.office.com/e/ktsS2SMjir> to book a place and we will send you a MS Teams invite. We are looking to add more drop-in sessions throughout the year to keep you updated with progress and to enable you to continue influencing the work.

This work above will be assisted by the VKPP formally moving into the College of Policing from April 2024 to support, enhance and develop excellence in this crucial area.



New VKPP Data Insights Team in partnership with The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

The VKPP is working in a new partnership with the Children's Safeguarding Partnership Review Panel (CSPRP) and has formed the CSPRP Data Insights Team, hosted by the VKPP.

The CSPRP is an independent panel that commissions reviews of serious child safeguarding cases; improving learning, professional practice and outcomes for children. The aim of the collaboration is to support vital improvements in the learning from serious child safeguarding incidents.

The collection and analysis of serious incident notifications, rapid reviews and Local Child Safeguarding

Practice Reviews is key to identify systemic national issues, encourage local learning and drive long term improvements within the safeguarding system; leading to better outcomes for children and young people experiencing serious harm and abuse. Pivotal to our impact will be working collaboratively with the CSPRP and safeguarding partnerships to ensure that the data and insights we generate are proactively fed back into the wider system, to support both strategic and operational practice.

To learn more about the work of the Panel please visit www.gov.uk/child-safeguarding-practice-review-panel

Local Child Safeguarding Partnerships

In partnership with [The Association of Safeguarding Partners](#) we are embarking on Phase 2 of the Independent Scrutiny Project. Working Together (2018) requires Local Safeguarding Children's Partners to choose how scrutiny is undertaken, providing five paragraphs to explain the function:

- The role of Independent Scrutiny is to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases. This Independent Scrutiny will be part of a wider system which includes the independent inspectorates' single assessment of the individual safeguarding partners and the Joint Targeted Area Inspections.
- Whilst the decision on how best to implement a robust system of Independent Scrutiny is to be made locally, safeguarding partners should ensure that the scrutiny is objective, acts as a constructive critical friend and promotes reflection to drive continuous improvement.
- The Independent Scrutineer should consider how effectively the arrangements are working for children and families as well as for practitioners, and how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership and agree with the safeguarding partners how this will be reported.
- The published arrangements should set out the plans for Independent Scrutiny; how the arrangements will be reviewed; and how any recommendations will be taken forward. This might include, for example, the process and timescales for ongoing review of the arrangements.
- Safeguarding partners should also agree arrangements for Independent Scrutiny of the report they must publish at least once a year.

The project team identified a strong desire from local partners to have a means of sharing practice and experiences systematically over a wide geographical footprint. This is not to promote one preferred approach but to provide an opportunity to reflect on the examples of others tackling similar problems, creating an environment where leaders and operational staff can expand their thinking, explore ideas, and reflect on progress to help them develop local approaches to best meet the needs of children in their communities.

Phase 2 will refine and publish case studies generously provided by local areas in phase 1 of the work last year. The [resources published](#) in August 2022 after phase 1 are available.

Independent Scrutiny is an area of responsibility included in the consultation for the much-anticipated revision of Working Together 2018 which has recently closed. We continue to engage with the DfE on subsequent responses.

Please note that VKPP has a new role for an additional National Child Safeguarding Reform Coordinator to work alongside Lorraine Parker. The vacancy closes on Friday 22 September. For full details www.vkpp.org.uk/about-us/join-us or see vacancy section below.



Get involved!

Vulnerability Communications Survey

The Communications Teams of VKPP, Hydrant Programme and TOEX Programme are working together on a new initiative to look at how we can more effectively communicate with our key stakeholders in the vulnerability space.

So stakeholders, we are very keen to hear more from you, our audience, about what information you are interested in from the three programmes and how this could be best shared with you and your organisations.

The aim is unify our common approach, streamline communications so that it is relevant, timely, targeted and in a format that works with your channels and audiences.

To help us with this work, we would be grateful if you could complete a very short two minute questionnaire. Here's the link: <https://forms.office.com/e/5VvKei19aB>.

Please complete by Wednesday 27th September.

The data we receive from this questionnaire will be used to inform our approach going forward. Your responses will only be used to inform the development of the strategy and personal data will not be stored beyond the timeframe necessary to complete this project.

Many thanks for your time and support.



Information event - New Cadre members for VKPP Peer Review Team

The VKPP Peer Review Team is holding a remote information event for prospective candidates to learn more about opportunities to join our Cadre team. If you are looking for a new, valuable way to use your skills & experience in vulnerability, do join us on:

Thursday 21 September 18:00-19:00

The VKPP Peer Review Team will present an overview of the peer review work, followed by some cadre members who will give a short input on their experiences of being a cadre member. There will then be an opportunity for Q&A

If you work in vulnerability with a policing, partner or third sector background and would be interested in attending, do email VKPPpeerreview@norfolk.police.uk for more details and the link to access the meeting.

For more information on the cadre please visit www.vkpp.org.uk/news/new-cadre-members

VKPP Vacancies

To see more details on our current vacancies please visit: www.vkpp.org.uk/about-us/join-us/

National Child Safeguarding Reform Coordinator

- Home working
- 1 x Full Time (37 hours) or 2 x Part Time vacancies
- Temporary until 31.03.2024
- £57,033 - £62,220 per annum / pro rata

Senior Project Manager

- Home working
- 1 x Full Time (37 Hours) and 2 x Part Time
- Vacancies
- Temporary until 31.03.2025
- £51,252 - £55,803 per annum / pro rata

Communications Lead

- Home working with some travel required
- Full Time (37 Hours) - Temporary until 31.03.2025
- £44,394 - £50,109

All vacancies close on Friday 22 September at 5pm

The Totality of Police Recorded Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Report

Our CSAE regional analysts are busy working on the annual Totality report which aims to provide a more comprehensive picture of trends and reports in respect of child sexual abuse and exploitation, helping to inform and drive the policing and partner response to protect victims, pursue offenders, and prevent harm.

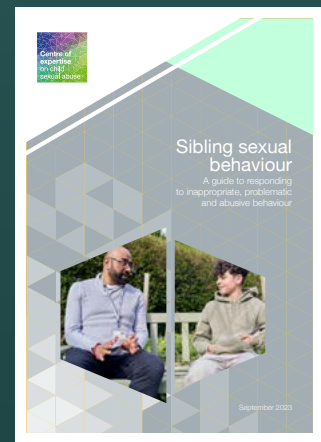
The report is due for publication in autumn 2023 for our internal audiences and for the first time a public facing summary version will also be published annually.



Partner News

The Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse, has produced an updated resource for professionals dealing with sibling sexual abuse.

The guide can be found here: www.csacentre.org.uk/knowledge-in-practice/practice-improvement/sibling-sexual-abuse/ and can be downloaded or printed, along with the other resources and guides found on their website.



In case you missed it - Summer 2023

Learning for the Police from Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Serious Case Reviews

Earlier this summer we published a new research report which for the first time collated and analysed the high-level learning for the police from an analysis of MAPPA Serious Case Reviews. This important new research details both police and partnership learning following statutory reviews into death and serious harm and identifies key findings and insights to inform and drive strategic and practice improvement. This shorter report is available on the VKKP website: www.vkpp.org.uk/publications/

Following this, we also published **three new VKPP Spotlight Briefings**, sharing the research/insight on police learning from MAPPA serious case reviews. The focus is on VAWG, mental health and vulnerability.

To read in full www.vkpp.org.uk/publications/

