

# Learning from the Casey Report: Ending Child Sexual Exploitation

## Introduction

This document will help practitioners understand and consider the immediate learning that is highlighted in the Casey report. There will, no doubt, be learning for individual agencies that will provide additional guidance. There will, no doubt, be learning for individual agencies that will provide additional guidance such as the police vulnerability campaign "Making a Difference". Please take the opportunity to consider all of the information and guidance you are given. Reflect on how you as an individual and we as a Partnership can improve the way we safeguard these vulnerable children. The report provides some stark findings and makes recommendations on how we can improve.

## Challenges

### Inconsistent definitions & recording practices.

This means that we don't understand the scale and nature of group-based abuse. Make sure that if you suspect a child is being abused or at risk of being abused that you make it clear in your reports. Ask for advice if you're unclear and don't be afraid to challenge or ask questions.



### Crimes are under-reported

Be aware of what it is you are dealing with. Consider how your assessment will frame your agencies and other partners' response.



### Victim Impact

Children who are being abused and exploited in these circumstances are some of the most vulnerable you will ever encounter. They will be traumatised, scared and often difficult to engage. Please remember that they are children and avoid treating them as adults.



### Hidden Abuse

Offending is often hidden, facilitated by technology and involves multiple perpetrators targeting vulnerable children. Don't be afraid to be curious, ask the difficult questions and think about the circumstances you are being presented with. Ask for help, seek expert advice.



### Profile of Victims

Victims were predominantly girls aged 12-17, many with pre-existing vulnerabilities such as being in care or having prior contact with social services. Whilst this is not couched as a profile it would be wrong not to consider these factors.



### Trauma Aftermath

Significant trauma impacts victims long-term, with many reporting a lack of mental health support post-abuse



# Learning Summary



1. The report highlights a pervasive culture of denial within authorities, where victims, particularly those in care, were often treated as offenders. This “adultification” led to inadequate protection and support for vulnerable children.
2. The audit identifies significant gaps in police training, data collection, and inter-agency collaboration. It also points to legal loopholes, such as inconsistent taxi licensing practices, that facilitated exploitation
3. There are gaps in leadership, governance, and coordination in responding to cases. Agencies frequently failed to share intelligence, resulting in missed opportunities to identify and protect victims. Victim-blaming attitudes and institutional blind spots were documented as barriers to effective response.

## Time to Make a Difference: What You Can Do

- Identification of CSA&E is falling in Children’s Services despite a rise in police recording
- Child Protection Plans on the grounds of sexual abuse have fallen to their lowest in 30 years
- There is no data published by Children’s Services about group-based child sexual exploitation.
- Approximately two-thirds of CSE cases lack recorded ethnicity data, hindering accurate assessment and response.
- The audit criticises the historical avoidance of addressing ethnicity in CSE cases due to fears of racial stereotyping and community tensions.
- There has also been a decline in the number of serious case reviews about child sexual exploitation in recent years

## Baroness Casey's Recommendations



Please use this link to read the report in full: [Casey Report 2025](#)

If you are concerned or suspect a child may be the victim of child sexual exploitation, do not be afraid to seek help and advice. No matter how small you believe your concern to be, please remember that your input may prevent ongoing or future abuse.

**Report it, record it and do all you can to safeguard the child.**

**Please Remember: This is everybody's responsibility. Seek training and knowledge and do all you can to safeguard these children.**