

# Stop Abuse Together

## Bracknell Forest Safeguarding Board News



### Bracknell Forest Safeguarding Board

This edition of the Safeguarding Board bulletin is dedicated to the latest information and guidance relating to sexual abuse. It includes support for professionals, parents, victims and those worried about their own behaviour.



#### Stop Abuse Together

##### **New Government Resource to Help Keep Children Safe from Sexual Abuse**

It's estimated that one in ten children in England and Wales will experience sexual abuse before they turn sixteen. That's equivalent to three in every classroom.

The UK Government has launched a new advice and support [site](#) to help keep children safe from sexual abuse. The site includes advice for parents and carers on spotting the signs of sexual abuse and speaking to them about relationships and safety. It also signposts to sources of further support for children, adults and professionals including the NSPCC helpline and Childline.

All children have a right to be safe from sexual abuse, and we all have a role to play in keeping them safe. Let's stop abuse together.

#### **It Still Matters**

It is never too late to get [support for sexual abuse or sexual violence](#) is the message from the government.

It's impossible to know the extent of sexual abuse in older people as it is poorly understood and under-researched. Learn about this rarely discussed subject from [Hourglass](#) (a UK charity focused on the abuse and neglect of older people).



## Recognise and respond to child sexual abuse

[NSPCC Learning has published a briefing](#) summarising risk factors and learning for improved practice identified in case reviews which involved harmful sexual behaviour. Learning in the reviews emphasised the importance of: training to recognise and respond to abuse and neglect; a child-centred approach that

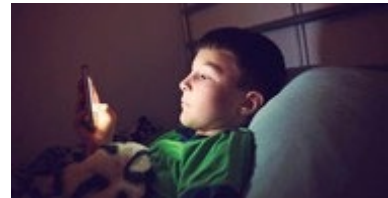
considers the complex needs and lived experiences; and carrying out holistic, multi-agency assessments taking all risk factors within the family, community and environment into account.

The [Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse has released a new tool](#) to help professionals identify and respond to concerns about child sexual abuse. The signs and indicators template can be used by professionals to build up a picture of their concerns as they work with children and young people who they suspect might have been sexually abused.

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## Online Sexual abuse

NSPCC Learning has published a briefing highlighting [children's experiences of legal but harmful online content](#).



An [article from the Internet Watch Foundation \(IWF\)](#) outlines how it detects more child sexual abuse online than ever before.

[WeProtect Global Alliance](#) has published a report outlining the increase in the scale and scope of child sexual exploitation and abuse online from a survey of over 5000 young people in 54 countries. 1 in 3 (34%) were asked to do something sexually explicit online they were uncomfortable with during childhood.

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## Participation to help protect young people

Members of the Young Researchers' Advisory Panel (YRAP) ensure that research into child sexual abuse is informed by young people. They have [produced a new model](#) that shows how participation can help protect young people and why it is important.



Click image to view

## Support for professionals

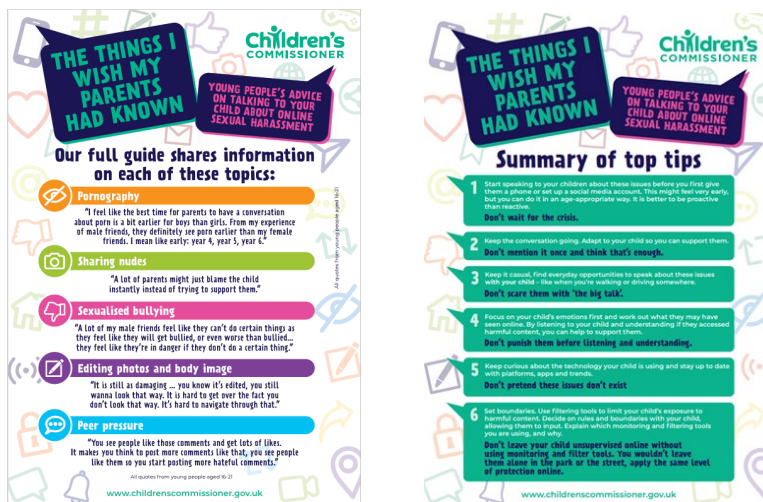
NSPCC Learning has reviewed and updated its information and resources to help professionals working with children and young people who have displayed problematic or [harmful sexual behaviour](#), including peer-on-peer sexual abuse.

A [helpline for professionals](#) will provide advice and support for professionals on how to respond if a child they are working with is displaying harmful sexual behaviour, and will also signpost to further resources and advice.

## Support for Parents

Thinkuknow has launched [#AskTheAwkward](#), a resource for parents and carers of secondary-aged children to help them have regular conversations with their children about online relationships. It includes three short films and a series of help sheets covering themes including: exploring sex, sexuality and identity online; starting new relationships online; sharing nudes and semi-nudes; and unwanted sexual contact online.

The Children's Commissioner for England has launched [a guide](#) and [summary poster](#) for parents and carers about online sexual harassment and how they can support children to stay safe online. Issues covered include: online pornography; pressure to send nude pictures; sexualised bullying; editing pictures and body image; and peer pressure. The guide includes a list of additional resources and sources of support.



Click to view the 2 page summary poster

## Support for Victims

Victims and survivors of sexual and domestic abuse are being encouraged to come forward for NHS help and care, as part of a major [campaign](#) which includes a [powerful new film](#). A new survey found two in five people aren't sure or do not know where to get help after being sexually assaulted, with 72% unaware there are NHS specialist sexual assault services who can offer confidential support. [Sexual Abuse Referral Centres](#) (SARC) offer confidential specialist, practical, medical and emotional support to anyone who has been raped, sexually assaulted, or abused – regardless of when the incident happened.

## Stop it Now

[Stop It Now](#), the helpline supporting people who are worried about their own or someone else's sexual thoughts, feelings and behaviour towards children, has released figures which show that during 2021: the number of people seeking help via the helpline or online self-help modules to stop viewing sexual images of children increased by 107% to over 165,000; and more than 3,500 people spoke with helpline advisors with concerns about online sexual behaviours towards children. In a separate blog [We Protect Global Alliance highlights research](#) finds that after viewing child sexual abuse material, many users directly contact children online.

[BF Safeguarding Board website](#)

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