

Factsheet 2024

NWG Network is a unique child exploitation (CE) network offering strategic and operational support across voluntary and statutory agencies tackling child exploitation, particularly sexual exploitation with links across Europe, Southeast Asia, Africa, Canada, and the USA.

The UK's NWG Network spans over 230 organisations with over 14,800 + points of contact to disseminate information.

Our knowledge hub holds over 2,100 relevant resources.

Our reach and national oversight allow us to address the issues surrounding child exploitation from the Central Government level through to grassroots workers and volunteers.

Over the past three years, the NWG has worked with approximately 40,000 practitioners to increase skills and capacity.

The NWG Network has worked in all regions to assist in identifying gaps and supporting Strategic Development, particularly around the transition from adolescence into adulthood.

NWG engage with police forces across England and Wales, and some forces in Scotland and the Channel Islands through a network of over 970 officers.

NWG Network holds approximately 100 events annually that bring a range of organisations together to continually improve how we tackle CE in the UK and worldwide and has developed 14 training courses. Delivering 94 training days to more than 5000 delegates in the last 12 months

NWG have shared the expertise of others through seminars and training covering subjects such as The Psychology of the Offender, Working with Interpersonal Psychological Trauma, Cuckooing and Harmful Sexual Behaviours.

Key Statistics

- In 2022 7,019 children were referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) having been identified as potential victims of Modern Slavery (including Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Criminal Exploitation and Trafficking)* [Modern Slavery: NRM statistics UK of year summary 2022](#)
- The most common reason for children to be trafficked in the UK is for criminal exploitation (NRM End of Year Summary 2022)

Child sexual abuse in 2022/23: Trends in official data
csacentre.org.uk

Children are disproportionately likely to be victims of sexual offences



They are the victims in 40% of all sexual offences



Yet make up only 20% of the population

Source: Office for National Statistics, 2023

- Children are the victims in 40% of all recorded sexual offences in England and Wales, yet make up just 20% of the population
- Despite clear need, local authority child protection plans for child sexual abuse dropped to the lowest level in 14 years in 2022/23
- Sexual abuse made up the lowest proportion of new child protection plans since records began; just 3.6% in comparison with 23% in 1993/4
- Concerns that the gap between the number of children being sexually abused and the identification and response by statutory agencies remains far too wide.
- The CSA Centre's analysis of several surveys suggests that at least 15% of girls and 5% of boys are sexually abused before the age of 16.
- [National Analysis of Police Recorded child sexual abuse and exploitation crimes report 2022](#)