

# The Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse: Final Evaluation Report

**April 2020**



THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE  
RESEARCHING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION,  
VIOLENCE AND TRAFFICKING

research  
in practice

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## Preface

The Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse (the 'CSA Centre') was set an ambitious and broad remit, ranging from influencing policy at a strategic level through to practice development. Furthermore, the nature of CSA is itself a broad and complex agenda, involving multiple stakeholders and an ever evolving sector landscape. It is of credit to the CSA Centre that it has made demonstrable progress against its aims.

By working to a Theory of Change, the CSA Centre has been able to track its efforts against six key 'outcome chains' and exercise some order over its complex and far-reaching work programme. Over time, as the CSA Centre has become established, its work has naturally coalesced around three primary strands: Evidence generation and synthesis, practice development, and policy influencing.

It is increasingly clear that these strands are interconnected and mutually reinforcing; the CSA Centre is a system rather than a series of discrete projects. This is part of its value, and also brings some challenge in requiring a sophisticated approach to work planning and governance.

The CSA Centre has clearly managed to engage a wide range of stakeholders, and has generated very positive feedback from those engaging with its support offer. Where areas for development have been identified, either through formal evaluation or internal analysis, these have largely been swiftly absorbed into ongoing development and continuous improvement activity.

Challenges encountered by the CSA Centre – including capacity in certain professional areas (such as education) and the need to more effectively engage survivors' expertise – have tended to reflect the complexity and ambition of its remit. By seeking to reach all relevant agencies, offering multiple types of support, and reflecting a broad conceptualisation of evidence, the CSA Centre has inevitably found itself stretched at times. Had the CSA Centre worked to a narrower brief, for example focusing only on one aspect of the sector, or focusing on traditional training programmes, it would likely have been simpler to deliver and to evaluate. However, its reach, value and impact would be significantly diminished.

## Executive summary

1. The CSA Centre was funded by the Home Office and launched in early 2017 and has been evaluated since its inception and in four 'phases'. Since phase two, the evaluation has been conducted by a partnership of Research in Practice and the University of Bedfordshire. Phase two considered evidence collected between March and May 2018, focusing on the early operational stages of the CSA Centre's work and development of a Theory of Change. Phase three considered evidence collected from May 2018 to March 2019, as the CSA Centre moved into the central part of its funding. There was an update to phase three reporting in October 2019. This final report brings together additional evidence collected between October 2019 and March 2020, and looks back at evidence throughout the entire evaluation.
2. The evaluation of the CSA Centre has been guided by a Theory of Change, which was developed in phase 2 of the evaluation and incorporated the initial planning of the CSA Centre in phase one. This 'model' of how the CSA Centre intends to achieve its goals, and the shorter-term activities and outputs that are theorised to be necessary, has given structure to the data collection and evaluation, as well as a framework with which to present the evidence collected across evaluation activities and to better capture the progress of the CSA Centre against its

goals. In this report, evidence is considered against the six primary 'chains' of activity which make up this model:

- i. Understanding the scale and nature of child sexual abuse (CSA)
  - ii. Improving sector-wide access to evidence on CSA
  - iii. Improving the effectiveness of interventions to stop or reduce the harm occurring from CSA
  - iv. Understanding perpetration and the nature of offending
  - v. Engaging and developing practice with those who work directly with people at risk of or who have experienced CSA
  - vi. Influencing change at a strategic and policy level, and informing the public debate of CSA
3. The evidence sources for this evaluation include the annual surveys of public stakeholders and CSA Centre staff; feedback from CSA Centre-run events, interviews with CSA Centre staff, partners, and stakeholders, with an additional focus on three case studies; an analysis of documents produced by the CSA Centre and additional evidence submitted to the evaluation team; and evidence submitted by Centre staff using an evidence tracking tool held by the CSA Centre. Given the complexity of the CSA Centre and its work in influencing changes in practice at an organisational and national level, the evaluation has relied, in part, on evidence gathered by the CSA Centre and methodological considerations have been made to ensure that a balanced picture of the CSA Centre is presented. This includes reference to the Theory of Change, and balanced consideration of evidence from multiple sources (including from independent surveys and interviews). This mixed methods approach is expanded upon in the methodology section of this report.
4. A key goal of the CSA Centre was to improve understanding of the scale and nature of CSA. The CSA Centre has made a significant contribution to understanding of the scale of CSA through a programme of work including new analyses of available data, collating statistics from multiple sources, commissioning new research, developing frameworks and tools to support improved data collection, and through engaging with stakeholders who might further enable data collection in this area. Understanding the nature of CSA has presented more of a challenge due to the shortage of available data, the complex nature of perpetration, secretive nature of abuse, and barriers in accessing more sensitive data; however, the CSA Centre's publications have addressed the nature of CSA in a multitude of areas. The CSA Centre has also worked on overcoming these barriers to understanding the nature of CSA through collaboration with multiple partners and via strategic work, which has led to the publication of a typology of offending. Further outputs addressing the nature of CSA have included the CSA Centre's Key Messages from Research publications as well as Effectiveness Studies commissioned more recently. The CSA Centre has developed key internal capacity and expertise on CSA through this work, and the publications, knowledge, and informal support of the CSA Centre have been positively received by a range of practice, leadership, and policy stakeholders. The CSA Centre has also contributed to a cultural shift in the understanding of CSA, helping to ensure that child sexual exploitation (CSE) is recognised as a form of sexual abuse and does not eclipse the issue of CSA more broadly.
5. The CSA Centre has generated a large body of close to 40 publications, with a range of audiences in mind. These include practice tools, effectiveness studies, and key messages from research, distilling evidence into a concise format. These publications have received thousands of views on the CSA Centre's website; however it is hard to fully measure the extent of their usage due to the open access nature of the CSA Centre's outputs and the range of places where they have been shared. In addition, the CSA Centre has also developed alternative outputs in the form of blogs and videos, and promoted these via its website, at events, through newsletters, and through social media. Across its work, the CSA Centre has been able to promote a balanced, independent view of CSA and has been guided by multiple engagement

events and prioritisation surveys. In some feedback, respondents have noted an absence of evidence related to BAME communities and victims and survivors in the CSA Centre's resources and outputs, in line with a general lack of research evidence in this area. The importance of this area was also identified by the CSA Centre, which is addressing this through recent publications, the membership of its advisory board, and a forthcoming study of service responses to BAME children and young people.

6. A mutually beneficial relationship has developed between practice and the CSA Centre, led primarily by the CSA Centre's Practice Improvement Advisors (PIAs), practice-area experts employed by the CSA Centre. The PIAs have been able to engage a large number of practitioners across events (reportedly over 3000 professionals through a range of event types as per data recorded in the Tracker), through training, and in more informal interactions. The PIAs have been both the champions of evidence generated by the CSA Centre, as well as being able to relay evidence from their specific areas of practice into outputs. The CSA Centre has not been able to engage equally across all areas of multi-agency practice, and has encountered challenges due to staffing and funding given the number of practitioners working in roles relevant to addressing CSA. These challenges were particularly evident in the CSA Centre's difficulty in engaging more fully with the education sector, where funding reductions prevented recruitment to the vacant Education PIA role. However, the PIAs, the Practice Lead Programme in social care, train-the-trainer programmes, and the strategic placement of CSA Centre resources have facilitated a far greater reach than could have been achieved through a direct communications approach. For example, by developing materials which have been used in further safeguarding learning and development (exemplified by the inclusion of the CSA Centre's video resource on medical examinations in NHS safeguarding guidance). The activities of the CSA Centre in engaging practitioners have been very positively received, including via event and training feedback questionnaires, surveys, and interviews. This feedback includes clear evidence of where practitioners have altered their approach to working with CSA based on the evidence and resources of the CSA Centre.
7. In the early stages of the CSA Centre's funding, it embarked on an ambitious programme of support for CSA frontline services to help them gather additional evidence about the impact of their services. This involved a programme of grant funding (the Evaluation Fund) and a range of subsequent workshops to collate and share information. The grant funding of the CSA Centre's Evaluation Fund represented a high level of early investment; however the CSA Centre was not funded in a way that enabled continued direct support for frontline services to continue this evaluation work, where capacity may be an issue. Instead, the CSA Centre has moved towards developing and sharing evidence-informed resources to help build evaluation capacity in the sector. Early activities have informed outputs for the benefit of the wider sector to support better monitoring and evaluation of CSA services, merging with the wider CSA Centre aims to improve data about CSA – both in terms of scale and nature, and the effective interventions to reduce the threat and harm. This has also overlapped with the commissioning of publications to distil evidence related to the effectiveness of interventions, supporting the understanding of what works in preventing and responding to CSA for the benefit of professionals and those commissioning services.
8. The CSA Centre has made important gains in the challenging area of improving understanding perpetration of child sexual abuse, where it is widely acknowledged that evidence is limited. This has presented some challenges and has required the development of collegiate relationships with other agencies working in this space and with access to the sensitive and protected data related to offending. This work has culminated in the recent production of a typology of CSA offending, working towards a shared understanding, common language, and to inform a more joined-up policy and practice response. The typology developed is not the end product, but rather a starting point for further testing and research against further data sets. As with other work by the CSA Centre (such as the CSA data collection template), this work offers

a centralised approach, delivered by a trusted independent organisation, bringing together expertise from policy and practice to ultimately improve responses to CSA.

9. The CSA Centre exists in a somewhat unique position in terms of its governance; although it was funded by the Home Office and delivered through a charity partnership led by Barnardo's, it has been able to operate independent of both the government and other organisations, acting as a hub for researchers and organisations who focus on CSA. Through multiple advisory groups and meetings, as well as dedicated policy and strategic work, the CSA Centre has informed and been informed by a range of stakeholders. Much of this influencing work has not been visible publicly; however the evaluation has seen evidence of the CSA Centre's impact across a range of key documents, including inspection and commissioning frameworks, internal policies, and the government draft CSA Strategy. In Wales, the CSA Centre has built strong, positive relationships with senior policy makers, enabling a two-way relationship which incorporates the Welsh context in the CSA Centre's outputs, as well as enabling the CSA Centre to influence Welsh policy and response to CSA (such as via the Welsh Government National CSA Action Plan). Policy makers have commented on the impact of the CSA Centre's value in gathering and presenting clear evidence on the scale of CSA, and the expertise in understanding the extent (and limitations) of available data on CSA has been valuable across the CSA Centre's work. Understandably, supporting strategy and policy has not been straightforward in the context of recent changes in government and with a large remit; however, the CSA Centre has continued to work alongside key decision makers and bring together experts on CSA throughout its existence and thus been in a position to influence when the opportunities arose.
  
10. As the initial funding arrangements of the CSA Centre draw to a close, at a time where the focus of government is understandably directed towards addressing the COVID-19 outbreak, and where public services shift accordingly, it is important to take a long-term view of the CSA Centre, its achievements over the past two and a half years, and to look forward at how the response to CSA can be further progressed. Importantly, developing a position of 'expertise' whereby the CSA Centre has been able to carry out, commission and collate evidence has taken considerable time and investment. The resulting body of objective, high-quality, independent and freely-accessible evidence has placed the CSA Centre in a position to deliver a large programme of work to directly benefit practice, as well as informing strategy and policy at an organisational, local, regional, and national level. However, this approach continues to be refined by the CSA Centre, and there are still areas of practice and policy to develop. Furthermore, the context is constantly changing, and will change further still as the CSA Centre's (and others') work on the collection and availability of data progresses. The CSA Centre's approach has, thus far, been free-to-access for practitioners and organisations and the positive responses of stakeholders may be partially linked to this additional capacity and resource. Importantly, the CSA Centre represents a national investment in a joined-up response to CSA as a national issue. The time and efforts of the CSA Centre have been focused on developing a proportionate approach to gathering and implementing evidence on CSA (which it has demonstrated), but not on developing a sustainable approach to fundraising to enable the continuation of this work; thus, going forward, there are clear considerations to be made regarding how funders protect the legacy of this investment, and build upon the CSA Centre's public-serving, independent and multi-faceted approach to reducing the threat, harm and impact of child sexual abuse.



## Introduction

The Government's [Tackling Child Exploitation](#) report was published in 2015 in response to an identified delay in local action to reports of the scale of sexual abuse. In this report, the government committed to improve the local response to child sexual exploitation by:

- Setting up "a new national taskforce to help local authorities when child sexual abuse is a particular concern. This will ensure that specialist professionals in social work, law enforcement and health are available to be deployed when they are needed anywhere in the country, for example following inspection or high levels of whistleblowing." – p.7
- Linking this taskforce "to a new national Centre of Expertise to identify and share high quality evidence on what works to tackle child sexual abuse. The centre will identify gaps in evidence and commission research or validate local practice to address these gaps, for example in how to identify children that are vulnerable to sexual exploitation, or what types of services best support victims of child abuse. The Centre of Expertise will develop training and materials for professionals, and will work with the taskforce described above to champion best practice at a local and regional level." – p.8

Subsequently, the Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse (the 'CSA Centre') for England and Wales was commissioned by the Home Office in early 2016 with the following intended outcomes:

- *Local areas across England and Wales have a confident and effective multi-agency response to CSE, and other forms of CSA (at both an operational and strategic level – e.g. commissioning), based on access to evidence and information on what works*
- *National policy on child sexual abuse is informed by the latest research and evidence provided by the Centre;*
- *Increased understanding and awareness of the Scale and Nature of CSE and CSA; and*
- *A clear assessment of how recent changes and improvements to policy and practice have impacted on the Scale and Nature of abuse.*

- *Centre of Expertise Child Sexual Abuse: Statement of Outcomes, May 2016*

The contract for the delivery of this centre was awarded to a partnership, led by Barnardo's, in 2016, who worked alongside the Home Office to further determine the outcomes and priorities of this work. Operation of the CSA Centre began in early 2017 and it was launched as a multi-disciplinary team enabling cross-sector work aimed at improving the response to CSA, as announced in the [progress report](#) on the Government's Tackling Child Exploitation report in 2017.

*[Key achievements include] £7.5m of funding for the new national Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse. This ground-breaking centre is independent of government and will be an authoritative source of information, research, innovation, and best practice on tackling this crime.*

- *Tackling Child Exploitation, Progress Report, February 2017 (p.4)*

The CSA Centre commissioned an independently chaired evaluation of its work. Research in Practice and the University of Bedfordshire partnered to independently evaluate the CSA Centre between March 2018 and March 2020. The evaluation was overseen by the CSA Centre's Evaluation Reference Group (CERG), which included independent academics and representation from the CSA Centre's funder, the Home Office. The CERG met quarterly to review evaluation progress and findings, and to support the evaluation team in generating robust and independent findings.

This evaluation has covered three phases of work: March to May 2018; June 2019 to March 2019; and April 2019 to March 2020. The CSA Centre also employed an evaluator during its initial set-up phase before March 2018 ('phase one') to support with developing the first iteration of a theory of change and planning monitoring and evaluation processes, and this work was conducted separately to the Research in Practice and University of Bedfordshire evaluation. This evaluation report presents evidence from across the final three phases of evaluation, March 2018 to March 2020, conducted by Research in Practice and the University of Bedfordshire (phases two, three and four), with focus on how evidence reflects the CSA Centre's progress and achievements against a detailed Theory of Change (see below).

The evaluation team have worked alongside the CSA Centre, and the team at the CSA Centre have supported the evaluation throughout by collating and providing evidence of their activities, as well as providing their time for interviewing and the completion of questionnaires.

The establishment of the CSA Centre has taken place in a social and policy context characterised by increased awareness of, and concern about, issues relating to CSA. This is reflected, for example, in the work undertaken through the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), and the focus of the 2018 Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) on child sexual abuse in the family environment. National and international debates regarding gender-based violence, including sexual violence, attracted a high media profile and there was growing attention on the nature and quality of the evidence base. Since that time, there has been continued focus on child sexual abuse in the wider media and political spheres, including a recognition of the interplay between forms of sexual abuse and wider issues of young people's safety, such as knife crime and organised abuse of young people via gangs and county lines (National Crime Agency, 2019).

Evidence has continued to emerge of different forms of abuse and the way this interacts with a variety of social contexts, including the family but also spanning other community and social spaces, such as peer group, school and street, online and offline abuse (Lloyd, 2019), and in institutional settings (Jay et al, 2019). At the same time there is growing evidence of the multiple and complex relationships between different forms of abuse. This includes the ways in which these overlap within a child or young person's experience, and the ways in which early experience of abuse may contribute to an individual's later vulnerability to abuse and exploitation (Radford et al, 2013; Dodsworth, 2014; Hanson, 2016; Allnock, 2016; Hickie and Hallett, 2017). This growing evidence base has resulted in increased sector and academic interest about how best to identify and describe different forms of abuse, and the need to recognise the way in which these interact (Coy, 2016). These findings offer some challenge to certain policy definitions of different types of abuse such as child sexual exploitation (Beckett and Walker, 2017).

Improved awareness of these different forms of abuse has resulted in growing interest in practice responses which reflect an understanding of the complexity of children and young people's experiences. These include attempts to move away from individualised policy and practice responses based on traditional family-based intervention, to 'contextual' or ecological / social safeguarding approaches which focus on changing the environments and structures where children and young people experience violence (Firmin, 2018; Firmin, Warrington and Pearce, 2016; Featherstone et al, 2018). Service responses are required at different levels (from universal information and education, early help and support, through to specialist help and intervention), and are likely to involve a multi-agency response that incorporates a range of practice methods (Porteous, Adler and Davidson, 2015;

Lloyd and Fritz, 2016; Shuker and Harris, 2018). Relatedly, new guidance has been issued to schools aimed at improving sex and relationships education, and extensive training has been undertaken for different professional groups (Department for Education, 2019; Harris et al, 2018).

The early work of the CSA Centre has taken place against a backdrop of concern regarding overall reductions in funding for children's services (for example, see Bywaters et al, 2018; Office of the Children's Commissioner, 2018). However, the increased policy focus has been accompanied by additional sector resource in places, such as via the ongoing Children's Social Care Innovation Programme, National CSE Response Unit, and the CSA Centre itself. This is accompanied by further work streams across the sector – for example, the DfE-funded Tackling Child Exploitation Support Programme, the Home Office Trusted Relationships Fund<sup>1</sup>, and dedicated work within local authorities and regions such as the complex safeguarding work in the Greater Manchester area, and Contextual Safeguarding work in Hackney<sup>2</sup> and other local authorities (Firmin, 2015).

Local policy and practice responses are also being developed within a new system of multi-agency arrangements and local and national child safeguarding practice reviews, incorporating local authority, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and police (Bennett, Harvey and Clements, 2018). However, there is a need for further development of holistic responses which address the full complexity of risk to young people (Firmin, Wroe, and Lloyd, 2018). There is also geographical variation in the availability of services with specialist expertise in responding to sexual and other forms of abuse (see, for example, Harris et al, 2018, regarding child sexual exploitation). In April 2019, the Home Office and DCMS jointly launched the Online Harms White Paper which sets out ways to keep children safe online. In 2019, Home Office announced the development of a national CSA strategy.

Thus, the CSA Centre exists in a diverse space, with a complicated policy agenda, multiple parallel funding and practice initiatives underway, and an ever-moving media cycle which regularly draws focus to specific issues. As such, the CSA Centre holds an important convening position in ensuring the full breadth of CSA study, practice, and debate is given fair deliberation, and that national focus doesn't get narrowed at the cost of other, equally important areas of practice.

Against this backdrop, since 2017 the CSA Centre has brought together expertise from academic institutions and organisations working to reduce child sexual abuse, including police, health, children's services, and the voluntary sector. In subsequent strategy work carried out by the CSA Centre in early 2018, the CSA Centre agreed that the rationale of its work was best captured as follows:

*"Children can live a life free from the threat and harm of sexual abuse"*

The CSA Centre and the evaluation team took an approach guided by a Theory of Change, which aimed to explain the steps that the CSA Centre planned to take in contributing to the reduction of child sexual abuse. This approach helps to address the complex nature of the CSA Centre's work through a conceptual framework which focuses on measurable outcomes that the CSA Centre and its partners are actively working towards.

The Theory of Change was developed over the course of two workshops with professionals at the CSA Centre, contributing partners, and the Home Office. The subsequent model is divided into six 'key outcomes' chains. Each chain describes how the Centre's activities are theorised to contribute to outcomes for the sector and ultimately the goal of enabling children to live a life free from the threat

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/trusted-relationships-fund-local-areas-and-project-descriptions>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.csnetwork.org.uk/en/in-practice/hackney-project>

and harm of sexual abuse. A full version of the Theory of Change can be found in the [appendices](#), and a summary of each of the outcomes chains is provided in the table below:

<b>Rationale:</b> The CSA Centre is working towards <i>enabling children to live a life free from the threat and harm of sexual abuse</i> . It will contribute to this goal via the following key themes of work (2017-2020):	
<b>Scale and nature</b>	To further national and local understanding of the scale and nature of CSA across the sector; in terms of reported incidents of CSA ('Incidence'); through wider scoping of the true scale of CSA ('Prevalence'); and by improving understanding of the nature of abuse.
<b>Access to evidence</b>	To improve the quality and quantity of evidence about CSA by distilling the expertise of academics, practitioners, and people with lived experience across a range of appropriate topics; and use the resulting resources to influence the prevention of and responses to CSA.
<b>Intervention effectiveness</b>	To increase organisations' capacity to understand the interventions and practice that reduce the risk of CSA and impact of CSA where it has occurred; helping to develop a common framework of outcomes which will enable further evidence-informed assessment of interventions.
<b>Understanding perpetration</b>	To improve understanding of perpetration and offending, how perpetrators might be better identified and understood, and how this might inform the disruption and prevention of CSA.
<b>Engaging and developing practice</b>	To engage stakeholders from a wide range of sectors who can influence the response to CSA; to improve national and local intervention based on the best available evidence; and to support multi-agency responses to CSA.
<b>Influencing change</b>	To support wide-scale, strategic changes in the way CSA is understood and responded to by ensuring the best evidence is used in policy and decision making, and in wider public debate.

## Previous evaluation findings

The evaluation of the CSA Centre has been split into four phases. Phase one was conducted during the initial setup of the CSA Centre and was carried out by M&E Consulting and involved planning for subsequent monitoring and evaluation. Phases two, three and four were conducted by Research in Practice and the University of Bedfordshire. This report only considers evidence collected in phases two, three and four.

The CSA Centre and CERG received interim reports from the evaluators at the end of each phase, and this final report summarises evidence to date since the start of phase two. Summary findings from the previous two phases of evaluation are presented below.

### Phase two

Phase two of the evaluation was conducted over a relatively short period of time (March to May 2018) during which the CSA Centre was undertaking numerous activities and producing a range of outputs.

One of the key outputs from this part of the evaluation was the Theory of Change which outlined significant channels of work and guided onward evaluation. The evaluation also identified a large quantity of outputs, including publications by sector experts. Many stakeholders commended the volume of outputs in this timeframe. There were also several sector events and a wide range of external stakeholders were brought together in this timeframe.

Evidence of emerging 'sector strengthening' work was also shown, notably, the rapid development of the Evaluation Fund and the early stages of the Practice Improvement Advisor roles. Both of these channels of work have been further explored through subsequent case studies.

In terms of the wider sector, the phase two evaluation reporting identified a relevant but somewhat narrow set of stakeholders who worked with the CSA Centre. It was recommended that further sector engagement work would be necessary as the CSA Centre continued its development.

## **Phase three**

Between its inception and the end of March 2019 the CSA Centre successfully established itself as a hub of information on the scale and nature of CSA including through a dedicated member of the team who developed expertise in this space. The CSA Centre also began supporting other organisations in the sector and influencing thinking around the use of data to identify the full scale of CSA.

The CSA Centre continued developing and collating evidence related to CSA, guided by key topics and identified gaps in knowledge. These outputs were made publicly available and communicated via various channels, but primarily via the website. Increasingly, the CSA Centre also began using alternative modes of communication such as social media and blogs to reach a wider audience. Several of these blogs attracted a high number of readers. There were over 30,000 visits to the CSA Centre website and a consistent growth in online presence during this period.

The Evaluation Fund progressed through its initial grant funding for evaluation activities in provider organisations and moved into collating and distilling evidence from a range of services and developing a toolkit to share learnings and support future improvements in evaluating CSA services at scale. Given the early spending requirements in this strand of work, there was a shift into providing guidance in the latter stages of the Fund, rather than in funding further evaluation, which may have been challenging given the financial pressures that provider organisations face.

The CSA Centre progressed its work to develop a typology of CSA offending and began the testing phase, as well as developing detailed plans for further work. This also involved a great deal of overlap with scale and nature activities, as well as developing relationships with relevant stakeholders working in this area. Understandably, there were some challenges of working in this space, including accessing sensitive data and in capturing the full complexity of perpetration.

In terms of engaging practice, during phase 3 the CSA Centre started work which aimed to further understanding of CSA in minority groups via Practice Development Scholarships. The Practice Improvement Advisor programme continued to engage practitioners at a national level (in England and Wales), and these sector experts gained further access to professional groups and shared (and gathered) knowledge on CSA. The reciprocity of these relationships with practice proved particularly useful, with individual sectors shaping the wider work of the CSA Centre, as well as benefitting through the Practice Improvement Advisors' high volume of activities, sharing evidence widely across practice. Further benefits were starting to be seen via the newly established CSA Practice Leads programme, which started delivering further training and development of a cohort of professionals, offering additional response to CSA in the social care sector.

The CSA Centre continued to successfully develop relationships at a strategic and policy maker level during this period of the evaluation, both through its relationship with the Home Office and through

evolving partnerships across different sectors. As well as acting as a hub for evidence, there was also evidence of the CSA Centre shaping public conversations on CSA and engaging with other organisations acting in this space, such as those developing policy and local guidance, as well as through the scale and nature work via developing new opportunities to collect better data on CSA.

Finally, there were some key questions for consideration following this phase of the evaluation, many of which the CSA Centre had already begun addressing. These included the limited evidence of CSA Centre outputs including the voices of people who have experienced sexual abuse, and the experience of minority groups, who were underrepresented in outputs in the early stages. There were also considerations around the output and communication channels and methods used by the CSA Centre, and whether there were alternative ways to ensure outputs successfully engaged practitioners.

# Methodology

The CSA Centre is part of a wider, multi-sector effort to address sexual abuse and the harm it causes. The activities of individuals in the CSA Centre impact on other areas of work, both internally and externally, and there are a range of external factors outside of the CSA Centre's control which may influence its outcomes. As such, a holistic approach to evaluation was required, which acknowledged the complexity of the CSA Centre's activities and multiple ways in which it has sought to contribute to reducing the likelihood and harm of CSA. Accordingly, a Theory of Change was developed to capture the variety of activities of the CSA Centre and the logic behind them. This enabled better structuring of evaluation methods and guided evidence collection and interpretation.

In analysing the various evidence collected, a combination of available findings has been used against each outcomes chain in a true mixed methods approach. This involves a holistic review of available evidence and interpretation of findings, and aims to draw from the large number of relevant stakeholders to the CSA Centre's work, including:

- Annual surveys of stakeholders
  - Staff survey
  - Partner survey
  - Sector survey
- Case studies of particular activity areas
- Interviews with key CSA Centre stakeholders
- Feedback from CSA Centre-run events
- A log of CSA Centre activities, collated by the CSA Centre and analysed by the evaluators
- An analysis of CSA Centre outputs and resource, such as publications, blogs and videos
- Communications data related to engagement with the CSA Centre and its resources

Further detail about each of these evidence sources can be found in the table below. Given the long-term nature of the CSA Centre evaluation and the volume of work it has undertaken, there is a wealth of evidence and related summaries which support the claims made in this report. These are detailed in the [appendices](#), alongside the specific tools used to gather data; however some appendices have not been published alongside the report due to sensitivity of the data.

## Methodological considerations

The CSA Centre exists as part of a complex system, with multiple organisations, providers and departments of government all working towards improving the response to CSA. As such, there is a difficulty in attributing any changes in the wider sector to one organisation, event, or stream of work. The approach aims to show links between the activities of the CSA Centre and the outcomes in wider areas, such as changes in practice, policy, and the activity of other organisations. This does not, however, provide an answer to the question of whether the CSA Centre has had an effect on the prevalence of CSA (not least because no accurate baseline measure of CSA prevalence exists), and nor

would it be responsible to try and draw any such conclusions based on (1) the high level nature of the CSA Centre's work, (2) the many players acting in this space, and (3) the complexity of work addressing CSA and the fact that improvements in CSA work may actually result in increased identification.

Instead, this evaluation seeks to identify whether and how the CSA Centre has carried out the activities it intended to as captured in its Theory of Change, and the outcomes of these activities as part of a wide programme of work addressing CSA across multiple sectors. The limitations of this approach are that it is not purely experimental (i.e. we cannot say whether a different approach would have achieved similar or different results), and that the model is limited to the views of those who contributed to its development. However, this approach provides the ability to explore the detailed and complex nature of the wider system that the CSA Centre operates within and to access a wealth of professional wisdom from staff and partners in doing so.

The evaluation team has been greatly supported by the team at the CSA Centre in gathering evidence and in the identification of participants for various streams of evidence collection. The evaluation has also been somewhat reliant on the engagement of people across the sector and their willingness to complete questionnaires. As such there may be some bias to the evaluation in that evidence is more likely to have come from individuals already engaged with the CSA Centre. The evaluation has sought to address this through wider promotion of surveys and independent interviews. Furthermore, the submission of evidence from the CSA Centre to the evaluators is primarily related to outputs and activities which have been recorded by the CSA Centre and its staff and are therefore objective. An analysis against the Theory of Change aims to give some balance to any potential bias here, by enabling the evaluators to identify where progress has been made without this becoming subjective.



## Evidence sources

Source of evidence	Description	Sample	Time frames	Limitations / reliability
<b>Staff survey</b>	Collecting information regarding staff satisfaction, perceptions of organisational progress, focus of work, and suggestions for CSA Centre development	All CSA Centre employees were invited to complete the survey. Response rates: V1: 95% (19/20) V2: 85% (17/20) V3: 79% (15/19)	V1: Mar 2018 V2: Jan 2019 V3: Jan 2020	Although all staff were invited to participate, response rates were not 100%. Based on power calculations, the results should not be interpreted as representative of all CSA Centre staff.  Furthermore, since there has been staff turnover during the course of the evaluation, each iteration of the survey is a snapshot of the respondents at that particular time, rather than a panel.
<b>Partner survey</b>	Sent to close partners <sup>3</sup> of the CSA Centre to capture evidence of sector strengthening and externally commissioned work.	Sent to the CSA Centre's distribution list of close partners. Response rates: V1: 50% (9/18) V2: 47% (7/15)	V1: Mar 2018 V2: Jan 2019 V3: N/A	The partner survey was merged with the sector survey in phase four due to low response rates in phase three. This was supplemented with additional policy interviews conducted in phase four.
<b>Sector survey</b>	For gathering evidence of the wider reach of the CSA Centre in the sector, including within various disciplines working to reduce CSA.  Sent via multiple sector distribution channels, including the CSA Centre's distribution list, wider sector newsletters, membership organisation bulletins and email, Research in Practice's network of local authorities, and via social media.	230 respondents in phase two. 166 respondents in phase three. 217 respondents in phase four.	V1: Mar 2018 V2: Jan 2019 V3: Jan 2020	In pursuit of higher response rates Research in Practice distributed the survey to their network of social care practitioners and leaders. This may slightly weight the responses towards the views of social care professionals, and therefore caution should be taken in terms of whether the results are representative of other sectors such as health and policing.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.csacentre.org.uk/about-us/governance/advisory-board/>

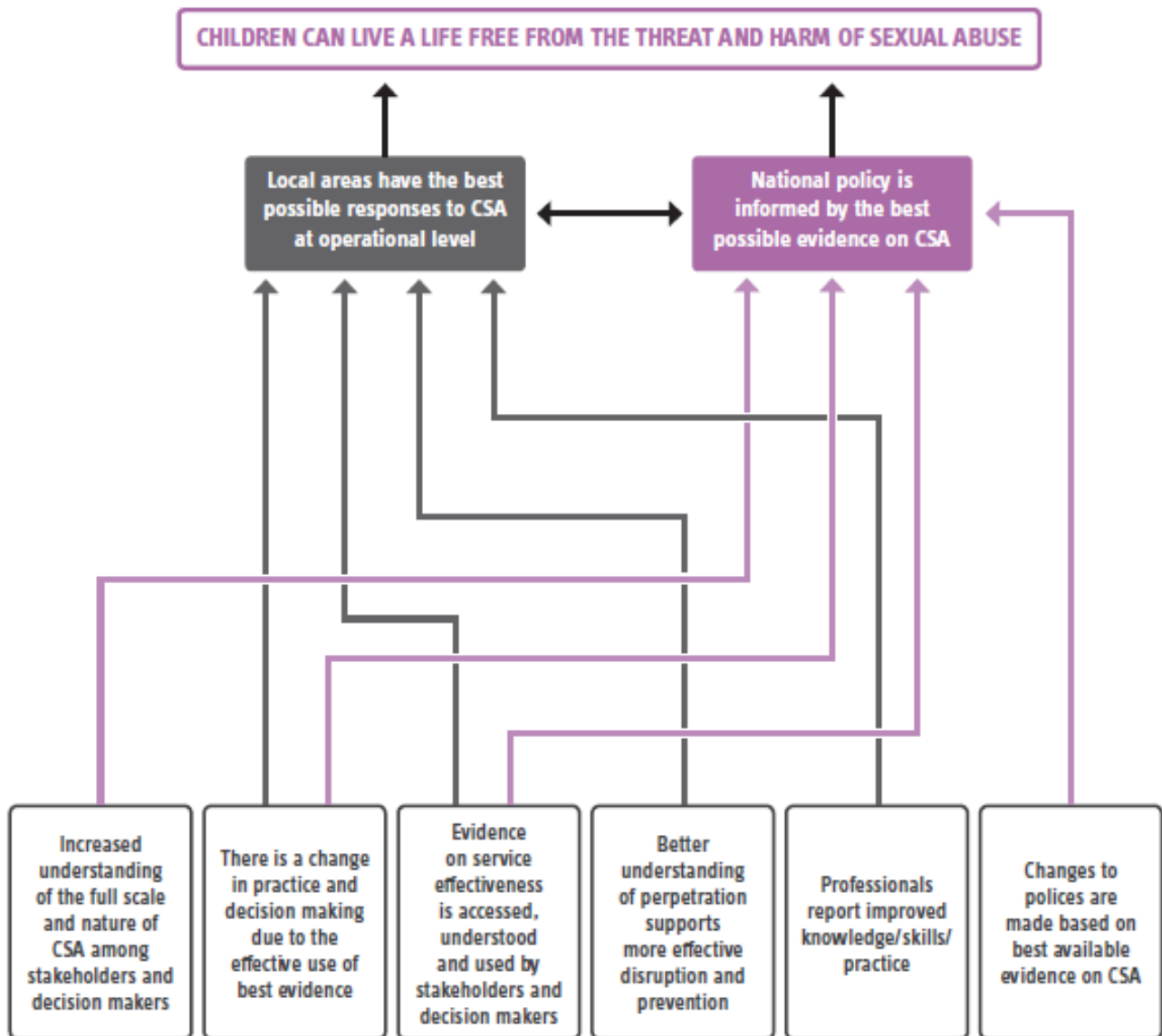
Source of evidence	Description	Sample	Time frames	Limitations / reliability
<b>Case studies</b>	<p>In phases three and four of the evaluation, the evaluators have conducted further in-depth examinations of particular areas of activity. Case study evidence collection included interviews (telephone and in-person), attendance at CSA Centre events, and documentary analysis.</p> <p>Three case studies were conducted in phase three and three in phase four:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase three: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Scale and nature activities</li> <li>○ Practice improvement (focusing on the role of the Practice Improvement Advisors)</li> <li>○ Intervention Effectiveness (with focus on the Evaluation Fund)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Phase four: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Medical examinations</li> <li>○ The CSA Practice Leads programme</li> <li>○ Policy and practice work in Wales</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Phase three: 23 interviews; attendance at two events; documentary analysis.</p> <p>Phase four: 16 interviews; attendance at three focus groups (including 19 participants); documentary analysis.</p>	<p>Phase three: Oct 2018 – Feb 2019</p> <p>Phase four: Oct 2019 – Feb 2020</p>	<p>Case studies reflect the views of those who were identified as being relevant stakeholders and who chose to engage with the evaluation; however there are many more people involved in each of these areas of work who did not participate and their views may not be captured here.</p> <p>The evaluation made all efforts to capture the varied nature of work in each of these areas based on analysis of evidence from multiple sources.</p> <p>In conducting the case studies, the CSA Centre provided evidence to the evaluation which was considered by evaluators as part of the wider case study work.</p>
<b>Policy interviews</b>	<p>Interviews with key individuals in different government departments who have worked with the CSA Centre in various capacities, particularly in relation to the 'influencing change' outcomes chain and several high-level sector outcomes.</p> <p>Individuals were identified and contacted from the Home Office, Ministry of Justice, the Department for Education, Department of Health, the Welsh government, and the National Crime Agency. For both phases response rates were relatively low.</p>	<p>Phase three: 2 respondents</p> <p>Phase four: 5 respondents</p>	<p>Phase three: Feb-Mar 2019</p> <p>Phase four: Jan-Feb 2020</p>	<p>While these interviews have helped identify key policy themes and issues, CSA Centre staff and other stakeholders also provided evidence regarding the wider sector landscape and the role of the CSA Centre within the policy context. Findings related to policy change therefore reflect a combination of the views of stakeholders working in this area.</p> <p>Policy interviews were reliant on policy makers working with the CSA Centre volunteering to participate, and recruitment of interviewees was supported by the CSA Centre. As such, this evidence collection relied on those names suggested by the CSA Centre.</p>

Source of evidence	Description	Sample	Time frames	Limitations / reliability
<b>Events feedback</b>	A standardised event feedback questionnaire was developed for the CSA Centre to distribute to attendees at relevant events and training sessions. Questions were informed by the training transfer literature and adapted to the CSA Centre's context.	Phase two: 70 responses from 2 conferences Phase three: 58 responses from 6 separate events Phase four: 177 responses from 8 separate events	Phase two: May 2018 Phase three: Jun 2018 – Jan 2019	Not all events relevant to the evaluation were organised by the CSA Centre and there were therefore limitations on whether questionnaires could be distributed to attendees. In cases where questionnaires were not used, other feedback may have been captured in the evidence Tracker (below). The approach taken to gather feedback from event attendees has changed during the course of the evaluation; switching from online feedback to paper-based feedback in an attempt to increase response rates. During phase three all events were held in London so may represent a limited sample.
<b>Evidence Tracker</b>	The CSA Centre evidence Tracker was developed by the CSA Centre and evaluation team based on the Theory of Change. The Tracker consists of an Excel database with drop down menus and is completed by individuals working at the Centre. Each entry (row) of the Tracker records an activity or output of the Centre, along with explanatory data to show how this relates to the Centre's goals.	Phase three: 96 items of evidence logged Phase four: 152 items of evidence logged	Phase three: May 2018 – Feb 2019 Phase four: Mar 2019 – Mar 2020	This form of evidence collection is limited by the capture and detailing of activity and outputs from the CSA Centre, and the use of the Tracker took time to develop. This has greatly improved in phase four due to additional administrative support from the CSA Centre. Importantly, the data from the Tracker cannot be considered to provide a comprehensive picture of CSA Centre activity, and likely under-represents the quantity and range of CSA Centre activities. Evidence logged is categorised against primary strands of work in the Theory of Change; however this may be considered an oversimplified view due to the complex and overlapping nature of the CSA Centre's work. Importantly, the Tracker should be seen as a curated library of evidence, collected by the CSA Centre and representing its work. As such, it might be considered to represent achievements of the CSA Centre as opposed to all activities and feedback. Where evidence from the Tracker has been incorporated into the evaluation, this has been clearly indicated in reporting.

Source of evidence	Description	Sample	Time frames	Limitations / reliability
<b>Outputs analysis</b>	<p>The evaluation team undertook an analysis of outputs which have been published by the CSA Centre. These are typically self-published on the CSA Centre’s website and were identified via online search and through the Tracker (above).</p> <p>Documents were analysed using a framework to identify the focus of the CSA Centre outputs and clarity of intended audience. They were also assessed against the Centre’s outcomes as defined in the Theory of Change.</p>	<p>38 publications total:  2017: 13 pubs  2018: 11 pubs  2019: 12 pubs  2020: 2 pubs</p> <p>20 blogs total:  2017: 1 blog  2018: 5 blogs  2019: 7 blogs  2020: 7 blogs</p>	<p>Collected throughout evaluation (2018-2020)</p>	<p>Without additional bibliometric data, the evaluation is reliant on the CSA Centre self-reporting any further publications information.</p> <p>It should be noted that a documentary analysis offers only a top line summary of content and does not explore the impact of specific publications which would require a deeper analysis of where and how publications have been used, citation analyses, and case studies of where these have altered practice. The sector survey has looked to explore this in some further detail but is limited in terms of its response rate.</p>
<b>Communications data</b>	<p>The CSA Centre submitted communications summary data for phases three and four of the evaluation. Data included website analytics, newsletter communication statistics, and social media statistics, providing an overarching picture of external engagement with CSA Centre content.</p> <p>Additional data was gathered via an analysis of social media activity, and through assessment of the CSA Centre website.</p>	<p>Provided for by CSA Centre for website, communications channels and social media account</p>	<p>Phase three:  Data provided April 2019 and updated October 2019</p> <p>Phase four:  Data provided Feb 2020</p>	<p>For communications data, the evaluation is reliant on the CSA Centre’s own internal monitoring activity in many areas (such as number of people engaging with the website and newsletters)</p>

# Theory of change

The overarching Theory of Change, developed in 2018 in collaboration with the CSA Centre and its partners, identified six key areas of work which the majority of CSA Centre activities could be grouped under. These six 'outcomes chains' were seen to contribute to changes in (1) the local and service-level responses to CSA across multiple sectors, and (2) to policy and strategy at a local and national level which enable these changes to take place. Ultimately, these goals were identified in view of an aspiration to enable children to live free from the threat and harm of sexual abuse.



Each of the six individual outcomes chains involves a complex set of activities and outcomes which are directed towards these ultimate goals. This evaluation takes a holistic view of the wealth of evidence collected and makes an assessment in each of these areas.

## Scale and nature

The goals that the CSA Centre set out to achieve in this stream of work were to improve the evidence available on the full scale and nature of CSA so that this could in turn influence understanding and decision making related to CSA at a strategic level. This was a core part of the CSA Centre's intended outcomes from the point it was commissioned, where the shortage of accurate data on the prevalence of CSA was identified as part of the problem facing services and policy makers.

Since its inception in 2017, the CSA Centre has developed expertise and credibility as a hub for statistics related to sexual abuse in England and Wales, partly thanks to the dedicated resource allocated to this work. The CSA Centre's connections in this area coupled with several clear work strands have generated new findings, such as via analysis of Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) data (Karsna & Majeed-Ariss, 2019), and through collating research from multiple sources. Importantly, this work has benefitted from the continual development of both internal resource, and the partnerships that the CSA Centre has developed with academics and organisations working to better understand CSA nationally. In 2019 and 2020, the CSA Centre has produced several valuable outputs representing a culmination of this work, including some of the CSA Centre's most viewed online content.

As work has developed, understanding the scale and nature of CSA has progressed from mapping what is currently known (and from somewhat limited data), into the improvement of data collection across many sectors, at an organisational level and nationally. The resulting publications have provided clear steps for professionals to make in this area, and the CSA Centre has further supported the collection of improved CSA data through other means, such as national surveys and in partnership with organisations working with large data sets (e.g. ONS and university partners).

The outputs of the CSA Centre in this strand of work further highlight the complex and hidden nature of CSA, and the barriers this presents to data collection and a true understanding of prevalence. Given these challenges, a central, independent and strategic function bringing evidence together for the public good appears to be extremely valuable. Work in this area is ongoing, and the CSA Centre continues to apply the learnings from previous work to strengthen data collection across multiple sectors. Another key strand of work has seen it developing a proposal for a new kind of survey of CSA prevalence, and building a coalition of support for this concept.

The work described in the Understanding Perpetration outcomes chain (see below) also highlights how the CSA Centre has taken a range of approaches to better understand the nature of CSA, and to turn this into resources which are operationally valuable for practice. As the CSA Centre has developed, the overlap between these two outcomes chains has become clearer, and it may be more appropriate to draw these two lines of work together in future. However, much of the approach taken to date is limited to perpetration and official data sources, and there are still key challenges faced by the CSA Centre and wider research community in furthering understanding about the nature of CSA, and in effectively and appropriately gathering evidence from children and young people about the harm they are experiencing.

Across interviews during the evaluation of the CSA Centre, the Scale and Nature work was regularly noted as important and valuable work which supported those in practice and policy, evidencing the value of a central, trusted, and independent voice guiding responses to an issue. Subsequent arrangements for the CSA Centre may wish to consider this ever growing function of the CSA Centre, and how to protect and maintain the capacity for this work.

Furthermore, the evidence collected in this area of work offers benefits in other work of the CSA Centre, including through direct application of local data by Practice Improvement Advisors, and as weight behind the CSA Centre's work supporting policy makers. The regular feedback from staff at the CSA Centre and external stakeholders in a variety of professional roles is testament to this value.

The evidence suggests this strand has been key in establishing the credibility of the CSA Centre as an expert in its field and offers a key resource for other areas of CSA Centre work, and more widely for those working to reduce CSA and support those who have been abused.

## Key evidence in this area

- The CSA Centre has produced a number of resources in this area of work, capturing the large amount of research by the CSA Centre and partners<sup>4</sup>, and contribution to the evidence base. These publications are some of the CSA Centre's most accessed resources (based on page views of the website), and include a range of publications related to the analysis of data (e.g. Karsna & Majeed-Ariss, 2019; Kelly & Karsna, 2017; Parke & Karsna, 2019) as well as practical considerations related to improving data in this area (Christie & Karsna, 2019; Karsna, 2019).
- Expert knowledge and experience fed into resources produced in this area; the CSA Centre's scoping report 'Measuring the scale and changing nature of child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation' from July 2017 was informed by two expert workshops with representatives from police and law enforcement, the ONS, government departments, a police force, a national charity and two universities.
- The CSA Centre's practical guide for organisations on improving data on CSA published in 2019, was accompanied by an interactive data improvement tool, whose content piloted by four local authority children's services, four police forces, six voluntary-sector services and St Mary's SARC. The pilot highlighted some of the challenges that agencies face in recording and reporting information on CSA cases they work with – and the benefits, in terms of improved data quality and consistency.
- The Scale and Nature work of the CSA Centre was commented upon by some CSA Centre staff as being its biggest success. Staff survey comments noted that the CSA Centre's research had contributed to a greater understanding of '*what is and is not known about CSA*'. The '*wide use of the Scale and Nature and key messages*' work was felt by staff to be a key achievement. Furthermore, sector survey respondents reported accessing CSA Centre research and resources, valuing this evidence base as a source of up to date, reliable information on CSA improving both knowledge and understanding.
- At a policy level, the Scale and Nature work was identified as representing an important and somewhat unique contribution to research relating to child sexual abuse. The CSA Centre was viewed as playing a key role in driving this forward, and those with policy responsibility were keen that this should continue to develop. Policy makers valued the CSA Centre's provision of access to current CSA related data and research collated in one location, as evidenced in interviews and in survey responses. The CSA Centre has added value in being able to provide analysis of raw data to respond to specific questions, for example in the CSA Centre's submission to the Home Affairs Select Committee, and serves a valuable role as an independent hub of this information (as well as having awareness of gaps in existing data).
- In staff and stakeholder workshops the Scale and Nature work was referenced as being a foundation for work across many strands of the CSA Centre's work, including improving 'data literacy' in multiple areas of work and allowing staff to engage with stakeholders. Case study interviews suggested that the Scale and Nature work of the Centre has influenced important new territory, for example forthcoming research into the scale of CSA through children's social care records in Wales.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.csacentre.org.uk/about-us/governance/advisory-board/>

- The Tracker records a number of activities in this area, including:
  - Consultation, resources and training were provided to inspectors from Ofsted, CQC, HMIP and HMICFRS around interfamilial sexual abuse. Following the consultation with the inspectorate, led by Ofsted, a Joint Targeted Area Inspection report titled 'The multi-agency response to child sexual abuse in the family environment'<sup>5</sup> was published in February 2020. CSA Centre publications are referenced multiple times, Scale and Nature resources in particular, with comments highlighting the importance of access to better data around prevalence. The CSA Centre's work on perpetration was mentioned positively, as an attempt to bring current research and issues *'together in an accessible way that frontline professionals can use'*.
  - Further consultations reported in the Tracker included meeting with a regional Safeguarding Board to review local data and a workshop with the Scottish Government around commissioning research into the scale, nature and prevalence of CSA. Further work was conducted with NatCen on behalf of the ONS, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, scoping whether and how questions about CSA could be included in surveys on child abuse. The Tracker also displayed how the CSA Centre is aware of and responsive to external activities, releasing a blog<sup>6</sup> following publication of the ONS child abuse compendium<sup>7</sup>; the CSA Centre's blog was shared by the ONS and on Twitter, further increasing the CSA Centre's reach.
  - One of the CSA Centre's key publications in this area involved a case file review of young people attending Saint Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre in Greater Manchester<sup>8</sup>. This publication reportedly received around 600 page views, nearly 300 engagements on Twitter and 350 newsletter link clicks. Leading on from this work, a CSA Centre employee is second author on a publication in Child Abuse Review<sup>9</sup>, focusing on the different patterns of sexual abuse experienced by boys and girls emerging from the case review.
  - Finally, two CSA Centre staff members were guest editors for a subsequent issue of Child Abuse Review<sup>10</sup>, which the publishers agreed to make open access for a limited period, broadening the potential audience for this work. A number of CSA Centre resources were referenced in the issue; the papers included reflected on the Scale and Nature of CSA while also considering the voices of practitioners and lived experience.

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<sup>5</sup>[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/862454/Multi\\_agency\\_response\\_to\\_child\\_sexual\\_abuse\\_in\\_the\\_family\\_environment\\_joint\\_targeted\\_area\\_inspections\\_JTAIs.pdf#page35](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/862454/Multi_agency_response_to_child_sexual_abuse_in_the_family_environment_joint_targeted_area_inspections_JTAIs.pdf#page35)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.csacentre.org.uk/resources/blog/what-the-new-ons-child-abuse-compendium-tells-us/>

<sup>7</sup><https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/childabuseinenglandandwales/january2020>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/st-marys-case-file-review/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/car.2588>

<sup>10</sup> <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/10990852/2019/28/6>



## Access to evidence

Part of the CSA Centre's approach to strengthening policy and practice involved the generation, collation, and implementation of evidence on sexual abuse. This centred on the generation of effective resources which could communicate key messages to a range of relevant stakeholders and professionals. Ultimately, the CSA Centre intended to support changes in practice and decision making based on the best available evidence, and to generate new evidence where it was identified as lacking.

Guided by a sector-led cycle of identifying gaps in knowledge and key topics (for instance through scoping surveys, evidence mapping, and consultation events), the CSA Centre began generating evidence-informed content from the very early stages of its delivery. Primarily, this was conducted by commissioning research experts from academic institutions; however as the CSA Centre's own expertise and internal capacity grew, its outputs were increasingly developed using a partnership approach.

A significant output in this strand of work were the CSA Centre's Key Messages from Research, which covered a range of topics related to CSA, including child sexual exploitation, intra-familial abuse, institutional abuse, harmful sexual behaviour, abuse of looked after children and disclosures of abuse. Initially, the outputs on CSE were customised for a wide range of audiences (such as police, health and commissioners); however later outputs moved towards a single output per topic.

As other strands of work developed (such as the Scale and Nature strand described above, and sector-specific work of the Practice Improvement Advisors), the CSA Centre began publishing further outputs which summarised specific areas of work, balancing new research and existing literature. This represented a step forward in the CSA Centre's position of expertise, from the curation of existing knowledge, to the generation of new understanding.

As well as traditional report-style publications, the CSA Centre also began expanding the type of outputs used from 2018 onwards, with the development of video content (via YouTube), the use of blogs, and increased usage of social media; representing activity in the communication of evidence to stakeholders. This has been largely a digital process (as opposed to hard-copy printing) and therefore the mixture of mediums has represented a balanced approach to dissemination.

This digital process of increasing access to evidence relied heavily on the CSA Centre's website – a key feature in the CSA Centre's infrastructure which was missing from the original Theory of Change work. The ongoing work and development of this resource represents a large asset for the CSA Centre, and should be acknowledged as a key underpinning feature.

There have been some challenges faced in its development, as well as some learnings which may support other similar initiatives. One such learning was in ensuring continuity in access to publications, particularly when URLs (links) change in website redesigns. One such application of this, which the CSA Centre is exploring at the end of this evaluation period, is the use of standard publication processes (such as DOIs and standardised citations for resources).

Access to evidence is by no means restricted to the production and dissemination of literature and other communications. The CSA Centre has also delivered evidence directly to those who are working directly to prevent child sexual abuse or support people who have been abused. The resources developed by the CSA Centre form a crucial part of this work and its credibility in delivering messages to practitioners and decision makers. This work is further described in other outcomes chains in this report; Engaging and Developing Practice and Influencing Change.

The CSA Centre has also had to develop a communications strategy to support its dissemination of an increasingly large body of resources, and it continues to refine its approach to engaging with

practitioners and policy makers. This is not a simple task due to the capacity of the CSA Centre compared to the huge range of people working in roles where CSA is relevant. In the case of those making policy and strategy decisions, the CSA Centre has engaged directly with relevant stakeholders on an individual level, helped greatly through its various networks and partners, and been able to draw upon appropriate resources as necessary.

An area which the CSA Centre has recently begun addressing is the complex task of incorporating evidence from people with lived experience of child sexual abuse in its work, which has involved the inclusion of survivors in its Advisory Group. This is an area of the CSA Centre's work which is still developing as this evaluation ends; however a thoughtful approach to this work will be important to ensure meaningful inclusion which is sensitive to the traumatic experiences of people who have been abused whilst maintaining the evidential rigour of the CSA Centre's work.

Another area of evidence which the CSA Centre has also begun to address in recent work is that of abuse in minority groups such as abuse of black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) children, where evidence is somewhat lacking. The CSA Centre has received challenge related to a lack of focus on abuse affecting BAME communities and has begun addressing the need for more and better evidence which would enable responses to abuse more widely in the population. These are challenges which face research more widely, and the CSA Centre is taking a proactive approach to addressing them through its work. Crucially, this work can be informed by other work happening within the CSA Centre, such as developing understanding of the true Scale and Nature of abuse, so that outputs are reflective of the reality of abuse; by engaging with different practice groups who are working directly with BAME communities; and by supporting people working to prevent CSA to collect more robust data related to perpetration.

The CSA Centre has demonstrated a high level of activity in both the collation of existing evidence and the generation of new evidence. It has begun to develop an increasingly useful body of resources, guided by clearly identified gaps in evidence, and created a range of ways to share these with professionals and policy makers. The CSA Centre is by no means the only actor working in this space, however its position as a centre for experts and academics working in the field of child sexual abuse has served to bring together a range of knowledge in an independent and trustworthy location for the benefit of multiple sectors and professionals.

## Key evidence in this area

- The CSA Centre has produced close to 40 reports and publications since 2017, as well as many other resources including blogs, video content, newsletters, and contributions to external publications and articles. These outputs have been driven by ongoing analysis of the gaps in available evidence for the sector, and guided by the CSA Centre's stakeholders and advisors. Content has been adapted for multiple audiences including police, social care, health and policy makers. An extensive list of these publications can be found in the [appendices](#).
- Responses from the staff survey show an awareness of current evidence gaps. Priorities for the CSA Centre's future work included researching gaps including CSA and BAME, challenges for boys and CSA, male survivors of CSA, religion/culture and CSA and a national prevalence study.
- The CSA Centre's conferences and events have supported dissemination of knowledge and resources produced by the CSA Centre, with 88% of those completing event feedback forms saying that the events had increased their understanding of current issues related to CSA. Feedback from event surveys suggests that while the largest audience for CSA Centre events was those working in social care and social work (44%), a range of audiences were engaged including those in the charity and voluntary sector (18%), local government (17%), criminal justice / law enforcement (5%), central government (5%) and health (5%). The 'Connect 2018 Conference' and 'Evaluating Responses to Child Sexual Abuse' events, in particular, engaged

attendees from a broad range of disciplines. Targeted workshops for new and early career researchers undertaking doctorates were highly regarded by participants and have provided valuable in enabling recognition of new and emerging research in the field of CSA.

- Communications figures provided by the CSA Centre display a steady engagement with resources, with hundreds of people accessing blogs and publications, the most viewed of which were accessed by nearly 2,000 people. The CSA Centre's videos also proved popular, with the medical examinations video viewed in excess of 7,500 times. Twitter and the newsletter continue to be a strong referral source, the latter having over 3,500 subscribers from across the world.
- In workshops with staff and stakeholders it was noted that capturing the impact of CSA Centre outputs is challenging and in particular how resources have influenced practitioners work. The CSA Centre's website has developed over time, with several rounds of updates to this, enabling access to resources, such as the introduction of a blog, and ongoing development of the hosting and publication of resources. Alongside the website, the CSA Centre's social media presence has also been developed, growing to over 2,000 followers since it was established in 2016. The CSA Centre continues to develop means of evaluating the ongoing usage and impact of its resources, which is increasingly challenging for organisations producing free-to-access, digital resources.
- The sector survey, which was conducted annually over the course of the evaluation, displayed an increase in awareness of, and engagement with, the CSA Centre across the three phases. The proportion of respondents who had not heard of the CSA Centre decreased from 59% in phase 2, to 11% in phase 4. Similarly, respondents who had accessed CSA Centre resources increased from 13% in phase 2 to 56% in phase 4<sup>11</sup>. By the end of the evaluation, 61% of respondents reported using the CSA Centre's website when searching for information on CSA.
  - There has also been a steady increase in those reporting satisfaction with their direct contact with the CSA Centre across the three sector surveys, reaching 68% in the most recent survey. Satisfaction with specific aspects of the CSA Centre's work also increased across the evaluation, with the quality and accessibility of the CSA Centre's resources rated especially highly (85% and 84% respectively reporting satisfaction in the final survey).

Those who had accessed resources through the CSA Centre website<sup>12</sup>, felt the quality was high (85%, n = 102), relevant to their work / study (90%, n = 106) and met gaps in the knowledge base (80%, n = 95). Although fewer respondents reported that resources had changed the way they work (36%, n = 43), there is the potential for more indirect impacts, through the increased knowledge / skills / confidence gained from the resources. Where descriptions of resources' influence were given, there were references to key resources, their use in local training development, along with broader influences from local commissioning to informing national policy.

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<sup>11</sup> Sample sizes varied across surveys; the phase 2 survey received 230 responses, the phase 3 survey received 166 responses and the phase 4 survey received 217 responses.

<sup>12</sup> During the most recent survey: February 2020 (n = 119)

## Intervention effectiveness

The Intervention Effectiveness work of the CSA Centre began at pace during the early stages of its funding, and has encapsulated a varied set of activities. Through this channel of work the CSA Centre has acted as an independent funder of evaluation, resource for capacity and skills building in CSA services, and as a methodological researcher in itself. In the three years during which this work has developed, there have been considerable changes in the external context, including other related programmes of work and the establishment of the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care (which the CSA Centre has developed links with); and the CSA Centre has demonstrated the value in having topic-focused expertise in this space, and the ability to bring together evidence around sexual abuse as a multi-agency and societal issue, as opposed to focusing on a particular sector or subset of professionals.

A key area of work identified by the CSA Centre in its early planning was to support organisations who were working to reduce the threat and harm of CSA to better understand their impact, and to act as a hub for this evidence on best practice. A significant element of this work was in developing evaluation capacity for the sector, and helping organisations to collect data which best demonstrated their impact.

The work of the Evaluation Fund began very quickly, benefitting from the prior experience of the CSA Centre team and existing connections. The pace of this initial work was also affected by funding requirements of the CSA Centre, which required Evaluation Fund grants to be awarded in first phase of delivery. As such, this was one of the first areas of work to begin, and one where a large body of evidence and expertise was generated whilst most other aspects of the CSA Centre's activities were still becoming established.

The Evaluation Fund supported a range of different organisations throughout England and Wales in their evaluation activities and fostered improvements in evaluation capacity by linking organisations with evaluation experts. The work also identified wider barriers that organisations face in terms of evaluation of their work, such as limits in funding and capacity for evaluation activity. This too was seen as a potential barrier for the continuation of the work supported by the CSA Centre and there was a large variety in the capacity of individual organisations in their starting point for evaluation (for example, the need for organisations to describe and define their interventions often required more input than expected) and ability to carry out evaluation work. The early limitations on funding work across different financial years is reported to have reduced the CSA Centre's ability to further support organisations in the continuation of their evaluation activities. The CSA Centre addressed this in part through its subsequent resources and tools; however there may be considerations for commissioners on how to spread evaluation funding out over longer periods of time and / or allow greater flexibility in budget profiling, in order to support sustained changes in services.

The subsequent work of the CSA Centre capitalised on the findings of the Evaluation Fund and related networking and communication events organised, distilling evidence related to evaluation of services working specifically with child sexual abuse. This culminated in the production of resources aimed at services (crossing into other strands of work discussed in this report), including a reflection on the Evaluation Fund, and practical guides and tools to support evaluation, such as how to develop a Theory of Change, design evaluation tools and collect data, and designing and commissioning additional evaluation support.

There has been crossover between work in the Intervention Effectiveness and Access to Evidence strands. Alongside the work emerging from the Evaluation Fund, the CSA Centre commissioned a Knowledge Review which outlines the current landscape of service provision, identifies core elements of effective practice in the field and considers approaches to evaluation in this area of work. This suite of work comprises a study with practice settings; a survey of service providers, to better understand their

services and the children and young people they worked with; additional work to explore the perspectives of children and young people with learning difficulties or experience of being in care; and a briefing that summarises what was found. This work also represented one of the ways that the CSA Centre has incorporated the voice of lived experience in its outputs as young people using child sexual abuse services, including those with learning difficulties, looked after children and care leavers were interviewed during the course of the work.

The next steps in this area are relatively open and dependent on the next steps of the CSA Centre as a whole, though a key gap identified was that of response to non-abusing parents. Funding barriers to evaluation for individual services are relatively difficult to address through a single channel, and instead rely on a mixture of external funding, internal budget allocation, and a dedication to upskilling professionals in research and evaluation. The CSA Centre is developing its role in this complex system and has the opportunity to build on a body of understanding and expertise in service effectiveness, as well as supporting the increasing number of other organisations working in this space. Increasingly, this work has merged with other activity of the CSA Centre, (such as the Engaging and Developing Practice strand, discussed below), as they support a range of professionals in different sectors to deliver evidence-informed and effective work, as well as gathering new and valuable evidence through effective evaluation tools and frameworks.

## Key evidence in this area

- A number of CSA Centre resources document the large volume of work that has occurred in this strand, particularly in the early stage of funding and include reflections on the experience of the Evaluation Fund (Sullivan & Sharples, 2018), and documentation of effectiveness research<sup>13</sup> commissioned and conducted by the CSA Centre (e.g. Mcneish, Kelly, & Scott, 2019; Parkinson & Sullivan, 2019).
- The CSA Centre has also developed a series of resources to support organisations to evaluate their effectiveness and some of these are amongst the most accessed of the Centre's resources. For example, data provided by the CSA Centre in February 2020 shows the report 'Measuring your effectiveness: A practical guide for services working with children and young people affected by sexual abuse' had received over 1,800 page views.
- Resources developed in this strand have, like other areas of the CSA Centre's work, involved multiple resource types, including worksheets, reports and tools, and videos developed to increase access to evidence for those working in services.
- Feedback on this strand of work is available from four surveys in this area; two of these provided feedback following events, the third relates to feedback provided in the latest sector survey, and the fourth from a survey specifically for Evaluation Fund recipients. Due to the low numbers involved, the results discussed below cannot be considered representative of other individuals and organisations who attended events / received support from the Fund.
  - Events feedback:
    - Seven (of 33, 21% completion rate) people who attended the 'Evaluation Fund Wrap-Up' in June 2018 provided feedback on the event, which was felt to be engaging and interactive overall. A majority of people reported satisfaction with the event and all seven respondents felt that the event was relevant to their work and increased their links with other organisations working with CSA. Comments noted the event was useful to "share learning from our projects", expressing

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.csacentre.org.uk/our-research/effectiveness/effectiveness-studies/>

wishes “to hold regular learning forums to follow up on our work with the Evaluation Fund”.

- There were 39 people who provided feedback following the ‘Evaluating Responses to CSA’ event in January 2019. Feedback was mainly positive, with attendees describing their intentions to develop a Theory of Change (n = 6) or to build on their evaluation work (n = 5), while also feeling the event was supportive of networking.
- Sector survey feedback:
  - Five respondents to the sector survey were Evaluation Fund recipients and completed further questions about their outcomes following the Fund. Overall responses were positive, with four agreeing that participating in the Fund had improved their capacity to evaluate, define their intervention model and ability to measure outcomes. A slightly lower proportion of people felt they would be able to sustain the work they had started through the Evaluation Fund, suggesting some further support might be required in this area; these findings were also apparent in other feedback received around the Evaluation Fund (see below).
  - Although one person provided consistently low ratings, noting “*I felt very dismissed by this organisation*”, another comment was complimentary, displaying how the respondent’s work with the Fund directly influenced local practice:

*“It highlighted and evidenced an area of concern which has been used to influence and improve local practice.”*

- Evaluation Fund feedback:
  - A separate survey for Evaluation Fund recipients was sent to 16 people and received five responses (31% completion rate). All five respondents felt their capacity to evaluate had improved, although further support might be required to sustain this work. Although one person expressed some dissatisfaction with how the CSA Centre engaged them, the overall picture was positive with reports of relationships with the CSA Centre and the evaluator they were paired with continuing beyond the Evaluation Fund. There were suggestions the Fund also supported career progression, with a report of individuals moving onto “higher level roles” following “interest and confidence” gained from the Fund. One respondent described the importance of growing their evaluation capacity:

*“It was so important to evaluate the practice we are whole heartedly convinced helps our clients to recover. We had received feedback from clients and front line workers but had never pulled everything together to show the vital importance of this approach for this client group.”*

## Understanding perpetration

In the initial planning phase of the CSA Centre, perpetration was identified as a key area of activity, with the CSA Centre aiming to improve wider understanding of how perpetration can be better identified and understood, and how this might inform the disruption and prevention of CSA. The Theory of Change created by the CSA Centre, its partners, and the evaluation team identified a key area of work being the development and testing of typologies of perpetration.

As the CSA Centre has developed, it has become clear that the work involved in better understanding perpetration is closely linked with various other strands of work within the CSA Centre, as well as depending greatly on the network of other organisations who have access to data on perpetration. For instance, the 'nature' element of the Scale and Nature work of the CSA Centre involves a more detailed understanding of the types of abuse and those committing it; and the wider Scale and Nature activities, such as developing a prevalence survey, are central to providing better evidence on which to build a typology of perpetration. Furthermore, better understanding of perpetration is also reliant on the CSA Centre's relationships with senior leaders from partner agencies such as the police, National Crime Agency, the Home Office, the Department for Education, and other organisations holding access to relevant data. Thus the work of the Influencing Change and Engaging and Developing Practice strands are central parts of this strand.

As noted above, the CSA Centre engaged in a large volume of activity in generating resources (such as Key Messages from Research papers) in its initial stages of delivery. These included a body of work related to the perpetration of child sexual exploitation, including CSE by younger people, and online child sexual exploitation. Furthermore, early research messages included a range of recommendations related to the disruption of CSE for various stakeholders.

Although the Understanding Perpetration work has featured in a range of different work streams, there were additional challenges for the CSA Centre to overcome in regards to addressing the complex nature of CSA perpetration; in particular, around how to present evidence around perpetration which accounts for the highly hidden nature of sexual abuse, and how to present perpetration in a way which does not get misinterpreted (such as by overemphasising a particular type of abuse in a way which distracts attention from others). This is particularly challenging given the lack of accurate Scale and Nature data, and further justifies the alignment of these two strands of CSA Centre work.

Furthermore, the CSA Centre needed to navigate the complex multi-agency elements of this work, including navigating issues with data sensitivity and some organisational issues around making perpetration information public. The CSA Centre appears to have carefully and responsibly navigated relationships with multiple stakeholders in order to progress the typology work; nonetheless, continued caution is important to ensure that operational work to disrupt perpetration (e.g. that of the NCA's Child Exploitation & Online Protection Command) is not affected by the publication of evidence. Importantly, the CSA Centre has been able to act as an independent body in developing understanding of perpetration, yet with strong links via its funding arrangements; and this unique position has enabled the CSA Centre to actively support wider discussion about child sexual abuse which is inclusive and avoids over-emphasising particular types of abuse to the detriment of other issues.

This position can be seen in the CSA Centre's work to increase understanding about the nature of intra-familial child sexual abuse, and to balance focus so that extra-familial abuse and exploitation do not dominate public dialogue. This is evident both in the outputs of the CSA Centre, as well as in more evidence from interviews related to the interactions the CSA Centre has with stakeholders in policy and practice.

As the evaluation and initial funding of the CSA Centre ends, there is still work to be done in terms of implementing the findings from this strand of work, and the CSA Centre is well-positioned to do this via

its links with practice and relationships with policy makers in local and national government. Furthermore, these relationships might enable continued development of perpetration understanding, with the CSA Centre acting as a bridge between practice and policy, and supported by the work of the Scale and Nature and Intervention Effectiveness strands. Arguably, at this stage in the CSA Centre's development, these three strands of work have considerably merged into an 'understanding CSA', with key lines of work occurring in the collection of data, and interpretation of it for operational and strategic purposes across multiple sectors.

The next phase of the CSA Centre's work should consider how it acts as a public and practice-facing hub for evidence on perpetration, and how it interacts with other organisations who may be working in less public-facing roles, such as intelligence and law enforcement agencies. Ultimately, this may come down to subsequent funding arrangements of the CSA Centre, and the resulting primary audiences for its work; however the CSA Centre's independence in this space will be a fundamental part of this continued work.

## Key evidence in this area

- Some policy makers referenced the challenges in this area, in terms of dealing with sensitive data such as the typologies research. It was noted that other areas of government, such as the National Crime Agency, have access to detailed data that is unable to be accessed for research in the public domain, for operational reasons. Balancing the need for accurate and detailed understanding of perpetration to aid the development of effective practice, whilst avoiding increasing vulnerability or affecting investigations / law enforcement response, was noted during these interviews.
- The CSA Centre held a number of consultations with researchers and policy makers in this area, including two roundtables on harmful sexual behaviour and two roundtables on adults who sexually abuse children, all towards the latter half of 2018. These events fed into the Key Messages from Research report on young people who display harmful sexual behaviour and the CSA Centre's work on understanding offending. Survey feedback following these events was almost exclusively positive, with the events' delivery and facilitation rated particularly highly, with comments describing "excellent chair and facilitation" and "stimulating discussion". Most respondents felt the event was relevant to their work and all would recommend to a colleague in a similar role, with opportunities to make contacts and explore areas such as "alternative considerations regarding how CSA offending could be tackled".
- The Tracker outlined some key activities in this area:
  - Towards the end of 2019, the CSA Centre commissioned a survey into the prevention and disruption of CSA, which was overseen by the PIA for Police and carried out by the University of Huddersfield. Surveys for strategic leads and frontline officers were distributed to police forces across the country; one large police force reported publishing the survey information on their internal website which reaches a potential audience of 4,000. The research also included face to face interviews with frontline officers and evidence collection at regional events with organised crime units and the NCA. At this time no findings are available to the evaluation.
    - Further engagement with police was reported by the Deputy Director of Partnering for Improvement, with one event to raise awareness of the CSA Centre and one event which promoted the disruption survey to an academic advisory group which included police, academics and GCHQ. There were around 40 people engaged across these events, one of which resulted in further opportunities for training, awareness raising and networking through contacts met on the day.



- Dissemination activities began in early 2020 with meetings to discuss the findings of the survey reported with strategic leads, such as the Protecting Vulnerable Persons (PVP) Commander of the Metropolitan Police which led to survey briefs being developed and delivered to multiple constabularies. Further work in January 2020 was described by the PIA for Policing as a meeting with the Head of the National Policing Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme (VKPP), with a follow-up email enquiring about further research which could be presented to forces, and ongoing conversations regarding better understanding CSA practice delivery outcomes.
- Workshops were delivered on the offending typology to 38 delegates. These sessions had the dual purpose of raising awareness of the CSA Centre and gathering feedback on the developing typologies, and were evaluated positively. There were 31 people who provided feedback (which was separate to the events feedback overseen by Research in Practice). Of those who provided feedback, 94% felt the main points were well covered / clarified and 100% reported that the facilitator(s) demonstrated comprehensive knowledge of the subject matter. Delegates' comments suggested the discussions about typologies were particularly beneficial.

*"I really enjoyed the clarity of the typology - made academic research accessible"*

- The typologies work has now been released to the CSA Centre's website (A new typology of child sexual abuse offending, CSA Centre and Middlesex University, 2020) and the Tracker provides examples of this work shared widely, including references in Twitter discussions about legislation in Spain, while in the UK a NHS Trust Safeguarding Children team reported that the work would be incorporated into their training. This demonstrates CSA Centre resources being used in practice as well as their potentially international reach.

## Engaging and developing practice

A core component of the approach of the CSA Centre to address the threat of and harm caused by child sexual abuse involved the translation of evidence into practical and operational changes in the response of services and practitioners. In terms of the CSA Centre's activities, this aim was realised through a range of work streams, foremost of which was the employment and work of the Practice Improvement Advisors (PIAs). Across evidence collection in this evaluation, this particular strand of work has been well recorded and highly visible, with a wealth of evidence of the CSA Centre engaging with practitioners in multiple sectors, and sharing up-to-date and valuable evidence on responding to CSA.

The challenge for the CSA Centre was that of engaging practice across multiple sectors, and professionals in a range of different roles, who might encounter the threat and harm of CSA in a variety of ways. This is clearly a huge number of people to engage who might benefit from improved access to evidence, but without a significant budget for a large-scale learning and development delivery programme. Therefore, the CSA Centre has employed a range of approaches which, through considered programmes of work, have enabled contact with a large number of people through various events and engagement opportunities. This is coupled with other influencing work (described below) which help to support the sustained changes necessary for altering approaches in practice.

The PIAs were recruited based on expertise and experience in a particular area of practice (such as health or social work). This individualised approach to areas of practice was well received, and the PIAs demonstrated an ability to engage a large number of people and disseminate the evidence and resources gathered and generated by the CSA Centre. Furthermore, other strands of work, such as the Scale and Nature research, enabled the PIAs to demonstrate expertise and deliver bespoke, customised messages to services through access to local and regional data.

The approach of the PIAs showed a degree of flexibility in how they engaged with practice, and some of their work took advantage of the CSA Centre's (and individuals') networks to allow them to speak at events and conferences. This presence across multiple networks suggests an impact much bigger than might be imagined for a relatively low number of individuals working in these roles at the CSA Centre. Furthermore, the PIAs have developed detailed understanding within their particular areas of the opportunities which exist to deliver training and share evidence.

In addition to this, the CSA Centre has further developed its ability to cascade evidence through practice via its creation and development of the Practice Lead roles – groups of practitioners who received additional learning and development support informed by best available evidence in CSA. To date, this approach has been mostly related to work in social care and clustered into regional or organisational groups. These Practice Leads have become champions of evidence in CSA, informed and supported by the CSA Centre, with the ability to make direct changes in their work reducing the threat and harm of CSA.

Engagement with practice has also involved more strategic work by the CSA Centre and PIAs and significant ongoing investment, for instance by supporting organisations and sectors to develop joined-up responses to CSA. Examples of this include development of safeguarding tools for medical professionals, changes in information for police via organisational intranet, and 'train-the-trainer' programmes to increase organisational capacity to disseminate best practice. These and other similar activities of the CSA Centre demonstrate a value-added approach to the work in this space as CSA Centre team members aim to achieve higher impact by increasing their overall reach. Nevertheless, significant further investment is needed to further embed promising work in the field that might evidence impact at the level of casework, team or organisational level.

The challenges that the CSA Centre has faced in this space are primarily related to capacity, which in part have been addressed by the approaches taken by PIAs described above. Nonetheless, there are more areas in which the CSA Centre has not been able to provide a more dedicated focus which could also have benefitted from a PIA role or equivalent. One role which the CSA Centre has struggled with has been a dedicated focus on education, mainly due to available staff and budget to fund this focus and some external factors out of the CSA Centre's control (for instance, the education sector is highly heterogeneous, with no 'umbrella' organisation to work through). This has led to a noticeable difference in the amount of work in this area compared to other practice fields. This limited capacity also presents a risk in terms of the amount of expertise and responsibility sitting with a single person within the CSA Centre, and the potential for a significant loss of organisational capacity and output with the loss of a single member of staff (as borne out by the lack of an education PIA).

Another area of reflection at this final stage in the evaluation of the CSA Centre is the slight difference in its approach between nations. The CSA Centre was commissioned to focus on England and Wales, and the PIA work focused on Welsh policy and practice has demonstrated value for Welsh policy makers. There is also some indication of the evidence flow from Wales influencing the work of the Centre and its outputs, and the CSA Centre has also worked with Scottish Government. Going forward, there may be a need to consider how varying national approaches and flows of evidence evolve, and where within the CSA Centre this engagement with national policy makers sits.

Arguably, the successful approach taken by the PIAs could be replicated for many other areas, such as with mental health services, private fostering providers, sports and leisure services, accommodation services, and businesses), and the CSA Centre has provided a blueprint for continued work in this area, with a pyramidal approach to disseminating evidence to those working directly to prevent the threat and harm of CSA.

A key consideration for the CSA Centre going forward is how to sustain this level of engagement with practice in the long-term, including the arrangements for funding continued delivery and engagement. Central to this issue is where the responsibility for resourcing learning and development in CSA sits; and whether the CSA Centre (and other similar organisations) deliver this in a semi-charitable format via central funding arrangement, or whether this responsibility sits with individual services who should pay for learning and development services. Ultimately, this is a policy decision which must consider the importance of improving the identification and response to child sexual abuse, and whether services have the incentives, motivation and resources to make improvements without centrally-funded support. To this point, the CSA Centre's ability to dedicate time and resource to offering 'free' support to organisations has been very warmly received and the evaluation evidence suggests that this has been key to the high levels of engagement seen.

## Key evidence in this area

- The focus upon improving practice and the role of Practice Improvement Advisors was commented upon in the staff survey as particularly impactful. Staff comments noted that this focus helps to ensure research knowledge and best practice are directly communicated to practitioners and a level of knowledge exchange occurs so that CSA Centre work is also informed by frontline professionals. The passion and commitment of each of the PIAs regarding their work was notable during interviews and is also recognised by other stakeholders and interviewees. Their work was frequently described positively, and their individual attributes considered important in the development of work in each of the case study areas.
  - The PIAs were rated especially highly in the sector survey, with 86 to 90% of respondents feeling their PIAs had increased their understanding of and access to evidence related to CSA. One person described how they felt PIAs were:

"[A] unique resource, I wouldn't know where else to look to get equivalent knowledge and support."

There is good emerging evidence of the way in which PIAs in each of the case studies have been able to draw on and utilise expertise within the CSA Centre, either in response to local need (e.g. in Wales) or in relation to a specific piece of work (e.g. input from the medical examinations work into the practice leads project).

- 'Operationalising research' and 'practice improvement' were noted as key future priorities for the CSA Centre, by both staff in the survey and policy makers during interviews. Engagement with education is also an area that staff note has been challenging and where less progress has been made. Staff also noted that the CSA Centre has conducted somewhat less work which directly engages people who have experienced CSA however that the need for this has been identified and work to address this is currently underway.
- Policy makers felt that engaging and developing practice is a key focus for the CSA Centre and is an area where the CSA Centre outputs have highlighted issues which can then be addressed in partnership with each sector, for example the lack of practitioner confidence in dealing with CSA or support around CSA medical examinations. The CSA Centre was felt by policy makers to have a co-ordination role in this arena, providing a coherent message and operationalising research findings for practitioners. There was acknowledgement in some interviews that CSA Centre input has been particularly valuable in sectors such as health and social care however some challenges were noted in engaging with policing and crime due to the nature of police work; nonetheless, the CSA Centre has demonstrated a high level of engagement with policing in this strand.
- In respect of events feedback, individual events have been discussed under their respective evidence strands. The broad picture of events feedback was extremely positive with over 90% of event survey respondents being happy with the facilitation, engagement and materials in events. Comments across questions praised the skills, knowledge and experience of CSA Centre staff and respondents described how they would implement the learning in their work, particularly by utilising tools which were provided in the event / workshop. Group discussions and networking were also considered particularly useful, with some delegates hoping to collaborate on future work. Crucially, some comments (n = 8) also mentioned intentions to consider the voice / perspective of survivors in their work.
- The volume of work conducted on this strand is particularly apparent in the Tracker, with 64 items coded as events, training, conference / presentation or workshops, engaging a reported total of 3,200 people; once onward dissemination is accounted for, this number is likely to be substantially higher.
- A broad spectrum of professionals were comprehensively engaged, particularly by PIAs, including through promoting CSA Centre resources by direct contact and networking. For example, the Tracker contains email evidence of blogs and CSA Centre publications shared with relevant professionals by email. Following promotion of recent 'Key Messages from Research' publications with local authority managers, managers reported considering the publications "accessible", with feedback including:

*"This feels really important, I am going to place it on our social work academy website essential reading."*

*"This will be circulated via the [family placement] Briefing to all [family placement] managers. Discussed at all fostering & adoption team meetings in the weeks ahead. Likely to also form part of the annual Safeguarding training to staff, panel members and carers / adopters to update their insight and practice."*

- Phase 4 began with the release of the medical examination review and film for practitioners. This was extensively promoted through emails to contacts in various fields, including health, social care and policing; subsequent emails suggest this was well-received with organisations including police forces and SARCs linking the video. The video has also been incorporated into the NHS's Safeguarding materials (see below). This was the most viewed content on the CSA Centre's YouTube channel, with approximately 7,800 views to date.
  - Correspondence was also received from an organisation working in child safeguarding across South East Europe, which was hosting the medical examinations video in both English<sup>14</sup> and with Hungarian subtitles<sup>15</sup>. It was reported that this platform is managed in 10 countries and has over 230,000 users, receiving over 1 million page views. This illustrates the international reach of the CSA Centre and the popularity of the medical examinations video in particular. Feedback was provided highlighting the benefit of the video for survivors, parents and professionals:

*"It is an excellent video that shows things from the beginning to end, and addresses the concerns or fears of victims and their parents!!!! It also addresses the questions of other professionals who are supposed to refer children to the center."*

- The DfE-funded Practice Supervisor Development Programme (PSDP)<sup>16</sup> sought to include expertise from the CSA Centre, leading to an audio resource focused on processing emotion within social work supervision. This resource has reach approximately 1000 supervisors through the PSDP and is also now hosted on an open-access website which has attracted almost 14,000 views since its launch in late November 2019.
- The CSA Centre played a leading role in the development of a Knowledge and Practice Hub hosted on the Community Care Inform website<sup>17</sup> which collated bespoke content, CSA Centre resources, research and practical guidance for social care practitioners, including practice guidance for identifying abuse, disclosures, medical examinations, intrafamilial abuse and harmful sexual behaviour, safeguarding black girls from CSA, and various other topics.
- In each of the case studies, the evidence indicates that the impact of the CSA Centre is influenced by both formal and informal mechanisms. For example, the dissemination of the medical examinations video has developed through word of mouth and invitations to present at conferences and elsewhere. This has resulted in the CSA Centre being able to move into new areas and make links with different networks of professionals.
- Case study evidence highlights the integration of the resources across sectors: such as the medical examinations work being incorporated into police training. Participants in the Practice Leads Programme (social care) also noted this as an area where they welcomed information and myth-busting. Interviewees suggested that the resource and film are easily accessible and provided evidence on how the value of the resource could be extended into other forms of education and training for different professionals. They also highlighted challenges of linking different areas of professional expertise.

<sup>14</sup> <https://childhub.org/en/child-protection-multimedia-resources/understanding-medical-examinations-child-sexual-abuse-concerns>

<sup>15</sup> <https://childhub.org/hu/gyermekvedelmi-multimedias-anyagok/hogyan-tortenik-szexualis-abuzus-gyermek-aldozatainak>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/children/content-pages/training-and-development-programmes/bespoke-training/practice-supervisor-development-programme/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.ccinform.co.uk/knowledge-hubs/child-sexual-abuse-knowledge-and-practice-hub/>

- Training sessions were delivered by CSA Centre staff and a Social Work Consultant who was supported by the CSA Centre. Comments from delegates noted how the session supported work with children, young people and families through “a better understanding” and raising awareness of resources and services and praised the “content supported by research and experience”. The Tracker also contains examples of emails from strategic leaders thanking the CSA Centre for its support, including the example below from a local authority’s Principal Social Worker:

*“It was really great training - your level of knowledge and expertise was combined with a really great training style. There was lots of positive engagement and a good spread of people across the division which will hopefully lead to lots of discussions, shared practice development and support.”*

- Case study evidence from participants in the CSA Practice Leads Programme was widely positive. Practice effects identified by social workers in local authorities were:
  - Confidence in talking about child sexual abuse. Participants emphasised the way in which child sexual abuse occupies a different status and space from other types of abuse in the practice context.
  - Debunking of myths, and the confidence to challenge these. An example of this concerned the extent to which social work could continue in the context of police investigations.
  - Access to, and giving attention to, wider evidence relating to child sexual abuse and sharing this with colleagues.
  - All three local authority groups engaging in the CSA Practice Leads Programme aimed to be self-sustaining at the end of the programme, and intended to meet on a monthly basis. One interviewee commented ‘I just wish I could roll it out to everyone!’

The Practice Leads Programme has resulted in a ‘practice turn’ in a large voluntary organisation working with approximately 88,000 adults with problematic substance use, namely embedding training for staff in how to ask service users if they have been sexually abused, and enabling this to inform further work. This has been linked to a mapping exercise of the availability of local services for signposting.

The Practice Leads Programme case study has highlighted the value of dedicated learning and development resource in CSA, and provided a clear and replicable model for upskilling practitioners and building confidence in addressing CSA. Furthermore, this model offers a high return on investment through upskilling multiple practitioners via the expertise of relatively few paid CSA Centre staff, as well as the opportunity to apply wider work of the CSA Centre (i.e. key messages documents and Scale and Nature analyses). Further positive feedback was received from a Director of Children’s Services, highlighting the positive impact of the Practice Leads Programme, noting:

*“The support and research from the CSA Centre has been excellent and continues to ensure that we do more to respond on a multi-agency basis to child sexual abuse.”*

- Professionals working at the CSA Centre engaged thousands of people through conference presentations and workshops. For example, the Tracker records the Practice Improvement Advisor for Policing and the Deputy Director of Partnering for Improvement delivering sessions and workshops to around 600 professionals, primarily in the field of police / law enforcement.

Some of these sessions prompted requests for input at a local level and invitations to speak at further events, and positive feedback was received in many cases.

- The National Safeguarding Lead for the NHS noted that the NHS Safeguarding App is signposting people to the CSA Centre's website, providing substantial exposure for the CSA Centre's resources as the app's web page<sup>18</sup> notes that the app "*is accessed by over 300 users daily and has had over 61,000 downloads*". The CSA Centre was given further exposure through inclusion on the NHS QR Codes lanyard<sup>19</sup> and through FutureNHS, which was described by the National Safeguarding Lead as a sharing and learning platform with over 1,500 users. There has also been further engagement with the NHS, with the CSA Centre becoming a Trusted Partner of the safeguarding programme and material shared via digital communications.
- In terms of direct practice impact in relation to social care, the Tracker contained evidence of consultation on a case which was referred to court, offering resources and practical advice to support the case. Further consultation included advice provided to a Team Manager about the impacts testifying in court can have on the recovery of children and young people who have been sexually abused; information and insights were also provided to an individual working on a Serious Case Review and an organisation in Ireland which works with children and young people who report CSA and suggestions provided to a survivor of CSA who is conducting their own research.
- The CSA Centre's Practice Development Scholarships provided grants to professionals who have structured plans to develop learning and practice in addressing CSA. Round 2 of the scholarships aimed to support professionals working with BAME individuals or communities. One recipient of the Development Scholarships was Apna Haq, an organisation in South Yorkshire which supports women and girls from black and minority ethnic communities to escape violence:
  - The scholarship was used to develop and deliver 'train the trainer' courses to 'capacity build and upskill BAME women to deliver training to professionals'. The Tracker documents the CSA Centre and Apna Haq having an on-going relationship, with the CSA Centre providing support and presenting at an Apna Haq conference, after which the CSA Centre was thanked for:

*"Enabling this work to progress and in getting the BME survivor's voices more heard."*

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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.england.nhs.uk/safeguarding/nhs-england-safeguarding-app/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://qrcoderesources.co.uk/>

## Influencing change

The final outcome chain in the CSA Centre's Theory of Change captures the activities and outcomes related to the strategic and policy changes needed to make wide-ranging changes in the prevention of and response to child sexual abuse. Linking this high-level work to specific changes in practice and direct work to prevent and reduce the harm caused by CSA is not straightforward, and the CSA Centre can only ever play a contributory role in this wide-scale change. Nonetheless, the CSA Centre's work and contributions from staff have played important roles in supporting development of strategy and policy and in developing understanding of what we might mean by 'change' in this context.

Influencing policy is a complex area of work dependent on a range of relationships with multiple stakeholders. Understandably, developing an influential position which can affect strategy and policy at a national level takes time. At a national level it also depends on the CSA Centre having the opportunity to influence policy based on policy-making work outside of the CSA Centre's control. Accordingly, the CSA Centre's impact in this area is dependent on a range of external factors and it is more appropriate to measure the impact of the CSA Centre in terms of its contribution and involvement in a range of conversations with policy makers rather than through tangible outputs in many cases.

Furthermore, the timeframes for some policy work has changed due to the external political environment, and the involvement of the CSA Centre in key strategy work (such as the development of the Home Office led CSA Strategy) have not been publicly visible during the course of this evaluation. Nonetheless, the involvement of the CSA Centre in development of this and other policy and strategy work has been demonstrated; as has the value of the CSA Centre to policy makers working in this area.

This strand of the CSA Centre's work overlaps with a range of other activities, such as the development of relationships with practice, and the generation and collation of evidence from multiple sources. Accordingly, the CSA Centre's outputs, particularly related to furthering understanding of the Scale and Nature of CSA, have been appreciated by stakeholders in policy and strategic roles. Although many organisations (public and third sector) continue to develop their own intelligence related to addressing CSA, the central and independent authority and expertise of the CSA Centre has clearly been acknowledged and appreciated by decision makers.

The CSA Centre's involvement across a large range of policy areas has enabled it to relay a consistent message on child sexual abuse; and the CSA Centre has been a key voice in the presentation of a balanced view of the different types of sexual abuse, such as ensuring that one particular type of abuse does not get overrepresented in policy and practice to the detriment of another. An example of this is the shift in narrative from child sexual exploitation (CSE) being viewed and treated independently from child sexual abuse, to an increased understanding that CSE is a sub-category of sexual abuse.

For an organisation with such a wide remit and finite capacity there is a question of prioritisation when it comes to interaction with policy makers which was noted in some evidence collected during the evaluation – namely, to what extent should the CSA Centre be focused on (1) engaging with practice, (2) conducting research and generating resources, and (3) engaging with policy makers? As evidenced across this evaluation, all three facets of the CSA Centre's work are closely interlinked; however the CSA Centre's links with practice and expert understanding and interpretation of evidence related to CSA appear to have been crucial in enabling the CSA Centre to influence policy.

As this expertise has developed, the CSA Centre has been positioned to influence across a range of key strategic work in multiple sectors and areas. Organisations that the CSA Centre has worked with include Scottish, Welsh and UK government, the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), social care associations (ACDS and Ofsted), police constabularies and the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC), third sector organisations, and a variety of multi-agency and cross-party groups.



Importantly, the CSA Centre has been able to contribute to inspections via the JTAI framework (HMICFRS, HMIP, CQC, and Ofsted), supporting a wide range of changes to practice informed by the best available CSA evidence.

The CSA Centre continues to successfully develop relationships at a strategic and policy maker level, both through its relationship with the Home Office and through evolving partnerships in the sector. As well as acting as a hub for evidence, the CSA Centre has helped shape strategic, organisational, and public conversations on CSA, demonstrating that the expertise generated from its unique setup offers a wide-ranging impact on the multitude of organisations working to reduce the threat and harm of child sexual abuse.

## Key evidence in this area

- The Tracker records a variety of strategic support offered by the CSA Centre, much of which has already been noted in other areas of this report (such as advice and support provided through the Scale and Nature work, and collaboration through the Understanding Perpetration). The CSA Centre has recorded a high level of activity in this strand, however there is inevitably a large amount of unrecorded and / or intangible work in policy and strategy related to the conversations and networking of the CSA Centre with relevant partners.
- In the survey, staff noted that the CSA Centre had been able to influence at a national and strategic level, including the impact of the CSA Centre's input on the Welsh National CSA Action Plan, the Joint Targeted Area Inspection report, the imminent Government CSA Strategy and recent Home Office Commissioning Guidance.
- The PIA for Wales reported participating in a Steering Group with Social Care Wales, providing input and support in the production of a research report. Further support was provided to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) reference group where Safeguarding Policy Lead for the Welsh Government praised the relationship between the Welsh Government and the CSA Centre and noted it has had the biggest impact on Wales of any London or English based Centre. The TARIAN Regional Organised Crime Unit was also supported to produce a document outlining the CSA/E threat across Wales; the document also cites CSA Centre resources including 'Key Messages from Research' papers. Although the CSA Centre's focus is on England and Wales, strategic support was also provided to the Scottish government, providing advice on harmful sexual behaviour and intra-familial abuse as part of an expert group and separately on how best to assess the scale and nature of CSA in Scotland.
  - The Wales case study highlights the value of relationships at a policy level for both the CSA Centre and policy stakeholders. This relationship has also enabled the CSA Centre to influence changes in practice (e.g. in police usage of data templates and threat reporting) as well as disseminate resources more widely across Welsh practice. The current PIAs for Wales are working closely with regions to develop their local action plans in response to the Welsh Government's National CSA Action Plan<sup>20</sup>, which has set 10 clear objectives. The CSA Centre's work will support all objectives, with a priority focus on three of the objectives: Challenging public attitudes towards CSA; improving access to resources and for practitioners; and supporting the collection of evidence on the prevalence of CSA to inform services.
- Professionals from the CSA Centre also engaged with a strategy workshop on tackling CSA run by the Home Office. There were around 30 attendees at the workshop where the CSA Centre and its research were referenced multiple times in the Home Office's slides, with key messages and findings highlighted on the slides. A further strategic event was convened by the CSA

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<sup>20</sup> <https://gov.wales/preventing-and-responding-child-sexual-abuse-national-action-plan>

Centre in January 2020, with strategic leads and experts from the CSA Centre, the ONS and the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse meeting to discuss priorities for future CSA research. Discussions highlighted a need for further evidence about prevalence, perpetration and support for non-abusing parents/carers.

- Policy makers referenced the CSA Centre as a 'trusted partner' and felt that its understanding of government process was particularly helpful in the 'symbiotic' relationship between the Home Office and the CSA Centre. Comments noted that whilst it is not easy to show impact, the CSA Centre had had influence and specific reference was made to the CSA Centre's work in 'language checking', giving clarity around the CSA-CSE narrative and reviewing documents or contributing to meetings.
- Reference was also made to the CSA Centre as a 'public face' of CSA work and in particular its ability to build and co-ordinate partnerships across government, practice sectors, third sector organisations alongside relationships with survivors and their families was noted by policy makers as a unique function of the Centre.
- The CSA Centre's influence has also been seen in the writing of articles in newsletters, newspapers and journals, including providing a contribution for an e-book<sup>21</sup>, editing and contributing to a newsletter which reaches over 400 professionals and taking part in an interview printed in a newspaper<sup>22</sup> with a weekly distribution of around 20,000<sup>23</sup>. Recently this culminated in the publication of papers and an editorial of Child Abuse Review (Laws & Hall, 2019), a highly cited journal, providing a narrative of the CSA Centre's work and of the evidence and future priorities for research into child sexual abuse in this special edition of the journal.
- Reference was made in the sector survey to CSA Centre resources having been used by policy makers and practitioners to inform commissioning decisions and to influence change at a local level as well as to inform national level policy making, with specific note of the Welsh Government National Action Plan and forthcoming statutory guidance on child sexual exploitation.

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<sup>21</sup> [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Complexity-Reflection-Learning-Practice-Celebrating-ebook/dp/B085ZWYL8K/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?keywords=complexity%2C+reflection&qid=1584530337&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Complexity-Reflection-Learning-Practice-Celebrating-ebook/dp/B085ZWYL8K/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=complexity%2C+reflection&qid=1584530337&sr=8-1)

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2020/10-january/features/features/about-a-year-in-i-felt-like-there-was-a-future>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/advertise>

## Conclusions

Since 2017, the CSA Centre has established itself as a hub of balanced, independent, and trusted evidence related to child sexual abuse, representing a range of expertise from academia and practice. As this evaluation has explored the CSA Centre's intended impact via a detailed Theory of Change, a clear image of the CSA Centre has developed and highlighted the complex nature of the CSA Centre's work and how this interacts to improve responses to CSA in multiple areas: the foundation of the CSA Centre's work is in the collection and distillation of evidence on child sexual abuse, facilitated by its central and independent position, networking and outward facing work, and its ability to bring together a variety of professionals and academics under a common cause. This foundation allows the CSA Centre to conduct activities under two key themes; improving operational responses to abuse; and influencing the policies and strategy which influence this response.

The CSA Centre set hugely ambitious goals as it developed a Theory of Change in the early stages of its inception. The six outcomes chains which the CSA Centre's work largely mapped covered work from across the spectrum of knowledge creation and implementation; from identifying gaps in knowledge, commissioning and conducting research, the creation of resources and tools, and through to sharing these with practitioners and the decision makers who enable meaningful changes in practice. This report has highlighted many of the activities of the CSA Centre in the past two years against this framework, and indicates a great deal of progress contributing to an improved response to CSA:

- The CSA Centre has improved our understanding of the scale of CSA, and continues to push for better quality and quantity of data collection, from individual organisations to programmes of research and national surveys.
- The CSA Centre has produced a range of research papers, distilled learning from a programme of sector-strengthening grants, analysed data on CSA and identified gaps in understanding of the Scale and Nature of abuse, produced recommendations for practice and professionals in multiple sectors, and engaged a range of stakeholders with this work.
- The relatively small team of people working in the CSA Centre have been able to use this evidence and organisational expertise to engage practitioners across multiple sectors and have demonstrate a large volume of engagement through a mixture of approaches including developing networks of evidence champions (e.g. via the Practice Leads Programme), sharing information at a range of events, delivering direct training, and utilising alternative approaches to deliver research messages (such as via online and video formats).
- At a policy and strategic level, the CSA Centre has influenced practice via shifts in organisational approaches, such as through inspection frameworks, learning and development programmes, policies and procedures, and monitoring and data collection. It has also contributed to other work occurring to address CSA, such as via the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse and national government policy.

Considering the complexity and scale of child sexual abuse, and the number of different sectors and organisations whose work is relevant, the initial remit of the CSA Centre was huge. The independence of the CSA Centre has allowed it to focus on particular areas of importance; however there will always be pressures on capacity in such arrangements. Accordingly, some early areas of work which began at pace (such as the Evaluation Fund) have not had available resources to be continued; and other areas of work (such as understanding perpetration, and the involvement of people with lived experience, BAME communities and children with disabilities in research outputs) have taken longer to establish. Sector feedback (as shown in surveys) highlights that there are still some people working to address CSA who have not seen the work of the CSA Centre in this space, and it may take additional time and

effort to improve understanding of CSA with minority groups. Furthermore, a rolling annual funding schedule might interfere with longer term investment, such as in building links with particular sectors, developing stable teams of professionals, or investing in long-term research programmes and fellowships in areas where evidence is more limited.

Going forward, the CSA Centre's approach will depend largely on onward funding arrangements and the extent to which it can develop longer term sustainability. At the beginning of its fourth year of its grant, the CSA Centre was notified of a significant reduction in its funding. The CSA Centre and its funder worked closely to redraft the work plan and deliverables in this final year; however these funding pressures, along with the fixed-term nature of funding, put pressure on staffing and staff capacity (for instance in terms of filling vacancies) and prevented the delivery of external events. Until this point, the CSA Centre has been able to engage with a wide range of audiences, and has developed valuable resources based on its analysis of gaps in evidence, priority areas, and influence from stakeholders. The outputs of the CSA Centre have accordingly been varied, providing evidence in a format suitable for professionals and policy makers in multiple sectors. However, should the CSA Centre be limited in its capacity in subsequent funding, or required to seek new sources of income, there may be a risk to continuity in its work going forward. For instance, without security in funding, the CSA Centre may not be able to continue conducting work to further understanding of the scale and nature of CSA which in turn supports various other work streams. And without the ability of PIAs to directly engage practitioners and deliver training to organisations without seeking to recover their costs, the positive engagement that the CSA Centre has experienced may not be as forthcoming. Ultimately, the CSA Centre has developed a model of research, learning, actualisation and implementation within its current context; and any changes to this context should certainly consider this model.

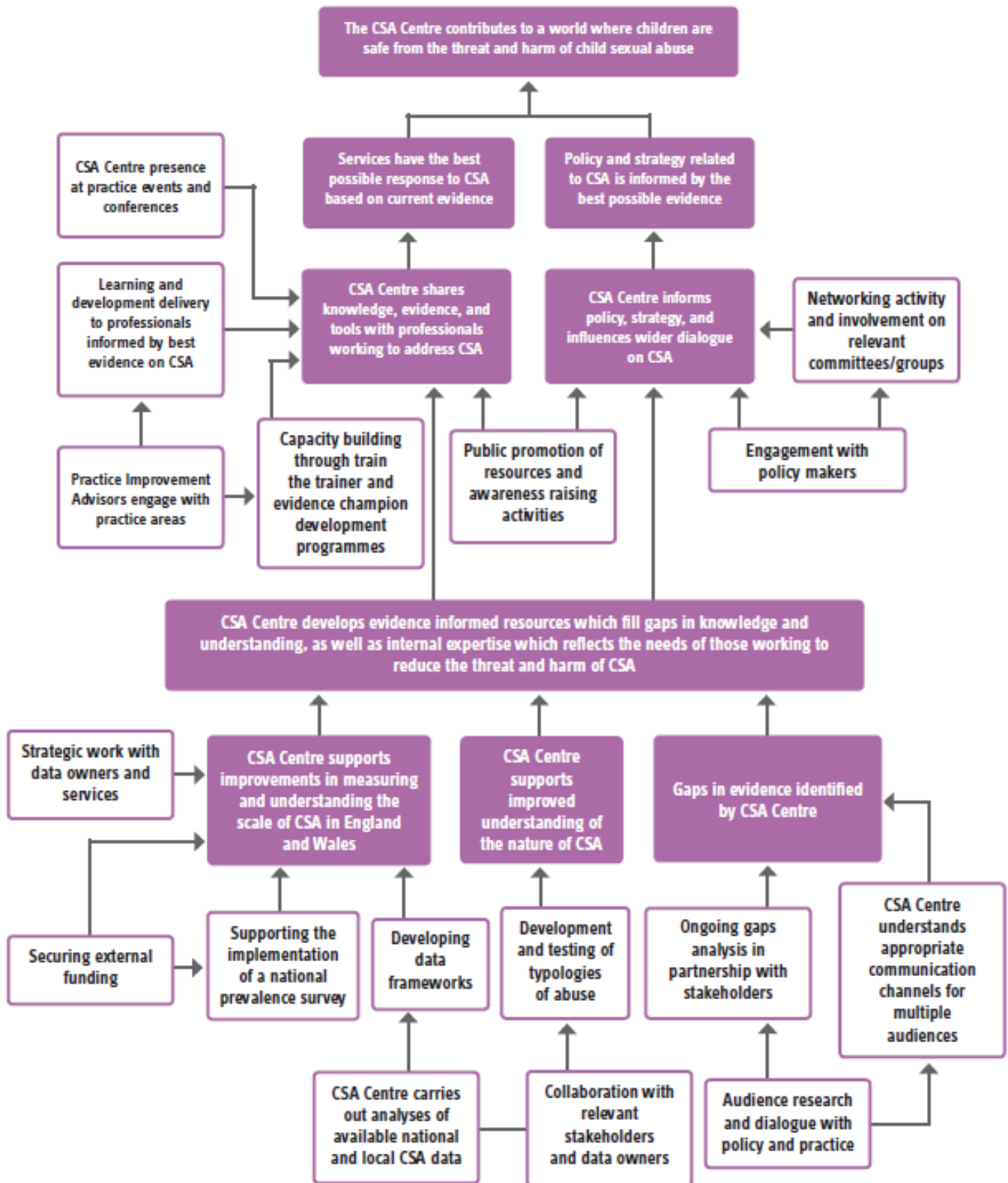
The changes that the CSA Centre is working towards in terms of changes in practice may also require long-term investment, and it may not be feasible to expect large scale changes in practice without considering the capacity implications related to leadership, central expertise and strategic governance. As highlighted by this evaluation, the CSA Centre has demonstrated an approach to changing practice through cascading evidence and supporting resources through multiple channels and in multiple sectors; however, this approach still only reaches a limited number of practitioners, and for a relatively limited amount of time. The CSA Centre has been able to use its PIA model and other funding streams to develop capacity beyond its own internal staffing; yet to fully reach the range of people working in roles which might be able to reduce the threat and harm of CSA, further partnerships and funding will be required.

Further investment is also a factor in other complex areas of work. The Scale and Nature research of the CSA Centre has been closely linked to the availability of datasets related to CSA. Large-scale, meaningful changes to case management systems and reporting frameworks, and the related IT skills and tools required, are not simple to achieve, and there are often considerable cost implications for individual organisations. This is not an area where the CSA Centre will be able to facilitate change alone, and an array of funders, researchers, policy makers and practitioners will need to work together.

A key challenge to the CSA Centre, and its evaluation, has been in demonstrating the impact of its multi-faceted work on its ultimate beneficiaries. In other words, how the work of the CSA Centre has reduced the threat and harm of CSA. As an organisation that conducts no direct work with young people, those who have been abused, or perpetrators, this is a challenge. The Theory of Change approach attempts to draw logical links between activities and impacts; however the context of the CSA Centre, absence of any comparison group, and well-noted absence of data on CSA prevalence means that an experimental analysis of the CSA Centre is not feasible. Instead, this evaluation has identified a range of outcomes which indicate where and how the CSA Centre has developed knowledge and resources and shared them with practitioners. It has seen evidence of changes in practice and seen a large volume of evidence which indicates CSA Centre resources and evidence is likely to change practice. And finally, it has heard from those in senior and influential positions about the impact of the

CSA Centre on key documents and policies which by their nature are extremely likely to improve practice.

Looking forward, the CSA Centre's approach to improving policy and practice has evolved considerably over the past two years. Although convenient for a quick understanding of the CSA Centre's work, the evidence of this evaluation and further work with the CSA Centre staff and stakeholders has highlighted the difficulty of representing this via a simple linear Theory of Change with separate work streams. Firstly, there is a sense of continued need for work in this area, and that the gathering of evidence and subsequent development and implementation of tools and resources will never truly be complete as long as people are working to prevent CSA. Secondly, much of the CSA Centre's work overlaps between its main areas of focus, and it is important to acknowledge how each area of work informs and benefits the others. And thirdly, the CSA Centre is part of a much wider landscape, where its work is one factor contributing to the improved response to CSA, but where collaboration and communication amongst all those involved in the responses is crucial. Nonetheless, there is value in these models of change in as much as helping communicate logic behind complex activity and shaping monitoring of progress. Therefore, this evaluation proposes an updated Theory of Change for the CSA Centre, below, which aims to capture this ongoing aim to reduce the threat and harm of CSA and might support the CSA Centre in planning subsequent work; acknowledging the impact of the CSA Centre to date, complexity of its work, and the work still to be done in understanding and responding to the threat and harm of CSA.



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## Appendices

Additional evidence throughout the evaluation has been compiled in supporting documents. This evidence has been summarised and submitted to the CSA Centre and CERG alongside the final report. A full list of the evidence collated during this evaluation is as follows:

1. Summary of results from the survey of stakeholders (multi-sector)
2. Summary of results from the survey of CSA Centre staff
3. Narrative summary of evidence submitted via the CSA Centre evidence tracker spreadsheet
4. Summary of feedback from CSA Centre events
5. List of CSA Centre outputs and resources and related metadata
6. Thematic summary of evaluation case studies
7. Thematic summary of interviews with policy makers
8. CSA Centre Theory of Change (co-developed by evaluators and the CSA Centre)
9. Proposed Theory of Change for future development

Due to the sensitive nature of some of this evidence, as well as the volume of evidence, not all sources are included here; some have been submitted separately to the CSA Centre and CERG. However, to support references throughout the report, the summary of CSA Centre outputs and publications (Appendix 5) is included below as well as the CSA Centre's Theory of Change (Appendix 8). Information on other appendices may be sought via contact with the CSA Centre ([info@csacentre.org.uk](mailto:info@csacentre.org.uk)).

## Appendix 5: Publications and other outputs

### Publications

Publication list for all reports / published documents identified via the CSA Centre submission of evidence and web scrape for all PDF / published documents, manually sorted, and entered into citation software (Mendeley) for record standardisation.

- Page engagement data provided by the CSA Centre.
- Date of most recent publication update: **10/03/2020**
- Engagement data updated: **March 2020**

NB: For publication usage / citation data (e.g. page views, Twitter engagement), limited data are available, and tracking may not have been in place in previous versions of the CSA Centre's website. As such, these data should be taken as a conservative estimate of interaction with outputs.

Citation	Year	Mendeley readers	Page views	Twitter	News-letter
CSA Centre. (2020a). A new typology of child sexual abuse offending. Retrieved from <a href="https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/new-typology-of-child-sexual-abuse-offending/">https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/new-typology-of-child-sexual-abuse-offending/</a>	2020	-	1136	245	308
CSA Centre. (2020b). Mapping current research into child sexual abuse Updated survey findings. Retrieved from <a href="https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/mapping-research-into-csa-eng/">https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/mapping-research-into-csa-eng/</a>	2020	2	925		
Allnock, D., Miller, P., & Baker, H. (2019). <i>Key messages from research on identifying and responding to disclosures of child sexual abuse</i> . Retrieved from <a href="http://www.csacentre.org.uk">www.csacentre.org.uk</a>	2019	8	2238	590	583
CSA Centre. (2019). Effectiveness of services for sexually abused children and young people: research programme briefing. Retrieved from <a href="https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/effectiveness-research-briefing/">https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/effectiveness-research-briefing/</a>	2019	2	973 <sup>24</sup>		

<sup>24</sup> Individual link tracking unavailable: figure references views for the library page containing all effectiveness studies

Christie, C., & Karsna, K. (2019). <i>Improving agency data on child sexual abuse: A pilot study of the child sexual abuse data collection template</i> . Retrieved from <a href="https://www.csacentre.org.uk/csa-centre-prodv2/assets/File/Data%20collection%20template%20pilot%20-%20English.pdf">https://www.csacentre.org.uk/csa-centre-prodv2/assets/File/Data%20collection%20template%20pilot%20-%20English.pdf</a>	2019	-	638	268	283
Cutland, M. (2019). The role and scope of medical examinations when there are concerns about child sexual abuse. Retrieved from <a href="https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/the-role-and-scope-of-medical-examinations-when-there-are-concerns-about-child-sexual-abuse-a-scoping-review/">https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/the-role-and-scope-of-medical-examinations-when-there-are-concerns-about-child-sexual-abuse-a-scoping-review/</a>	2019	2	1608	558	1298
Evans, J. (2019). <i>Key messages from research on looked-after children and child sexual abuse</i> . Retrieved from <a href="http://www.csacentre.org.uk">www.csacentre.org.uk</a>	2019	7	894	253	184
Franklin, A., Bradley, L., & Brady, G. (2019). Effectiveness of services for sexually abused children and young people. Report 3: Perspectives of service users with learning difficulties or experience of care. Retrieved from <a href="https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/effectiveness-learning-difficulties-care/">https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/effectiveness-learning-difficulties-care/</a>	2019	5	973 <sup>24</sup>		
Karsna, K. (2019). Improving your data on child sexual abuse: A practical guide for organisations. Retrieved from <a href="https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/improving-your-data-on-csa-a-practical-guide/">https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/improving-your-data-on-csa-a-practical-guide/</a>	2019	4	1683	204	213
Karsna, K., & Majeed-Ariss, R. (2019). <i>Characteristics and experiences of children and young people attending Saint Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Greater Manchester</i> . Retrieved from <a href="https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/st-marys-case-file-review/">https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/st-marys-case-file-review/</a>	2019	2	628	279	350
Mcneish, D., Kelly, L., & Scott, S. (2019). Effectiveness of services for sexually abused children and young people. Report 1: A knowledge review. Retrieved from <a href="https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/effectiveness-knowledge-review/">https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/effectiveness-knowledge-review/</a>	2019	-	973 <sup>2</sup>		
Parke, S., & Karsna, K. (2019). <i>Measuring the scale and changing nature of child sexual abuse</i> . Retrieved from <a href="https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/scale-and-nature-update-2019/">https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/scale-and-nature-update-2019/</a>	2019	-	1387	943	555
Parkinson, D., & Sullivan, R. (2019). Effectiveness of services for sexually abused children and young people. Report 2: A survey of service providers. Retrieved from <a href="https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/effectiveness-survey-of-services/">https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/effectiveness-survey-of-services/</a>	2019	-	1813	371	437
Pascoe, P. (2019). <i>Mapping research into child sexual abuse</i> . Retrieved from <a href="https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/mapping-research-into-csa-eng/">https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/mapping-research-into-csa-eng/</a>	2019	-	374	238	229
Drummond, C., & Southgate, J. (2018). <i>Interventions for perpetrators of child sexual exploitation: A scoping study</i> . Retrieved from <a href="http://www.csacentre.org.uk">www.csacentre.org.uk</a>	2018	2	243		
Hackett, S., & Smith, S. (2018). <i>Young people who engage in child sexual exploitation behaviours: An exploratory study</i> . Retrieved from <a href="http://www.csacentre.org.uk">www.csacentre.org.uk</a>	2018	13	612		

Kaur, K., & Christie, C. (2018). <i>Local commissioning of services addressing child sexual abuse and exploitation in England: A rapid review incorporating findings from five locations</i> . Retrieved from <a href="http://www.cordisbright.co.uk">www.cordisbright.co.uk</a>	2018	8	2576		
Mcneish, D., & Scott, S. (2018). <i>Key messages from research on children and young people who display harmful sexual behaviour</i> . Retrieved from <a href="http://www.csacentre.org.uk">www.csacentre.org.uk</a>	2018	-	729		
McNeish, D., & Scott, S. (2018). <i>Key messages from research on institutional child sexual abuse</i> . Retrieved from <a href="http://www.csacentre.org.uk">www.csacentre.org.uk</a>	2018	7	320		
Mcneish, D., Scott, S., & Research, D. (2018). <i>Key messages from research on intra-familial child sexual abuse</i> . Retrieved from <a href="http://www.csacentre.org.uk">www.csacentre.org.uk</a>	2018	-	1029		
Perkins, D., Merdian, H., Schumacher, B., Bradshaw, H., & Stevanovic, J. (2018). <i>Interventions for perpetrators of online child sexual exploitation: A scoping review and gap analysis</i> . Retrieved from <a href="http://www.csacentre.org.uk">www.csacentre.org.uk</a>	2018	13	253		
Radford, L. (2018). <i>A review of international survey methodology on child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation</i> . Retrieved from <a href="https://www.uclan.ac.uk/research/explore/groups/connect_centre_int_research_new">https://www.uclan.ac.uk/research/explore/groups/connect_centre_int_research_new</a>	2018	12	90		
Sullivan, R., & Sharples, E. (2018) The CSA Centre's Evaluation Fund: A reflection. Retrieved from <a href="https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/the-csa-centre-evaluation-fund-a-reflection-english/">https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/the-csa-centre-evaluation-fund-a-reflection-english/</a>	2018		105		
Walker, K., Pillinger, C., & Brown, S. (2018). <i>Characteristics and motivations of perpetrators of child sexual exploitation: A rapid evidence assessment of research</i> . Retrieved from <a href="http://www.csacentre.org.uk">www.csacentre.org.uk</a>	2018	13	496		
Walker, K., Pillinger, C., & Brown, S. (2018). <i>Characteristics and perspectives of adults who have sexually exploited children: Scoping research</i> . Retrieved from <a href="http://www.csacentre.org.uk">www.csacentre.org.uk</a>	2018	2	340	82	76
Brown, S., Brady, G., Franklin, A., & Crookes, R. (2017). The use of tools and checklists to assess risk of child sexual exploitation An exploratory study. Retrieved from <a href="https://www.csacentre.org.uk/research-publications/cse-risk-tools/exploratory-study-on-the-use-of-tools-and-checklists-to-assess-risk-of-child-sexual-exploitation/">https://www.csacentre.org.uk/research-publications/cse-risk-tools/exploratory-study-on-the-use-of-tools-and-checklists-to-assess-risk-of-child-sexual-exploitation/</a>	2017	21	1315		
Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse. (2017). Improving understanding of the scale and nature of child sexual abuse Briefing. Retrieved from <a href="https://www.csacentre.org.uk/csa-centre-prod/assets/File/CSA_Scale_and_Nature_briefing_2nd_edition_English.pdf">https://www.csacentre.org.uk/csa-centre-prod/assets/File/CSA_Scale_and_Nature_briefing_2nd_edition_English.pdf</a>	2017	7	756		
Coy, M., Sharp-Jeffs, N., & Kelly, L. (2017). <i>Key messages from research on child sexual exploitation: Social workers</i> . Retrieved from <a href="https://www.csacentre.org.uk/index.cfm/_api/render/file/?method=inline&amp;fileID=1B130BC2-F5E7-4B3F-A7358195308A5535">https://www.csacentre.org.uk/index.cfm/_api/render/file/?method=inline&amp;fileID=1B130BC2-F5E7-4B3F-A7358195308A5535</a>	2017	11	305		

Coy, M., Sharp-Jeffs, N., & Kelly, L. (2017). Key messages from research on child sexual exploitation: Strategic Commissioning of Children's Services. Retrieved from <a href="https://www.csacentre.org.uk/index.cfm/_api/render/file/?method=inline&amp;fileID=EB74BC8E-96E7-42D6-A3F6C78F70CD50CA">https://www.csacentre.org.uk/index.cfm/_api/render/file/?method=inline&amp;fileID=EB74BC8E-96E7-42D6-A3F6C78F70CD50CA</a>	2017	-	83		
Kelly, L., & Karsna, K. (2017). <i>Measuring the scale and changing nature of child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation: Scoping report</i> . Retrieved from <a href="https://www.csacentre.org.uk/csa-centre-prod/assets/File/CSA Scale and Nature full report 2018.pdf">https://www.csacentre.org.uk/csa-centre-prod/assets/File/CSA Scale and Nature full report 2018.pdf</a>	2017	45	2023		
Kerr, J., Patel, R., Lovbakke, J., Paskell, C., & Barnard, M. (2017). Responding to child sexual abuse and exploitation in the night-time economy. Retrieved from <a href="https://www.csacentre.org.uk/research-publications/night-time-economy/responding-to-child-sexual-abuse-and-exploitation-in-the-night-time-economy/">https://www.csacentre.org.uk/research-publications/night-time-economy/responding-to-child-sexual-abuse-and-exploitation-in-the-night-time-economy/</a>	2017	-	406		
Scott, S., & McNeish, D. (2017). <i>Supporting parents of sexually exploited young people: An evidence review</i> . Retrieved from <a href="http://www.dmss.co.uk">www.dmss.co.uk</a>	2017	12	737		
Sharp-Jeffs, N., Coy, M., & Kelly, L. (2017). Key messages from research on child sexual exploitation: Commissioning health care services. Retrieved from <a href="https://www.csacentre.org.uk/index.cfm/_api/render/file/?method=inline&amp;fileID=49F71BE6-9958-49C2-9261436067884C79">https://www.csacentre.org.uk/index.cfm/_api/render/file/?method=inline&amp;fileID=49F71BE6-9958-49C2-9261436067884C79</a>	2017	11	78		
Sharp-Jeffs, N., Coy, M., & Kelly, L. (2017). <i>Key messages from research on child sexual exploitation: Multi-agency working</i> . Retrieved from <a href="https://www.csacentre.org.uk/index.cfm/_api/render/file/?method=inline&amp;fileID=64A5B430-87FE-4B4D-822FE4A7954974EE">https://www.csacentre.org.uk/index.cfm/_api/render/file/?method=inline&amp;fileID=64A5B430-87FE-4B4D-822FE4A7954974EE</a>	2017	-	204		
Sharp-Jeffs, N., Coy, M., & Kelly, L. (2017). <i>Key messages from research on child sexual exploitation: Police</i> . Retrieved from <a href="https://www.csacentre.org.uk/index.cfm/_api/render/file/?method=inline&amp;fileID=4406FDE6-D431-49E7-8AB695BD33B1C7AC">https://www.csacentre.org.uk/index.cfm/_api/render/file/?method=inline&amp;fileID=4406FDE6-D431-49E7-8AB695BD33B1C7AC</a>	2017	12	191		
Sharp-Jeffs, N., Coy, M., & Kelly, L. (2017). Key messages from research on child sexual exploitation: Professionals in school settings. Retrieved from <a href="https://www.csacentre.org.uk/index.cfm/_api/render/file/?method=inline&amp;fileID=A4CDD829-75B7-40B7-88FA4B774DD31F2A">https://www.csacentre.org.uk/index.cfm/_api/render/file/?method=inline&amp;fileID=A4CDD829-75B7-40B7-88FA4B774DD31F2A</a>	2017	-	211		
Sharp-Jeffs, N., Coy, M., & Kelly, L. (2017). Key messages from research on child sexual exploitation: Staff working in health settings. Retrieved from <a href="https://www.csacentre.org.uk/index.cfm/_api/render/file/?method=inline&amp;fileID=80B031FE-EB8A-4400-8EA2D5A30CA36B3B">https://www.csacentre.org.uk/index.cfm/_api/render/file/?method=inline&amp;fileID=80B031FE-EB8A-4400-8EA2D5A30CA36B3B</a>	2017	-	136		
Sharp-Jeffs, N., Coy, M., & Kelly, L. (2017). Key messages from research on child sexual exploitation: Strategic Commissioning of Police Services. Retrieved from <a href="https://www.csacentre.org.uk/index.cfm/_api/render/file/?method=inline&amp;fileID=74B1A429-3C15-44EF-911E27E0FE250B6C">https://www.csacentre.org.uk/index.cfm/_api/render/file/?method=inline&amp;fileID=74B1A429-3C15-44EF-911E27E0FE250B6C</a>	2017	-	74		

## Blogs

All blogs published on the CSA Centre website.

- Page engagement data provided by the CSA Centre.
- Date of most recent update: **10/03/2020**
- Engagement data updated: **Feb 2020**

Author	Title	Pub date	Description (verbatim)	Page views	Twitter engagement	Newsletter clicks
Anna Glinski	"But they must have known!" Effectively working with non-abusing parents	18/03/2020	Our Deputy Director for Knowledge and Practice Development highlights the importance of effective working with non-abusing parents and carers when there are concerns of intra-familial child sexual abuse.	234	38	N/A
Dr Sophie Laws	Working together to fill the knowledge gaps on child sexual abuse	12/03/2020	In January, the CSA Centre hosted a workshop for research funders, with contributions from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) and the Office of National Statistics (ONS), to identify key knowledge gaps and discuss how to prioritise addressing these gaps. Here, our Deputy Director for Research and Evaluation shares her reflections on the day and highlights key points from the discussion.	100	36	29
Anna Glinski	Learning lessons on intra-familial child sexual abuse	27/02/2020	This month the report from the joint targeted area inspections (JTAI) into the multi-agency response to child sexual abuse in the family environment revealed many areas for improvement, particularly around training needs and strategic responses. Here, our Deputy Director for Knowledge and Practice Development Anna Glinski reflects on the report and what needs to be done to ensure the multi-agency response dramatically improves.	188	119	29

Nick Marsh	Safeguarding adolescents: effectively responding to child sexual abuse outside the home	24/02/2020	In this blog, our Practice Improvement Advisor for multi-agency working Nick Marsh considers different approaches to safeguarding young people outside the home and highlights the importance of continuing to explicitly name and address sexual abuse within the wider safeguarding agenda.	215	71	38
Nici Evans and Mark Vaughan	Bridging the gap between CSA theory and practice in Wales	27/01/2020	The CSA Centre's new Advisors for Wales, Nici Evans and Mark Vaughan, introduce themselves and set out their vision for improving practice and increasing access to evidence around child sexual abuse in Wales.	60	18	N/A
Dr Helen Beckett	Researcher welfare	21/01/2020	As the CSA Centre publish an updated report on mapping current research into child sexual abuse, Dr Helen Beckett guest blogs about the importance of supporting the welfare of those researching child sexual abuse.	246	74	45
Kairika Karsna	What the new ONS child abuse compendium tells us	20/01/2020	Last week the Office of National Statistics (ONS) published a child abuse compendium. The CSA Centre has been involved in the working group developing the child sexual abuse (CSA) chapter of the compendium over the past two years. Senior Research and Evaluation Officer, Kairika Karsna, writes about what we can learn from the new report and some of the challenges it highlights.	446	58	60
Anna Glinski	The myth of 'absolute knowing': when is the evidence enough?	23/10/2019	In this blog Deputy Director for Knowledge and Practice Development, Anna Glinski, discusses the tension between the criminal and safeguarding burdens of proof and how this can impact on social work decision making where there are concerns of child sexual abuse.	715	399	-
Nick Marsh	Care versus control: reflections on child protection practices	19/09/2019	Our Practice Improvement Advisor (Multi Agency), Nick Marsh, writes about his recent trip to Australia and sharing learning internationally about working with adolescents who have experienced extra-familial sexual abuse.	490	110	57

Jane Wiffin	Don't wait for them to tell us: recognising and responding to signs of child sexual abuse	11/09/2019	This week the CSA Centre published 'Key messages from research on identifying and responding to disclosures of child sexual abuse'. In this blog our Practice Improvement Advisor for Social Work, Jane Wiffin, reflects on what those key messages mean for the safety of children and young people and what needs to be done within the statutory child protection system to best respond when children signal or speak out about the abuse and harm they are experiencing.	2204	145	133
Sherrelle Parke	Local challenges to addressing the exploitation of children	19/08/2019	Senior Research and Evaluation Officer, Sherrelle Parke, reflects on the challenges local authorities face, and why bridging the gap with research knowledge is welcome on the front line.	242	30	68
Dr Michelle Cutland	The value of medical examinations for concerns of CSA	06/08/2019	Our Practice Improvement Advisor for Health, Dr Michelle Cutland, reflects on improving understanding of the paediatric medical examination for concerns of CSA and the importance of professional curiosity.	264	93	53
Cassi Harrison	A new Director for the CSA Centre	15/03/2019	Our Director, Cassandra Harrison, announces a change in leadership for the CSA Centre.	411	15	156
Dr Sophie Laws	Research from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse	18/02/2019	This blog is part of a series where our Deputy Director for Research and Evaluation, Dr Sophie Laws, highlights research done by other people (not the CSA Centre) that improves understanding of child sexual abuse.	345	75	105
Dr Sophie Laws	Learning from adult survivors	06/11/2018	This blog is part of a series where our Deputy Director for Research and Evaluation, Dr Sophie Laws, highlights research done by other people (not the CSA Centre) that improves understanding of child sexual abuse.	626	94	77
Kairika Karsna	Uncovering the scale of child sexual abuse in social care records	02/11/2018	Senior Research and Evaluation Officer Kairika Karsna explains how local authorities in Wales can help us uncover the truer extent of CSA encountered by social services.	129	22	12



Dr Sophie Laws	Intra-familial abuse: learning from children and young people	04/10/2018	This blog is the first in a series where our Deputy Director for Research and Evaluation, Dr Sophie Laws, highlights research done by other people (not the CSA Centre) that improves understanding of child sexual abuse.	608	140	212
Dr Gregory Hall	Thinking about what works	07/06/2018	Gregory outlines some of the challenges involved in evaluating and commissioning effective services and how the CSA Centre is working to improve understanding of 'what works'.	5	-	-
Cassi Harrison	Improving our response to child sexual abuse	05/04/2018	Cassi reflects on giving evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee, the challenges we face in preventing and responding to CSA and how we can improve our capacity to better protect children.	413	-	-
Dr Gregory Hall	Risk tools, risk-talk and relationships	23/12/2017	Gregory looks at the difficulties of assessing risk in relation to CSE and lays out how the CSA Centre is working to explore and address some of these issues.	176	-	-
Dr Gregory Hall	Knowledge and practice blog	26/09/2017	Gregory explores the question 'How common is child sexual abuse?', what the research currently tells us and what that means for practice.	79	-	-

## Videos

Video outputs produced by the CSA Centre

- Views data as per 10/03/2020
- Extracted from YouTube

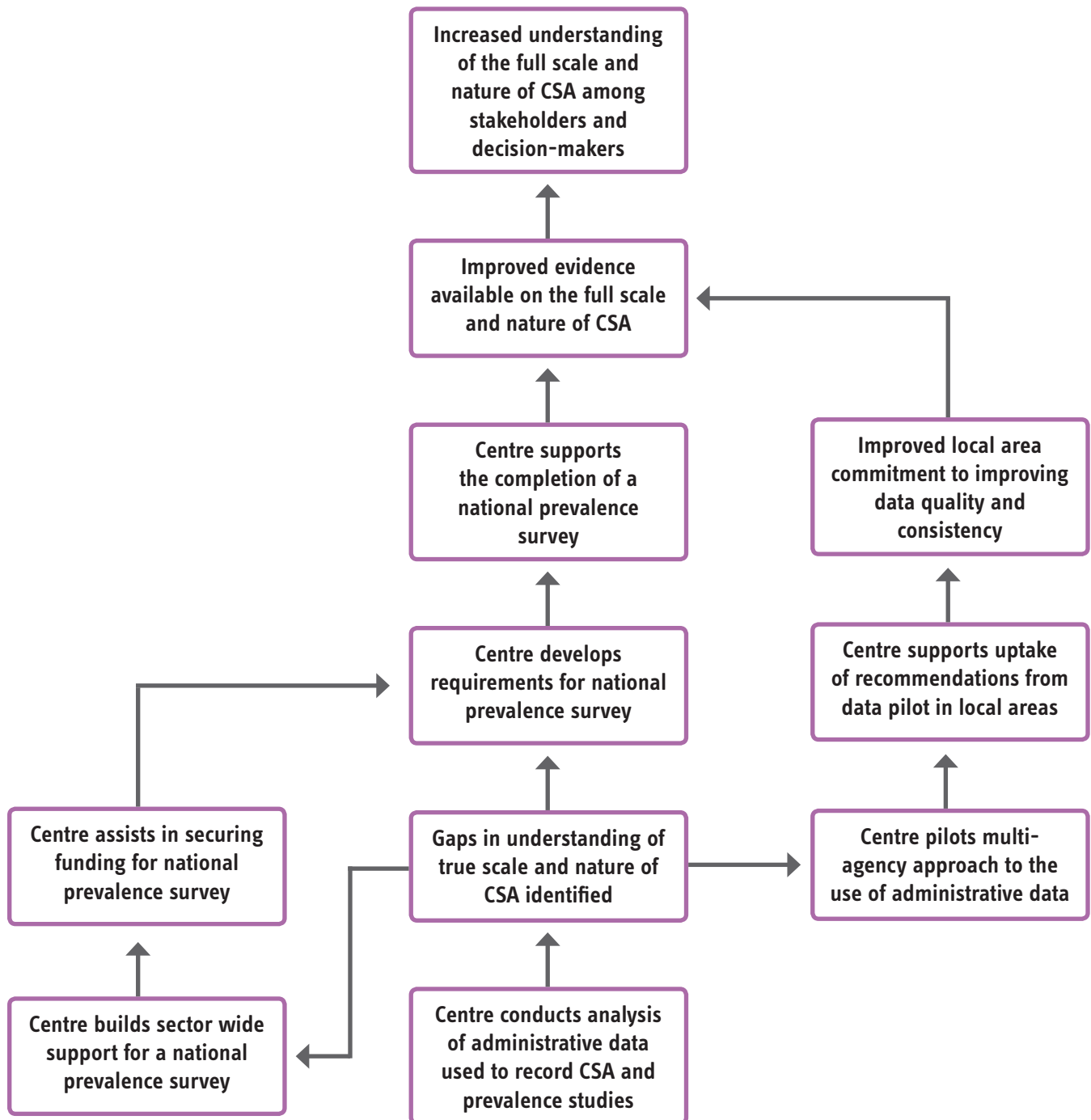
Title and URL	Date	Views
Understanding medical examinations for child sexual abuse concerns <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gOWX1xxnTWg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gOWX1xxnTWg</a>	Apr 2019	7,800
An introduction to Theory of Change <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2QWPTYReaE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2QWPTYReaE</a>	Dec 2017	184
Measuring the scale and nature of CSA <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yp4NLcz65CI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yp4NLcz65CI</a>	Jul 2017	988
Key Messages from research on child sexual exploitation <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9L4aLXHPQ8Q">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9L4aLXHPQ8Q</a>	Jul 2017	959
Introduction to the Evaluation Fund <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2s8D3Jwk3GY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2s8D3Jwk3GY</a>	Jun 2017	361
Research priorities for the Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KLS3VFqX5Uc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KLS3VFqX5Uc</a>	Jun 2017	172
Introduction to the Centre of Expertise on child sexual abuse <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YEgIPDT-EL4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YEgIPDT-EL4</a>	Jun 2017	540
<b>Total video views:</b>		<b>11,004</b>

# Appendix 8: CSA Centre Theory of Change

## The six 'outcomes chains'

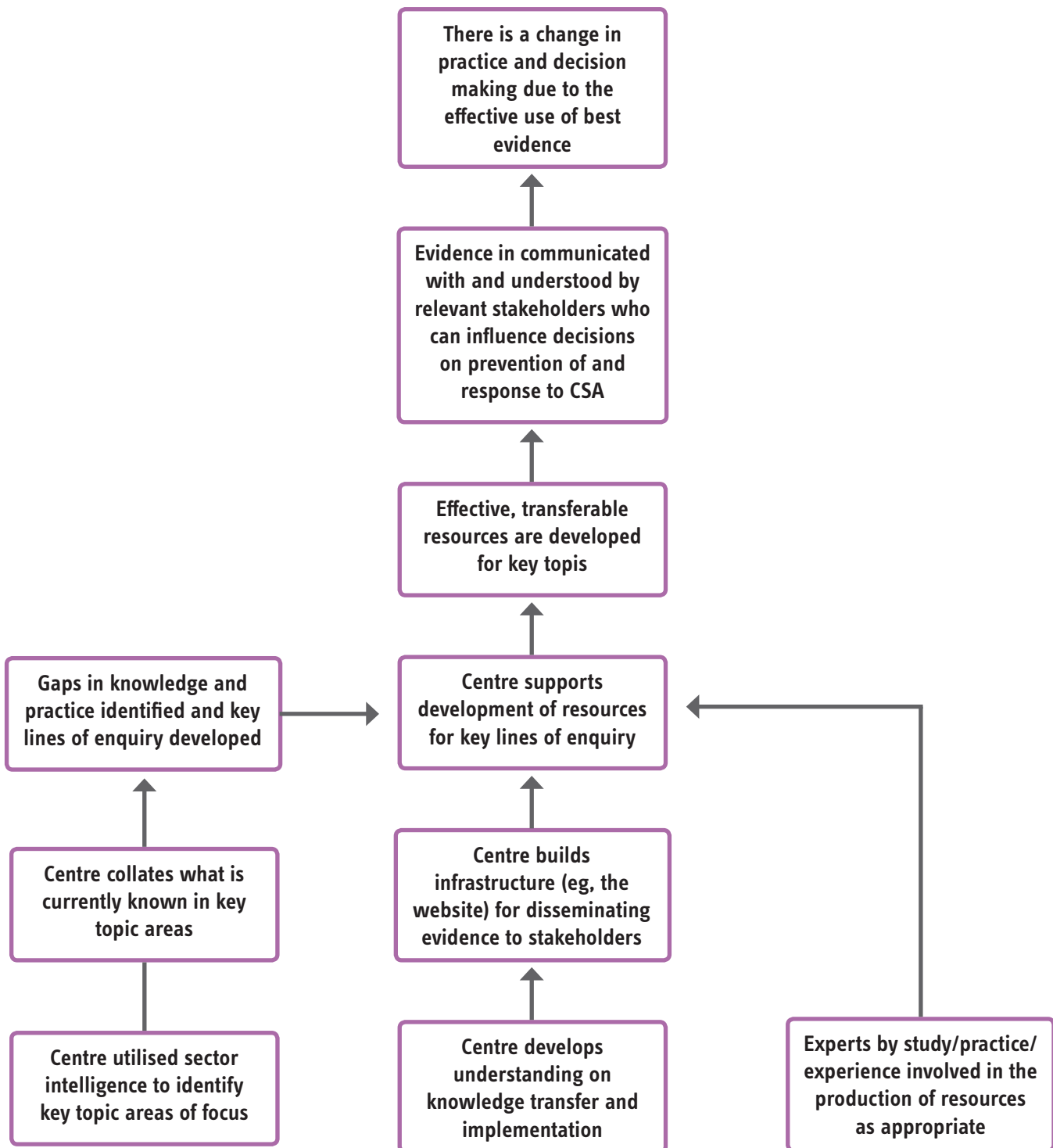
### Scale and nature

The Centre aims to further national and local understanding of the scale and nature of CSA across the sector; in terms of reported incidents of CSA ('Incidence'); through wider scoping of the true scale of CSA ('Prevalence'); and by improving understanding of the true nature of abuse.



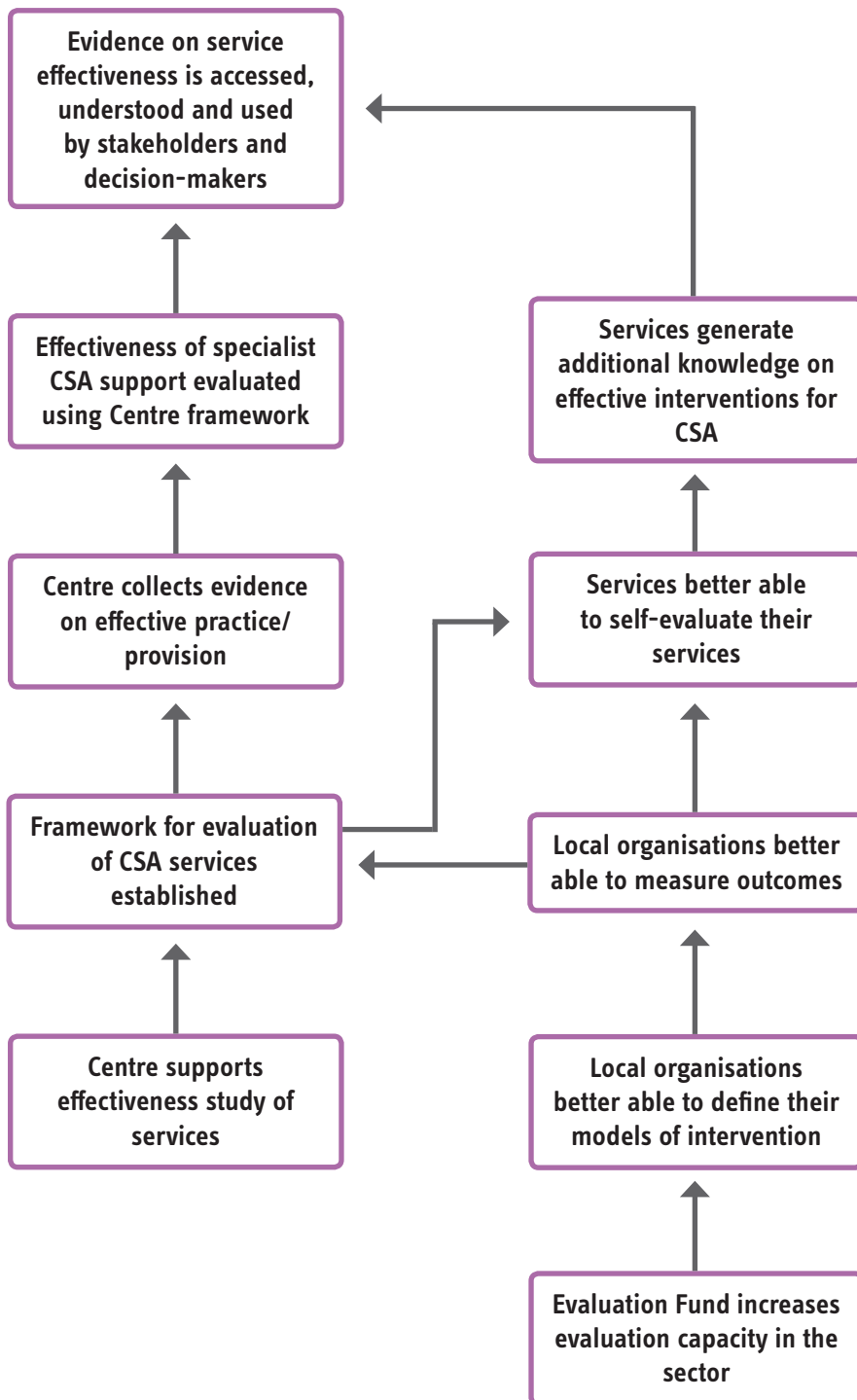
## Access to evidence

The Centre aims to improve the quality and quantity of evidence about CSA by distilling the expertise of academics, practitioners, and people with lived experience across a range of appropriate topics; and use the resulting resources to influence the prevention of and responses to CSA.



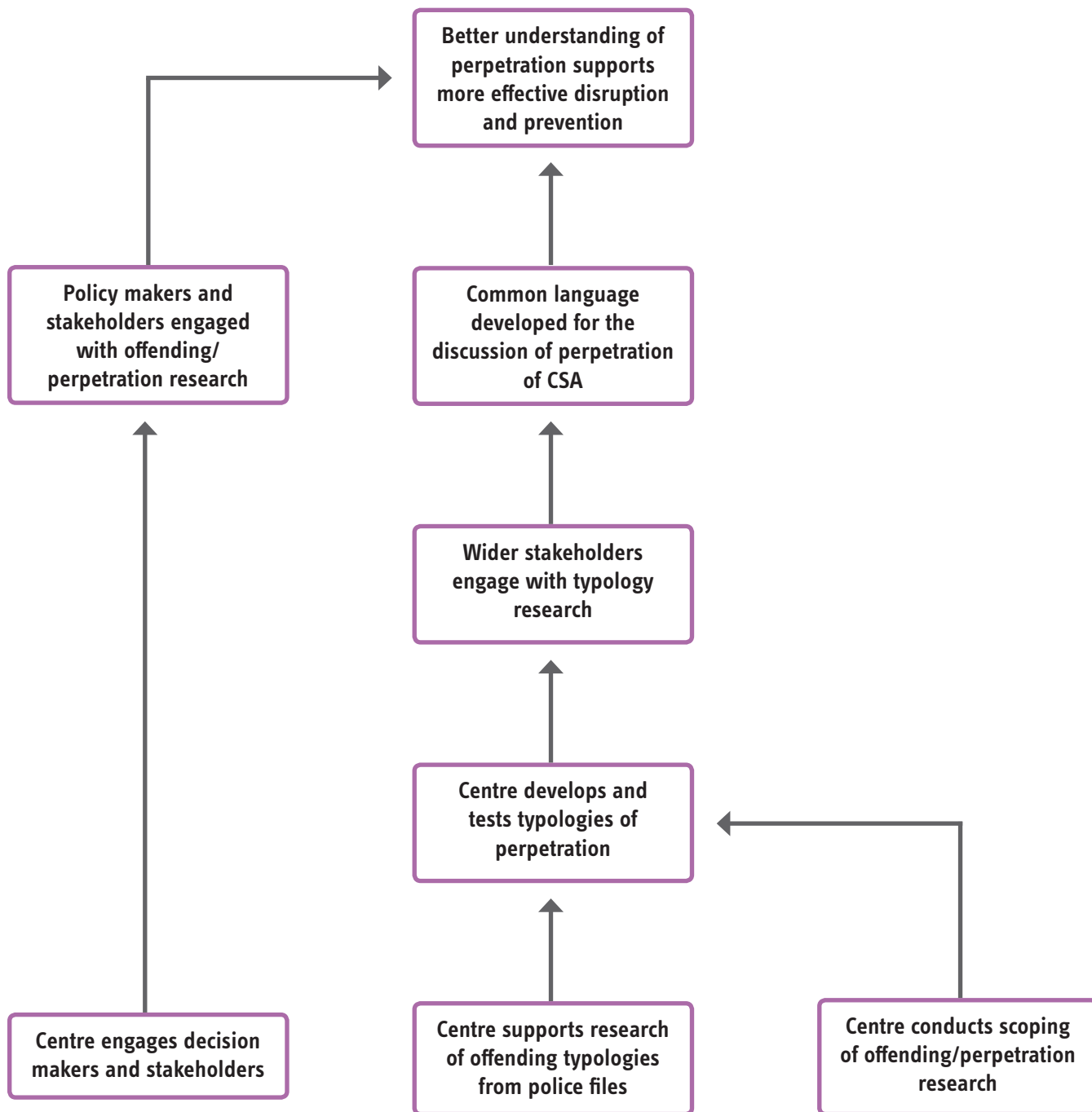
## Intervention effectiveness

The Centre aims to increase organisational capacity to understand the interventions and practice that reduces the risk of CSA and impact of CSA where it has occurred; helping to develop a common framework of outcomes which will enable further evidence-informed assessment of interventions.



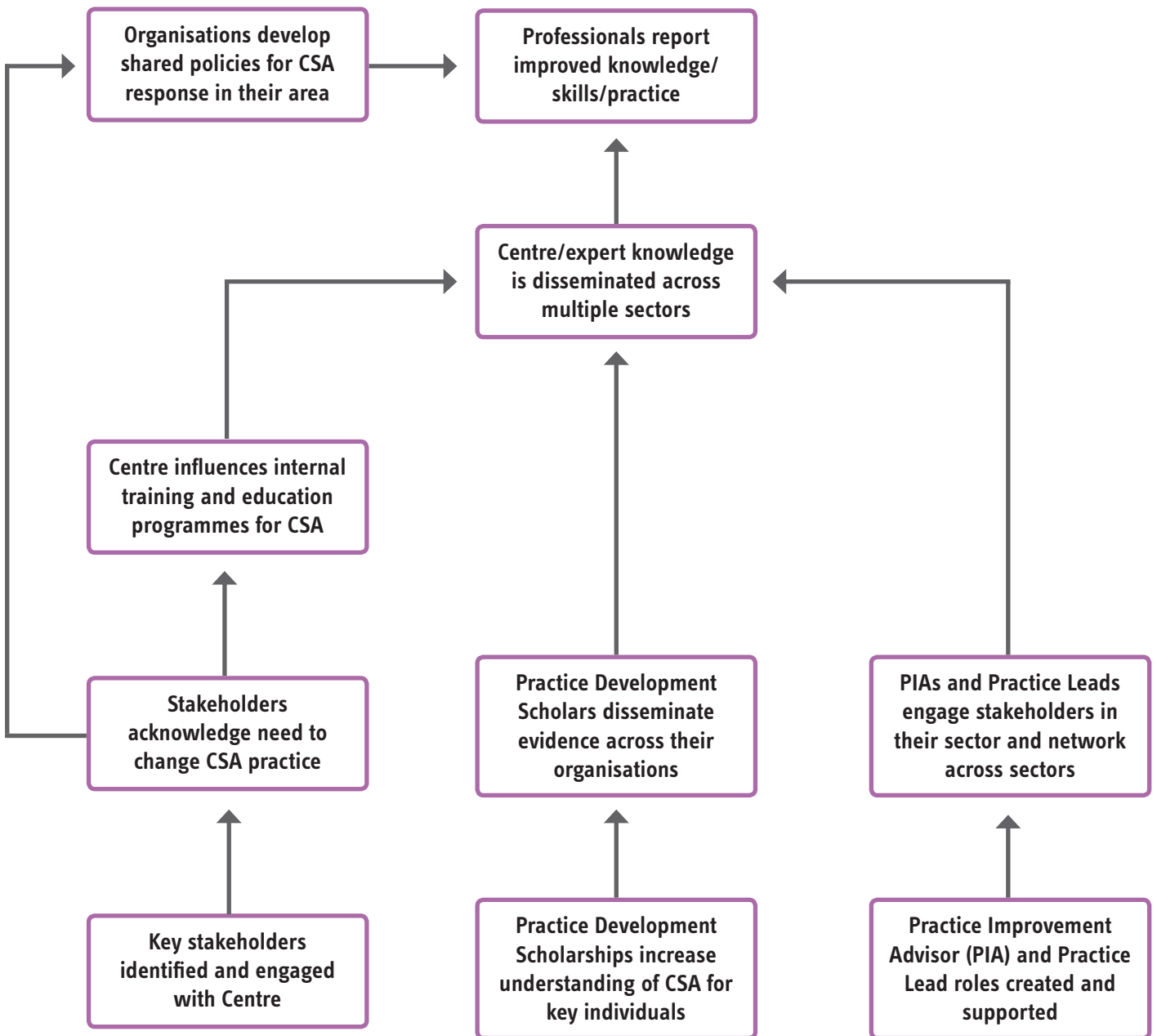
## Understanding perpetration

The Centre aims to improve understanding of: perpetration and offending; how perpetrators might be better identified and understood and how this might inform the disruption and prevention of CSA.



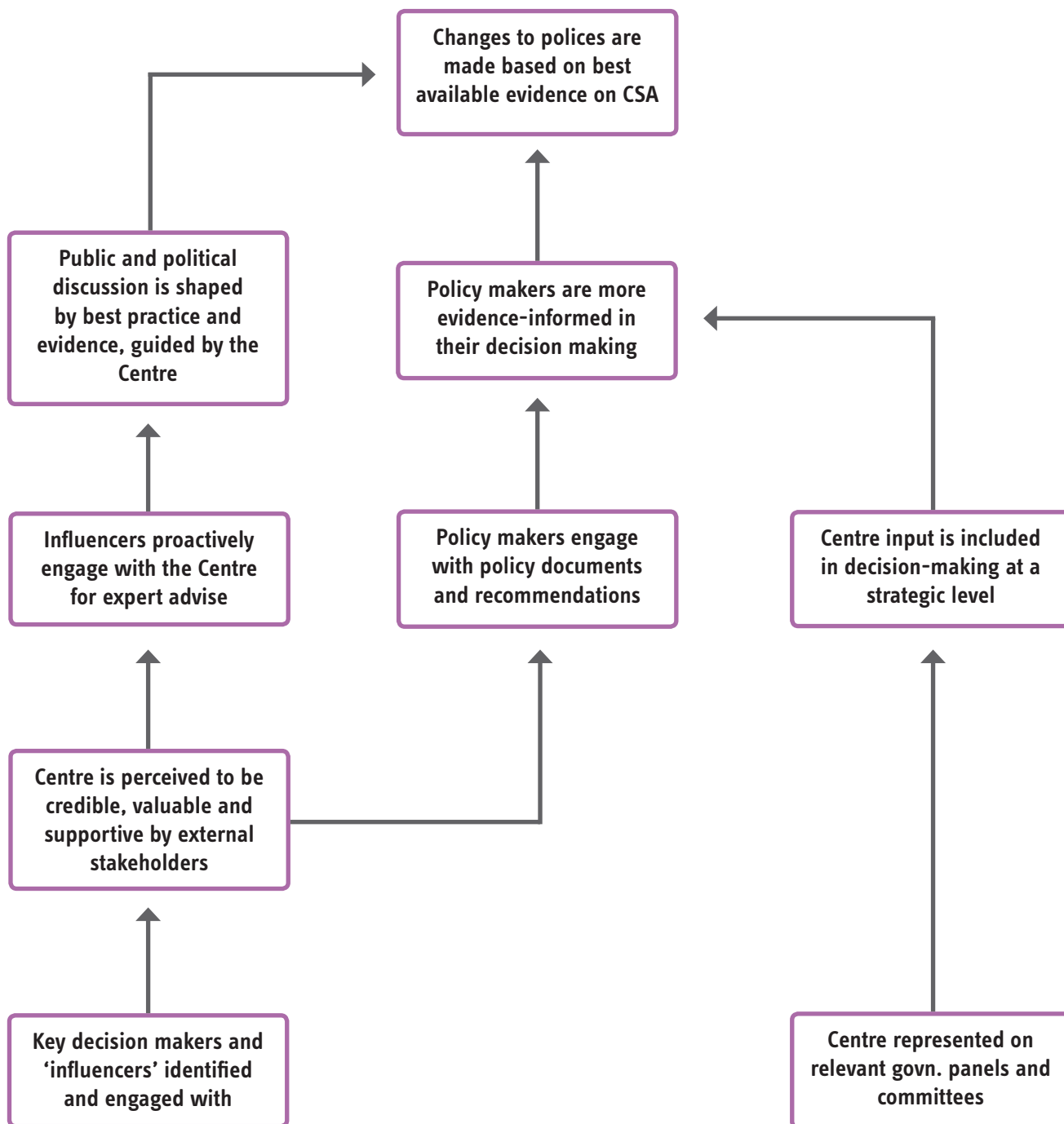
## Engaging and developing practice

The Centre aims to engage stakeholders from a wide range of sectors who can influence the response to CSA; to improve national and local intervention based of the best available evidence; and to support multi-agency responses to CSA.



## Influencing change

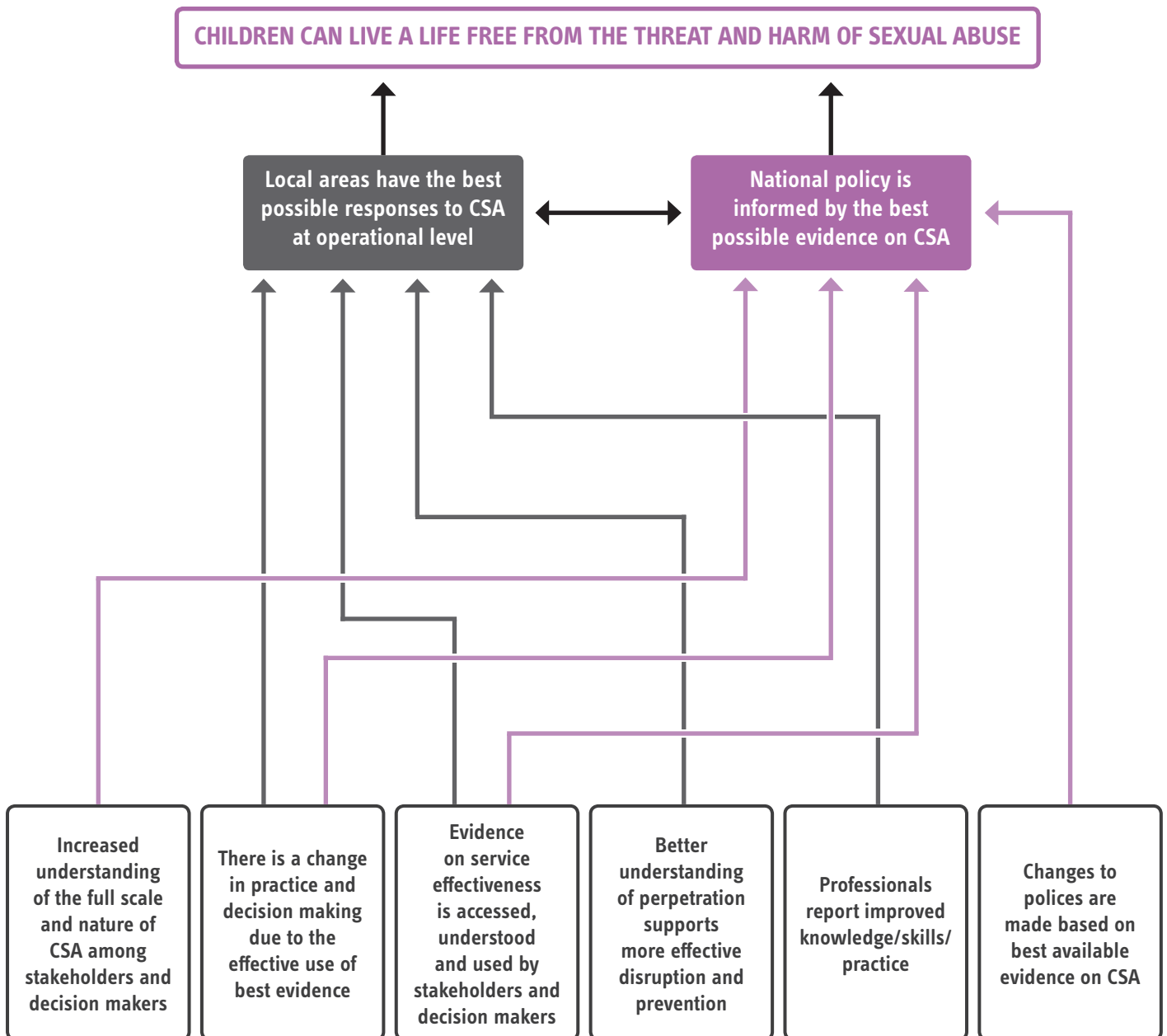
The Centre aims to support wide-scale, strategic changes in the way CSA is understood and responded to, by ensuring the best evidence is used in policy and decision making and in wider public debate.





## The Theory of Change

Finally, in the diagram below we have aggregated the six outcomes chains into an overarching Theory of Change, which proposes a theory of how the Centre will take steps towards achieving its overall goal of 'children living a life free from the risk and impact of sexual abuse'.





THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE  
RESEARCHING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION,  
VIOLENCE AND TRAFFICKING

research  
in practice