

Centre of
expertise
on child
sexual abuse



North Lincolnshire
**CHILDREN'S
MULTI-AGENCY
RESILIENCE &
SAFEGUARDING
BOARD**



Prioritising child sexual abuse

Welcome to an engaging day of presentations in partnership with the Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse (CSA Centre).

This roadshow event will help you and your colleagues identify and respond to child sexual abuse, and work confidently with children and families.

Throughout the day we will signpost you to useful advice and guidance to help you give victims, survivors and families affected by child sexual abuse the support they need. Explore the full schedule below.

9:15 AM **Welcome and introduction**

9:30 AM **Impacts of child sexual abuse**
Keynote 1
May Baxter-Thornton

This keynote considers the lifelong impact of child sexual abuse on the child, adolescent, and adult. May uses her own experience of child sexual abuse within the family environment to discuss the stigma and judgements inflicted upon those who disclose abuse.

10:30 AM **Break and networking**

5th February 2026- The Baths Hall, Scunthorpe, DN15 7RG

Prioritising child sexual abuse

10:50 AM
Keynote 2

The scale and nature of child sexual abuse and responding in practice

Natasha Sabin

To tackle child sexual abuse, we need to properly understand its causes, scope, scale, and impact. There has been increasing awareness of child sexual abuse and its impact on victims and survivors in recent years. Despite this, there are still many gaps in our knowledge and understanding which limit how we can best protect and support those affected.

This session will provide an overview of what we know about the scale of child sexual abuse, both locally and nationally; the contexts in which sexual abuse takes place; the characteristics of those affected; and who it is who perpetrates abuse. It will consider the key challenges professionals face in the identification and response to child sexual abuse, setting the scene for the afternoon's workshops.



12:05 PM

Lunch and networking

1:00 PM
Keynote 3

The signs and indicators of child sexual abuse

Emma Barwell and Sharron Wareham

“Professionals rely too heavily on children to verbally disclose” - Report into child sexual abuse in the family environment JTAI 2020.

This workshop will introduce delegates to the CSA Centre's Signs and indicators template to enable professionals to feel confident in building a picture of the signs and indicators in a child's behaviour and presentation, alongside those in the person of concern, and the vulnerabilities in the child's family and wider environment. It includes a collaborative opportunity to put the Signs and indicators template into practice and to consider how this tool can be used effectively within your organisation.

This workshop is for all professionals working directly with children and families, including those who work only with parents.

2:30 PM

Break



Data shows that current levels of child sexual abuse recorded are **just the tip of the iceberg**. Get a better picture of North Lincolnshire's recorded child sexual abuse using the CSA Centre's [Data Insights Hub](#).

Afternoon workshops

There will be a choice of workshops looking at specific contexts of child sexual abuse. Attendees can choose one to attend.

2:45 PM
Workshops

A) Communicating with children

Suzanne Taylor

We know that professionals and children face many barriers in talking about sexual abuse. It is vital that anyone who works with children knows how to recognise when something may be wrong and understands how to give children the confidence to communicate what is happening to them. This workshop gives professionals the knowledge and confidence to act, using the CSA Centre's Communicating with children guide. We will explain what may be going on for children when they are being sexually abused, what prevents them from talking about their abuse, and vitally what professionals can do to help children speak about what is happening. This workshop is suitable for all professionals who work with children.

B) Safety planning in education

Lorraine Myles

Professionals in education are managing increasing numbers of incidents where there are concerns about harmful sexual behaviour – sexual discussions or acts, involving children and young people, that are inappropriate for their age or stage of development. Often, this is with limited or conflicting advice about how to assess risk for both the child who has been harmed, and the child who has caused harm, and how to develop an effective safety plan. This workshop will introduce the CSA Centre's Safety planning in education - A guide for professionals supporting children following incidents of harmful sexual behaviour. It has been developed to support professionals in their thinking and decision making where there has been an incident of harmful sexual behaviour in their education setting and gives examples of how professionals can best respond to children's needs and safety when incidents occur. This workshop is suitable for professionals from education, agencies supporting education, sports and leisure, and other related settings.

C) Harmful sexual behaviour in online contexts

Emma Hodgson

The internet and technology-based communications are now embedded in the daily lives of both adults and children. These digital platforms and devices can bring freedom and opportunity, but online contexts now feature in almost all types of child sexual abuse, so there is also the potential for harm. This can include harmful sexual behaviour displayed by under-18s, which may be harmful towards themselves or another child, young person or adult. In these situations, it is important that professionals can confidently build a detailed understanding of a child's broader behaviours - both online and offline – in order to intervene. This workshop will provide a useful introduction to harmful sexual behaviour in online contexts. It will introduce participants to the context and emergence of this form of harm, and show why it is such an important subject for professionals to be aware of. While the session will have a specific focus on those who display these behaviours, we will also consider the impact on children and young people. This workshop is suitable for all professionals working with children and young people.

D) Supporting non-abusing parents and carers

Nici Evans

Research shows that the support the child receives from their main caregivers and wider family is one of the most significant factors in affecting the longer-term impacts of sexual abuse and will have a big influence on how a child will understand and respond to what has happened. This workshop will introduce professionals to the CSA Centre's Supporting parents and carers guide, to give professionals guidance on how best to support parents in a range of different contexts of child sexual abuse in order to support their child. The impact on non-abusing parents/carers of discovering that their child has been sexually abused will be considered alongside the challenges which this impact can bring to parenting their child effectively. This workshop is suitable for all professionals working directly with children and families, including those who work only with parents.

4:00 PM -
4:45 PM

Reflection and next steps

Speakers

Rachel Smith

Director of Children and Families (DCS)

Rachel is privileged to fulfil the role of Director of Children and Families (DCS) within North Lincolnshire Council. Her journey into children's social care began in 2002 as a volunteer at a Youth Centre with North Lincolnshire Council. Since then, Rachel has remained with the Council, serving in various roles as a qualified social worker before being appointed as DCS in December 2023. In this role, she holds strategic responsibility for family help, safeguarding, education, and services for children in care and care leavers. Rachel is passionate about giving every child the best start in life and firmly believes that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Partnership working, with children, families, and professionals, is fundamentally important to achieving collective ambitions. Rachel is extremely proud to be part of this work within North Lincolnshire.

Karen Everatt – Compere

Head of Service for Practice and Principal Social Worker

Karen is the Head of Service for Practice and Principal Social Worker for Children in North Lincolnshire. With over 26 years of dedicated experience in statutory Children's Services, Karen brings expertise and strong leadership to her role. She is a qualified Social Worker, holding a degree in Social Policy and Criminology, as well as a Master's in Social Work. Karen is a passionate advocate for collaborative working, firmly believing that meaningful partnerships and relationships are key to achieving the best outcomes for children and families.

May Thornton-Baxter

Accomplished public speaker and trainer

May strives to raise awareness of complexities around child sexual abuse. Recently May was part of the Victims & Survivors Consultative Panel (VSCP) for the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), in the capacity of both a survivor of child sexual abuse and for working with survivors of child sexual abuse, and was specifically recruited due to 15+ years working in the field of domestic violence, supporting child and adult survivors of child sexual abuse in refuges across the North East of England.

Emma Hodgson

Practice Improvement Advisor, CSA Centre

Emma is a qualified social worker and practice educator. Prior to joining the CSA Centre Emma worked for the NSPCC for almost two decades in the field of children and young people who display harmful sexual behaviour and child sexual abuse recovery services; with 15 in direct practice and then as a development social worker. Her role as a practice educator focused on delivering training, workshops and resources for a wide range of professionals working with children and families. During this time she developed guidance and training for professionals working directly with technology-assisted harmful sexual behaviour, including completing an MSc in forensic psychology exploring this issue, and the tools and resources available to be used by professionals working with young people. Emma is currently undertaking a PhD in the same topic.

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Lorraine Myles

Practice Improvement Advisor (Education), CSA Centre

Lorraine is a qualified teacher with almost 30 years' experience in education, from key stage one to four. Starting out in mainstream schools, Lorraine moved into the special education sector where she worked extensively with children and young people who experienced abuse and trauma. During the course of her career, she has worked as an education advisor, headteacher of a Local Authority virtual school for children in care and then as the headteacher for three special schools in the South-East. This included day and residential school settings, pupil referral units and a secure school – each making dedicated provisions for children with social, emotional, and mental health needs.

Dr Natasha Sabin

Practice Improvement Advisor, CSA Centre

Natasha is a Forensic Psychologist with professional experience in child sexual abuse. She has worked within Youth Justice as a practitioner and manager specialising in harmful sexual behaviour. Natasha has also had roles within secure hospitals and custodial environments where she has predominantly worked with adult males who have committed sexual offences. Natasha is a visiting lecturer at the University of Birmingham, facilitating teaching sessions to Forensic and Clinical Psychologists in training.

Suzanne Taylor

Practice Improvement Advisor, CSA Centre

Suzanne is an experienced strategic leader who has worked across the statutory and charity sector over the last 20 years. A proud Youth Worker by profession, she has experience in practice and leadership of highly successful specialist services for children, young people and their families. Prior to joining the CSA Centre, Suzanne led Barnardo's national work on placed based systems change to support improvements in the response to children who have been sexually abused or criminally exploited. Much of her career has been spent in the leadership of Youth Justice Services across the North West, holding many additional responsibilities including Greater Manchester Resettlement Consortium Coordinator, Local Safeguarding Children Partnership Board member and member of the Youth Justice Board Workforce Development Council. She is experienced in working collaboratively to influence wide-scale cultural change by focussing on co-production with children, families, and professionals.

Sharron Wareham

Practice Improvement Advisor, CSA Centre

Sharron is a qualified social worker with over 20 years' experience of working with children and families impacted by sexual abuse. Before joining the CSA Centre, she worked directly with children and families impacted by harmful sexual behaviour, child sexual exploitation, and supported children and families to recover following child sexual abuse. Sharron managed a multi-disciplinary team for 10 years, supporting responses to child sexual abuse assessment and intervention across six local authorities. She has managed several research projects, authored and co-authored statutory and non-statutory practice guidance for Welsh Government to improve understanding and responses to child sexual abuse and is the chair of the Wales Internet Safety Partnership group, whose work focuses on increasing digital resilience with children, young people and families in Wales, and chair of the National Organisation for the Treatment of Abuse (NOTA) Cymru.

Emma Barwell

Practice Improvement Advisor, CSA Centre

Emma is a social worker with experience of front-line statutory child protection, voluntary sector and expert witness assessments for court. She is an experienced facilitator, working with groups and one-to-one with those who have caused, or been impacted by sexual harm.

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Stands on the day

Changing Lives through Changing Minds

Domestic Abuse Partnership Board

Safeguarding Adults Board

Youth Justice Partnership Board

We Are With You

With Me In Mind, Rotherham Doncaster & South Humber NHS Trust

The Blue Door

Youth Council, Democratic Services Officer, North Lincolnshire Council

Child Exploitation Intervention Team and Harmful Sexual Behaviour Team

School Nurses Team, Rotherham Doncaster & South Humber NHS Trust

Virtual School and Inclusion Services, North Lincolnshire Council

Police Education Partnership, Humberside Police

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services



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