


FROM AUDIT TO ACTION: ENDING GROUP-BASED GROOMING AND EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN



 **Digital Conference**

 **Thursday 16th October 2025**



Key Speakers

**HYDRANT
PROGRAMME**

Supporting child protection
and abuse investigation

Phil Ashford

NSPCC

Clare Kelly



Simon Bailey CBE



Bridie Chamberlain / Dean Barr



James Bolton Smith



**WEST YORKSHIRE
POLICE**

Marie Bulmer

Overview

Group-based child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) remains one of the most appalling and persistent crimes in the UK, with many victims — particularly girls from vulnerable communities — continuing to fall through gaps in safeguarding, justice, and institutional accountability. Following the publication of Baroness Louise Casey's **National Audit on Group-based CSEA Report**, a light has finally been shone on the true nature and scale of the problem of grooming gangs. The Government's June 2025 response has accepted the Audit's 12 key recommendations in full and has committed to urgent action — including the establishment of a statutory **National Inquiry into Grooming Gangs**.

CSEA is a deeply complex issue requiring a coordinated effort between practitioners and partners across law enforcement, social services, education, healthcare, justice and third-sector services. Adopting a 'whole-system' approach is the key to delivering the step-change needed to achieve meaningful change and begin to turn the tide on this horrendous crime.

This online conference offers a timely opportunity to unpack these important developments. Delegates will explore the findings from the **National Audit** as well as the Government's subsequent accountability commitments, including new mandatory reporting duties, data collection and sharing of information between all statutory safeguarding partners and multi-agency safeguarding reform. The conference provides a vital platform for experts to examine persistent institutional failures, barriers to prosecution and the urgent need for culturally competent, trauma-informed safeguarding.



Why Attend?

- Live webinar featuring presentations and panel discussions with a wide range of policymakers, experts and key officials
- Interactive *Question Time* sessions with opportunities to engage with all speakers
- Unpack the Government's Response to the *National Audit on Group-based Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse* and the announcement of the *National Inquiry into Grooming Gangs*
- Understand the scale and nature of CSEA – Examine emerging threats, AI-enabled exploitation and online grooming
- Moving towards system-wide reform, including new accountability, improved data collection/sharing and reporting measures
- Examine the real-world Impact of group-based abuse and how culturally competent, trauma-informed practice can change outcomes
- Explore how embed a 'whole-system' approach in every area through improved local multi-agency collaboration
- Share ideas with fellow participants from local authorities, education, social care, the police, housing, health, criminal justice, third sector and other key statutory agencies
- On demand – Exclusive access to speaker presentations and post-event resources



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Programme

09:30 AM	Delegate Online Login
10:00 AM	Introduction by Conference Organiser
10:05 AM	Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Matthew Scott, <i>Managing Director, TONIC</i>
10:10 AM	Keynote Address: Tackling the Systemic Failures Behind Group-Based CSEA <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Understanding the true nature and scale of child sexual exploitation and abuse➤ Lessons learned from the <i>National Audit</i> and looking ahead to the <i>National Inquiry into Grooming Gangs</i>➤ Embedding accountability at all levels➤ What these changes mean for frontline professionals <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Simon Bailey CBE, <i>Former Chief Constable, Norfolk Constabulary; Chair, International Policing and Public Protection Research Institute (IPPPRI), Anglia Ruskin University</i>
10:30 AM	Keynote Session: Questions and Discussion
10:50 AM	Comfort Break
11:00 AM	Panel Session One: Prevention, Early Identification and Professional Responsibility <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Understanding how professionals missed red flags – what must change?➤ Responding to AI-enabled exploitation and online grooming➤ Trauma-informed outreach, cultural sensitivity, gender awareness and prevention➤ Embedding a 'whole-school' approach to safeguarding – practical implications for frontline staff <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bridie Chamberlain, <i>Senior Practitioner & CSE/CSA Parent Worker, The Children's Society</i>• Dean Barr, <i>Safe Spaces & CSE Project Service Manager, The Children's Society</i>• Lawrence Jordan, <i>Deputy Chief Executive, Marie Collins Foundation</i>
11:50 PM	Panel Session One: Questions and Discussion
12:20 PM	Comfort Break

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1:00 PM	<p>Programme Cont'd</p> <p>Panel Session Two:</p> <p>Fixing the System – Embedding Multi-Agency Accountability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enabling transparent, shared responsibility across agencies ➤ Reducing institutional defensiveness and improving trust ➤ Integrating National Audit insights into local delivery plans ➤ Embedding <i>Operation Makesafe</i> in every area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Det. Supt. Marie Bulmer, <i>Head of Serious and Organised Crime, West Yorkshire Police</i> • Emma Gudgeon, <i>Contextual Safeguarding Social Worker, Southampton City Council</i> • Johnny Bolderson, <i>Senior Service Manager, County Lines Support and Rescue Service, Catch-22</i>
1:50 PM	Panel Session Two: Questions and Discussion
2:15 PM	Comfort Break
2:30 PM	<p>Panel Session Three:</p> <p>Offender Disruption, Justice and Victim-Led Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Encouraging safe disclosure through trust-based engagement ➤ Enhancing criminal justice support for CSEA victims ➤ Securing justice for victims – effectively prosecuting offenders ➤ Delivering long-term protection and justice for victims <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phil Ashford, <i>National CSE Development Coordinator, Child Sexual Exploitation Taskforce - Hydrant Programme, National Police Chiefs' Council</i> • James Bolton Smith, <i>Unit Head, Organised Child Sexual Abuse Unit - Serious Economic, Organised Crime and International Directorate, Crown Prosecution Service</i> • Clare Kelly, <i>Service Head Local Relationships, Partnerships and Influencing, NSPCC; Former Head of Programmes, IICSA Changemakers</i>
3:20 PM	Panel Session Three: Questions and Discussion
3:40 PM	Final Questions and Chair's Summary & Closing Comments
3:45 PM	End of Digital Conference

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DELEGATE REGISTRATION FORM

DELEGATE FEES [price per place]					
BOOKING & PAYMENT OPTIONS:	1 PLACE		2-4 PLACES		5+ PLACES
Online Registration with Card Payment – CLICK HERE	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 245 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 215 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/> £ 175 + vat
Offline Registration with Card Payment – Complete form below	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 245 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 215 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/> £ 175 + vat
Register by Phone with Card Payment – Tel: 01753 373096	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 245 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 215 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/> £ 175 + vat
Raise Purchase Order / Pay by Invoice – Complete form below	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 295 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 265 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/> £ 225 + vat

Delegate Name:	Job Title:	Email Address:
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
Total no. places:		

Invoicing Details:			
Name of Key Contact:		Job Title:	
Organisation Name:		Department:	
Address:		Postcode:	
Email Address:		Telephone No:	
Accounts Dept. Contact:		Telephone No:	
Purchase Order No:		Cost Centre Code (if applicable):	

Card Payments:			
Government Procurement Card (GPC) <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard	<input type="checkbox"/> VISA / VISA Debit	
Cardholder:	Postcode:	Total Amount:	£ + VAT (at 20%)
Card No:	Expiry date:	Security Code (CVC):	
Date:	Signature:		

Other Payment Methods:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Please Invoice my organisation £ + VAT (at 20%) quoting Purchase Order No.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Electronic / BACS Remittance of £ + VAT (at 20%) to Nat West Bank Plc, Sort Code: 60-24-12 Account No: 88880419 Please email remittance advice to accounts@policyforesight.com or fax to 020 3633 5766
<input type="checkbox"/>	I enclose a cheque in the sum of £ + VAT (at 20%) made payable to Policy Foresight Ltd Please send cheque quoting event code 251016 to Policy Foresight Ltd, Castle Hill House, 12 Castle Hill, Windsor, SL4 1PD A VAT invoice will be issued on receipt of payment. VAT No: 295 4260 81

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