



# Stakeholder Bulletin

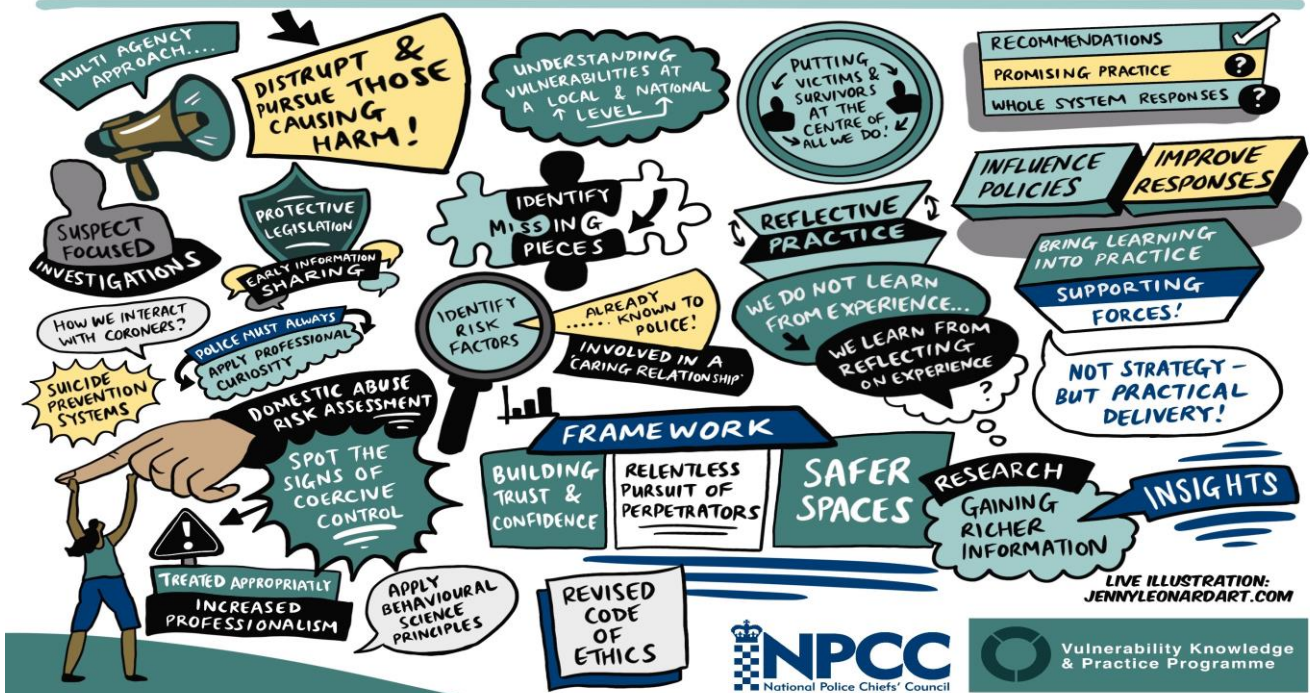


March 2023

The Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme (VKPP) - Coordinating and improving the police service response to vulnerability.

Welcome to the March edition of the Stakeholder Bulletin from the VKPP – designed to keep stakeholders and partners up to date with our work.

## TACKLING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS



### VKPP Annual Conference 2023

The big event we are all still talking about is our conference, which took place earlier this month.

The event provided more than 500 policing colleagues and partners with an opportunity to come together to explore the latest knowledge, research, and innovation across the vulnerability space.

NPCC Crime and Operations Committee lead, Assistant Commissioner Louisa Rolfe opened the conference. National police lead for the Vulnerability and Public Protection Committee, Deputy Chief Constable Maggie Blyth facilitated the day.

Content focussed on how police responses to VAWG are evolving. We discussed the barriers and enablers to listening to the voice of the victim within police investigations and within strategic decision-making, alongside the importance of leadership, partnerships, and culture in driving positive change.

A selection of videos from the main stage and workshops will be available shortly on our VKPP [website](#). We are planning a series of smaller face to face networking events - we will share details of this in our next update.

### **VAWG Research Pillars 1 & 2**

VKPP Senior Research Fellow, Charlotte Barlow, Research Analyst, Cami Ilett, and Senior Research Fellow, Emily Cooper, led the session to set out the findings of their research into the use of civil orders. The discussion explored the barriers, challenges, and opportunities of Protection Orders in supporting/safeguarding victims. Information sharing, particularly concerning civil orders was highlighted as well as how breaches of orders are managed.

Taha Selma from [Southall Black Sisters](#) shared key insight around black and minoritised women's experience of sexual harassment to inform practice. Cami talked about how cultural stereotyping can be a potential barrier to equitable implementation of protection orders, setting out the need for more officer training and education, particularly its relation to stalking incidents.

Dr Fiona Vera-Gray, Deputy Director of the Child and Women Abuse Studies Unit at London Metropolitan University, talked about how we can work to a shared definition of what sexual harassment is – public space, stranger, sexualised behaviour (or victim chosen because of sex) and behaviour that has the purpose or effect of violating dignity of the victim.

### **VAWG Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment (STRA)**

VKPP Head of Analysis, Kelly Agudelo presented on the VAWG Strategic Risk Assessment (STRA), which is due to be published in early May. The STRA is an analytical document used by law enforcement to understand and assess the scale and nature of violence against women and girls, current trends, policing's capability, the capacity to respond to and prevent VAWG and anticipates future threats and gaps. The team presented a first look at key findings of the report, including how technology, such as deepfakes and the metaverse, enables violence against women and girls.

### **Child Protection and Abuse Investigation (CPAI) - Analysis and Research Collaboration Project (ARC)**

The VKPP and Hydrant Programme presented this workshop together. We discussed the strategic drivers to establish an evidence based policing approach within child protection and abuse investigations. The importance of collaborative working within policing, trusted partners, third sector and the voice of the victim was highlighted. The development of the Strategic Policing Requirement and other publications such as the IICSA report was discussed. The workshop gave an overview of the CPAI database and the development of "one true data set" – the Complex Organised Child Abuse Database (COCAD) as well as the key findings of the Totality of Police Crime Data Report.

## Tackling Organised Exploitation Programme – (TOEX)

TOEX Programme Director, T/Detective Chief Superintendent Kate Thacker, hosted a session focused on the development of VAWG Force Profiles which identify high-risk offenders to prompt tactical responses. In collaboration with DCC Blyth's team, VKPP, SMEs and regional leads, TOEX has developed VAWG Force Profiles, and delivered them to the nine forces that contribute to the TOEX data platform. The profiles model the data with a cloud-based analytical programme and use force, regional and national datasets to contribute to the profile. It provides an understanding of the strategic, geographical, and individual threat of VAWG, using the national VAWG definition to pre-slice the data, creating visualisations to direct operational activity. Crucially, the programme can; focus on both suspects and victims; identify those of high risk; differentiate between high volume and high harm; and create subject-level profiles to prompt tactical responses. During the workshop, T/DCS Thacker demonstrated the Force Profile and gave feedback from the force users to date.



### Workstreams

#### Domestic Homicide Project (DHP)

The DHP team co-hosted an event with Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse (AAFDA) on 27 February. [AAFDA](#) are a Centre of Excellence for reviews after domestic homicide. Founded in 2008, AAFDA provide specialist and expert advocacy and specialist peer support to families and friends bereaved by domestic homicide, domestic abuse related suicides and unexplained deaths.

Family members who had lost loved ones to fatal domestic abuse shared their experiences, with the event providing a space to hear the voices of victims and share the learning from these tragic cases to inform ongoing changes to policy and practice.

Alongside AAFDA representatives, family members, and VKPP staff we were also pleased to have AC Louisa Rolfe, DA Commissioner Nicole Jacobs, and representatives from the Home Office participate.

To learn more about the VKPP's Domestic Homicide Project please visit [Domestic Homicide Project - VKPP Work](#)





## VKPP Recruitment

Thank you for supporting our recent recruitment drive and amplifying and promoting our vacancies. We had a tremendous response and look forward to welcoming on board a range of talent and specialist skills which will contribute to making the work of the VKPP even better.

It's already shaping up to be a busy year, and the skill sets brought by the successful candidates for the roles will be crucial in maintaining and enhancing our work in the vulnerability sphere and supporting you and your work in force.

We were pleased to share the completed testimonial videos from our wonderful team with prospective candidates for the advertised roles. Not only do they provide insight into the roles themselves, but they are a great example of how exciting and rewarding it is to work within the VKPP. They can be found on the [testimonials](#) page of our website. You don't have to be looking for a role with us to enjoy the messages in them.

During the recruitment drive in February, we also held two virtual recruitment open days. Both were well attended, and the feedback we received has been so encouraging. Below is one of the comments from an individual who attended the virtual sessions:

*'I love the sound of the culture and the VKPP's passion!', 'this has been really helpful,' and 'the VKPP are so inspiring!'*

### Big Moves

On the subject of new members to the VKPP, the management team has seen some big changes in March.

We are pleased to welcome **Clare Gollop**, who has joined the team as a Deputy Director, working alongside Sarah Hegarty. From April, Clare's portfolio will include the VKPP's analytical team & the Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (CSEA) analyst's network; our peer review, safeguarding partnerships and call for practice capabilities; and our EDI, communications, and engagement activity.

Some of you will know Clare from her previous roles as Director of the West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership, Director of the NPCC Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Programme, and through her work with Europol and NCA to strengthen international responses to modern slavery. Last year, she received an honour in recognition for preventing harm to vulnerable children and survivors of modern slavery, having been nominated by communities and partners that she supported throughout the pandemic. She brings significant experience around the vulnerability arena, national policing transformation work, analysis, systems leadership, and influencing across Westminster and will make a fantastic addition to the team.

We have also said goodbye to a member of the team. **Jacqui Hanson**, Head of Communications for the VKPP, who also oversaw communications for our two sister programmes - the Hydrant Programme and the Tackling Organised Exploitation Programme (TOEX). Jacqui has retired after 35 years working across police communications, including 27 years within a force, and eight years at national policing. Her guidance and foresight within comms have been invaluable.

Her successor **Claire Stanley** has taken over the role this month, following a short handover period. Claire has over 20 years' experience in the media and public sector communications working in both policing as well as local and national NHS organisations. As a former journalist, Claire has worked for several national radio stations as well as at the BBC and delivered media training and consultancy advice to high profile festivals.

Claire will oversee communications for the three national policing programmes, as well as support a number of NPCC portfolios delivering across the vulnerability spectrum.

As a strategic leader with experience in provider, public sector, and regulatory organisations, Claire describes herself as a highly motivated communications professional, committed to nurturing and delivering authentic engagement with staff, partners, stakeholders, and building legitimate corporate reputation. Claire strives to ensure that communications approaches are inclusive and representative of all.



### Partner/Stakeholder News

Here is your monthly round up of some of the reports and publications we found of interest, and which may be relevant to you in your work.

[TOEX E-Magazine](#) - Tackling Organised Exploitation (TOEX) Programme - March 2023

The fourth edition of the TOEX Programme E-Magazine was published this month. This e-magazine, which is published on a quarterly basis, provides the opportunity to share operational updates of interest, demonstrating the value added by the national and regional TOEX teams, and highlights innovation and good practice in the arena of data analytics and intelligence. This edition focuses on the work being done by law enforcement and stakeholders to tackle adult and child sexual abuse and exploitation and includes a feature piece by an organisation that supports victims and survivors, as well as a case study highlighting work TOEX has undertaken to assist a force with an investigation into offences relating to the trafficking and exploitation of women from Hungary.

#### **Infants: learning from case reviews – NSPCC – 22 March 2023**

NSPCC Learning has published a learning from case review briefing around Infants. The briefing takes key issues and learning for improving practice from case reviews featuring children under two who have been seriously harmed or killed between 2018 and 2022. The case review briefing highlights the inherent vulnerability of infants and looks at key issues including the dangers of unsafe sleeping and identifying when parents may be struggling to meet their infant's needs. Learning includes the need for training and support to help professionals understand and recognise infants' lived experience

#### **Violence Against Women and Girls - Commission on Young Lives - 20 March 2023**

The Commission on Young Lives has launched a call for evidence on the impact of violence and exploitation of girls and young women, including around criminal gangs. The Commission is calling for evidence from those on the frontline, service and system leaders, commissioners, and those with lived experience.

#### **The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) – Home Office – February 2023**

The SPR sets out the Home Secretary's view of what the current national threats are, and the national policing capabilities needed to counter these threats. Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) has been added to the SPR. The VKPP have been referenced in the SPR under 'Connectivity with Partners,' evidencing the contribution the Programme makes to informing the policing and partnership approach to vulnerability.

#### **Key messages from research on children and young people who display harmful sexual behaviour - Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse -February 2023**

The Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse has produced two useful pieces of research, to guide confident and evidence-informed professional practice. The latest report in the series – "Key messages from research on children and young people who display harmful sexual behaviour" – is an update on published findings in 2018, drawing on research published in the last five years, to help professionals, commissioners, managers, and policy makers respond to the significant numbers of children and young people who need support right now.

#### **Child sexual abuse in 2021/22: Trends in official data - Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse -February 2023**

This new report highlights the widely referenced series bringing together available data from children's social care, policing, criminal justice, and health, to build a picture of how agencies

identify and respond to child sexual abuse and provide a unique insight into the changing trends in practice.

**“Stable Homes, Built on Love” – Department for Education – February 2023.**

The Government have published their response to review recommendations set out in the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel’s Child Protection in England 2022 and Josh MacAlister’s Independent Review of Children’s Social Care.

The Report sets out the way the government intends to respond to the recommendations, and in 2023 will see Chief Constables in England being asked to;

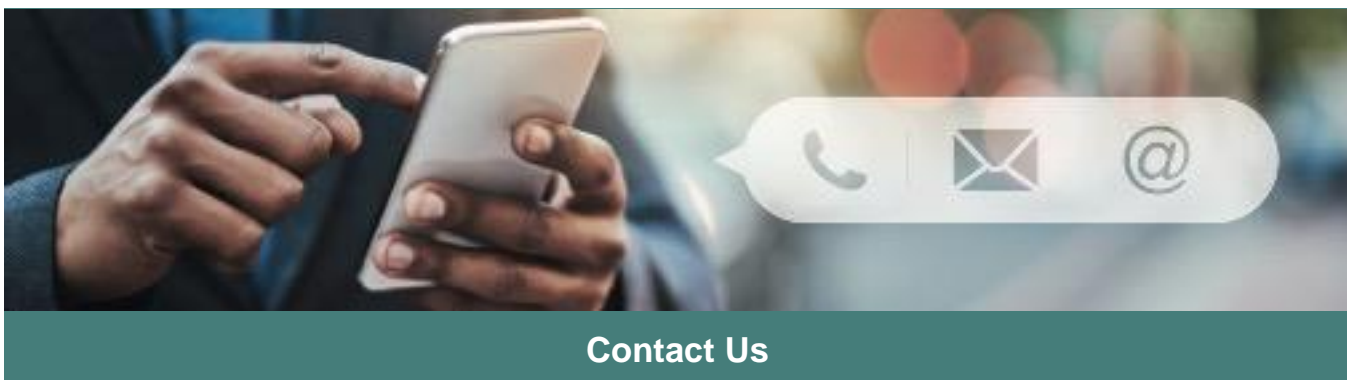
- Encourage their local delegated safeguarding children’s lead to table these consultations with their partners and consider a local response to the questions.
- Continue to engage with DCC Ian Critchley as the NPCC lead as he prepares a response to the same consultations on behalf of National Police Chief’s Council.

**Online Safety - NSPCC -22 February**

The NSPCC has published a news story on online child sexual abuse in the UK. Findings from a Freedom of Information request show a 66% increase in child abuse image offences recorded by UK police in the past 5 years. The news story reports that in 2021/22 Snapchat, was the most commonly named site being used to share child abuse images, mentioned in 43% of cases where this information was recorded. The NSPCC is calling on the government to create a statutory child safety advocate to put children’s experiences at the front and centre of decision making.

**Domestic Abuse in Pregnancy – University of Bath – 20 February**

The University of Bath, in collaboration with researchers from the University of Cape Town, have published a report on the impact of intimate partner violence (IPV) experienced by pregnant women on infant brain structure. This comes from an analysis of 143 South African infants. Findings include: maternal exposure to IPV during pregnancy is associated with alterations in brain structure in young infants; the effects of IPV exposure may differ between male and female infants; and preventing domestic abuse may be an effective way of supporting healthy brain development in children



We always welcome enquiries regarding our work. Do get in touch!

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Vulnerability Knowledge  
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