

Children, Young People, Families & Learning Overview & Scrutiny Commission-
8th December 2025

Briefing on the National Audit on Group-Based Child Sexual Exploitation and
Abuse – published June 25



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National Audit on Group-Based Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse – published 16th June 25



- Independent audit conducted by Baroness Louise Casey to consider how group-based child sexual exploitation has been addressed across the UK.
- The audit identified systemic failures across agencies, including victims not being believed, failure of agencies to intervene and inadequate recording of data.
- Disproportionate number of victims were white girls with a high number having learning needs and living in care or poverty.
- All statutory and relevant agencies in Hull are fully committed to driving forward the audit recommendations, tracked through Humberside Police and HSCP subgroups.
- The overarching national policing response to group-based CSE is now called Operation Beaconport. The National Crime Agency media release from November 25 is attached providing a full update.

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/operation-beaconport-hundreds-of-child-abuse-cases-under-review-to-prioritise-victim-and-survivor-voices>

12 recommendations accepted by Government



- 1) Law changes to make **adult penetrative activity with a child under 16 automatically chargeable as rape**.
- 2) Launch a **national Criminal Operation and Inquiry** into group-based child sexual exploitation, coordinating a series of targeted investigations.
- 3) **Review the criminal convictions of victims** of child sexual exploitation. Disregard any convictions where the government finds victims were criminalised instead of protected.
- 4) The government should make **mandatory the collection of ethnicity and nationality data** for all suspects in child sexual abuse and criminal exploitation cases and work with the police to improve the collection of ethnicity data and demographics for victims.
- 5) Mandatory **sharing of information should be enforced between all statutory safeguarding partners** in cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation. Compliance should be monitored by the inspectorates and overseen by the proposed Child Protection Authority.
- 6) The Department for Education should move swiftly to **introduce unique reference numbers for children** to improve opportunities for agencies to better share their information about children at risk of child sexual abuse.

12 recommendations accepted by Government



- 7) Police information **systems should be upgraded.**
- 8) Child Sexual Exploitation **investigations should be approached like Serious and Organised Crime.**
- 9) The DfE should urgently **interrogate child protection data** to identify the causes of the decline in child sexual abuse and exploitation representation in child in need assessment data; examine the reasons for variations across local authorities; and review the effectiveness of Serious Incident Notifications in relation to child sexual abuse and exploitation.
- 10) The government should commission research into the **drivers for group-based child sexual exploitation**, including online offending, cultural factors and the role of the group.
- 11) The Department for Transport should take immediate action to **put a stop to 'out of area taxis'** and bring in more rigorous statutory standards for local authority licensing and regulation of taxi drivers.
- 12) The government should commit to **fully resourcing the implementation of these recommendations** over multiple years and to tracking their implementation across Departments and other organisations, with regular reports to Parliament.

What is our response in Hull?



- The national audit recommendations require a number of government mandates, and national guidance to be developed, to support the responses of local authorities and partner agencies in relation to group-based child sexual exploitation. A national working group is being established by the government to progress this.
- Humberside Police are working with all LSCP's to produce an action plan mapping local actions for police against each national recommendation. Humberside Police are tracking progress of the recommendations, via the Protecting Vulnerable People Senior Leadership Team, and the Violence and Vulnerability Board. Humberside Police have responded in a timely manner to requests from government for data and information to support a national inquiry in response to recommendations.
- A focused multi-agency working group has been established under the HSCP to consider all recommendations from the national audit. Briefings on the National Audit on Group Based Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse have been provided to senior leaders across the HSCP, including via the extended HSCP Executive Board. Updates will be shared with all statutory and relevant partner agencies by the HSCP, and actions progressed.

What is our response in Hull?



- Active contextual safeguarding operational and strategic subgroups sit within the HSCP arrangements to coordinate contextual safeguarding activity across Hull. The strategic group has been chaired consistently by Hull City Council Head of Early Help and Prevention and a Detective Superintendent from Humberside Police. Activity relating to this is detailed in the recently published HSCP Yealy Report and attached in the link below (pages 33-35).

<https://www.hullcollaborativepartnership.org.uk/downloads/file/169/hull-safeguarding-children-partnership-annual-report-2024-to-2025>

- Safeguarding structures are in place across all agencies to protect children from sexual harm and exploitation, and respond to this i.e. EHASH, Humberside Police response, MAYVE. Multi-agency pathways are in place to safeguard children identified through organised crime groups (Humberside Police Kinetic – bronze, silver and gold groups).

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[National Audit on Group-based Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse](#)

[Government response to the National Audit on Group-based Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse report - GOV.UK](#)

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Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse**

**Baroness Casey of Blackstock DBE CB
June 2025**