





# **Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team (EYST)**

EYST works with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic young people, families and individuals including refugees and asylum-seekers living in Wales.

It aims to fill a gap in provision for young people from ethnic minority communities aged 11 to 25 years by providing a targeted, culturally sensitive and holistic support service to meet their needs. It also aims to challenge and counter negative stereotypes about ethnic diversity and increase awareness and understanding.

#### **Key terms**

The term 'Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic' is defined on the UK Government website as 'all ethnic groups except the White British group. Ethnic minorities include White minorities, such as Gypsy, Roma and Irish Traveller groups.'

However, the term does not describe one homogenous group. It covers a diverse range of people and is used as a way of describing a demographic in the UK

#### Things to consider when working with BAME families

- Have an awareness that families from ethnic minority communities may
  have unique cultural needs that can be identified as part of any initial
  assessment. It is important to identify any religious or culturally specific
  information or additional support needs. A culturally sensitive approach is
  important and this may include considering factors such as language, faith
  and cultural beliefs.
- There may be cultural and generational differences between children and parents/carers. You should be aware of these factors when engaging with families from ethnic minority communities as it could lead to different understandings of the same situation within a family.
- Language support should be provided where a need is identified as this
  can be a huge barrier to disclosing and reporting child sexual abuse.
   Language support is important to allow ethnic minority young people and
  their families to express themselves and be fully understood and to have
  everything explained to them clearly.



It is important to remind families that there are many organisations that are
there to help, guide and support them. You should remind them that they
are not alone and there are specialist services available for ethnic minority
communities, if required (see the end of this leaflet for a list of organisations).

#### Barriers for people from BAME backgrounds

- Fear For BAME families there may also be a fear of authorities and social services involvement, especially if they are unable to speak English fluently. This may be an additional barrier to reporting concerns. As a professional, it is important to give reassurance and explain that social services will always work in the best interests of the child and family. It is also important to provide appropriate language support. These steps will help to remove any fear and to build trust.
- Stigma Child sexual abuse can be a very sensitive topic and within some BAME communities there can be avoidance/denial. Some people think that it may bring shame to the family, cause relationship breakdowns, damage the family reputation and affect a child's future prospects if they disclose concerns. However, we need to remind parents/carers that they have a duty of care to report any concerns and children have a right by law to be protected by adults from harm.
- **Knowing their rights** Some parents from the ethnic minority communities may not understand UK child protection laws as they may be different to their country of origin. If you feel this is the case when a concern is reported, it may be beneficial to explain child protection laws to the family.
- Anonymity and confidentiality An important barrier to reporting concerns
  in ethnic minority communities may be the fear of repercussions within the
  community. Explain that any concerns reported will be confidential and
  anonymous. Make them aware of anonymous helplines (such as the Stop
  It Now! helpline) where they can get advice and support for their concerns
  with no repercussions.

## **Learning Disability Wales (LDW)**

LDW want all people with a learning disability to live as independently as possible in a place that they choose, and to have control over their lives. They believe that people with a learning disability can achieve this if they, their families and the people who support them have access to the best information, advice, training and support.

#### **Key terms**

A learning disability is a reduced intellectual ability and difficulty with everyday activities – for example household tasks, socialising or managing money – which affects someone for their whole life.

People with a learning disability tend to take longer to learn and may need support to develop new skills, understand complicated information and interact with other people.

## Things to consider when working with people with a learning disability

- Young people with learning disabilities share many of the same vulnerabilities that are faced by all young people, but the evidence indicates that they face additional barriers to their protection, and to receiving support.
- The reasons for this are complex and appear
  to be entrenched in the way society perceives
  and treats young people with learning
  disabilities. Addressing the sexual abuse
  of young people with learning disabilities
  requires fundamental changes in social
  attitudes and approaches to how this group of
  young people are treated and supported.

#### Communicating with children with a learning disability

Some key tips on communicating with children who have a learning disability:

- Find a good place to communicate somewhere without distraction. If you are talking to a large group, be aware that some may find this difficult.
- Ask open questions; questions that do not have a simple yes or no answer.
- Check with the person that you understand what they are saying such as, "the TV isn't working? Is that right?"
- Watch the person; they may tell you things with their body language and facial expressions.
- Learn from experience you will need to be more observant and don't feel awkward about asking parents or carers for their help.
- Take your time, don't rush communication.
- Use gestures and facial expressions. If you're asking if someone is happy or unhappy, make your facial expression unhappy to reinforce what you're saying.
- Be aware that some people find it easier to use real objects to communicate, but photos and pictures can be useful.



## Stonewall Cymru

Stonewall Cymru works to shape a Wales where people are free to be themselves, organisations help drive change, public attitudes improve, prejudice is challenged, and laws protect LGBTQ+ people.

#### **Key terms**

- LGBTQ+ relates to sexuality and gender identity.
- LGBTQ+ stands for lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer or questioning, and the '+' represents a range of identities that are included under the LGBTQ umbrella.
- Sexuality means who you are sexually or romantically attracted to.
- Gender identity means whether you see yourself as male, female, both or neither.

## Things to consider when working with LGBTQ+ young people

- If an LGBTQ+ young person discloses sexual abuse, they may need to out themselves to do this. This can make the young person vulnerable as they may fear discrimination or that they will get into trouble.
- LGBTQ+ children and young people can struggle within themselves to come to terms with their sexuality or gender identity and they may feel that they cannot speak with anyone about it.
- LGBTQ+ young people can face sexual violence by people due to homophobia, biphobia or transphobia. Such abuse is damaging not only in terms of the abuse itself but also its impact on the young person's developing identity.





#### Creating an inclusive environment

#### Some ideas include:

- Professionals introducing their own pronouns and positively encouraging young people to do the same
- Displaying varied LGBTQ+ materials and exercises, particularly LGBTQ+ black, Asian and minority ethnic resources
- Creating gender neutral toilets with period provision in the male toilets
- Include same sex experiences in Relationships and Sexuality education
- Professionals must be informed about LGBTQ+ lives and experiences in order to create an inclusive environment
- Professionals should complete holistic training on LGBTQ+ issues, and homophobia, biphobia and transphobia
- LGBTQ+ staff champions can lead on making an inclusive LGBTQ+ environment. LGBTQ+ staff champions do not have to identify as LGBTQ+.

#### What is child sexual abuse?

Child sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening, including: physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts; non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

While most of this abuse is committed by adults, around one third is committed by people under 18.

When it comes to children and young people, there's a real difference between normal sexual exploration and abusive behaviour. As child protection professionals, we need to know what this difference is, and where we can go for advice if we have concerns or questions.

#### What's the risk?

Child sexual abuse is a huge problem, but often it is hidden. It affects children from all backgrounds.

- Around one in six children will be sexually abused. Many won't tell
  anyone, and most won't be known to police, social services or health
  workers.
- Most sexual abuse is carried out by someone the child knows. Around one third of sexual abuse is carried out by other children and young people.
- Children with a disability are more likely to be sexually abused than children who don't have a disability.
- Some research has shown that LGBTQ+ young people are more likely to be sexually abused than heterosexual young people, and most hadn't received any help or support.

Shame can mean abuse isn't talked about or reported, especially in ethnic minority communities.

## Who sexually abuses children?

People who sexually abuse children come from all backgrounds, ethnicities, communities and walks of life.

They can be anyone – men, women, married, single, young people, children, family members, friends or professionals.

Most children who are sexually abused are abused by someone they know and trust. They are:

- people they know
- people they care about
- people from all classes, cultures and backgrounds

"He looks so ordinary and is great with kids. I'd have never recognised him as an abuser."

Mother of 7-year-old boy abused by a neighbour

## How abuse happens

It is not easy to understand how ordinary people can harm children. Some people who sexually abuse children know that it is wrong and are unhappy about what they are doing. Others think their behaviour is ok and that what they do shows their love for children.

#### Getting close to children and adults - grooming

Many adults are good at making 'friends' with children and the adults close to them. Some make friends with parents who are having difficulties, sometimes on their own. Others will present themselves as trustworthy and offer to babysit or other support with childcare. Some find trusted positions in the community which put them in contact with children.

#### Secrets

People who sexually abuse children might offer a combination of gifts or treats. They might also threaten the child about what will happen if they say 'no' or tell someone. To keep the abuse secret the abuser will often play on the child's fear, embarrassment or guilt about what is happening. They might convince the child that no one will believe them if they told.

## Why don't children tell?

Many children who have been sexually abused don't tell anyone at the time because they are embarrassed or think they won't be believed.

Sometimes a child is so young or afraid that they don't know or can't find the words to explain what is happening to them. And sometimes they are so confused by the person that has abused them, that they might not know that what is happening is wrong.

It is important for children to have trusted adults in their lives who they can talk to about any concerns. Children may feel like they will not be believed if the perpetrator is someone very respected or highly regarded in the community. But it is important to take all concerns seriously and report them no matter who it involves.

LGBTQ+ children and young people might not tell about abuse for the reasons that affect all children, but there are also some specific barriers for LGBTQ+ children.

- It is harder for LGBTQ+ young people to speak up because it requires the young person to disclose the abuse and also to disclose their identity.
- Children may be exploring their sexuality and/or gender identity and not know for sure how to define themselves. Sexual abuse can make them question themselves or deny who they are.
- LGBTQ+ young people might worry that when they say what happened, the response they get to being LGBTQ+ will be worse than the abuse that they are already experiencing. They might fear being outed and fear having no control over know knows
- Children might fear that people will think that the abuse is the reason that they are LGBTQ+. It is very important not to say this to LGBTQ+ young people.

ALMOST ONE IN FIVE (18%) LGBTQ+ YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE EXPERIENCED SOME FORM OF SEXUAL ABUSE, **COMPARED WITH ONE IN TEN (11%) OF NON-TRANS HETEROSEXUALS. MOST LGBTQ+ RESPONDENTS WHO** HAVE EXPERIENCED SEXUAL ABUSE (79%) HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY HELP OR SUPPORT.

Information on reporting concerns about child sexual abuse, can be found later in this leaflet.

What increases the risk to a child or family?

Any child can be sexually abused. People who abuse children come from all backgrounds and walks of life. The stereotypes don't match reality.

Some factors that can make a child more vulnerable:

- Lack of parental supervision, heavy reliance on babysitters or having many visitors to the house
- Poor or negative communication
- Lack of accurate sexual education
- Lack of understanding of appropriate relationships between adults and children
- Isolated, lonely, emotionally deprived children
- Substance or alcohol misuse in the home

Children and young people can be more at risk if they are lonely or isolated.

#### Here are other things that might increase the risk to children with a disability:

- Having fewer friends or supportive adults than other children
- Needing help with daily tasks
- A physical disability might mean they are less able to resist or avoid abuse
- Communication or learning difficulties can make it more difficult to prevent abuse or tell someone about it
- Carers and staff might not be able to communicate well enough with the child
- Having different carers might mean changes in behaviour go unnoticed
- The needs of parents and carers and ways of coping might be different from the needs of the child
- The child or carer might worry that complaints will lead to losing services
- Some people might target disabled children because they think they are less likely to be detected.

## Something things that might make LGBTQ+ children and young people more vulnerable to sexual abuse:

- If the young person isn't out as LGBTQ+, someone who is abusive can exploit this by threatening to 'out' them.
- LGBTQ+ teenagers might not have many positive LGBTQ+ role models or relationships, or have received effective relationships and sexuality education (RSE), and so may be pressured into behaviour that they are told is 'what LGBTQ+ people do'.
- LGBTQ+ young people who don't have any role models might search online for information and visit highly sexualised adult online dating sites.
- LGBTQ+ young people's communities can be quite small and young people can fear losing their friends if they disclose abuse within peer relationships and networks.
- Some non-LGBTQ+ adults abuse LGBTQ+ young people as a form of hate crime, to punish or 'cure' them.

## Some things that might make BAME children and young people more vulnerable to sexual abuse:

- Within some ethnic minority communities, sexual education may not be
  openly discussed with children. It can be a taboo subject and children may
  find it hard to discuss the topic or disclose to a trusted adult as it can be
  seen as shameful or embarrassing. This can make them vulnerable as the
  perpetrator may use this to their advantage.
- People seeking asylum may be afraid to report concerns because of their uncertain legal status and concerns about involving authorities and how it might negatively affect their claim for asylum.
- Shame, stigma and damage to reputation may be used as a means to silence children and young people too. They may be told that disclosing abuse will be harmful to their personal reputation and their family's reputation within the community.
- Ethnic minority children and young people can be isolated and marginalised and have fewer networks. This means they can have fewer opportunities to disclose to trusted people, adults or organisations outside their own family group.

## **Online safety**

Children regularly use different websites and apps from their parents, and it can be hard to keep up in this ever-changing digital world.

But the things that help keep children safe online are often similar to the things that keep them safe offline.

#### Here are some tips to help you keep young people safe online:

- Discuss expectations before joining a social networking site.
- Agree that a trusted adult is added as a 'friend' and ensure they have a private profile.
- Talk to them about the dangers of sharing personal data.
- Remind them that the same rules apply online at home and at school.
- Check your child knows how to report abuse or block contacts.
- Start a conversation about online pornography and the dangers of it.
- Remind them that they can talk to you if they see or anything happens that upsets or worries them.
- Talk about what they think is normal online and what behaviour to expect from other and themselves.
- Encourage them to think critically and question what they see online.
- Ensure they understand not everybody is who they say they are when they only meet online.
- Show them how to report any worrying behaviour they see or experience online.

## You can choose some age-appropriate questions to start a conversation:

- Which apps/games/websites are you using?
- How does this game/app work? Can I play?
- Do you have any online friends? Who are they? Are they strangers?
- Do you know how to block and report?
- Do you know what your personal information is?
- Have you heard at school about 'nudes' being sent around? What would you do if someone asked you?
- What kind of things would make you feel uncomfortable online?



# Signs to watch out for in children and young people



# Signs in adults that they might be a risk

Children often show us, rather than tell us, that something is upsetting them. There might be many reasons for changes in their behaviour, but if we notice a combination of worrying signs, it is time to seek help or advice.

## What to watch out for in children

- Unexpected change in behaviour or personality such as feeling anxious or depressed
- Acting out in sexual ways with toys or objects or an increased use of slang terms
- Unaccountable fears of people or places, for disabled children this might be their carer or support staff
- Unexplained money or gifts
- Self-harm
- Using drugs or alcohol

There might be other signs in children with learning difficulties or disabilities:

- Changes in personal care frequency such as toileting, changing pads, nappies, or soiling themselves
- Refusing food.

You can find out more about the signs of child sexual abuse on our Parents Protect website.



Most children who are sexually abused are abused by someone they know and trust. The signs that an adult might be using their relationship with a child for sexual reasons might not be obvious.

# There might be cause for concern about the behaviour of an adult or young person if they:

- Insist on kissing, hugging, wrestling or tickling even when the child does not want it
- Are interested in the sexual development of a child or teenager
- Discuss or share sexual jokes or sexual material with a child or young person, online or offline
- Insist on time alone with a child, with no interruptions or give the child no privacy
- Spend most of their spare time with children and have little interest in spending time with people their own age
- Regularly offer to babysit children for free or take children on overnight outings alone
- Buy children expensive gifts or give them money for no reason
- Treat a particular child as a favourite, making them feel 'special' compared with others in the family.



## What to do if a child tells you about abuse

- Respond with care and urgency If you think a child is trying to tell you about something that has happened, you should react quickly and with care.
- Believe the child If a child trusts you enough to tell you about abuse, you must remember that they rarely lie about such things.
- Be supportive It is important that they feel supported - don't dismiss their claims or put them off talking about it.
- Stay calm If they are talking to you about it, don't get angry or upset. Stay calm. If you get angry the child might think you are going to punish them. This will play into the hands of the person who sexually abused the child, who might have warned the child not to tell.
- Be caring Make sure the child knows you love them and that they haven't done anything wrong and keep reassuring them of this.
- Face the problem When the abuse is known, adults must face the problem and protect the child from any further contact with the person who committed the abuse.
- **Re-establish safety** To keep your child safe you can put into place a family safety plan.
- Get help Get help from professionals who can help guide you towards safety and healing. Information on where to get help can be found on our Parents Protect website.
- Do not despair Children can and do recover from child sexual abuse. It is very difficult to hear that someone you love has been hurt in such a way but help to recover is available.

# What can I do if I have worries about a child?

Every year thousands of people discover that someone in their family or a friend has abused a child. These children and their families need help to recover from their experiences.

These actions can prevent abuse, protect children, and help those abused to recover.

It can also lead to the person who sexually abused a child being held accountable and taking responsibility for their abuse. By getting effective treatment, they might eventually become a safer member of our community.

And if the person who sexually abused a child is someone close to us, we need to get support for ourselves too.

If you know about abuse and don't tell anyone, the person who offended might well continue to abuse, the child will continue to suffer, and more children might become victims. But you can change that.

## Reporting a concern

If you know or have concerns that a child has been sexually abused, it is important to report it swiftly.

It is important that practitioners do not ignore or dismiss suspicions about an adult or child who may be abusing, neglecting or causing harm to a child.

Every practitioner has a responsibility to safeguard children and that includes protection from abuse by a professional, paid carer or volunteer as well as parents or other children. Therefore, the duty to report any concerns about suspected abuse applies in these situations. This duty also covers situations when abuse is only suspected.

Professionals are expected to report to the relevant local authority social services department if a child is at risk of harm or has already been abused.

You can find out more about making a report, the process following a report and further expectations by visiting **safeguarding.wales**.



### Where to get help and advice

#### The Stop It Now! helpline

If you'd like to talk through any concerns, get more information or advice for a case, you can speak to the experienced advisors on our confidential Stop It Now! helpline.

Call 0808 1000 900 for anonymous support or visit stopitnow.org.uk/helpline to get in touch online.

You can find more information about what happens after you make a disclosure of abuse on the Stop It Now! Wales website.

#### **Parents Protect**

Our website has advice and information for parents, carers and professionals who want to know more about how they can prevent child sexual abuse. It has more information on the areas included in this leaflet and short films to help you understand the risks and how to protect children offline and online. These are in English and Welsh.

parentsprotect.co.uk

## NSPCC Underwear Rule: 'Pantosaurus'

With the help of a friendly dinosaur, these resources help parents talk to their children about body safety – search online for 'Pantosaurus' to find the information in different languages.

#### Barnardo's

Barnardo's Cymru aims to reach out to the most disadvantaged children, young people, families and communities in Wales to help ensure that they have the best possible start in life and overcome the disadvantages caused by poverty, abuse and discrimination.

barnardos.org.uk/wales 02920 493 387 cymru@barnardos.org.uk

#### **BAWSO**

BAWSO works across Wales with those affected by or at risk of domestic abuse and all forms of violence.

bawso.org.uk 029 20644 633 info@bawso.org.uk

#### Mosac

Mosac supports the non-abusing parents and carers of children who have been sexually abused. Its goal is to provide them with the help that they need to move on positively with their lives.

mosac.org.uk

#### **Thinkuknow**

Thinkuknow is an educational programme from NCA-CEOP, a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline. There website has useful resources for parents and young people about internet safety.

#### **CEOP**

If you are you worried about online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating with you or your child online, make a report to one of CEOP's child protection advisors. You will find help and support by reporting inappropriate contact online.

ceop.police.uk/safety-centre

#### Live Fear Free helpline

This helpline is funded by the Welsh Government and can provide help and advice to anyone experiencing sexual violence or if you know someone that needs help. All conversations with Live Fear Free are confidential and are taken by staff that are highly experienced and fully trained.

gov.wales/live-fear-free Call 0808 80 10 800 or text 07860 077 333 info@livefearfreehelpline.wales

(These are all available 24 hours a day 7 days a week)

# There are many organisations that help ethnic minority families in Wales.

#### **EYST Wales**

EYST Wales was set up to support ethnic minority young people, their families and communities in Wales. The organisation aims to provide culturally sensitive support services to its target group.

eyst.org.uk 01792 466 980 info@eyst.org.uk

#### Welsh Refugee Council

The Welsh Refugee Council improve the lives of refugees and asylum seekers in Wales through delivering specialist support and influencing policy and practice. They deliver practical support, advice and advocacy and information through many different initiatives.

wrc.wales 0300 3033 953 info@wales.wrc

#### **Women Connect First**

Women Connect First works to empower black and minority ethnic women in Cardiff and south-east Wales by offering services and training. They particularly support disadvantaged, isolated and marginalised women to help them realise their full potential and make a positive contribution to Welsh society. womenconnectfirst.org.uk 02920 343 154 admin@womenconnectfirst.org.uk

# There are organisations in Wales that can help those with learning disabilities:

#### Mencap

You can speak to the Mencap helpline by calling 0808 8000 300 or searching online.

## NSPCC Underwear rule for children with disabilities

Search for online 'Underwear rule for children with learning disabilities.'

## There are many organisations in Wales that can help with LGBTQ+ issues:

#### **Stonewall Cymru**

Stonewall Cymru wants to shape a Wales where people are free to be themselves, organisations help drive change, public attitudes improve, prejudice is challenged, and laws protect LGBTQ+ people. Its website has advice, support and information, including on coming out. stonewall.cymru

#### **FFLAG**

FFLAG is dedicated to supporting parents and families and their LGBTQ+ members. It offers support to local parent's groups in their efforts to help families understand, accept and support their LGBTQ+ relatives with love and pride.

fflag.org.uk

#### **Gendered Intelligence**

Gendered Intelligence works to increase understandings of gender diversity and improve the lives of trans people. genderedintelligence.co.uk

#### LGBT Cymru Helpline

It provides general information, advice and confidential support in many areas of life and various issues that LGBTQ+ people, their family, and friends may experience.

lgbtcymru.org.uk

#### **Mermaids UK**

Mermaids supports transgender, nonbinary and gender-diverse children and young people until their 20th birthday, as well as their families and professionals involved in their care.

mermaidsuk.org.uk

#### **Strong Family Alliance**

Strong Family Alliance aims to give parents and LGBTQ+ people accurate information on the challenges and safeguarding needs for children and young people to live safe and healthy lives

strongfamilyalliance.org

#### **The Proud Trust**

The Proud Trust gives LGBTQ+ young people the knowledge to empower themselves, to make a positive change for themselves, and their communities. theproudtrust.org

#### **Umbrella Cymru**

Umbrella's aim is to advance gender and sexual diversity, equality and inclusion across Wales.

umbrellacymru.co.uk

#### **LGBTQ+ Youth Groups in Wales**

GISDA's LGBTQ+ youth group North Wales gisda.org

Viva LGBT

North Wales vivalgbt.co.uk

**Impact** 

Cardiff cathays.org.uk/youth/impact

Newport LGBTQ+ youth group Newport facebook.com/ NewportLGBTQYouth

#### GoodVibes

Swansea swansea.gov.uk/ article/57468/YMCA-Swansea-Good-Vibes-LGBT-youth-group-Y-Connect-and-Alternative-MX-Wales

You can also ask your local authority's youth service about what groups they have in your area.

**Stop It Now! Wales is working** with Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team (EYST), Learning Disability Wales (LDW) and Stonewall Cymru to help prevent child sexual abuse

Stop It Now! Wales is part of The Lucy Faithfull Foundation - a child protection charity dedicated to preventing child sexual abuse.

We work with families and professionals so that everyone knows how they can play their part to keep children safe. Our confidential Stop It Now! helpline gives anonymous advice to anyone with worries about child sexual abuse and how to prevent it.

These partnerships are funded by the Welsh Government.



#### It's always better to talk through a worry or gut feeling rather than ignore it and hope everything is ok.

If you'd like to talk through any concerns or get more information, you can speak to the experienced advisors on our confidential Stop It Now! helpline.

Call 0808 1000 900 for anonymous support or visit stopitnow.org.uk/helpline to get in touch online.

All children and young people have the right to live their life safe and free from harm

Find out more about children's rights in Wales: gov.wales/childrens-rights-in-wales

You can also find general advice and information in English and Welsh on our websites:

stopitnow.org.uk/wales parentsprotect.co.uk













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