

“I like coming here,
I feel relaxed, I can
be myself and you
don’t judge me.”

*Young person supported
by Barnardo’s*

Who will notice, who will ask?

Barnardo’s Scotland’s approach
to preventing, intervening and
disrupting child sexual exploitation

**Believe in
children**
 **Barnardo’s
Scotland**

Foreword



Barnardo's is the UK's oldest and largest national children's charity. In 2018/2019 we supported around 300,000 children, young people, parents and carers in more than 1,000 services.

For over 150 years, our mission has been to transform the lives of the most vulnerable children and young people in the country, and we are as committed to that today as we have ever been.

At Barnardo's, we believe in children, we believe that with the right support, every child, whatever their background or circumstances, can recover from past harm and go on to thrive.

In our 10 year Corporate Strategy (2016-25), we set out our ambition to achieve better outcomes for more children, by helping to achieve stronger families, safer childhoods, and positive futures.

To achieve this, we:

- Provide direct, specialist support to children, young people and families
- Build our evidence base – for instance we host the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse and the National FGM Centre (in partnership with the LGA)
- Use our Frontline experience and deep expertise to inform Government policy

Since the early 1990s, Barnardo's Scotland has been tackling child sexual exploitation and abuse in Scotland, supporting victims, raising awareness in communities, and calling for national leadership. In 2012 the Scottish Parliament's Petitions Committee showed cross-party political leadership when it supported a petition submitted by Barnardo's Scotland to highlight child sexual exploitation and improve our response to the issue. Sadly we know that children in every community are still at risk from this horrific crime.

The exploitation and abuse of vulnerable young people is one of the most serious child protection issues of our time; however the true scale of the issue remains largely unknown. There remains the need for improved identification of child exploitation and abuse; appropriate supports for its young victims, and the collection and collation of data on the prevalence, nature and scope of child exploitation and abuse in Scotland.

Barnardo's has been at the forefront in responding to exploitation and abuse in Scotland for 27 years, and although we deliver support services in Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow and the West of Scotland, we know that a simple sticking plaster approach is not enough. More needs to be done to shift the national narrative from just treatment to early intervention and preventing child exploitation and abuse from happening in the first place.

As the world changes and evolves so do the risks facing young people. We know all children can become victims of sexual abuse and exploitation: girls and boys, from every ethnicity, religion and cultural background; LGBTI young people; and those with disabilities. Children who have already experienced neglect and abuse are especially vulnerable, but with new technologies all children are at risk of being groomed online, often by adult predators using the cover of anonymity to "befriend" them.

At the same time, evidence from our services supports growing concerns about the rise in child criminal exploitation – where children are coerced into engaging in criminal activity, often linked to gangs, drugs, serious violence, and sexual abuse.

At Barnardo's we don't just respond to the challenges of today, we seek to prevent problems from occurring tomorrow continuing to work in partnership with National and Local Government, police, health bodies and local communities to support families, keep children safe from harm, and give young people the tools and resilience they need to achieve a positive future.

Although we have come a long way in increasing awareness and improving support for the victims of exploitation and abuse, there is still much to be done.

Martin Crewe
Director of Scotland and NI

Barnardo's Strategic Aims

Stronger Families

Early support, family support and mental health and wellbeing

Barnardo's helps parents give their children the best possible start in life. Our services provide parenting programmes, structured play, as well as support for parents with post-natal depression, isolation, domestic abuse, family breakdown, and help to get into work. In 2018 we supported almost 3,000 families in Scotland. We believe a 'whole family approach' is one of the best ways to support children. Barnardo's also provides specialist mental health and therapeutic support.

Safer Childhoods

Child sexual abuse including child sexual exploitation

For almost three decades we have been committed to tackling child sexual abuse (CSA) and child sexual exploitation (CSE). In 2018-19, we supported 900 children and young people through our child sexual exploitation direct support services.

Positive Futures

Leaving care

Most young people have parents who help them on their journey to becoming adults. But many young people who have been in the care system don't have that kind of support and advice. In 2018-19 we supported 1,500 care leavers to access education, training and skills; to move into appropriate housing; and to improve their mental health and wellbeing.



Introduction

Scottish Government (2016a) defines child sexual exploitation (CSE) as “a form of child sexual abuse in which a person(s), of any age takes advantage of a power imbalance to force or entice a child into engaging in sexual activity in return for something received by the child and/or those perpetrating or facilitating the abuse. As with other forms of child sexual abuse, the presence of perceived consent does not undermine the abusive nature of the act.”

Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) has not always been recognised as a distinct form of child abuse which can affect both boys and girls. Almost 30 years ago, Barnardo's Scotland began tackling child sexual exploitation and abuse, calling attention to a “taboo” issue, when few others dared.

The Barnardo's 'triangles of abuse' were developed to facilitate this shift in culture away from the idea that children involve themselves in their own exploitation and abuse and instead draw attention to the supply and demand element of child sexual exploitation. In 2014, Barnardo's Scotland developed an inverted 'disruption/prosecution/protection triangle' to illustrate that abusing adults and not the pathology of the child should be the main focus in any police investigation.

Disrupting perpetration and perpetrator networks is a key part of Scottish policy on CSE (Scottish Government, 2016a) and Barnardo's Scotland practitioner's role in disrupting CSE ranges from early intervention around identified risks, through to acting on identified exploitation to preventing further victimisation and recurring abuse

PERPETRATORS

LOCATIONS

ABUSED CHILD

‘Practically, from my perspective, at triage my focus is now at reading a VPD [vulnerable person’s database] and thinking this is CSE. Whereas before, it’s just like you look at it and a button’s ticked. Before I went to the training, I wouldn’t have thought about it before. It focused your mind on looking for it, you’re more aware of it, looking for it.’

(Colleague from Police Scotland)

resulting in swifter identification of perpetrators and of children and young people at risk.



An important aspect of our services is the importance of collaboratively working alongside partner agencies and sharing information and intelligence that helps agencies “put the different pieces of the jigsaw together”, enabling more effective early identification of risk, and resulting in the disruption of perpetrator activity.

Trauma-informed Lens

The CSE and trauma informed lens that our practitioners adopt supports our partners to more appropriately understand how the child or young person may have been victimised, and undermined by the use of inappropriate terminologies and mind sets in some professionals’ approaches to children and young people. Enabling a complete reframing of children and young people’s behaviours and experiences, with professionals ‘reading’ young people through a lens of potential CSE, and understanding that distressed behaviours often have traumatic underpinnings has enabled them to shift their view of the young person from ‘problem’ to ‘someone in need of help’, and reconfigured their potential response to be oriented to the young person’s needs instead of behavioural correction.

Barnardo’s National Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse work in Scotland

Barnardo’s operates services that provide support to children and young people who have experienced sexual abuse and exploitation.

In Scotland, Barnardo’s has developed a ‘Hub and Spoke’ model to address cases and suspected cases of CSE across the country.

The National ‘Hub’, supported by our Policy and Strategic Impact Teams, is based in Glasgow with ‘Spokes’ working in Inverclyde, Renfrewshire, Edinburgh and Dundee. Our CSE Advisors are specifically aligned to our CSE services in Glasgow & Dundee, ensuring there is no duplication of work and we are maximising resources.

Our frontline services all aim to support children, families and communities to recognise and understand the signs of child sexual exploitation, ensuring early identification of children vulnerable to child sexual exploitation (CSE) with the main focus being the 1:1 support we offer children, young people and their families in relation to sexual exploitation.

In addition the services provide awareness training to professionals through a range of community events from briefing sessions to full training days, workers within communities and businesses enabling communities to better understand CSE and feel more confident in their responses.

An important aspect of our services is the importance of collaboratively working alongside partner agencies and sharing information that helps agencies “put the different pieces of the jigsaw together”, enabling more effective early identification of risk, and resulting in the disruption of perpetrator activity.

These services include:

Barnardo’s Early Intervention Service (BEIS), Edinburgh

We work in partnership with City of Edinburgh Council and the Public Protection Unit (PPU) for Edinburgh, to support young people in close support units who have returned from episodes of missing. We have recently started working with young people who are missing from home. We meet with young people and talk to them about where they have been when they have been missing. The information is returned

to the PPU and has regularly supported police with additional evidence to disrupt perpetrators of CSE.

Safer Choices

Safer Choices works in partnership with Glasgow City and Renfrewshire Councils specifically in relation to our direct support to children and their families, our outreach work in schools and children’s residential units and houses as well as street work.

Our Safer Choices Missing Service principally operates in Renfrewshire and Glasgow whereby we meet with young people who have been reported missing and carry out a **Return Home Discussion (RHD)** with them to identify triggers to running away/running to, potential risks they were exposed to whilst missing, and attempting to find out what would prevent them from going missing the next time and if appropriate offering more intensive support following the RHD.

Our service also provides direct support to children and families living in Inverclyde, East and West Dunbartonshire, the Lanarkshire’s and the Ayrshires.

“Regardless of race, disability, gender or behaviour. You are always there to support.”

Young Person supported by Barnardo’s

“Speaking to Barnardo’s is different from unit staff, they don’t judge and you don’t feel like they are watching you all the time after it (missing episode).”

Young Person supported by Barnardo’s

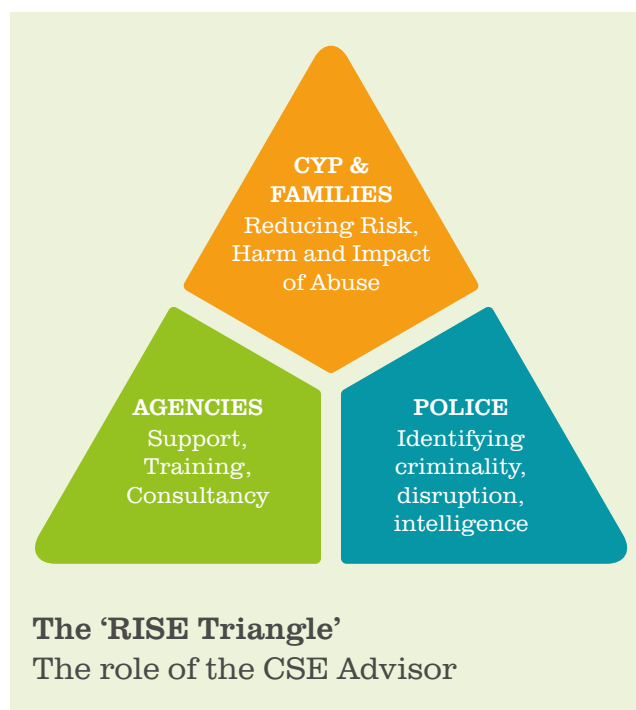
“I’m quite confident that we would not have been able to work through the recovery work without the support of our Barnardo’s worker.”

Parent supported by Barnardo’s

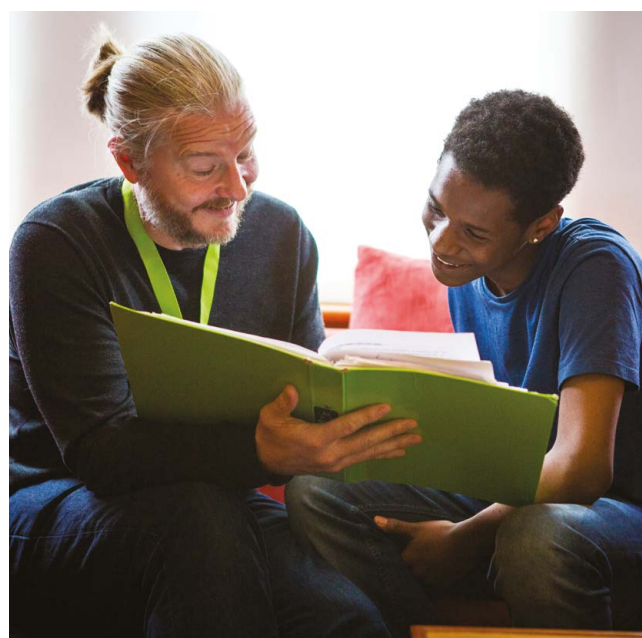
RISE (Reducing the Impact of Sexual Exploitation) Service

Barnardo’s RISE was designed to address the Scottish Government’s National Action Plan to Prevent and Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation (2014, 2016). RISE has Child Sexual Exploitation Advisors co-located with Police Scotland and working alongside police and other partner agencies to identify protect and support children and young people who are at risk of, or who have been victim to, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). This is achieved through three key areas: direct work with children, young people and families, capacity building across a wide range of agencies, as well as working closely with Police Scotland around intelligence gathering, disruption and victim strategies.

RISE aims to support the development of systems to be both perpetrators focused and child/victim centred. The CSE Advisors work to facilitate transformation in culture, practise and systems to improve responses to identified exploitation, as well as to respond to concerns in a proactive way to reduce risk and prevent harm.



Since RISE was established in 2016, over two local authority areas, RISE has worked with over 300 young people and families. There have been over 1000 professionals reached through capacity building, with awareness raising reaching into the thousands. The service has recently extended to an additional two local authority areas and now covers Aberdeen, Dundee, Fife and Glasgow.



Case study

Andrew

Andrew first came to the attention of police at 15 years old due to anti-social behaviour. Andrew was part of a group of young people aged between 13 and 15 frequenting a house, consuming alcohol, listening to loud music, having disputes with the neighbours and being reported for anti-social behaviour.

Intelligence gathered by Barnardo’s suggested that this home was potentially being used as a ‘party flat’.

Police and the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Team attended the neighbour’s address that had made a complaint to Police. The neighbour shared that they had concerns their daughter was attending this address against their advice and that the young people in the address were often seen under the influence of substances when leaving the address. The neighbour further shared that there were several groups of youths attending the address on different days, and that on each occasion, the occupier would leave in a taxi and return with numerous bags of alcohol.

The occupier was a 34 year old woman and given some of the concerns in relation to reports of sexual activity, young people frequenting her home developing sexually transmitted infections, Barnardo’s attempted to progress child protection processes however despite other agencies being aware of these concerns, no further action was taken. Reasons cited included:

- There was no disclosure of sexual activity from any young person, and
- Andrew was 3 weeks from his 16th birthday

Barnardo’s continued to support Andrew’s mum who shared that Andrew whad now moved out of the family home and was living with CB. Barnardo’s supported mum to develop strategies that would enable her to re-engage with her son, including providing Andrew with a phone to enable contact, messages reminding him she cared about him and he was welcome home, and reporting Andrew missing if she had not heard from him. Mum’s efforts resulted in Andrew being in contact with his mum again, and occasionally visiting to shower and have some food.

Building on this support, Andrew was able to explore with his Barnardo’s worker his experience of being controlled and manipulated by CB. and gradually began to get an understanding of grooming, manipulation, coercive control and child sexual exploitation. Andrew went on to disclose a ‘sexual relationship’ between him and CB, which Andrew said started once he had turned 16. Information was shared with Police and Social Work, however, as Andrew disclosed this was once he had turned 16, again there was no further action.

Andrew then broke down; he required immediate psychiatric care, was medicated and received a crisis service for his mental wellbeing.

Andrew is now in a place where he no longer requires psychiatric care. Andrew understands that what happened to him was sexual exploitation and abuse, and worked on the impact of some of this. Andrew is back in both education and employment and working to build his future. Andrew has a positive relationship with his mum, and has reconnected with some friends. Andrew is positive about his future.

Partnership Working

In addition to working collaboratively and routinely with colleagues in Social Work, Police Scotland, Education, Health and other voluntary and community sector agencies, we have placed a strong emphasis and focus on working with those staff working in the business industry.

In partnership with Police Scotland and the Scottish Business Resilience Centre, Barnardo’s approached Crimestoppers UK to assist us to develop a robust reporting mechanism whereby they could provide some of the key industries that come into contact with children and young people an opportunity to be able to report incidents or concerns around CSE as well as educating those industries and the public on the signs to look out for.

In addition, this line will also provide those operating working with children and the community a clear procedure for issues they feel they cannot raise directly within their own organization.

It is anticipated that any information received would be dual disseminated to Police Scotland (to the Public Protection Unit via the National Intelligence Bureau) as well as to Barnardo’s Scotland.

Launching on the 3rd December 2018, the service will be piloted until March 2020 with a view to gaining valuable information regarding the exploitation and abuse of children.

0800 389 0131
www.barnardosnightwatch.com

Nightwatch

in Scotland

Just got a feeling that something's not right?
Report it!

Child sexual exploitation is abuse. If you have concerns about a young person or a situation you have witnessed
Call Barnardo's Nightwatch Hotline on 0800 389 0131.
If you feel someone is in immediate danger please call 999.

Perpetrators aren't always easy being vigilant and knowing who

- Young person being bought alcoholic drinks in a public place
- Frequent visitors to toilets who are not on the list
- A young person who looks fearful, nervous
- Young people being bought food and drink as a boyfriend/girlfriend
- Adult appears to have control over a young person
- Young person in the company of significantly older people who do not seem to be family
- Lots of men hanging around a group of teenage girls/boys
- Young male or female checking in to a hotel with a significantly older person
- Multiple Adults and young people checking into the hotel rooms
- Groups of young people being approached by older adults offering them alcohol/cigarettes/drugs
- Young people hanging around the bar or hotel reception areas

YOU just got a feeling that something's not right?
If you see something suspicious or you think sexual exploitation is happening on your premises, speak to your manager and
Call Barnardo's Nightwatch Hotline 0800 389 0131
If someone is in immediate danger call 999

Believe in children
Barnardo's Scotland

in partnership with
Scottish Government
gov.scot

Supported by
Crimestoppers.



Our Vision for Scotland

In five years’ time the focus of our work will have shifted from intervention and support to early intervention and prevention work; identifying and disrupting perpetrators and preventing more children and young people from being exploited and/or abused.

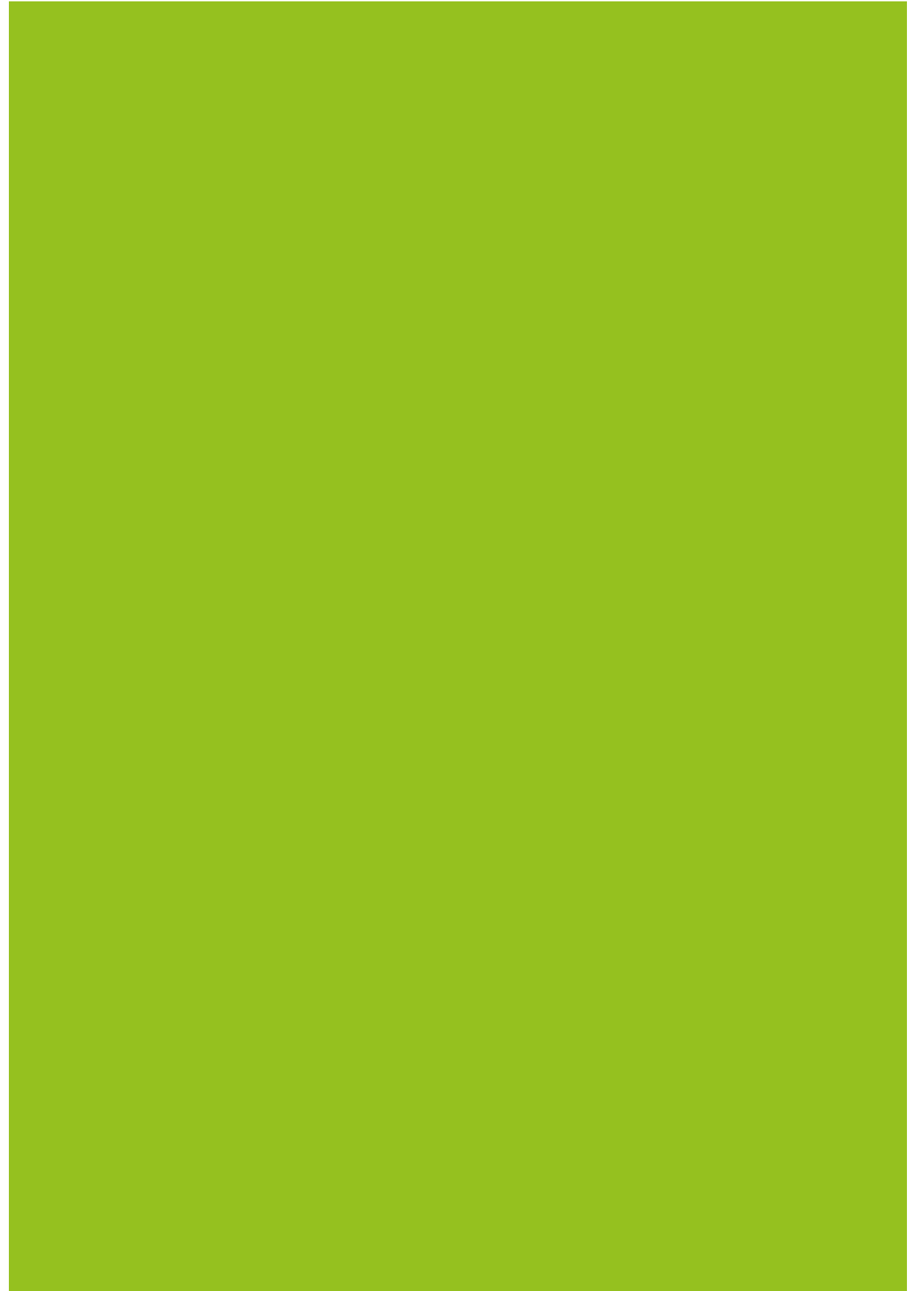
We will develop a **Scotland-wide multi-sector network of professionals who are aware of the signs of exploitation and abuse and confident in their ability to report it.** More professionals and practitioners will be upskilled in working with children, young people and families at risk of exploitation and abuse, and as a result young people will not have to wait for specialist support.

Young people will be able to receive dedicated support from the services they may already be accessing, reducing the need for more professional involvement in their lives. There will also be more direct pathways to specialist services for exploited and abused young people, ensuring they receive a speedier response to protection and therefore more effective support.

The general public will also have a heightened awareness of the signs of child exploitation and abuse, and will feel empowered to report concerns or issues directly to the Police and Barnardo’s through a UK-wide partnership with Crimestoppers.

We will have a clearer picture of the true scale of child sexual exploitation and abuse (as well as perpetration) and we will be using our learning and experience to shape and influence policy and legislation to ensure all children and young people in Scotland can enjoy happy, care-free childhoods, safe from harm.





Centre Of Expertise On Child Sexual Abuse

The Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse (the CSA Centre) aims to reduce the impact of CSA through improved prevention and better response; its vision is for children to be able to live free from the threat and harm of sexual abuse.

The CSA Centre brings about change by collating and analysing existing research, policy, practice and the real experiences of those affected, and filling the gaps with new research, insights and analysis. It uses that evidence and insight to develop new approaches and apply learning in practice.

Although the CSA Centre is independent, it is funded by the Home Office and Barnardo's is proud to both host the CSA Centre and be part of its Advisory Board.

The CSA Centre is focused on building knowledge and understanding by:

- Collating and analysing existing research, policy, practice and the real experiences of those affected, and filling the gaps identified with new research, insights and analysis; and
- Using that evidence and insight to challenge and improve existing policy and practice, develop new approaches and increase everyone's knowledge and confidence to more effectively tackle the issue.

The CSA Centre has a range of resources and reports available on its website (www.csacentre.org.uk) as well as details about how you can get involved and stay up to date with its work and opportunities.



To find out more information about Barnardo's work or to arrange a meeting please contact:

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Barnardo's Registered Charity Nos. 216250 and SC037605 21123shc2019

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