



Child Safeguarding
Practice Review Panel

14 November 2023

Dear Secretary of State,

THE CHILD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEW PANEL: National Review into child sexual abuse within the family environment.

I am writing to inform you of our intention to launch a National Review into child sexual abuse within the family environment.

We have seen a concerning number of safeguarding cases featuring this type of abuse. After considering these cases, we have decided to undertake a National Review exploring in more depth the issues emerging from them.

The aim of this Review is to explore the specific challenges which feature in the identification, assessment, and response to child sexual abuse within the family environment. The Review will address how multi-agency local and national safeguarding practice can improve to reflect better the evidence on how to protect and respond to children experiencing this specific type of harm.

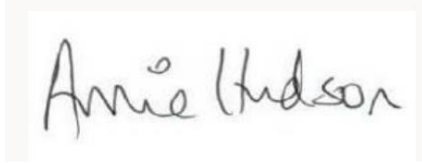
We will commence this review in November 2023. The terms of reference (including the key lines of enquiry) for the Review are annexed to this letter. In line with the requirements of Working Together 2018 we expect to complete this Review within 6 months.

I have asked Panel members Jenny Coles and Simon Bailey to lead this Review. I will have oversight of the Review as Panel Chair. Isabelle Trowler, Chief Social Worker for Children and Families will offer advice and support.

Following a competitive exercise from our Pool of Reviewers, we have appointed the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse to be the lead reviewers on this National Review, working closely with the Panel Leads.

I will be copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the Home Secretary.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Annie Hudson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a light grey rectangular border.

Annie Hudson, Chair, Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel