



Department  
for Education

# **Establishing a Child Protection Authority in England**

**Government consultation response**

**7th July 2026**

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## Ministerial foreword

Keeping children safe underpins everything our government seeks to achieve, from improving life chances to strengthening communities and raising the healthiest generation of children ever. That means that the approaches we take and the professionals we empower must be clear in their purpose, confident in their practice, and effective in their outcomes. And while so many dedicated people work tirelessly to protect children every day, we know that today the system does not always work as it should.

Too often, opportunities to prevent harm are missed; too often, when alarms are sounded, no effective action follows. And that means that too often, children who should be safe are not.

This consultation response reflects our determination to address these challenges: to do better for children today and tomorrow. It sets out what we have heard – from those who work in the system and those who do not, from those whose lives have been shaped by its failures as well as those who work to make it a success – about our proposal to establish a Child Protection Authority (CPA), and it sets out how those views will inform the next stage of the reform we intend to bring.

The development of a Child Protection Authority (CPA) responds directly to the recommendations of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. I am grateful to the Inquiry's Chairs and panel members for their work, and to the very many victims and survivors whose courage in sharing their experiences has shaped this reform agenda. Their voices have been central in highlighting where the government must go further to ensure that as a society we do better, and they continue to guide our determination to strengthen protection for every child.

We have carefully considered every one of the 379 responses received from practitioners, organisations, experts and individuals with lived experience. Their contributions provide a rich and thoughtful evidence base, grounded in frontline practice as well as strategic oversight. Their challenge has both sharpened our thinking and strengthened our ambition. Alongside this, we have engaged more broadly with sector leaders, practitioners and young people to ensure that the development of the CPA is shaped by a wide range of perspectives.

A strong message runs throughout the responses: there is broad support for a national body that can bring greater coherence, strengthen leadership, and ensure that learning leads to real and lasting improvement. Respondents were clear that the current system can feel complex and fragmented, and that there is a need for clearer direction, stronger coordination, and more consistent application of good practice across agencies and areas.

At the same time, there is a clear expectation that any new body must add value, not rearrange it. It must work alongside existing partners, build on what is already effective, and avoid creating unnecessary duplication. It should support those working on the front

line, not add to their burden, and it must remain closely connected to the realities of local practice.

Today we set out how we intend that the CPA will be designed with these principles in mind. We know the huge importance of this work: now is the moment when as a government, as ministers from different departments, we look at improving child protection not simply in one or two respects, however significant they are, but in the round. Today we take the opportunity to plan together how we build a system for tomorrow that addresses the many challenges we see today.

The CPA will bring together expertise from across the system, improve how evidence and insight are gathered and used, and support better implementation of learning across agencies. It will also play an important role in identifying emerging harm and helping the system respond earlier and more effectively.

This work sits within a broader programme of reform, through legislation, regulation, and investment, which strengthens the protection of children and young people. As we implement the measures in the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, we will improve how the system works in practice, including through Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams and a strengthened duty to share information effectively, supported by a Single Unique Identifier for children. Alongside this, the [Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy](#), published in December 2025, and the introduction of a mandatory reporting duty through the Crime and Policing Act 2026, mark significant steps forward in how we prevent and respond to abuse and harm.

The Public Office (Accountability) Bill introduces new duties of candour for public officials and public authorities, with criminal and professional consequences for breaches. This is intended to ensure that public servants (including police, health and children's social care workers) act with candour, frankness and transparency at all times.

The CPA will work – and evolve – within this wider landscape. It will play a critical role in supporting these reforms to translate into meaningful change on the ground, helping ensure that new duties, structures and tools strengthen practice, enable clearer and more joined up working between services, and ultimately lead to better outcomes for children.

Joined-up working matters, because child protection is delivered through multi-agency collaboration. Statutory safeguarding partners (local authorities, health, and police) hold defined responsibilities and must work together as equal partners to protect children. Alongside them, relevant agencies play an important role in identifying and responding to harm. The CPA will strengthen this coordinated approach, improving how partners work together and share information, learning from success and failure alike.

At the same time, it will support protection in every setting where children are present, including those that are less formally regulated. The CPA will reinforce the importance of working with parents, families, and the wider children's workforce. Abuse can occur in any

context, inside and outside of the home, and online; our systems must be equipped to respond wherever harm arises.

The CPA will place the experiences of children, families and survivors at the centre of its work. Their voices are essential in shaping a system that not only responds to harm but learns from it and works to prevent it. We are committed to ensuring that these perspectives are not only heard but embedded in how the system operates and evolves.

This document marks an important point in that journey, but not its conclusion. The insights from the consultation will directly inform how the CPA is established, including its role, powers and ways of working. We will continue to work closely with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and partners across the system as we move into the next phase.

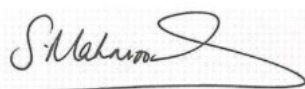
Our goal is clear: a child protection system that is better connected, more responsive, and focused on delivering meaningful change - one that supports those working to protect children, learns from experience, and acts decisively where improvement is needed.

Above all, a system that gives every child in our country the protection and support they deserve, because as we reflect often across the government's responsibilities for children and childhood, across education and care, what a wise parent would wish for their children, so the State must wish for all its children.



Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP  
Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women & Equalities

This response is supported by



Rt Hon Shabana Mahmood MP, Secretary of State for the Home Office



Rt Hon James Murray MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Rt Hon David Lammy MP, Lord Chancellor, Secretary of State for Justice and Deputy  
Prime Minister

## Executive Summary

This document sets out the government's response to the consultation on establishing a Child Protection Authority (CPA). It is published alongside the full analysis of consultation responses.

Establishing a CPA was a key recommendation from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA). The CPA is intended to address longstanding weaknesses in the child protection system, including fragmented national leadership, inconsistent sharing and embedding of good practice, and a failure to translate learning into sustained improvement. Central to the CPA is the recognition that protecting children is a shared, multi-agency responsibility, requiring coordinated action across local government, police, health, education, the voluntary sector, the wider criminal justice sector and others working with children and families. There is a shared commitment across government to develop a strong and effective CPA that supports all sectors who work with children.

### About the Consultation

- The consultation ran from 11 December 2025 to 5 March 2026 and sought views on the proposed scope, functions, and powers of the CPA.
- A total of 379 responses were received from a broad range of stakeholders, including frontline practitioners, local authorities, inspectorates, voluntary organisations, and individuals with lived experience.
- Responses comprised online submissions, emailed responses, and several campaign responses expressing support for the CPA.

These responses, alongside wider engagement activity, have shaped this government response.

### Overall Findings

There is strong overall support for the establishment of a CPA. Most respondents agreed with the proposed functions across system leadership, national oversight, learning, and improvement. This indicates clear backing for a national body to provide stronger leadership and coherence across the system.

Respondents also emphasised the importance of the CPA:

- having a clear remit that complements rather than duplicates the role of existing organisations;
- having the authority, capability, and resources to drive meaningful and lasting change; and
- strengthening partnership working between agencies at national and local level.

## **Scope and Purpose of the CPA**

63% of respondents supported the proposed scope of the CPA, recognising its potential to strengthen national leadership and reduce fragmentation. Some called for the CPA to be a broader safeguarding body (rather than more narrowly focused on child protection) and for the scope to explicitly address underlying drivers such as poverty and inequality.

Respondents also emphasised that the CPA should build on and evolve the work of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, shifting towards a more proactive and preventative approach.

Until the CPA is fully operational, the Panel will continue to carry out its vital responsibilities of reviewing serious incidents in England to identify learning and improve professional practice to keep children safe.

Once the CPA is fully established, the Panel will be dissolved, with its core functions informing and shaping the CPA's remit. Maintaining continuity and building on the Panel's strong track record and impact on child safeguarding, both in the lead-up to and during transition, will be critical.

## **Leadership, Oversight and Evidence**

71% of respondents agreed that the CPA should have a national leadership and oversight role. Respondents thought this role would support and enable multi-agency collaboration, accountability, and improvement.

Respondents were supportive of the CPA being able to undertake:

- horizon scanning to identify emerging risks (74%);
- monitoring a wide range of information sources (91%);
- building national data and analytical capability (77%).

Respondents emphasised the importance of integrating quantitative data with qualitative insight, including the experiences of practitioners, children, families, and survivors. There were also calls for improved data quality, the setting of national data standards in child protection, and robust ethical safeguards, including transparency and appropriate use of technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI).

## **System Learning and Workforce Support**

Around 71% of respondents agreed with proposals to promote good practice and 80% supported its role in research and evidence. A consistent theme was that learning must translate into practical improvements. Respondents highlighted the need for:

- accessible, practice-focused guidance and tools;
- co-produced learning with practitioners and those with lived experience; and

- national platforms to share evidence and good practice.

76% of respondents agreed with proposals on training and 89% supported the CPA working with regulators and government to promote consistent national training standards. Respondents emphasised the importance of collaboration, co-design, and ensuring training reflects frontline realities.

### **Driving System Improvement**

Over 80% of respondents agreed with the CPA's approach to multi-agency learning and 90% believed sectors and organisations would benefit from additional support in implementing recommendations.

Respondents identified key barriers to improvement, including:

- limited resources and workforce capacity;
- fragmented working across agencies; and
- lack of coordination and follow-through on recommendations.

There was support for the CPA:

- taking a more active role in tracking implementation of recommendations, including the use of national monitoring mechanisms, feedback loops with practitioners, and a focus on meaningful outcomes rather than compliance alone.
- having powers to address persistent failings where necessary (around 75% of respondents). Suggested approaches included mandating time-bound actions, compelling information sharing, monitoring progress, and escalating concerns to inspectorates or central government.

### **Collaboration, Structure and Engagement**

A consistent message across the consultation was that the CPA must be designed as a genuinely multi-agency body, following the precedent set by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and bringing together expertise from across social care, health, education, policing, youth justice, and the voluntary and community sector. Respondents emphasised that effective child protection depends on strong partnerships and that the CPA should act as a unifying force within a complex system.

Around 80% of respondents agreed with the proposed criteria for the CPA's organisational form, with many favouring an independent body with sufficient authority to influence change. Respondents highlighted the importance of strong representation from frontline practitioners, sector experts, and individuals with lived experience.

Effective engagement with children, young people, and survivors was identified as essential. This should be done sensitively, be inclusive, and embedded in decision-making processes rather than treated as an add-on.

## **Key Risks and Considerations**

While support for the CPA is strong, respondents highlighted several risks that will need to be addressed:

- duplication with existing organisations;
- over-centralisation and weak links to local practice;
- insufficient authority to drive change;
- excessive focus on data without practical impact; and
- added burden on an already stretched system.

Addressing these risks will be critical to ensuring the CPA delivers meaningful improvements.

## **Conclusion**

The consultation findings demonstrate clear backing for the creation of a Child Protection Authority to strengthen leadership, improve learning, and enhance accountability across the system.

The government is committed to establishing a Child Protection Authority in England and will look to legislate when parliamentary time allows. We are working through the policy approach and our aims for the CPA's functions, roles and powers. The government will continue to be guided by the insights and feedback gathered through this consultation alongside continued engagement with the sector and with victims and survivors' groups, as it moves into the next phase towards establishing a CPA.

## Approach to Analysis and Methodology

The consultation consisted of 38 questions in total, five of which were demographic questions to gather information about respondents' backgrounds. Fifteen questions requested a 'Yes, No, If no, explain why' response, and 16 questions offered a 'Free text' response.

Responses to the consultation were predominantly submitted via the online portal, Citizen Space. Some respondents sent in responses via email, both in the question-and-answer format and setting out their wider positions on the CPA. This information has also been considered as part of the government's response.

### Phase One: Data Checking and Preparation

DfE reviewed the dataset of online responses to remove any personally identifiable information, in line with the consultation privacy statement and the involvement of a third-party analyst (York Consulting). York Consulting also undertook ongoing checks for personal or safeguarding information during analysis, reporting any issues to DfE as needed.

Additional data management included identifying duplicate responses (across online and email submissions), flagging 47 identical or similar campaign responses, and uploading the dataset into qualitative analysis software for coding.

### Phase Two: Analysis of Responses

For open (qualitative) questions, an initial coding framework was developed based on a manual review of 25% of responses, supported by AI-assisted suggestions. This framework was refined with DfE input and then applied to the remaining responses. Closed questions were analysed using Excel to produce descriptive statistics, excluding non-responses.

A total of 80 emailed responses were received: 16 followed the consultation questionnaire and were included in the main analysis; 17 were summarised separately; and 47 were identical campaign responses expressing support for a CPA.

### Phase Three: Reporting

The report presents findings through charts for closed questions and thematic summaries for open responses. Themes are ordered by how frequently they were raised, with clear indications of how common each view was. A small number of respondents said they could not comment; these responses have not been included in summaries due to their low number.

## Overview of the CPA

### Summary: Overview of the CPA

**Scope:** The CPA's remit will focus on children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm wherever it occurs, including harm from families, peers, community, institutions, or online settings. This will follow the definition of significant harm set out in the Children Act 1989 and in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026.

**Geographic scope:** The CPA will operate across England. It will be multi-agency and will work closely with safeguarding partnerships to ensure that national leadership is responsive to local contexts. The Welsh Government has commissioned a review of Welsh Safeguarding Governance Structures which will consider any actions needed to strengthen the governance of safeguarding.

**Transition from the Panel to the CPA:** The Panel will operate in full until the CPA is established in legislation and fully operational. At that point, the Panel will cease to exist. While legislation is being prepared, the government is already investing the Panel to strengthen its impact in ways that align with the CPA's future role. Until the CPA is fully operational, the Panel will continue to carry out its vital responsibilities of reviewing serious incidents in England to identify learning and improve professional practice to keep children safe. Maintaining continuity and building on the Panel's strong track record and impact on child safeguarding, both in the lead-up to and during transition, will be critical.

**VAWG:** The child protection focus of the CPA will include VAWG. The CPA will play an active role in supporting cross-government efforts to tackle VAWG, ensuring its policies, analysis and activities are informed by and contribute to wider VAWG strategy and priorities.

The consultation set out how the CPA will operate, the scope of its remit, who it will serve and how it will evolve from the existing Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel). It asked questions on the CPA's scope, the transformation from the Panel, and the role the CPA can take in tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

On scope, respondents to the consultation raised:

- concerns that focusing on significant harm means the CPA may fail to capture children who are suffering harm but are not under formal Section 47 enquiries or child protection plans.
- views that the CPA's scope should be expanded to cover include earlier identification of risk and more effective prevention, while still maintaining a clear focus on serious harm.

On the role of the Panel, respondents raised:

- the importance of evolving the Panel towards a more proactive role, with a strong emphasis on improving multi-agency collaboration, strengthening learning and evidence-sharing, and ensuring the effective integration of practitioner expertise and lived experience.
- the need to enhance consistency across the safeguarding system, develop guidance and workforce capability, and ensure the CPA has a clearly defined role with sufficient powers and analytical capacity.
- the importance of engaging a broad range of stakeholders, addressing current system pressures, and considering key safeguarding challenges.

On the role of the CPA in tackling VAWG, respondents highlighted:

- the importance of ensuring the design of the CPA contributes effectively to tackling VAWG;
- the need for a strong focus on prevention through education and training for both young people and practitioners, alongside the use of robust data and evidence to identify risks and patterns of harm.
- the need to strengthen multi-agency working and information sharing, and to recognise VAWG as a significant and interconnected child protection issue affecting all children, including as victims of domestic abuse in their own right.
- the value of integrating lived experience, aligning with existing VAWG governance structures, embedding trauma-informed practice, and improving reporting processes and system capacity.

## **Government Response: Overview of the CPA**

### **Scope of the CPA**

The CPA will not only focus on those children who are already subject to Section 47 enquiries or on child protection plans. But it will be unapologetically laser-focused on child protection.

The CPA's remit will focus on children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm, in line with the definition set out in the Children Act 1989 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026. This includes significant harm arising in any context where a child may be likely to suffer actual or significant harm, including within families, peer relationships, communities, institutional settings, and online. It explicitly includes any setting in which children are present, whether regulated or unregulated, recognising that abuse and neglect can occur anywhere. This ensures the CPA is centred on the

experience of harm to the child, rather than defined by service thresholds or system entry points.

The CPA's activity will primarily focus on children under the age of 18. However, in certain circumstances, this may extend to care leavers up to the age of 25. Public bodies have collective responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children in care and care leavers up to 25 under the principles of corporate parenting.

The CPA will be concerned with all children who are experiencing or likely to experience significant harm. Its activity will be concerned with both sexes and all races, religions and beliefs, sexual orientation and identification, disability, as well as considering the additional factors posed by pregnancy and risks to unborn babies. The CPA will be mindful of the specific experiences of different groups and those with intersecting experiences that increase risk factors, such as socioeconomic disadvantage. The CPA will be committed to amplifying the voices and experiences of those who are disproportionately harmed, as well as pursuing improvements that better protect all children.

While any child can experience significant harm, those with special educational needs (SEND) or disabilities are disproportionately affected by abuse and neglect.

The CPA will be focused on working to reduce avoidable child deaths and significant harm, including harm experienced by those with SEND or disabilities. Given this group of children and young people are disproportionately affected, the CPA may wish to have a specific focus on this group once established. The recent consultation proposed improving the quality of social care input and involvement in the preparation of Education and Health and Care Plans ([SEND reform: putting children and young people first - GOV.UK](#)). This consultation has now closed, and the government will be responding in due course. The CPA's work will span all forms of significant harm, including sexual, physical and emotional abuse; neglect; domestic abuse; exploitation; and trafficking. This includes harm that occurs inside or outside the home, including in foster care and residential care, in custodial settings, as well as online. This will include statutory and non-statutory partners, and stakeholder bodies and representative organisations with a role in supporting or delivering provision for children and young people.

Within this remit, the CPA will play an important role in strengthening prevention of significant harm. This includes activity such as improving how the system identifies harm sooner, sharing learning across agencies, strengthening data and insight, and advising on workforce capability and training. However, this preventative role is clearly bounded: it is focused on reducing the likelihood of significant harm, rather than addressing the full range of wider safeguarding or wellbeing issues.

The CPA will operate across England, providing consistent expectations for multi-agency child protection. It will work closely with safeguarding partnerships and relevant agencies to ensure that national leadership is responsive to local contexts and settings.

In response to the IICSA recommendation to establish a CPA in England and Wales, the former Welsh Government considered that the national functions of improving practice in child protection and providing advice and making recommendations to government on policy and reform in these matters are primarily designated to the National Independent Safeguarding Board (NISB), under section 132 of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014. Other bodies including Regional Safeguarding Boards (RSBs) and statutory inspectorates, service and workforce regulators, the Children's Commissioner for Wales and Older People's Commissioner for Wales all have integral roles to play in providing scrutiny of and shaping national safeguarding arrangements. The core functions of NISB, set out within section 132(2), correlate closely with the first two purposes proposed within this recommendation. The only material difference is that NISB's functions cover safeguarding of both children and adults at risk.

In October 2025, the former Welsh Minister for Children and Social Care commissioned a review of Welsh Safeguarding Governance Structures, including the NISB, Inspectorates and RSBs. Phase 1 of that review has been completed. The findings and recommendations will be presented to the new administration for consideration of any actions Wales need to take to strengthen the governance of safeguarding.

### **The role of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel**

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel) plays a vital statutory role by identifying national learning from the most serious child safeguarding cases in England, commissioning reviews and making recommendations to improve practice. It receives approximately 40 rapid reviews and local child safeguarding practice reviews each month, giving it unique visibility of systemic challenges and persistent issues. It also maintains a pool of reviewers and publishes findings to inform policy and professional development.

The Panel has already begun to strengthen its impact in ways that align with the CPA's future role. The Panel has grown its analytical capacity and developed high-quality material for practitioners including through the launch of a new online learning hub.

The Panel is also:

- providing clearer national data insights and improving case management systems;
- expanding the ways learning is shared (webinars, infographics, briefings);
- increasing collaboration with safeguarding partnerships and national bodies;
- improving triangulation of evidence on emerging risks;
- enhancing case processing to accelerate learning from serious incidents; and
- working with partnerships to ensure all serious incidents are notified.

The Government is exploring options to establish a CPA when parliamentary time allows. The Panel will continue to operate until the CPA is established.

Until the CPA is fully operational, the Panel will continue to carry out its vital responsibilities of reviewing serious incidents in England to identify learning and improve professional practice to keep children safe.

Maintaining continuity and building on the Panel's strong track record and impact on child safeguarding, both in the lead-up to and during transition, will be critical.

Between now and then, the Panel will continue to identify opportunities to align its impact with the development of the CPA. It is built on strong foundations of multi-agency working that will continue support the development of the multi-agency aspect of the CPA. The Panel will work with government to develop and expand functions such as data, research, and system leadership that will be central to the future CPA.

## System Leadership and National Oversight

### Summary: National Oversight and System Leadership

**Leadership of the Child Protection System:** The CPA will provide evidence-based advice to government on systemic issues and improvements, drawing on data, expertise, and lived experience while minimising burdens on local partners. As a national leader, it will promote collaboration across agencies to embed learning and drive system-wide improvement.

**Horizon Scanning:** The CPA will strengthen horizon scanning to better identify and respond to emerging risks using data and insights from across the system. It will ensure these insights lead to action by sharing intelligence and informing national decisions.

**Data and Analytical Expertise:** The CPA will analyse aggregated data from multiple sources to identify trends, emerging issues and gaps, while ensuring strong privacy and ethical standards. The CPA will translate this data into practical, accessible insights and reports to support decision-making by practitioners, leaders, and policymakers. Working collaboratively with partners, it will add value through national analysis without increasing reporting burdens, strengthening the evidence base, and improving outcomes for children.

**Identifying and Addressing Evidence Gaps:** The CPA will establish a dedicated analytical function to identify and prioritise gaps in child protection research, commissioning work where needed while coordinating with existing organisations to avoid duplication. It will focus on areas of greatest harm, uncertainty or underreporting, ensuring research addresses the most critical issues. The CPA will embed lived experience and frontline insight into shaping research priorities and interpreting findings. It will also produce practical, evidence-based outputs and support their application to improve outcomes for children.

The consultation set out how the Child Protection Authority (CPA) will provide national system leadership and oversight to improve the consistency and effectiveness of child protection across England. It focused on the need for a single authoritative body to guide, monitor and strengthen multi-agency practice in a system that has historically been fragmented and lacking national coherence.

### Leadership of the Child Protection System

The consultation proposed that the CPA will take responsibility for leading the child protection system nationally, ensuring that learning from local and national reviews is

systematically captured, synthesised and used to drive improvement. 71% of respondents agreed with the proposals for how the CPA would have national oversight of the child protection system. Respondents were broadly supportive of the proposals set out and highlighted the importance of:

- effective cross-agency collaboration;
- clear and enforceable powers; and
- the need for greater clarity on how oversight will operate in practice.

## **Government Response: Leadership of the Child Protection System**

The CPA will play a central role in providing national practice leadership. It will:

- support implementation of key recommendations and actions arising from national and local reviews;
- assess the impact of implementing key recommendations on children's outcomes; and
- draw out the most critical actions and insights from evidence and learning.

The CPA will also strengthen accountability across the system by escalating concerns where progress is insufficient and working with inspectorates, regulators, government departments and safeguarding partnerships to ensure that learning is translated into practice and improvements are made.

This will draw on a combination of quantitative data, qualitative insights, practitioner expertise and lived experience to identify patterns and underlying drivers of harm. The CPA will draw as much as possible from existing data and information sources to minimise burdens on local partners and will consider the potential impact of proposed changes through assessments of costs and benefits.

As a national leader for multi-agency child protection practice, the CPA will promote and be a role model for collaboration across agencies and sectors, helping to embed learning and drive improvement.

## **Horizon Scanning**

The consultation proposed that a significant part of the CPA's oversight function will be horizon scanning. This will include identify emerging child protection threats and trends such as new forms of exploitation, technological risks or systemic weaknesses. This will support earlier identification of harms and enable proactive response across agencies.<sup>1</sup>

74% of respondents agreed with the proposals for how the CPA would horizon scan. Respondents emphasised:

- the importance of drawing on a broad and diverse evidence base, including frontline intelligence and lived experience, as well as the need to strengthen coordination across agencies and sectors.
- concerns around fragmentation of data, potential overlap with existing bodies, and the need for clearer parameters and safeguards.<sup>2</sup>

## Government Response: Horizon Scanning

In response to consultation feedback, the CPA will seek to strengthen how emerging risks are identified and understood, drawing on a range of available data and insights. By being *the* authority on child protection, the CPA will:

- strengthen the system's ability to anticipate and respond to significant harm;
- support more timely and joined-up action to protect children and improve outcomes;
- provide a more joined-up approach to bringing information together; and
- help ensure this intelligence is used across the system.

A key focus of the CPA's horizon scanning activity will be ensuring that insights lead to practical impact. Being able to see the national picture of how agencies are responding to emerging harm will allow the CPA to support local areas where that harm may also be growing and influence national and cross-government decision-making. The CPA will be able to advise on the development of government resources for practitioners to respond to harms, as well as contribute to the longer-term strategic planning for national policies. Clear governance and transparent processes will underpin this work, ensuring confidence in how data is gathered, interpreted and used.. .

## Data and Analytical Expertise

The consultation proposed that the CPA needs to have a strong national analytical capability to support consistent, intelligence-led decision-making across England. Information currently exists in multiple formats and across many organisations but is not routinely synthesised into a single national picture. This limits the system's ability to track trends, understand harms, and support earlier and more coordinated intervention.<sup>3</sup>

77% respondents agreed with the proposals for how the CPA will build data and analytical expertise. Respondents highlighted the importance of:

- high-quality, standardised and ethically managed data;
- stronger integration across systems; and

- the need to move beyond traditional datasets to include a wider range of intelligence such as practitioner insight, complaints and lived experience.

Respondents were concerned about fragmentation, data burden, compatibility of systems and the appropriate use of emerging technologies.<sup>4</sup>

## **Government Response: Data and Analytical Expertise**

The CPA will establish a dedicated national analytical function capable of bringing together data from across safeguarding partnerships, inspectorates, research bodies, and government departments. This will include key sources of qualitative and quantitative data such as information from serious cases, learning reviews, and relevant data sets from policing, health, education, social care and the wider criminal justice system. The CPA will also consider relevant information that can be provided by other bodies, e.g. Prevention of Future Deaths reports from coroner's offices. It will also work with partners to understand existing data systems to reduce duplication and align with current national and local data collections. We will also explore how the CPA could use real time data and the power of AI to enable it to be proactive in identifying and responding to emerging issues.

The CPA will have specialist analytical expertise to identify trends in harm, emerging harm and areas of inconsistency in practice across England. Combining quantitative data, qualitative intelligence and lived experience will build a better understanding of the challenges in child protection. The CPA will prioritise earlier identification of pressures and emerging harms, helping to inform more timely and effective responses across agencies. It will also aim to identify gaps and areas of unidentified harm. Examining this data at a national level will enable the CPA to see where the prevalence of harm is lower than expected and work with areas to address where harm may be going unrecognised, leading to increased support for children who require help and protection.

A core function of the CPA will be to translate data and evidence into practical insight that supports action and that builds and expands on the work to date of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. This will include developing clear, accessible products such as thematic reports and briefings that draw together cross-agency data, at both national and local levels. These products will be designed to support practitioners, leaders and policymakers, providing actionable insights, highlighting effective practice, and enabling comparison of key patterns, responses and outcomes across regions and services. The CPA will ensure that its outputs complement existing tools, including current multi-agency dashboards and sector-led improvement resources, as well being informed by lived experience.

The CPA will work collaboratively with local safeguarding partnerships, relevant agencies and national bodies to ensure its analytical work strengthens, rather than duplicates, existing efforts. The CPA will focus on adding value through synthesising and analysing

diverse data sets. This will support improved accountability, more effective policy development, and a greater ability to identify and address systemic challenges.

## Identifying and Addressing Evidence Gaps

The consultation set out proposals for how the Child Protection Authority (CPA) would strengthen the national approach to identifying and addressing evidence gaps across the child protection system. It highlighted that, despite the existence of valuable research, practitioner learning, and insights from lived experience, this evidence is often fragmented, inconsistently applied, and not routinely translated into practice. As a result, gaps in knowledge and understanding can persist, limiting the system's ability to respond effectively to children's needs.

75% of respondents agreed with the proposals for how the CPA will identify and address evidence gaps. Respondents emphasised:

- the importance of drawing on a wide range of perspectives, particularly lived experience;
- the importance of coordinating research activity across the system and ensuring that evidence is used to drive tangible improvements; and
- concerns that existing evidence is not always acted upon, and that further research should not delay action where issues are already well understood.<sup>5</sup>

## Government Response: Identifying and Addressing Evidence Gaps

In response to consultation feedback, the CPA will establish a dedicated analytical function that helps identify gaps in research and evidence. The CPA will be able to commission existing organisations to fill gaps in child protection research and evidence and will work collaboratively with government funded commissioners of research, including What Works Centres, inspectorates and sector partners, to avoid duplication and maximise the value of research that is already underway. The CPA will work to identify where knowledge is incomplete, inconsistent or underdeveloped, and advise government departments on data collections where needed. It will prioritise evidence gaps, focusing on areas of greatest harm or uncertainty, particularly where issues are underreported or not well understood within current data.

The CPA will ensure the perspectives of those with lived experience and frontline expertise directly shape research priorities and interpretation of findings. This will include working with children, families and survivors through structured engagement such as advisory panels, targeted research activity, and partnerships with specialist organisations. It will also draw on insights from practitioners and the voluntary and community sector to ensure emerging issues are identified early and grounded in real-world experience.

Where the CPA identifies that there is a notable lack of guidance or evidence-based practice for practitioners, it will be able to commission research that has clear, practical outputs for practitioners, system leaders and policymakers. It will support the application of evidence in practice by identifying barriers to implementation and promoting approaches that have been shown to be effective.

The analytical and horizon scanning functions of the CPA will allow it to identify and investigate evidence gaps, ensuring that insights from across the system are brought together to inform a continuously evolving understanding of harm. Through this approach, the CPA will strengthen the national evidence base and ensure that learning from research, practice, and lived experience is consistently translated into improved outcomes for children.

## System Learning and Support

### Summary: System Learning and Support

**Promote and Embed Good Practice:** The CPA will take a system-wide, strengths-based approach to identifying and sharing effective child protection practice. It will develop and promote evidence-based guidance and resources, co-produced with practitioners and those with lived experience, to support consistent improvement across areas. Working collaboratively with partners, it will ensure learning is practical, accessible, and helps drive better outcomes for children.

**Making Learning Accessible:** The CPA will build and expand on the work to date of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and make learning easy to access and apply by producing clear, practical resources such as summaries, bite-sized videos, tools, and case studies. It will work with partners to prioritise research and ensure findings are relevant and ready for use in practice. These insights will be built into existing systems and training to support everyday decision-making and continuous improvement without adding extra burden.

**Workforce Influence:** The CPA will work with government, regulators, and professional bodies to share insights on emerging harms, effective practice, and workforce development needs. It will help ensure training and professional standards reflect current challenges, informed by evidence, practitioner expertise, and lived experience. While not a regulator or training provider, the CPA will offer independent advice to strengthen and align workforce development across the system.

The consultation explained how the CPA would work to improve system learning by amplifying good practice examples, making research and evidence more accessible, and strengthening multi-agency workforces. It recognised that while effective practice exists, it is not consistently shared or embedded. It therefore proposed a national digital platform to support learning, share research, and enable multi-agency collaboration. The consultation also set out the CPA's role in shaping training standards and workforce development, supporting practitioners to apply evidence-based approaches, and drive continuous improvement across the child protection system.

### Promote and Embed Good Practice

The consultation focuses on addressing the gap between existing high-quality practice and its consistent use across the child protection system. It proposes creating a national learning platform informed by the recent work of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel to share evidence-based resources, support peer learning, and disseminate insights from reviews and research in accessible ways. It also highlights the CPA's role in

supporting implementation, overcoming barriers, and influencing professional standards to ensure good practice is embedded and applied consistently across all areas.

71% of respondents agreed with the proposal set out for how the CPA will promote and embed good practice. Respondents emphasised:

- that embedding good practice required a sustained, iterative approach, grounded in evidence, frontline expertise and lived experience, and supported by effective dissemination, training and leadership engagement;
- the need for clarity in defining “what good looks like”, as well as the importance of co-production, accessible tools and resources, and strong collaboration across sectors; and
- concerns about the barriers that can limit implementation, including workforce pressures, capacity constraints and the risk of overly prescriptive approaches.

## **6 Government Response: Promote and Embed Good Practice**

In response to consultation feedback, the government is committed to the CPA taking a strategic, system-wide approach to promoting and embedding good practice. The government recognises the wealth of good and innovative practice in the system and understands this is not always amplified or accessed across areas. The CPA will take a strength-based approach to support success being shared across areas. The CPA will draw on its analytical, research, and review functions to identify effective approaches and areas for improvement, ensuring learning is informed by both successes and systemic challenges.

The CPA will work with stakeholders to share and apply good or promising practice across the system. This is expected to include developing accessible resources to help inform child protection work, as well as sharing learning through engagement with partners. This objective will be informed by the ongoing work of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel to develop accessible resources for practitioners. The CPA will seek to ensure that insights are communicated in ways that are clear, proportionate, and usable for the workforce.

The CPA will place strong emphasis on co-production and collaboration with frontline practitioners, safeguarding partnerships, the voluntary sector, and those with lived experience to design and test approaches to improvement. This will help ensure that guidance and tools are grounded in practice, reflect diverse perspectives, and are responsive to local contexts. The CPA will also promote the importance of child-centred approaches.

The government recognises that the ability to embed good practice is influenced by wider system pressures, including workforce capacity. While these broader issues will sit beyond

the CPA's direct remit, the CPA will play an important role in identifying the conditions of, and barriers to, success and will advise government accordingly. Through this approach, the CPA will support a more consistent, evidence-informed and collaborative child protection system, helping to ensure that learning is effectively translated into improved practice and better outcomes for children.

## **Making Learning Accessible**

The consultation went on to look at improving how evidence and research are shared and used in practice. It proposes using the CPA's digital platform to bring together and simplify research into practical tools and recommendations, while coordinating with government and expert bodies to maximise existing evidence. The aim is to reduce fragmentation, make high-quality resources easier to access, and ensure learning is consistently applied to support continuous improvement across the child protection system.

Respondents emphasised:

- that evidence must lead to tangible improvements in practice, rather than remain theoretical;
- the importance of inclusive and representative data that reflects the experiences of frontline practitioners, children, families, and those with lived experience; and
- the need to prioritise research collaboratively, drawing on existing expertise, including What Works Centres and sector partners, and to focus on the most significant harms, emerging threats and persistent gaps in knowledge.<sup>7</sup>

## **Government Response: Making Learning Accessible**

In response to these views, the CPA will take a practical, user-focused approach to making learning accessible and actionable across the system. It will work with partners to prioritise research based on prevalence, evidence gaps, and sector insight so findings can be translated into clear, accessible, and practice-ready outputs. This will include developing a national learning platform, building on the website recently launched by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, where it can host a range of resources, such as concise summaries, tools, case studies and interactive content such as bitesize videos for practitioners, co-produced with practitioners and those with lived experience. The CPA will embed these insights within existing systems, training, and guidance, ensuring that evidence informs day-to-day decision-making and supports continuous improvement, while avoiding unnecessary duplication or additional burden on the workforce.

## Workforce Influence

The consultation also focused on strengthening the skills, consistency, and development of people working in, or adjacent to, child protection. It proposed that the CPA will work with regulators and professional bodies to shape training standards, support evidence-based practice, and improve cross-sector collaboration. It also highlights the CPA's role in advising government on workforce policy, with the aim of building a more skilled, consistent, and responsive workforce<sup>89</sup>.

76% of respondents agreed with the proposals for how the CPA will support workforce and training. Respondents highlighted:

- the importance of engaging a broad range of stakeholders, including frontline practitioners, those with lived experience, and sectors not always represented by formal professional bodies; and
- the need for training to reflect emerging harms and the complexity of protecting children.

## Government Response: Workforce Influence

In response to consultation feedback, the CPA will work with government departments, regulators, and professional bodies to identify and share evidence on both effective practice and persistent areas of weakness. This will include highlighting recurring gaps in skills and practice. The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's review into child sexual abuse in the family environment<sup>[60]</sup> found social workers were not consistently talking directly to children about child sexual abuse. Learning reviews have also shown there is not a consistent application of professional curiosity about the experiences of children. The CPA will recommend addressing any areas of weakness through initial training and continuing professional development. Drawing on its analytical, research and review functions, the CPA will inform workforce policy and support the development of national approaches to training and professional standards in child protection.

The CPA will support professional regulators and relevant bodies to understand how child protection practice is evolving, ensuring that training frameworks and standards reflect current challenges and evidence. This will include promoting the inclusion of key areas identified by respondents, such as complex decision-making, multi-agency working, and emerging harms in digital environments. The CPA will include the perspectives from practitioners and those with lived experience to ensure training is grounded in real-world practice.

The CPA will not act as a regulator; instead, it will complement and strengthen existing arrangements by providing independent insight and advice to inform workforce development across the system. Through this approach, the CPA will help ensure that

child protection training and professional standards remain relevant, consistent, and responsive to the needs of children and families.

## Driving System Improvement in the Child Protection System

### **Summary: Driving System Improvement in the Child Protection System**

**How the CPA Will Support Multi-Agency Learning and Recommendations:** The CPA will act as a national convenor, bringing together partners across sectors to improve joint working, share learning, and promote strong child protection practice. It will support local areas with practical guidance, tools, and targeted support, while strengthening oversight of how recommendations are implemented and whether they lead to improved children's outcomes. The CPA will also highlight wider system challenges and help inform government decisions, with a continued focus on reducing harm, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children with SEND.

**How the CPA Will Respond to Serious and Consistent Failings:** The CPA will be given stronger statutory powers than proposed in the consultation to hold organisations to account and take action where significant harm remains likely. It will use a proportionate, evidence-led approach, starting with support and collaboration but escalating where problems persist or are severe. The CPA will work closely with existing organisations and inspectorates and will not duplicate functions. Through these powers, and clear processes, the CPA will strengthen accountability and drive more timely and effective improvement across the child protection system.

The consultation set out how the CPA will drive system improvement by supporting local areas to implement learning and intervening where serious failings persist. It proposed an active, intelligence-led role for the CPA in providing targeted support, coordinating multi-agency action, tracking progress against key recommendations, and promoting accountability through transparency and collaboration. The consultation also outlined stronger powers for the CPA to respond to ongoing or serious weaknesses, including convening partners, compelling information, and advising government and inspectorates where improvement is not achieved, with the aim of ensuring consistent action, strengthening accountability, and reducing harm to children.

### **How the CPA Will Support Multi-Agency Learning and Recommendations**

The consultation highlighted ongoing systemic weaknesses in child protection, including poor coordination, inconsistent practice, and a lack of national oversight to drive improvement. It proposed that the CPA will take a central role in supporting local systems by providing targeted, intelligence-led support, helping implement insight and learning, coordinating multi-agency action, and monitoring progress.

82% of respondents to the consultation agreed with the proposals set out for the CPA to support multi-agency learning and improvements. Respondents highlighted the need for:

- services to work together more effectively;
- clearer accountability;
- more effective translation of learning into action across the child protection system; and
- support for local areas to implement change.

Respondents also noted that the CPA needs to recognise that persistent barriers, particularly workforce capacity, resource constraints, and wider systemic pressures, can limit the ability of agencies to improve.

## **1011 Government Response: How the CPA Will Support Multi-Agency Learning and Recommendations**

In response to consultation findings, the Government is committed to the CPA playing a central role in improving join-up across the multi-agency child protection system. It will act as a national convenor, bringing together partners from across social care, health, policing, as well as education, the wider criminal justice system and the voluntary sector, and all others<sup>1</sup> responsible for keeping children safe. This will support shared understanding of harm, promote consistent approaches to practice, and amplify learning from different areas. The CPA will have multi-agency expertise within its structures, acting as a role model for multi-agency working and ensuring that insights from frontline practitioners and those with lived experience inform both the development and implementation of recommendations.

The CPA will build on the experience to date of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel in working closely with local safeguarding partnerships, relevant agencies, and organisations where children are present, providing targeted, intelligence-led support to help translate learning into practice. This will include producing practical guidance, frameworks, and tools to support implementation and sharing examples of effective practice. It will support clearer prioritisation of recommendations and provide advice on delivery, helping local areas navigate competing pressures and focus on the interventions most likely to improve outcomes for children.

A key function of the CPA will be to strengthen oversight of how key recommendations are implemented and whether they lead to meaningful change. This will include developing

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<sup>1</sup> Relevant agencies as set out in [The Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency \(England\) Regulations 2018](#)

structured approaches to tracking progress, drawing on a range of qualitative and quantitative data, and focusing on real-world impact on children's outcomes.

The government recognises that many of the barriers identified by respondents, particularly those relating to workforce capacity and wider system pressures, sit beyond the direct remit of the CPA. While the CPA will not be responsible for addressing these broader structural issues, it will play an important role in identifying and articulating them through its analysis and advice to government, ensuring that they are fully understood and considered in wider reform and investment decisions.

Through this approach, the CPA will strengthen national leadership and multi-agency coordination, helping to ensure that learning is consistently translated into practice, while supporting a more joined-up and effective child protection system.

## **How the CPA Will Respond to Serious and Consistent Failings**

The consultation considered addressing serious and persistent failings in child protection by strengthening accountability and enabling decisive intervention. It recognised that, despite existing reviews and inspections, some safeguarding partnerships, settings and organisations do not act on recommendations, leaving children vulnerable to significant harm. In response, the CPA will take on a stronger role by convening partners and compelling information where improvement has stalled, as well as escalating concerns to government when necessary and working closely with regulators and inspectorates. Through transparency, coordination, and targeted use of its powers, the CPA aims to ensure failings are addressed effectively, prevent repeated harm, and drive sustained improvement across the system.

74% of respondents agreed with the proposals set out in the consultation for how the CPA will address persistent failings (powers to compel information sharing, powers to convene partners, and powers to advise inspectorates on activity). Respondents highlighted:

- the need for the CPA to be equipped with robust statutory powers to ensure that recommendations, insights, and learning are acted upon and that organisations are held to account where improvement has not been achieved;
- the need to balance these powers with a supportive, proportionate, and learning-oriented approach; and
- that clarity was needed on how the CPA will operate alongside existing inspectorates and regulatory bodies without creating duplication or unnecessary burden.

## 12 Government Response: How the CPA Will Respond to Serious and Consistent Failings

In response to consultation findings, the government agrees that the CPA must have a strong statutory footing to be effective. Subject to Parliament, we envisage that the CPA will be provided with the necessary powers to hold safeguarding partnerships, organisations, relevant agencies, and those working in regulated activity to account for addressing persistent failings. This includes confirming the powers included in the consultation to:

- compel the sharing of information (data and evidence);
- advise responsible Secretaries of State to inform single or multi-agency inspection and other regulatory activity;
- share information with inspectorates and regulators to focus activity on driving improvements; and
- advise the inspectorates on Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) planning, including identifying themes based on the intelligence the CPA gathers.

The strong feedback from respondents calling for additional powers to drive improvement and accountability, beyond those mentioned above, has led the government to consider what further powers the CPA might need. We will continue to work through all options that would enable the CPA to take action underpinned by powers that will be subject to Parliament. The CPA will have more than an advisory role so it can take action where there is clear evidence that children remain vulnerable to significant harm and previous efforts to drive improvement have not been successful.

We will therefore seek to strengthen the powers set out in the consultation as follows:

- the suggested convening power to be strengthened to compel attendance at CPA meetings. This is likely to apply to statutory safeguarding partners and relevant agencies and leaders of organisations or institutions where children are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm;
- the suggested power to direct co-ordinated multi-agency action to address failures to be strengthened to direct learning or improvement activity. This is likely to apply to safeguarding partners, relevant agencies, and organisations where children are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm; and
- the role of the CPA in influencing and advising on commissioning decisions where poor practice is linked to contracted services to be strengthened to a power to challenge commissioned services if there is evidence that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

The government will keep the powers of the CPA under review to ensure it is able to deliver its functions effectively.

The CPA will advise Secretaries of State on national issues relating to child protection to support timely and informed decision-making at the highest levels.

The CPA will operate transparently, setting clear expectations, thresholds, and processes for escalation, and work closely with inspectorates, regulators, and safeguarding partnerships to ensure action is proportionate and deliverable.

The CPA's approach will be clear, proportionate, and evidence led. Whilst the CPA will need to determine its own thresholds for escalating, we envisage it adopting a graduated model of intervention, prioritising support, collaboration, and improvement and only escalating to stronger action where issues around reducing or avoiding significant harm are persistent and systemic. This reflects respondents' views that while stronger levers are necessary, they should be applied in a way that supports sustainable improvement and avoids creating a culture of blame.

Through the combination of statutory authority, coordinated multi-agency leadership, and evidence-led resources, the CPA will strengthen accountability and support more effective responses to systemic failings, working alongside existing policy, inspection, and local arrangements helping to protect children and drive lasting improvement across the child protection system.

## System Effectiveness: Structure and Engagement with Other Bodies

### Summary: System Effectiveness, Structure and Engagement With Other Bodies

**CPA Structure, Members and Expertise:** The CPA will be a multi-agency, multidisciplinary body bringing together expertise from across child protection, analysis, and frontline practice. It will include diverse perspectives, including those with lived experience, to ensure its work is well-informed and effective.

**CPA Relationship to Government Departments:** The CPA will work closely with government departments, advising on policy and system improvement while maintaining enough independence to provide robust challenge. It will also play a role in holding departments to account where necessary.

**Classification of Type of Body:** The CPA will be an Arm's-Length Body of government. Its final form is still being considered, with a focus on balancing independence, authority, and accountability. It will be designed to have the credibility, statutory footing, and influence needed to drive meaningful change.

**CPA's Engagement with Children, Young People, Victims, and Survivors:** The CPA will place strong emphasis on embedding the voices of children, young people, victims, and survivors in its design and ongoing work. It will develop safe, structured ways to ensure their experiences shape decisions, priorities, and improvements across the system.

The consultation outlined the proposed structure, governance, and engagement approaches for the CPA. It underlined the need for a multi-agency, multidisciplinary body with expertise across child protection, analysis, and practice, including input from individuals with lived experience. It set out that the CPA will work closely with government departments while maintaining sufficient independence, advising on policy and system improvement, and holding departments to account where needed. While the final organisational form is yet to be decided, options are being considered to balance authority, independence, and accountability. The consultation also emphasised the importance of centring the voices of children, young people, victims, and survivors in the CPA's design and ongoing work, ensuring it remains responsive, inclusive, and informed by lived experience.

80% of consultation respondents agreed with the proposed criteria for determining the CPA's form. Respondents highlighted:

- the need for the CPA to operate with sufficient autonomy to challenge systemic issues, while also having the statutory footing and influence required to drive change across the child protection system;
- the importance of grounding the CPA in professional expertise, ensuring transparency and accountability, and embedding multidisciplinary perspectives, including from frontline practitioners and the voluntary sector;
- the importance of meaningfully incorporating the voices of children, young people, victims, survivors and those with lived experience in shaping the CPA's work.

## **Government Response: System Effectiveness, Structure and Engagement with Other Bodies**

We are committed to ensuring that the CPA is both authoritative and credible, with the appropriate balance of independence, accountability, and influence to fulfil its role effectively. The CPA will be set up as an Arm's-Length Body, and the final form and structure will be developed throughout design phase. Central to this will be a strong and sustained commitment to working with victims, survivors, and those with lived experience, ensuring their perspectives are embedded within the CPA's design, governance, and ongoing activity. This will include developing structured, safe, and meaningful mechanisms for engagement and co-production, so that lived experience informs decision-making, priorities, and system improvement from the outset.

The Secretary of State for Education, as the Cabinet Minister for Children, will use the Keeping Children Safe Ministerial Board and future cross-government governance structures to ensure accountability across departments and secure the CPA's impact on child protection activity at the centre of government.

## Next Steps

The government is committed to establishing the Child Protection Authority (CPA) for England and will look to legislate when parliamentary time allows. In the meantime, we are already taking steps to build the functions and capabilities that will form the CPA.

Until the CPA is fully operational, the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel) will continue to carry out its vital responsibilities of reviewing serious incidents in England to identify learning and improve professional practice to keep children safe.

Once the CPA is fully established, the Panel will be dissolved, with its core functions informing and shaping the CPA's remit. Maintaining continuity and building on the Panel's strong track record and impact on child safeguarding, both in the lead-up to and during transition, will be critical.

To support the effective establishment of the CPA, throughout 2027 we will be working on developing the CPA's functions and capabilities to ensure it is ready to begin delivery at the earliest opportunity, when parliamentary time allows and subject to the will of Parliament.

## Annex A: Organisations That Responded to the Consultation

- Action for Children
- Achieving for Children
- Active Partnerships
- Ad Astra York
- Adoptee Rights
- Albany Academy
- Alliance for Youth Justice (AYJ)
- Article 39
- Athlead UK
- ATD Fourth World, Parents Families and Allies Network (PFAN), Parents Advocacy & Rights (PAR) (Scottish Allies to PFAN and ATD)
- Barnardo's
- British Association of Social Workers (BASW)
- British Dance Sport Association
- BISAK (British International School, Al-Khobar)
- Birmingham Children's Trust
- Blackpool Local Authority
- Bolton School, Bolton
- Bournemouth, Christchurch and Portsmouth Council
- Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Partnership
- British Transport Police
- Buckinghamshire Local Authority
- Cafcass (Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service)
- Calderdale Local Authority
- CAPE (Child Protection in Education)
- Care Quality Commission (CQC)
- Outwood Academy Carlton
- Caterham School

- Charities Commission for England and Wales
- Child Migrants Trust
- Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel
- Children's Commissioner
- Chilterns School, Bedfordshire
- City University
- Clennell Education Solutions
- College of Policing
- Confederation of Schools Trust
- Coram
- Cricket Regulator
- Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse (CSA Centre)
- Domestic Abuse Commissioner
- Doncaster Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Durham Local Authority
- Durham University
- ECPACT (Every Child Protected Against Trafficking)
- Eastwood Village Primary, Rotherham
- Essex Local Authority
- Early Years Alliance
- FASD Informed UK
- Faithguard
- Family Action
- Family Justice Quality Circle
- Family Rights Group
- First Step Leicester
- Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine (FFLM)
- For Baby's Sake
- Gateshead Safeguarding Children's Partnership

- GIRES (Gender Identity Research & Education Society), Surrey
- Greater Manchester Police
- Hayes Primary Bromley
- HMPPS (His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service)
- Holtspurs School
- Hull Local Authority
- Institute for Addressing Strangulation (IFAS)
- Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC)
- Independent Schools Council (ISC)
- Jack and Jill Preschool, Wiltshire
- Joint Inspectorates: Ofsted, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMCIFRS), HMPPS, and CQC
- Kent Local Authority
- Kingston Girls School, Kingston
- Lancashire University
- Lincolnshire Local Authority
- Liverpool Local Authority
- Long Road College
- Lucy Faithful Foundation
- M&F Health Communications
- Mandate Now
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Medway Local Authority
- Milton Keynes Hospital Charity
- Mountain Healthcare
- Nahamu Project
- National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)
- National Association for People Abused in Childhood (NAPAC)
- National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)
- Navigators
- National Network of Designated Healthcare Professionals for Children (NNDHP)

- North East Lincolnshire Local Authority
- North Somerset Local Authority
- North Tyneside Local Authority
- NSPCC
- NWG Network
- National Youth Agency (NYA)
- National Youth Advocacy Services (NYAS)
- Oastlers, Bradford
- Outwood
- Project 9010
- Rape Crisis England and Wales
- RASASC Guildford (Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre)
- RCPCH (The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health)
- Redbridge Local Authority
- Respond Safeguarding
- Resolutions Ready
- Respect
- Restitute
- Rosehill School, Nottingham
- Safe CiC
- Safer Places
- SafeLives
- Salcare
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Association (SACPA)
- Samaritans
- Scouts UK
- St Jude's Southsea, Portsmouth
- Social Work England (SWE)
- Solent
- Someone Cares

- South Tyneside Local Authority
- Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre
- Staffordshire Local Authority
- St Bees Village School, Cumbria
- St Vincent School Birmingham
- St Mary's School, Hampstead
- Stockport Local Authority
- Strong Close
- Support for Survivors
- Support Not Separation, Disabled Mothers' Rights Campaign & Women Against Rape
- Survive North Yorks
- Survivors of Abuse
- South West Grid for Learning
- The Association of Safeguarding Partnerships
- The Challenging Behaviour Association
- The Children's Society
- The Frontline
- The Sixth Form College Colchester
- Thirty One Eight
- We are Survivors
- We Stand
- West Mercia Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (WMRSASC)
- Whistleblowers UK
- Xaverian College
- Yipiyap
- Young Glos
- Youth Justice Board (YJB)

## Annex B: Profile of Respondents

In total, 379 responses were received to the consultation. This comprised:

- 299 responses submitted through the online Citizen Space platform
- 16 emailed responses that followed the consultation questionnaire
- 17 emailed responses that did not follow the consultation questionnaire
- 47 campaign responses (that did not follow the consultation questionnaire) expressing support for establishing a CPA.

Emailed responses that did not follow the consultation questionnaire did not answer the respondent characteristic questions and therefore are not included in the respondent analysis below.

### Respondent Characteristics

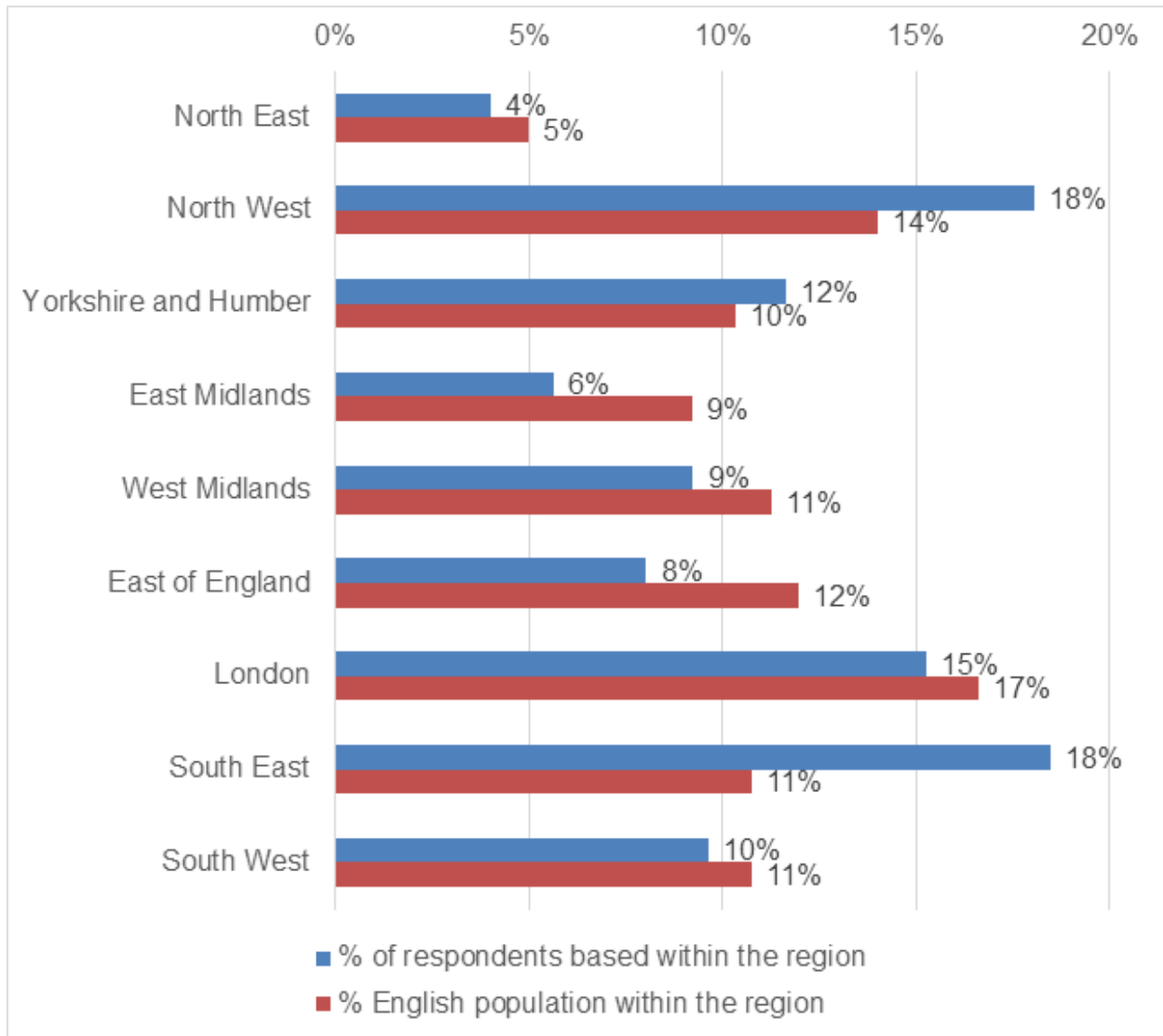
Respondents were asked whether they were responding on behalf of an individual or organisation and what local authority area they were based in.

#### Location

Around one-sixth of online respondents (17% or 53) identified themselves as national stakeholders not linked to a particular region or local authority area. One respondent was based in Wales and one outside the UK.

Amongst the respondents based within a region, there was an over representation of respondents from the South East and North West and a slight under representation of those from the East of England and East Midlands (Figure 1).

**Figure 13: Respondents categorised by region, shown against the population of English regions by percentage**



Source: CPA consultation responses, March 2026. UK Census 2021<sup>2</sup>. Base = 249 (all online respondents who indicated they were based in a local authority).

## Emailed Responses

Of the 33 non-campaign responses received via email (both those that followed the consultation questionnaire and those which did not), respondents tended to be sector organisations such as charities, public bodies, campaign organisations, or local authorities.

<sup>2</sup> [Office for National Statistics \(2022\) Population and household estimates, England and Wales: Census 2021](#)

## Campaign Responses

The remaining 47 emailed responses were campaign responses that contained the following paragraph expressing support for the establishment of a CPA.

“I support the creation of the Child Protection Authority as per recommendation 2 of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse published in Oct 2022. This is a welcome and urgently needed development for child protection reform and will help to address the unacceptable numbers of children who experience child sexual abuse in the UK (500,000 every year). I want to see this bill progress and pass during the current Parliamentary Session, so a CPA can be established and further developed once in place and oversee the implementation of the remaining IICSA recommendations.” - *Emailed campaign response*



Department  
for Education

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