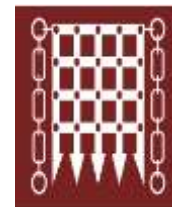


## Westminster Legal Policy and Westminster Education Forum conference:

### Next steps for child protection policy in England

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025

\*\*\*Taking Place Online\*\*\*



Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Chair to be announced
- 9.05 **Next steps for improving multi-agency working, early intervention, and developing consistent national standards for child protection and safeguarding practice**  
*reinforcing the value of multi-agency co-ordination / addressing safeguarding partners' individual responsibilities to protect children locally / potential strategies for implementing the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill / proposal for a register of children not in school / assessing how far school safeguarding spot checks and a single unique identifier can address vulnerabilities / balancing digital rights, platform responsibility and effective enforcement / addressing the needs of children with SEND, those in care and young people exposed to domestic abuse / strengthening early help and family support / mental health and trauma-informed approaches*  
**Adam Walthaus**, Safeguarding and Central Education Lead, Vanguard Learning Trust  
**Lucy Rylatt**, Safeguarding Children Partnerships Manager, Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Partnership  
**Sam Whyte**, Associate Head, Policy and Public Affairs, NSPCC  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.00 **The future role of local inquiries in the investigation of child exploitation cases and networks**  
**Tom Crowther KC**, Barrister, 23 Essex Street; and Chair, Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, Oldham Council  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 **Chair's closing remarks**  
Chair to be announced
- 10.35 Break
- 10.45 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Chair to be announced
- 10.50 **Priorities for the national inquiry into grooming gangs, tackling exploitative behaviour and supporting survivors**  
*looking towards the upcoming national inquiry into grooming gangs and key considerations / assessing proposed digital tools for identifying child exploitation networks locally and online / the role of data collection in regards to examining the ethnicity of grooming gang suspects / addressing harms outside the home and tackling gang or peer-based exploitation / proposed measures in the Crime and Policing Bill and its definition of child criminal exploitation / examining mental health and trauma-informed approaches to investigations / identifying gaps in enforcement / examining barriers to support and assessing whether current legislation enables practitioners to prosecute offenders efficiently / multi-agency co-ordination once a case is being investigated / use of data to co-ordinate with key stakeholders / strengthening strategies for early help and family support / examining practicalities for new provisions allowing survivors of exploitation to request independent case reviews*  
**Alice de Coverley**, Barrister, 3PB  
**Dr Tracee Green**, Head, Centre for Child Protection, University of Kent  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.35 **Protecting young people online and improving child protection provision in the long-term**  
*assessing obligations set out in the Online Safety Act 2023 / how provisions can mitigate online harms / implications of applying a duty of care to technology companies / reviewing codes of practice and guidance so far / analysing the efficacy of current digital initiatives to mitigate and prevent risks of child exploitation / learning from previous reports, such as the Jay Review and other local inquiries / what a cohesive legal framework on child criminal exploitation could look like / examining practicalities of implementing multi-agency regulation / building safer online spaces, neighbourhoods and schools / embedding contextual safeguarding strategies / reviewing the use of victim and survivor engagement to inform legislation / assessing proposed digital tools for tackling exploitation*  
**Tony Allen**, Executive Director, Age Check Certification Scheme  
**Mark Jones**, Partner, Payne Hicks Beach  
**Becky Dawson**, National Wellbeing Lead, Twinkl  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 **Online Safety Act 2023: priorities for implementation and further guidance**  
**Michael Tunks**, Principal, Online Safety, Ofcom  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Forum Projects closing remarks**  
Chair to be announced  
**Hermione Whitehead**, Westminster Forum Projects