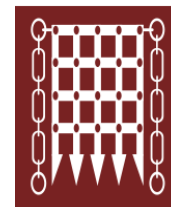


Westminster Legal Policy and Westminster Education Forum conference:

Next steps for child protection policy in England

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 16th July 2025

Taking Place Online



Draft agenda subject to change

8.30 Registration

9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**

Senior Parliamentary

9.05 **Examining the current state of child protection provision in England**

Senior academic

9.15 **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

Senior representative, social worker

Senior representative, health

9.35 Questions and comments from the floor

9.55 **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

Senior representative, local authority

Questions and comments from the floor

10.35 **Chair's closing remarks**

Senior Parliamentary

10.40 Break

10.50 **Chair's opening remarks**

Senior Parliamentary

10.55 **Priorities for tackling grooming networks, exploitative behaviour and supporting survivors**

assessing proposed digital tools for identifying child exploitation networks locally and online / 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

Senior representative, law enforcement

Senior representative, social worker

Questions and comments from the floor

11.40 **Next steps for supporting victims of child exploitation**

Senior representative, victims

11.50 **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

Senior representative, legal

Senior representative, technology

Senior representative, local authority

12.10 Questions and comments from the floor

12.30 **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**

Senior Parliamentary

Sean Cudmore, Westminster Forum Projects