Victims Commissioner



The Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Survivor Advisory Panel

How you can ask to work with us



Easy Read version

What is in this paper

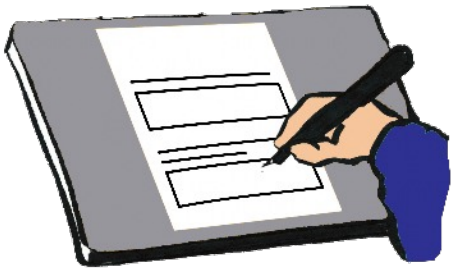
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Who we are

We are the Office of the Victims' Commissioner.



The Victims' Commissioner is Claire Waxman.



She speaks out for victims of crime in England and Wales.

What we are doing



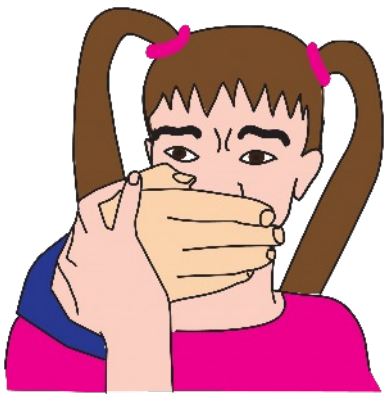
We are looking for people to work with us on the Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Survivor Advisory **Panel**.

A **panel** is a small group of people who give advice and share their ideas.



Sexual abuse and exploitation of children

Sexual abuse of children is a crime.

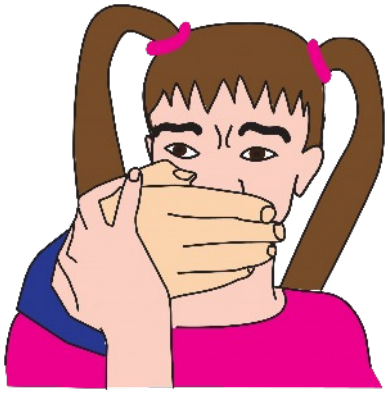


Child sexual abuse is when someone:

- makes a child do sexual things
- does sexual things to a child.

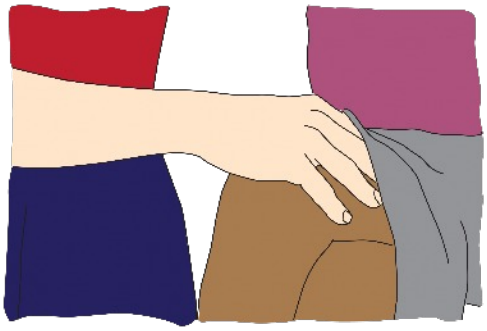


Child sexual exploitation is a type of sexual abuse when adults use children or young people for sex.

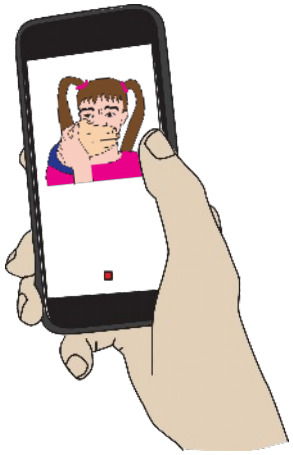


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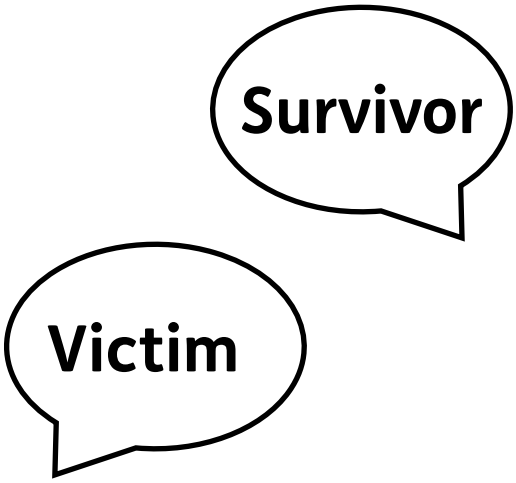
- being made to have sex



- touch someone else's private parts



- send sexual photographs or videos of children.



Words people use

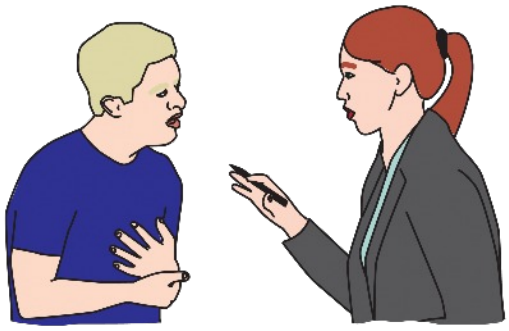
People who have been abused as children use different words when they talk about someone who is hurt because of a crime.

We use the words **victim** and **survivor**.



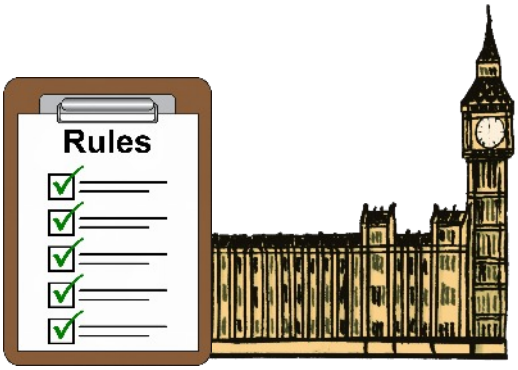
If you join us we will ask you what word you like best.

Why we are setting up a panel



The government wants to help people who were abused or exploited as children.

We spoke to survivors of child sexual abuse and exploitation.



We decided we want survivors of abuse to help the government make its rules and plans about child abuse and exploitation.



We decided to set up a panel of adult victims and survivors.



This panel will help the government make better laws and rules about childhood sexual abuse and exploitation.



This panel will be called the Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Survivor Advisory Panel.

We will call it the **advisory panel** for short.

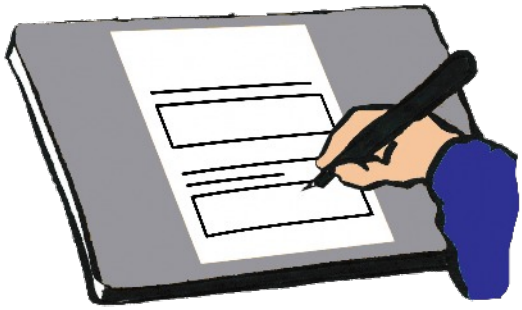


What we want you to do

- Read this paper.



- Decide if you would like to join the advisory panel.



We tell you how to apply on page 20.

About the Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Survivor



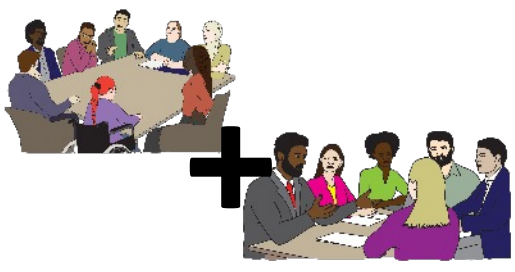
The advisory panel is a group of up to 15 adults who have survived child sexual abuse or exploitation.



The panel will help the Office of the Victims' Commissioner and government make laws and rules on child sexual abuse and exploitation.



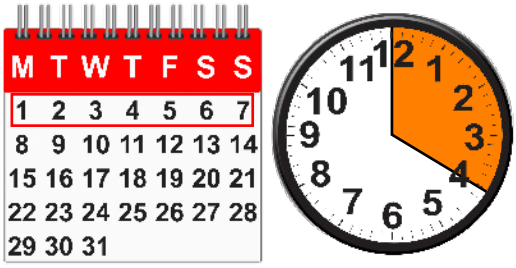
We know that people on our panel cannot speak for all victims and survivors.



So this panel will work with a larger group of other survivor groups.



The panel will run for 2 years.



We want the people on our panel to work 60 hours a year. This means about 4 hours a week.

We know some months may be busier than others.

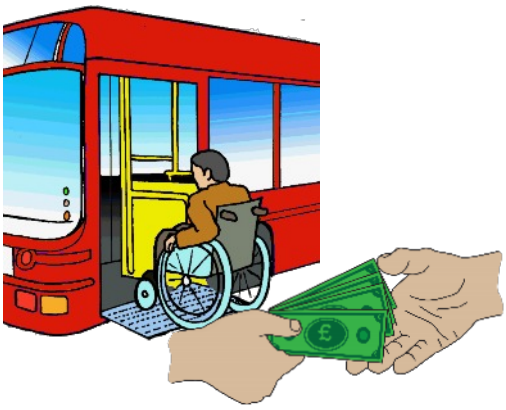


You must be over 18.



We can offer **clinical supervision** to panel members who need it.

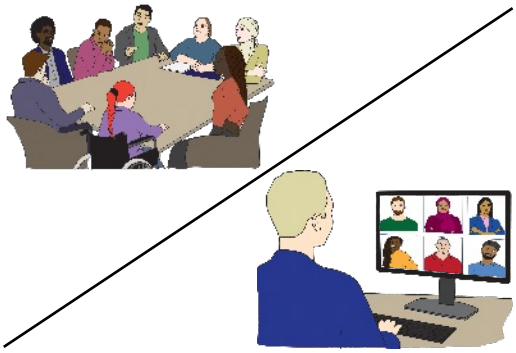
Clinical supervision is when a professional helps you talk about how being in the group affects you.



We will pay for your travel and a place to stay.



We will pay you for meetings and your work on projects.



You can work with us face to face and online.



We would like you to join us for all our meetings.



But we will understand if you cannot come to a meeting because you have other things you need to do.



The meetings will be led by people who can keep you safe and help you deal with any bad feelings that come up during a meeting.

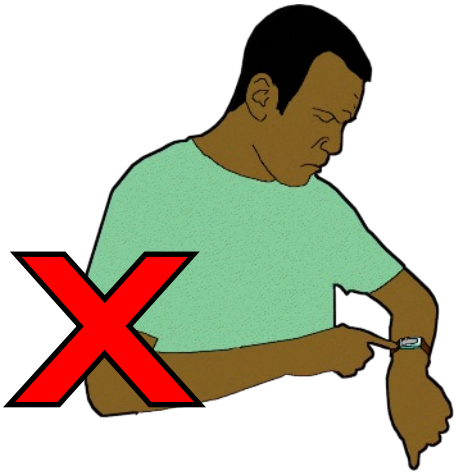


What the panel will work on

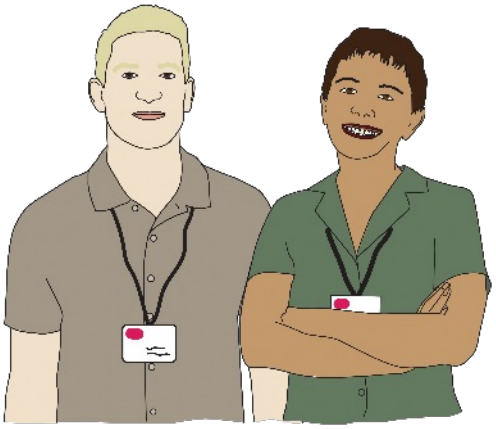
Panel members will use their lived experience to help the government find better ways to help victims and survivors.



The panel and the Office of the Victim's Commissioner will work with government departments to decide what they will do.



The panel will not have time to work on all areas of child sexual abuse and exploitation.



Who will support panel members

2 workers from the Office of the Victims' Commissioner will help run panel meetings.



These people:

- know how to keep you safe



- help you talk about difficult things



- help you understand the rules about the meetings.

  These rules are called the terms of reference and the code of conduct.

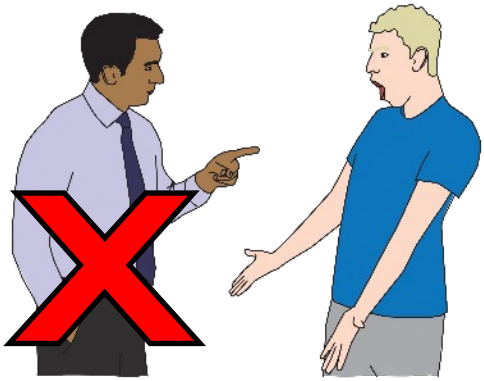


The Office of the Victims' Commissioner will help the panel decide on the panels its work.

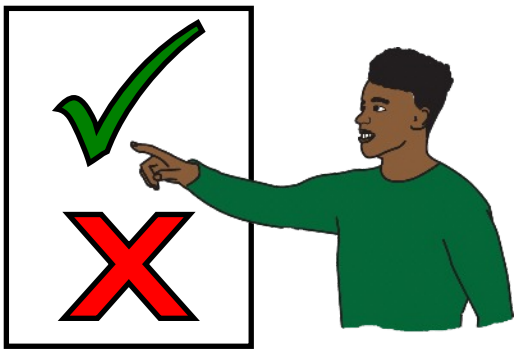
How the advisory panel will work



- We will be careful and caring in the way we speak to people.



- We will not blame people. We will ask what happened to them.



- We will look after people's rights and check that people make their own choices.



- The panel will check it is fair and that everyone's views are included.



- We will make room for people to show their happiness and connect with each other.

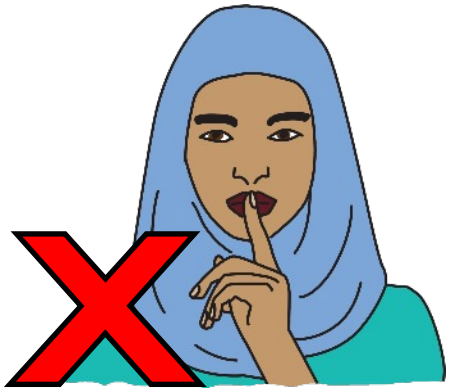


How we will support you

We know panel members have experienced child sexual abuse or exploitation.



We will look after your feelings and mental health.



We do not need to hide anything about yourself or what happened to you when you were young.



To keep you safe we will check you understand what the panel is talking about.

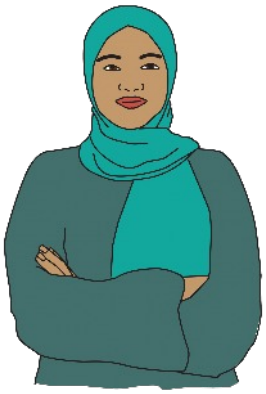


We will keep your information private.



You will be able to:

- ask for help



- take a break and step back from an activity



- or leave the panel at any time.



We will offer you training opportunities.



We will be accessible to people and make **reasonable adjustments** where needed. **Reasonable adjustments** means everyone can take part in our work.



We will ask you to tell us what you think so we can work better with you.

People who can apply

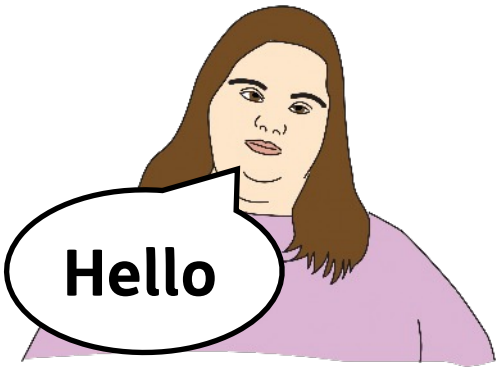


You must:

- be 18 or over



- have lived experience of child sexual abuse or exploitation



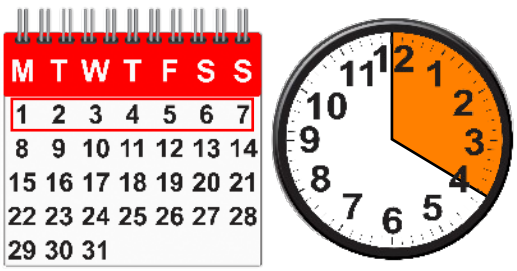
- speak English with communication support if you need it



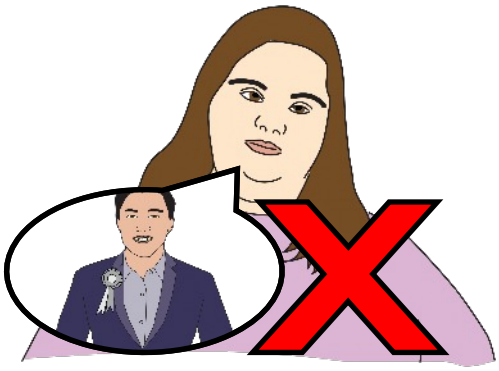
- live in England or Wales



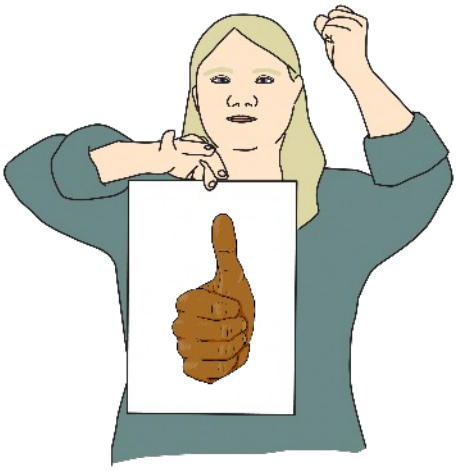
- let us check if you have a criminal record



- work 60 hours a year. This means about 4 hours a week.



- not share your political ideas in meetings



- be keen to see things change



- work well with other survivors



- respect people who may have different views and experiences



- follow the panel's rules



- respect the privacy of others.



You do not need experience of working in government, law, or victim support services.



We welcome people from diverse communities such as trans, non-binary, queer, disabled, or from other cultures.

How to apply



You need to be sure you want to be on the advisory panel.

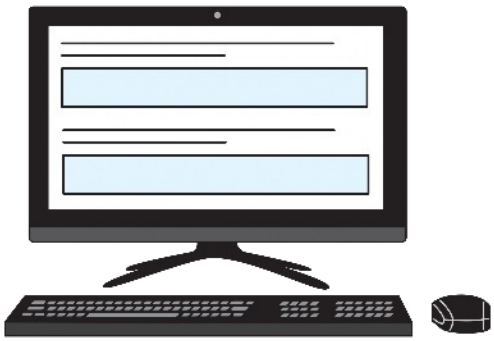


The panel may talk about hard subjects and could bring up some difficult feelings for you.



If you would like to have a chat about the role before deciding please email the team at: **advisorypanel@victimscommissioner.org.uk**

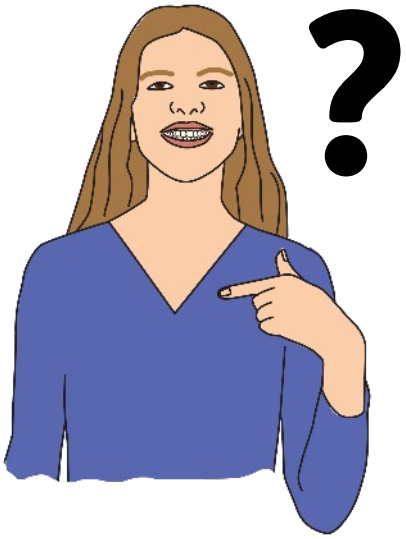
When you are ready to apply, this is what you need to do:



Step 1.

Fill in an application form to say you would like to be on the panel.

The form is a Word document.



It asks you for some information about yourself, your skills and why you are applying.



Complete it on the computer and email it to:
advisorypanel@victimscommissioner.org.uk



Or you can print it out, fill it in and post it to:
Office of the Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales,
102 Petty France, 6.41,
London SW1H 9AJ.



You can ask someone you trust to help you fill out the form.



If you have no one you can ask, email us to ask for a member of the team to help you.



Telling us what you think

We will send you a link to a question about how you find this step. You do not need to give us your thoughts or tell us your name.



Step 2.

We will let you know we have your form.



We will keep your name private so our team can fairly look at all applications.



Telling us what you think

We will send you a link to a question about how you find this step. You do not need to give us your thoughts or tell us your name.



Step 3.

We will contact you.

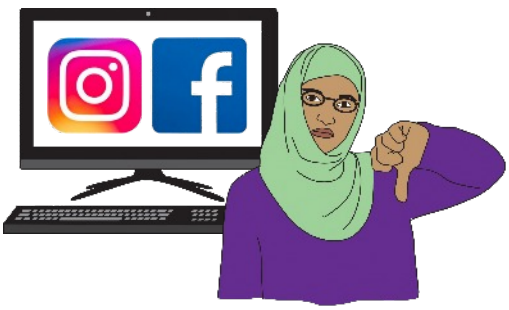
If we do not choose you for the panel we will tell you why.



If you are asked to move on to the next step we will tell you what happens next.



We will do some checks on you. We will look at public information about you such as your social media.

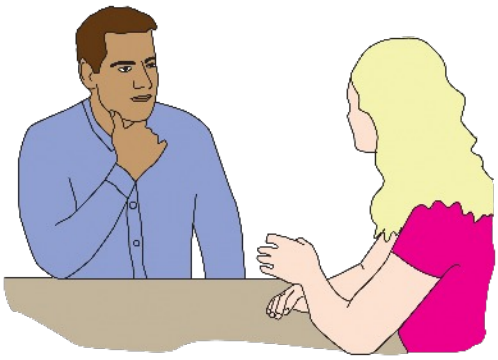


Please tell us if you are not happy with us checking public information about you or your social media.



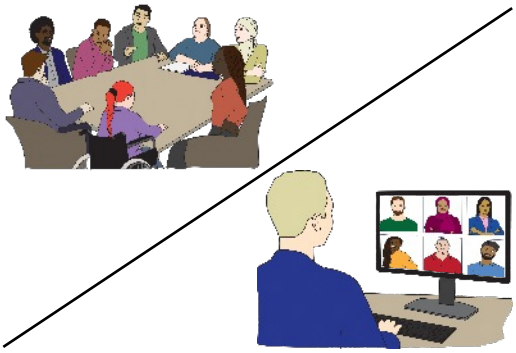
Telling us what you think

We will send you a link to a question about how you find this step. You do not need to give us your thoughts or tell us your name.



Step 4.

We will invite you to a chat so we can get to know you.



We can meet face to face or online.



We will send you some questions before the chat so you can think about what you want to tell us.



Next

If you are not chosen for the panel, you can ask us why.



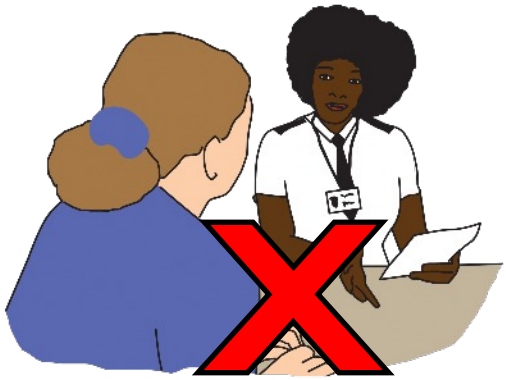
If we want you on the panel, we will tell you what happens next.

Questions people ask us



Will I be paid?

Yes, we will pay for all reasonable travel and accommodation costs for meetings and events.



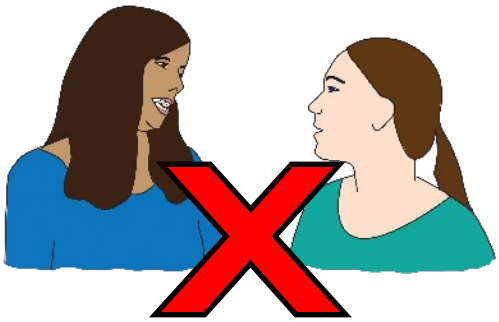
I've never told the police what happened to me. Can I still apply?

Yes you can.



I'm already part of a lived experience group. Can I still apply?

Yes you can. We can talk about it if you join the panel.



I've never told anyone about what happened to me. Can I apply?

Yes you can.



I am involved in a live civil/criminal case. Can I apply?

Please email the team to find out more:
advisorypanel@victimscommissioner.org.uk



Why do you have to be over 18 to apply?

The panel is set up to include and listen to adults.

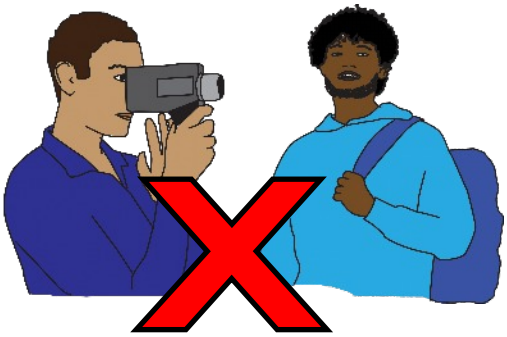


What young people have to say is important and as the panel does more work it will look for safe ways to include younger voices.



I have a criminal record. Can I apply?

We can talk to you about your offence when you apply to join the panel.



Will I have to talk to journalists or the press?

No, our staff will do this.



Is this panel part of the grooming gang inquiry?

No.



Why do you have to live in England and Wales? Why aren't Northern Ireland and Scotland included?

We will talk to other panels as we work.



Why do panel members have to undergo a DBS check?

The panel will sometimes deal with personal or sensitive information. This check will ensure the safety of the panel and its members.



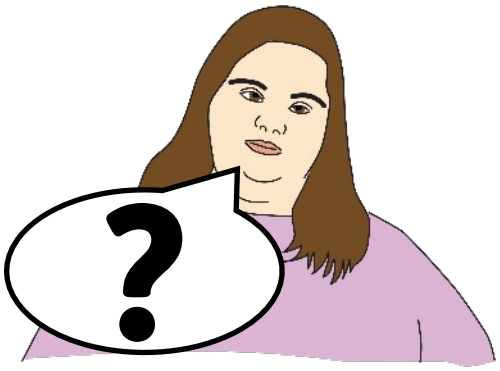
I want to know more about how you protect my data.

You can read about how we use and store your data here: **www.victimscommissioner.org.uk/privacy-policy/**



Will you train me?

Yes, we will teach you about understanding trauma and how government works.



I have more questions. Who can I talk to?

Please email **advisorypanel@victimscommissioner.org.uk** with your questions.

What the words mean

We use some difficult words in this document.

When we are talking about abuse and exploitation we choose our words carefully.

To learn more you can look at the Appropriate Language Guide here: **www.hydrantprogramme.co.uk/cse-taskforce/appropriate-language-guide**

Child sexual abuse is a crime.

Child sexual abuse is when someone:

- makes a child do sexual things
- does sexual things to a child.

Child exploitation is a type of sexual abuse when adults use children or young people for sex.

This can include:

- being made to have sex
- touch someone else's private parts
- send sexual photographs or videos of children.

Clinical supervision is when a professional helps you talk about how being in the group affects you.

Where you can find specialist help and support



If you or someone you know is in danger or needs help straight away, please call 999.



Everyone's needs are different.

You may find that you need some support before or after applying.



Galop

Telephone: 0800 999 5428

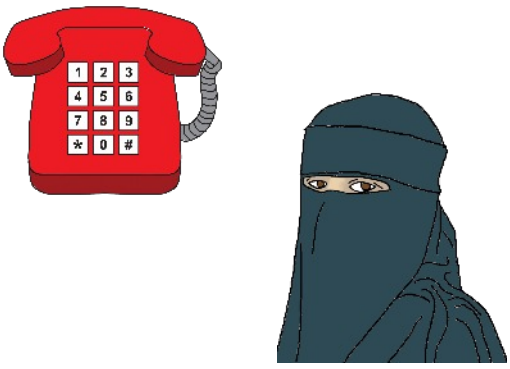
Help for LGBT+ people who experience sexual assault, harassment, image-based sexual abuse, or any other sexual abuse that has happened without them agreeing to it.



Hourglass

Telephone: 0808 808 8141

Confidential services who give help and information to older people, or to anyone who is worried about an older person. These services help when an older person is being hurt, not cared for properly, or is getting better after this kind of harm.



Karma Nirvana

Telephone: 0800 5999 247

Helpline supporting victims of forced marriage and honour-based abuse.



Mankind

Telephone: 0808 800 1170

Helpline and support for men over 18 who have been sexually abuse at any time in their lives.



Modern Slavery and exploitation helpline

Telephone: 0800 121 700

Information, advice and help about any modern slavery issue.



National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

Telephone: 0808 800 5000

A helpline for anyone worried about a child's safety or wellbeing.



Rape Crisis England & Wales

Telephone: 0808 500 2222

A 24-hour helpline for people over 16 who have gone through sexual abuse or violence at any time in their life.



Revenge Porn Helpline

Telephone: 0345 6000 459

For all adult victims of intimate image abuse living in the UK.



Safeline

Telephone: 0808 800 5005

A service for men and boys in England and Wales who have been affected by sexual violence and abuse and for the people who support them.



SARSAS

Telephone: 0808 801 0456

Free, private help for anyone over 13 years who has been affected by rape or sexual abuse.



StopitNow

Telephone: 0808 1000 900

A helpline that is private and does not tell anyone your name. It is for anyone who is worried about sexual abuse or wants to help stop it from happening.



SurvivorsUK

Telephone: 0808 801 0332

National helpline for men, boys, trans and non-binary people who have experienced sexual abuse at any point in their lives.



The National Association for People Abused in Childhood

Telephone: 0808 801 0331

A UK-wide support line for adults who have experienced any type of abuse as a child. This includes physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, and neglect.



The Survivors Trust

Telephone: 08088 010 818

A free and private helpline for any survivor anywhere in the UK and Ireland who feels they need someone to talk to.



Victim Support

Telephone: 0808 1689111

24/7 supportline

Credits

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