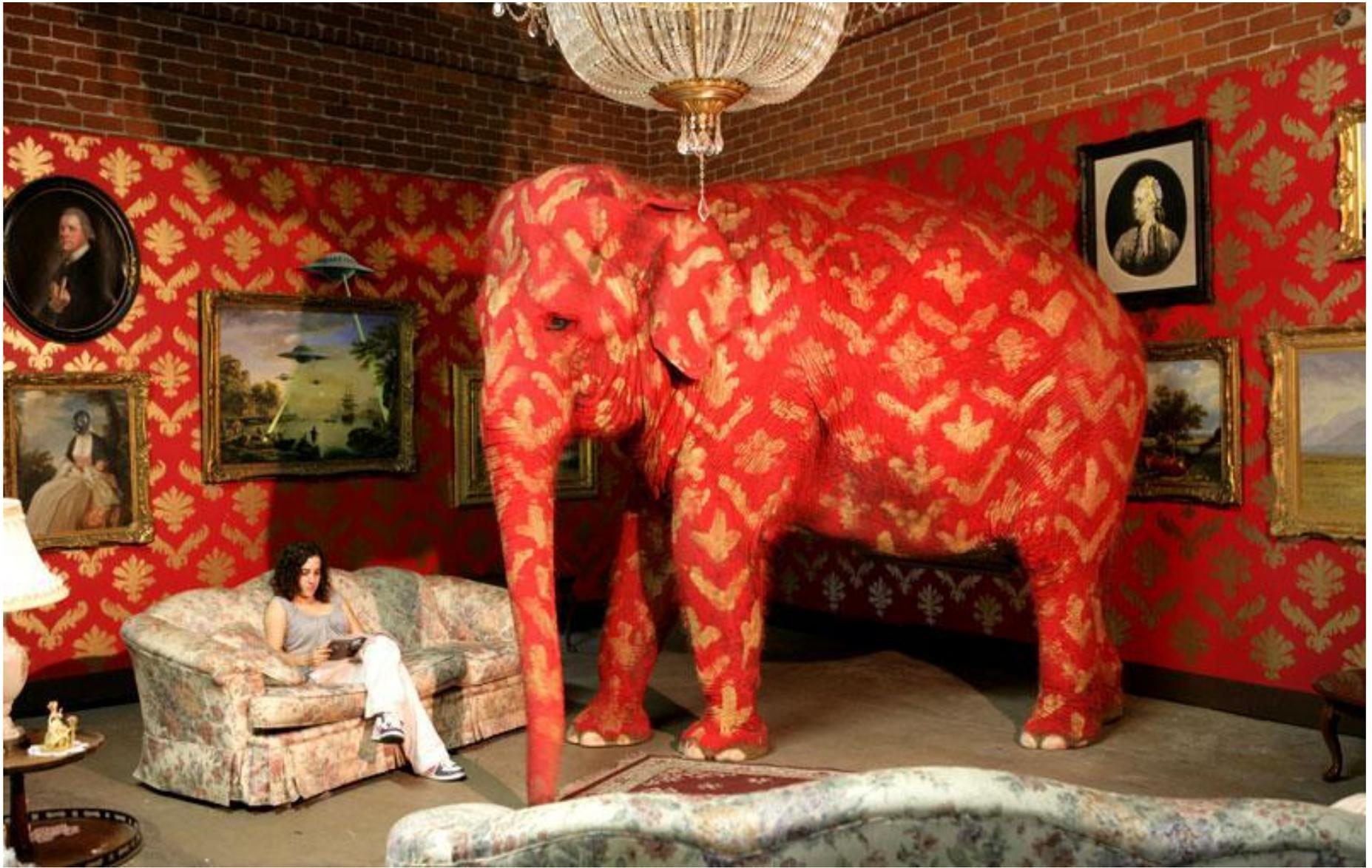


# The story so far ... and hopes for the future



# Inquiry context - victims and survivors campaigning

- Stop Church Child Abuse - survivor campaigning
- Voluntary sector lobbying for a statutory inquiry
- The 'Savile effect'
- Inquiries in other jurisdictions - Jersey and Ireland
- Royal Commission in Australia
- 7th July, 2014: HS announced 'overarching inquiry into institutional failures'

# Survivor perspective

- Survivor involvement in reshape of inquiry: insisted it was statutory, that appropriate groups were consulted with and that a VSCP established
- VSCP understood this isn't like any other inquiry (no comparison can be made) so engagement is crucial
- Effective engagement needed to make recommendations
- Aware more than most of the significant impact it can have, across all aspects of society

# Inquiry Terms of Reference

- Remit of Inquiry for those failed by an institution, in an institution, or family environment and someone in authority failed to respond appropriately
- Required to provide opportunity for victims and survivors to bear witness - Truth Project, VSCP, Victims and Survivors Forum, Consultations, Seminars
- Unique model designed to enable the victims and survivors' perspective to be reflected in Inquiry operations

# VSCP

- Who?

May Baxter-Thornton, Sheila Coates MBE,  
Lucy Duckworth, Emma Lewis, Fay Maxted OBE,  
Peter Saunders FRSA, Chris Tuck MAAT ACMA,  
Daniel Wolstencroft

- Various insight, expertise, knowledge and experience of different aspects of childhood sexual abuse
- Selected following an open application process
- Independent consultants
- No involvement in the investigations
- Have to avoid conflicts of interest

## **Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in the Family Environment (CSAFE)**

Protecting children from harm: A critical assessment of child sexual abuse in the family network in England, November 2015

- ▶ Estimated prevalence 450,000 children abused – 50,000 recorded
- ▶ Only 1 in 8 children who are sexually abused are identified by professionals
- ▶ Services are geared towards children self-referring or reporting – although they rarely do this

## Current Stats

New experimental figures for year ending March 2018 showed police flagged:

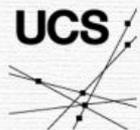
- **55,061** crimes involving child sexual abuse
- **55,045** involving child sexual exploitation

Date provided to Home Office Data Hub:

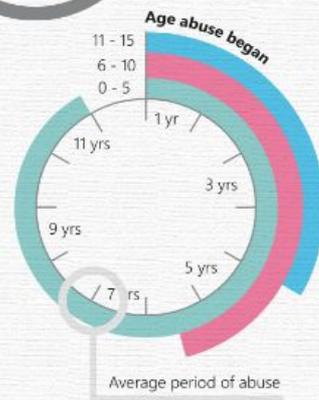
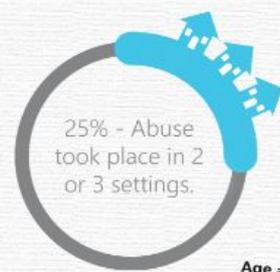
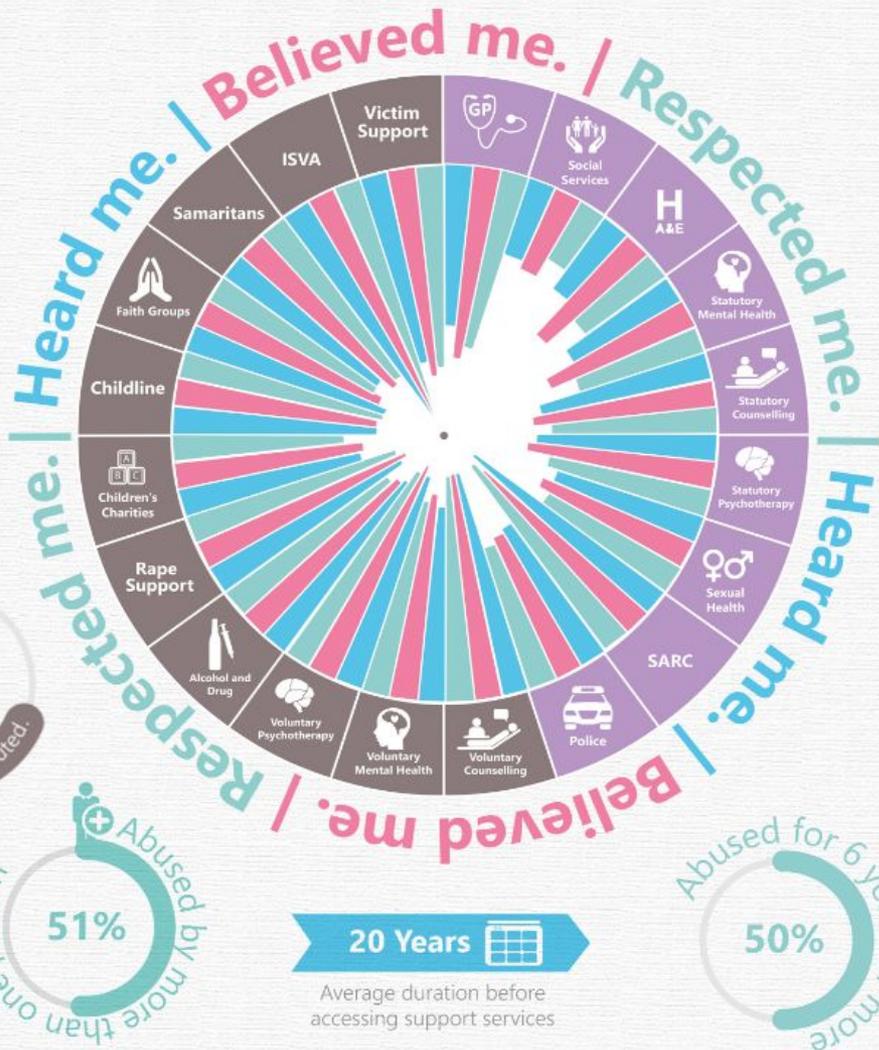
- **26%** of recorded sexual offences in year ended June 2018 were non-recent - an **18% increase** from previous year

# #Focus on Survivors

A survey of adult survivors of child sexual abuse and their experiences of support services



Less than 1 in 5 disclosed because someone asked.



# Impacts of CSA

- ▶ Physical health – injuries, heart disease, cancer
- ▶ Emotional wellbeing, mental health and internalising behaviours
- ▶ Externalising behaviours (substance misuse, offending)
- ▶ Interpersonal relationships
- ▶ Social-economic
- ▶ Religious and spiritual belief
- ▶ Vulnerability to revictimisation

**The impacts of child sexual abuse: A rapid evidence assessment, Cate Fisher, Alexandra Goldsmith, Rachel Hurcombe, Claire Soares, IICSA Research Team, July 2017**

# IICSA Interim Report

## Current practice:

- The internet
- Criminal justice
- Civil justice
- The health sector

## Emerging themes:

- Cultural
- Professional and political
- Structural
- Financial

# Government Response to IICSA Interim Report Recommendations

- Child migrants - immediate redress scheme
- Cross Govt Victims Strategy commits to holding agencies to account for compliance with the Victims' Code
- Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme - consultation on changes and commitment to abolish 'same roof rule'
- Civil Justice Council - Review of measures to protect vulnerable witnesses
- Health sector - use of registered chaperones for children in health settings
- UK Govt ratified the Lanzarote Convention June '18
- Workforce regulation in children's homes
- Urgent - Govt to establish expenditure on CSA support and effectiveness

# Current practice

- The internet
  - Recognition and research
- Criminal justice
  - Victims' Strategy Sept '18/Victims' Code compliance
  - Criminal Injuries - consultation/same roof rule abolished
- Civil justice
  - Civil Justice Council review of protections for vulnerable witnesses
- The health sector
  - Use of registered chaperones for children in health care settings

# Emerging themes

- Professional and political
  - Redress for former child migrants
  - Lanzarote Convention ratified June 2018
- Structural
  - Workforce regulation in children's homes
  - Removing time barrier to complaints to police about how CSA cases have been handled
- Financial
  - Strategic Direction for Sexual Assault and Abuse launched April 2018 -

# Cultural

- ❑ The most common ways of thinking about child sexual abuse have **deflected** responsibility away from perpetrators and institutions, **denied** that harm is caused, and **failed** to accept that sexual abuse has taken place.
- ❑ Society is still **reluctant** to discuss child sexual abuse openly and frankly - **this must change** to better protect children.

Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?”

*“That depends a good deal on where you want to get to”, said the Cat.*

“I don’t much care where -” said Alice.

*“Then it doesn’t matter which way you go”, said the Cat.*

“- so long as I get SOMEWHERE” Alice added.

*“Oh, you’re sure to do that” said the Cat, “if you only walk long enough”.*