The story so far … and hopes for the future

22nd March, 2019
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)


- 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.

70% of abuse was reported.

Police and justice.

51% have not seen their abuser face to face.

99% have not seen their abuser face to face.

50% have not seen their abuser face to face.

Abused for 6 years or more.

Average duration before accessing support services:

20 Years

Abused for 6 years or more.

Average period of abuse:

11 yrs

7 yrs

5 yrs

11 - 15

6 - 10

0 - 5

25% - Abuse took place in 2 or 3 settings.

70% - Said they were abused within the family.

Samoan Mental Health

Statutory Counselling

Statutory psychotherapy

Sexual Health

Voluntary Psychotherapy

Voluntary Mental Health

Voluntary Counselling

H & E

SARC

Samaritans

Childline

Samaritans

Faith Groups

ISVA

Victim Support

Social Services

Police

Abused by more than one person.

Age abuse began:

11 yrs

7 yrs

5 yrs

3 yrs

1yr

0 - 5

11 - 15

6 - 10

0 - 5

Average period of abuse.
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”.

IICSA INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE