



## Knowledge and Library Services (KLS)

### Impact stories

**Title:**

Evidence about child sexual exploitation, violence and trafficking was identified from a Knowledge and Library Services (KLS) literature search, and used to inform the production of a Department of Health report and support ongoing work for local area prevention tools.

**User testimonial:**

*“The search proved immensely helpful for us – it gave us a baseline for assessing the evidence and leading us to particular areas to focus on. The issue of child sexual abuse and exploitation is relatively poorly researched from a public health perspective, but the way the KLS team approached the search meant that we were presented with an excellent foundation upon which to base our report, alongside a commissioned work from an external academic body”.* **Eustace DeSousa, National Lead - Children Young People and Families**

**Challenge:**

Child sexual abuse (CSA) and the sexual exploitation of children (CSE) are a major public health issue because of the long-term physical, sexual and mental health effects, and the risk of the victim becoming the perpetrator in later life. Prevention programmes exist to protect potential victims and prevent recidivism, but little is known about their effectiveness. Furthermore, there are confounding factors that can impact on the success of these programmes, such as cultural differences, age of participants, and the stigma that prevents people from getting help.

**Solution:**

The KLS team carried out a comprehensive literature search, the results of which were organised by themes such as increasing resilience, treating earlier trauma and preventing offending and re-offending, to reflect the different aspects of CSA and exploitation that need effective interventions.

**Impact:**

The report was used to inform work with the Department of Health and fed into a roundtable that was held with Arm's Length Bodies, including NHS England, Public Health England, Care Quality Commission and Health Education England. Following additional analysis with

an academic partner, a paper was produced highlighting public health approaches, which informed an expert roundtable and ongoing work for tools to support local areas.

The report has now been shared with every PHE Centre area, each centre has helped to disseminate the report with their local stakeholders at a series of events and local network meetings. Feedback at these local events has been very positive and the report is being used to drive local actions.

**Success factors:**

The Children, Young People and Families Team were very clear about their needs and responsive to queries requiring clarification, which meant that Caroline (KLS) was able to produce a literature review which helped them to achieve their desired outputs.

**Lessons:**

The Children, Young People and Families Team wanted to circulate the references identified in the search together with the abstracts, because they felt it would add value to the report. Unfortunately, due to copyright restrictions, at the time we were not permitted to circulate the abstracts to an audience external to PHE, so the KLS team had to re-write all the abstracts so that the results could be circulated to all stakeholders.

**Contact:**

Eustace DeSousa [Eustace.DeSousa@phe.gov.uk](mailto:Eustace.DeSousa@phe.gov.uk)

**Reference:**

de Sousa, Eustace; O'Kane, Michael; Koehli, Laura; Walker, Joanne; Beckett, Helen, De Brún, Caroline. *Child sexual exploitation: prevention and intervention*. London: Public Health England; 2017. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-sexual-exploitation-prevention-and-intervention> (accessed 27/03/18).