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# Foreword by Sue Berelowitz

The Office of the Children’s Commissioner’s Inquiry into child sexual exploitation in gangs and groups (CSEGG) is now entering its second and final year. The first year focused on establishing prevalence with detailed evidence emerging on the scale, scope and extent of this particular form of violence and abuse.

This evidence has provided the most comprehensive knowledge base held to date on both victims and perpetrators and the circumstances in which children are sexually exploited. The full details on prevalence will be published in the interim report due out in autumn 2012.

The Inquiry is now focusing on how best to address this serious issue. In year two the panel will be concentrating on the identification and dissemination of best practice in order to make practical recommendations for early intervention, prevention, disruption of harm and support for victims.

You are therefore invited, via this call for evidence, to submit details on the following in relation to the identification of victims and perpetrators, prevention and early intervention of sexual exploitation, disruption of offenders and provision of support for victims:

* Any practice which you identify as good and effective
* Any practice which you believe has lessons for others
* Any barriers impeding effective practice
* Proposals for improved action and intervention

Please note that information about prevalence continues to emerge and further submissions on this issue are welcome. The Inquiry terms of reference and definitions of terminology are contained in the introduction to this call for evidence.

Your contribution to this important work is appreciated and I thank you in advance for your assistance.

Queries regarding this call for evidence should be made to the CSEGG Inquiry team on [CSEGG.Inquiry@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CSEGG.Inquiry@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk)

Sue Berelowitz



Deputy Children’s Commissioner/Chief Executive

Chair of the Inquiry into child sexual exploitation in gangs and groups

# About the Office of the Children’s Commissioner

The Office of the Children’s Commissioner is a national organisation led by the Children’s Commissioner for England, Dr Maggie Atkinson. The post of Children’s Commissioner for England was established by the Children Act 2004. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) underpins and frames all of our work.

The Children’s Commissioner has a duty to promote the views and interests of all children in England, in particular those whose voices are least likely to be heard, to the people who make decisions about their lives. She also has a duty to speak on behalf of all children in the UK on non-devolved issues which include immigration, for the whole of the UK, and youth justice, for England and Wales. One of the Children’s Commissioner’s key functions is encouraging organisations that provide services for children always to operate from the child’s perspective.

Under the Children Act 2004 the Children’s Commissioner is required both to publish what she finds from talking and listening to children and young people, and to draw national policymakers’ and agencies’ attention to the particular circumstances of a child or small group of children which should inform both policy and practice.

The Office of the Children’s Commissioner has a statutory duty to highlight where we believe vulnerable children are not being treated appropriately in accordance with duties established under international and domestic legislation.

# Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups Inquiry – Phase two

*“There is no such thing as a troubled child. Most children that go missing from home do have trouble but they are not trouble.”*  - **Young person who spoke to the CSEGG Inquiry**

*“There was an older man that lived on my road and it started off by getting lifts to school and stuff, but then like he gave money and stuff. So yeah and like sexual stuff happened and then he got involved with other men as well so it had gone on for quite a few years.”* - **Young person who spoke to the CSEGG Inquiry**

On 14th October 2011 the Office of the Children’s Commissioner (OCC) launched a two year Inquiry into child sexual exploitation in gangs and groups (CSEGG). During phase one the CSEGG Inquiry, chaired by the Deputy Children’s Commissioner, Sue Berelowitz, focused on examining the scale, scope, extent and nature of child sexual exploitation. Phase one has now ended and an interim report into the findings will be published in Autumn 2012. Definitions of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), gangs and groups can be found in Annex A.

The CSEGG Inquiry now moves into phase two. The overarching objective for phase two is **to establish what activity is required in order to prevent, identify and tackle this form of abuse**. The Inquiry will engage with a wide range of national and local statutory, voluntary and private sector agencies and organisations to consider their role/s in preventing, disrupting, reducing and addressing the consequences of child sexual exploitation. This information will enable us to generate practical recommendations in the final Inquiry report, due for publication in the Autumn of 2013.

This objective needs to be applied at three levels:

**Interventions targeting individuals/groups:** Activity undertaken by statutory, voluntary and private sector agencies, bodies and individuals to intervene with individual cases or children including early interventions, identification, group and individual support, risk assessments, enforcement and disruption, rescue and exit, prosecutions and recovery.

**Strategic interventions:** Activity undertaken by central and local government, police forces, educational, statutory, voluntary and private sector agencies and bodies to conduct need and risk assessments of localities, develop and implement policies, provide training, commission services, collect data and share information.

**Societal interventions:** Activity undertaken by central and local government, other statutory agencies including schools, FE colleges, police, health services and voluntary and private sector providers including media and technology industries to prevent CSEGG, raise public awareness of the issue and challenge harmful attitudes, including use of extreme pornography, the role of the media and attitudes towards women and girls.

**What do you do to help children such as those featured in the case studies below:**

**Case studies (all names have been changed in order to protect the identity of the victims)**

**Gang affected young people**

Marcia was previously gang associated and because of this she was threatened with sexual violence by the males within the gang. Marcia said that to protect herself from sexual violence she was made to lure young women into the gang through social networking and social media sites. The girls were subsequently raped by her male gang associates. Marcia was made to witness these assaults.

Anita had historical links to gangs due to her older brother’s affiliation. She had previously been targeted by other gangs and was assessed as being at a high risk of possible harm and of being a victim of sexual violence from gang members. She was also known to have relationships with gang involved males who were exploiting other young women.

**Group affected young people**

Iqbal was sexually exploited by Mehmet, an older man who he met at a bus stop. Mehmet groomed Iqbal for two years and then repeatedly forced him to have sex with many other older males for which Mehmet received payment. Iqbal was abused during school hours, and so while he had disengaged from education, he was never reported missing from home.

Ella, who was under a S31 care order, was sexually abused by a neighbour at the age of 12. She was subsequently approached by many different men and encouraged to engage in sexual activity for money and gifts. This led to periods of missing from care and on one occasion being kept in a house for a number of weeks and sexually exploited until she was picked up by the police and returned to care.

The Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups (CSEGG) Inquiry Process

Under the powers granted to the Children’s Commissioner in the Children Act 2004 (see Annex D for the full legal context) phase two of the CSEGG Inquiry will use the following methods to develop our evidence base:

1. Call for evidence (this document)
2. Data requests to national and local statutory bodies
3. Oral evidence sessions with the Inquiry panel
4. Area and service visits
5. Workshops and focus groups
6. Interviews with children and young people
7. Commissioned research into sexual violence in gang-affected neighbourhoods (University of Bedfordshire)
8. Commissioned research into young people’s understanding of ‘consent to sexual activity’ (London Metropolitan University).

**The participation of children and young people**

The Office of the Children’s Commissioner is committed to the full and active participation of children and young people in all our projects in compliance with Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). We have a specific participation strategy for engaging children and young people in the CSEGG evidence gathering process in order to ensure that their safety and well-being are paramount at all times. Given the sensitive and often traumatic nature of child sexual exploitation (CSE) it is not appropriate for children and young people to engage directly in this aspect of the evidence gathering process. The strategy sets out the ethical and safeguarding protocols for the engagement of children and young people throughout the CSEGG Inquiry. We only engage with children and young people in accordance with this strategy and in a way that is overseen by the Office of the Children’s Commissioner.

**Therefore in responding to the call for evidence please draw upon the experience and intelligence from your work with children, young people and adults to submit your response, rather than speaking with children and young people to gather your evidence.**

We also recognise that some children and young people you work with would be keen to speak with us and have insight into what works for them and the broader issues covered by this Inquiry. If you work with children and young people who you think maybe in this position please in the first instance get in touch with us on [CSEGG.inquiry@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CSEGG.inquiry@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk) and we will consider this further with you and in relation to our participation strategy.

Having been interviewed as part of the CSEGG Inquiry, one young woman contacted us to say:

*“I can let go now that you have picked this up.”*

## This call for evidence supports Phase two of the CSEGG Inquiry and is therefore focused on: what activity is required in order to prevent, disrupt, reduce and address the consequences of child sexual exploitation in gangs and groups.

**How to respond**

**This call for evidence is for use by professionals and adults only.**

**We are particularly interested in hearing from professionals who work in the following fields:**

1. Community safety teams
2. Education providers (including Pupil Referral Units)
3. Health agencies including sexual health, mental health, family nurse partnerships and accident and emergency
4. Housing providers
5. Local authority children’s services
6. Local police forces (including units tasked with missing, child sexual exploitation, gangs and serious youth violence, sexual violence)
7. Local Safeguarding Children Boards
8. Parents and carers
9. Voluntary and community sector groups working in the areas of: child sexual exploitation, youth and gang violence, violence against women and girls, sexual health, missing, children in care, supporting BME or refugee and asylum seeking children, supporting disabled children, supporting LGBT children, the youth service and others
10. Young offender institutions, secure training centres and secure children’s homes
11. Youth offending services.

Please contact the CSEGG Secretariat for further information (Contact details are below).

**We want to know:**

1. What activities are underway and their aims and objectives
2. Which children and young people are targeted and who are in receipt of services per annum
3. Whether you provide CSE victim and/or young offender programmes
4. How success is defined and measured
5. Evidence of outcomes
6. What, if any, barriers are impacting on the work?

**When submitting evidence please provide answers to as many of the following questions as possible:**

1. Please provide:

* 1. Contact name
  2. Organisation (if applicable)
  3. Area covered e.g. name of local authority, police force area, region, locality etc
  4. Name, job title and email address of the individual completing the return

Please provide a brief description of your service and the geographical area/s you work in:

1. How many CSE victims do you work with each year?

2. How many CSE victims do you work with each year?

3. How many CSE perpetrators do you work with each year?

4. Do you specialise in work with any of the following groups of children:

a. BME children f. Boy-only provision

b. Disabled children g. Faith-based provision

c. Children in care h. Children with mental health needs

d. LGBT children i. Children with learning difficulties

e. Girl-only provision j. Children in the criminal justice system

5. Do you specialise in any of the following issues:

a. Child sexual exploitation  d. Violence against women and girls

b. Youth crime  e. Missing and runaways

c. Gangs and serious youth violence

**Intervention**

If your service/department offers interventions or support please complete the following section:

6. What type of support or intervention/s do you offer:

a. Early intervention  f. Enforcement and disruption

b. Victim identification  g. Rescue and exit

c. Individual victim support  h. Support through prosecutions

d. Group work  i. Recovery

e. Risk assessment  j. Other (please explain):

7. In the box below, for each intervention you offer please explain:

1. What activities you undertake and the aims of the objectives of that activity e.g. therapeutic work with victims; emergency accommodation etc
2. The outcomes of the activities you undertake, and how you define and measure success in relation to them
3. What, if any, barriers you face in delivering these activities and what would improve your service or service uptake

**Strategic**

If your service/department/organisation is engaged with strategic activity please complete the section below:

8. What are your areas of strategic work?

a. Local risk assessments  f. Data collection

b. National risk assessments  g. Information sharing

c. Local training  h. Policy development

c. National training  i. Data Analysis

d. Local service commissioning  j. Other: please explain

e. National service commissioning

9. In the box below, for each area of strategic activity please can you explain:

1. What activities you undertake and the aims of the objectives of that activity
2. The outcomes of the activities you undertake, and how you define and measure success in relation to them
3. What, if any, barriers you face in delivering these activities and what would improve your service or service uptake

**Societal**

If your service, department or organisation is engaged in preventing, challenging perceptions, or raising awareness of CSE in gangs and groups, please complete the following section:

10. Do you undertake work in:

a. Schools or FE colleges

b. Specific regional or local authority areas

c. Nationally

d. Faith communities: please specify

e. Specific community groups: please specify

f. Specific interest groups: please specify

g. Other: Please specify

11. What specific issues are you concerned about?

a. Violence against women and girls  f. Consent

b. Child sexual exploitation  g. The broader media

c. Stereotypes of masculinity  h. Pornography and sexualised images

d. Gangs and serious youth violence  i. Music

e. Sexualisation of children and young people  j. Other: Please specify

12. What specific issues do you address?

a. Violence against women and girls  f. Consent

b. Child sexual exploitation  g. The broader media

c. Stereotypes of masculinity  h. Pornography and sexualised images

d. Gangs and serious youth violence  i. Music

e. Sexualisation of children and young people j. Other: Please specify

13. Do you undertake any of the following specific activities?

a. Awareness-raising  d. Challenging attitudes and stereotypes

b. Local campaigns  e. Other prevention activity

c. National campaigns

In the box below, for each area of strategic activity please can you explain:

1. What activities you undertake and the aims of the objectives of that activity
2. The outcomes of the activities you undertake, and how you define and measure success in relation to them
3. What, if any, barriers you face in delivering these activities and what would improve your service or service uptake

We are keen to highlight and publicise exemplars of best practice for both victims and offenders in order to improve services and outcomes for children who are sexually exploited. Please send us information about anything you do which you identify as good and effective and let us know whether you would be willing for this information to be included in our final report either attributed or anonymised.

If you are interested in providing us with oral evidence, or taking part in a workshop or focus group based on your submission, please indicate tick here

## How to Respond

Evidence should be submitted by professionals or adults only, as a Microsoft Word or PDF document. Written evidence will be accepted as well as video, imagery and other forms of expression. All evidence is to be submitted to our restricted email inbox [CSEGG.Inquiry@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CSEGG.Inquiry@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk) **by Friday 30th November 2012**

## Confidentiality

If you would like your evidence to be treated in confidence, please make this clear at the time of submission. We will honour all requests for confidentiality within the Freedom of Information Act rules and guidance. Any evidence which could be used to identify the personal circumstances of individuals should be anonymised before submission and password protected. All passwords should be submitted to the OCC separately either via email or telephone. We will not publish any evidence that could compromise the safety of individuals and will not publish any initials and dates or births provided to us. All other evidence submitted will be made available publicly through the Office of the Children’s Commissioner’s website at the end of the CSEGG Inquiry process in Autumn 2013.

## Timeline and next steps

* **Phase two call for evidence:** September - November 2012
* **Inquiry site visits:** October - December 2012
* **Interim Report published:** October 2012
* **Workshops and Focus Groups:** January 2013 - March 2013
* **Dataset requests:** November - January 2013
* **Oral evidence sessions:** April - May 2013
* **Commissioned research completed:** September 2013
* **Final Report published:** Autumn 2013

For further information please visit [www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk), or contact Carlene Firmin, Principal Policy Advisor and Head of the Secretariat for the CSEGG Inquiry: [CSEGG.inquiry@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CSEGG.inquiry@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk)

# Annex A: What we mean by child sexual exploitation linked to street gangs and groups

For the purpose of the CSEGG Inquiry the following definitions will apply:

**Gang-associated sexual exploitation, victimisation and abuse**

Sexual exploitation, sexual victimisation and sexual abuse that involve one or multiple perpetrators, who are themselves gang-associated and where the sexual exploitation, victimisation or abuse takes place as a form of intra or inter gang-related violence. As such ‘gang-associated’ refers specifically to the motive of the violence and/or the gang association of the perpetrator and/or victim, rather than the number of perpetrators involved in the violence.

**Group-associated sexual exploitation, victimisation and abuse**

Sexual exploitation, sexual victimisation and sexual abuse carried out by multiple perpetrators who are connected through formal or informal associations or networks between themselves or between victims, including but not exclusive to friendship groups. Such exploitation can involve individual, repeat or multiple victims. ‘Group’ refers specifically to the numbers of perpetrators involved in the violence.

**Children and young people**

Any person aged up to 18 years, up to 24 years for children in the care system and up to 25 years for disabled children. The use of the term ‘children’ incorporates ‘young people’.

**Sexual exploitation**

The sexual exploitation of children and young people is a form of child sexual abuse. Safeguarding Children from Child Sexual Exploitation (DfE 2009) describes sexual exploitation as follows:

Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive ‘something’ (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child’s immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person’s limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

**Gang**

The term ‘Gang’ will be used to refer to Criminal Gangs only and is defined using both John Pitts’ 2008 definition in Reluctant Gangsters and the 2009 definition in the Centre for Social Justice Report, Dying to Belong:

‘A relatively durable, predominantly street-based, social group of children, young people, and, not infrequently adults, who see themselves, and are seen by others, as affiliates of a discrete, named group who (1) engage in a range of criminal activity and violence, (2) identify or lay claim over territory, (3) have some form of identifying structural feature, and (4) are in conflict with other, similar groups; variously described as a crew, ‘fam’ (Family), massive, posse, or as brerrs (brothers/’bredderin’), cousins, soldiers, sabbos (saboteurs), boys or mandem’ (although such phrases can also be used to described non-criminal social groups)’.

**Group**

Two or more people, of any age, connected through formal or informal associations or networks, including, but not exclusive to, friendship groups

**Peer-on-peer sexual exploitation, victimisation and abuse**

This is defined to distinguish between groups of adults and groups of children. Sexual exploitation, victimisation and abuse of children and young people by other children and young people; in some, but not all, cases the children and young people who perpetrate this abuse are exploited by adults to do so.

**Trafficking**

Article 3 of the Palermo Protocol states:

(a) ‘“Trafficking in persons” shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.’

(c) ‘The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered “trafficking in persons” even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article.’

Under the Palermo Protocol it is irrelevant whether a child has consented to their transportation or not.

# Annex B: Aims of the Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups (CSEGG) Inquiry

The CSEGG Inquiry aims:

1. To identify the scale, scope, nature and extent of gang and group-associated sexual exploitation, victimisation, and abuse of children and young people in England.
2. To identify the cultural, sociological, demographic, technological and economic factors that contributes to and helps to perpetuate gang and group-associated sexual exploitation, victimisation and abuse of children.
3. To hear and promote the experiences and views of children and young people who have been sexually exploited, victimised and abused in order to inform the process and outcomes of the inquiry.
4. To identify the physical, psychological and emotional impact on children and young people of being sexually exploited, victimised, and abused.
5. To identify and map effective interventions for the identification, rescue, support, and rehabilitation of child victims and survivors, and approaches for building the resilience of those at risk.
6. To identify and make proposals concerning necessary improvements to relevant identification, investigative and legal processes, specifically those which impact on children as witnesses
7. To make recommendations to national action plans and related policies to prevent, address, and combat gang and group-associated CSEGG including identifying and promoting best practice.
8. To make recommendations to central and local government, the NHS, police and other key agencies on how to: combat gang and group-associated sexual exploitation, victimisation, and abuse of children; develop preventative programmes; and deliver effective intervention and rehabilitation for victims.
9. To influence and advise local authority child protection services, local safeguarding and health and well-being boards, police and crime commissioners, amongst other local stakeholders to recognise and respond to gang and group-associated sexual exploitation, victimisation and abuse as a pernicious form of sexual abuse and meet their obligations to protect victims.

# Annex C: The CSEGG Inquiry Team

**Inquiry Chair**

Sue Berelowitz, Deputy Children’s Commissioner for England

**Inquiry Panel**

* **Commander Christine Jones** - Association of Chief Police Officers
* **Dr Deborah Hodes – Consultant Paediatrician,** Member of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) and Named Doctor in Child Protection and Child Protection Advisor to UCLH
* **Professor Jenny Pearce** – Director of the Institute of Applied Social Research, University of Bedfordshire
* **Professor John Pitts** - Vauxhall Professor of Socio-Legal Studies, University of Bedfordshire
* **Kate Wallace** – Deputy Director of Policy and Research, Barnardo’s
* **Professor Liz Kelly** – Director Child and Women Abuse Studies Unit, London Metropolitan University
* **Dr. Maddy Coy** – Deputy Director Child and Women Abuse Studies Unit, London Metropolitan University
* **Marai Larasi MBE** – Director of Imkaan and Co Chair Women’s Aid England
* **Martin Houghton-Brown** – Chief Executive of Missing People
* **Dr Mike Shaw**  - Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist at the Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust
* **Sheila Taylor MBE** – Director of National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children and Young People
* **Whitney Iles** – Director of No-Sex-Without-Love

**Clinical Consultant:** Stanley Ruszczynski, Director, The Portman Clinic

**Principal Policy Advisor and Head of the Secretariat:** Carlene Firmin MBE,

**Researcher:** Dr Sandra S. Cabrita Gulyurtlu

**Data Analyst:** Gareth Edwards

**Senior Communications Officer:** Denise Malcolm

**Principal Participation Advisor:** Shaila Sheikh

**Personal Assistant:** Lisa Prendergast

In addition to the panel, the Deputy Children’s Commissioner has established an advisory group, government officials group and a number of specialist advisory groups to ensure dialogue with the wide range of stakeholders who have shown interest in the CSEGG Inquiry. The participation of children is core to the C Inquiry and a participation strategy has been implemented to ensure that the voices of children and young people are heard throughout the Inquiry in a safe and secure way.

# Annex D: Inquiries by the Office of the Children’s Commissioner

## Subject Context

This formal Inquiry, led by the Deputy Children’s Commissioner, focuses specifically on gang and group-associated sexual exploitation, victimisation and abuse of children (CSEGG), and is not intended to cover all models of child sexual exploitation. The Inquiry will not duplicate the work of other organisations in the field of child sexual exploitation.

The purpose of the CSEGG Inquiry will not be to identify and rescue children. However, if any information emerges which indicates risk to individual children then the appropriate safeguarding response will be initiated, and appropriate referrals made.

## Purpose

* 1. To promote children’s rights to protection from sexual exploitation in accordance with the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which states that every child shall be protected from all forms exploitation, victimisation and abuse and receive help. Specifically:
     + Article 19 Protection from all forms of violence
     + Article 34 Protection from sexual abuse and exploitation
     + Article 35 Protection from abduction
     + Article 37 Protection from torture
     + Article 39 Right to rehabilitation from abuse, exploitation and torture
  2. To conduct the CSEGG Inquiry in the spirit of, and compliant with the UNCRC Articles:
     + 3: The best interest of the child must be a top priority in all actions concerning children
     + 12: Every child has the right to say what they think in all matters affecting them, and to

have their views taken seriously

* 1. To ensure that the Government is fully informed about the nature and extent of gang and group-associated child sexual exploitation, victimisation and abuse, in support of its plans for preventing and combating this abuse of children.

## Legal Context

In establishing an Inquiry into gang and group-associated sexual exploitation, victimisation and abuse the OCC invokes powers under the Children Act 2004 – Part 1, s3 and the Local Government Act 1972, s250 (1-6) and will act within the general functions outlined in 2004 Children Act Part 1, s(2) .

Specifically, for the purposes of the CSEGG Inquiry:

* The Children’s Commissioner or a person authorised by him/her may for the purposes of his/her function under this section at any reasonable time:

(a) Enter any premises, other than a private dwelling, for the purposes of interviewing any child accommodated or cared for there; and

(b) If the child consents, interview the child in private (2004 Children Act – Part 1, s2 (8)).

* The Children’s Commissioner may only conduct an inquiry under this section if he/she is satisfied that the inquiry would not duplicate work that is the function of another person (2004 Children Act – Part 1, s3 (2)).
* Where the Children’s Commissioner has published a report under this section containing recommendations in respect to any person exercising functions under any enactment, he/she may require the person state in writing, within such period as the Children’s Commissioner may reasonably require, what action the person has taken or proposes to take in response to the recommendations (2004 Children Act – Part 1, s3 (7)).
* The Children’s Commissioner may require any person to attend, at a time and place stated in the summons, to give evidence or to produce any documents in his/her custody or under his/her control which relate to any matter in question at the inquiry, and may take evidence under oath, and for that purpose administer oath. (Local Government Act 1972, s250 (2)).

Provided that –

b) no person shall be required, in obedience to such summons, to attend to give evidence or

to produce any such documents, unless the necessary expenses of his attendance are paid

or tendered to him/her; and

c) nothing in this section shall empower the person holding the inquiry to require the production

of the title, or any instrument relating to the title, of any land not being the property of a local

authority.

Every person who refuses or deliberately fails to attend in obedience to a summons issued under this section, or to give evidence, or who deliberately alters, suppresses, conceals, destroys, or refuses to produce any book or other document which he is required to produce for the purpose of this section, shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level three on the standard scale, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to both (Local Government Act 1972, s250 (3)).

# Annex E: Help and support

Should you and/or a child with whom you are in contact with require support or information following this call for evidence please use the following contacts:

* + - For any child protection concern, please contact your local authority children’s services department
    - If you think a criminal activity has taken place, please contact your local police service
    - To locate your nearest child sexual exploitation service: <http://www.nationalworkinggroup.org/services>
    - For advice and support for parents of sexually exploited children: <http://www.cropuk.org.uk>
    - For support following sexual violence or assault: <http://www.rapecrisis.org.uk/> 0808 802 9999 (12 - 2.30pm and 7 - 9.30pm)
    - For 24/7 contact line call Missing People: 0800 700 740
    - For confidential advice contact Childline: 0800 1111
    - In an emergency please dial **999**

