Improving data on Violence Against Children in the UK

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Current data and gaps

Indicators from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW):

- Prevalence of lifetime childhood violence (sexual, emotional, physical)
- Prevalence and nature of (non-sexual) violence against children (aged 10-15) in the past year

Evidence gaps:

- Comparable measure of VAC for children under the age of 18
- Experience of VAC in non-household populations
- Current scale of sexual violence in the UK
Improving measure of VAC in the UK

1. Transforming the children’s CSEW to push-to-web data collection

2. Feasibility study to determine whether a new national survey could provide an effective source of data on the current scale of child abuse
1. Push-to-web data collection for the Children’s CSEW
Measuring VAC through push-to-web data collection

- **Separating data collection from adults**
  - Creates opportunity for increasing the achieved sample of children
  - Opportunity to expand survey to children aged 16 and 17

- **Sampling children from administrative data sources**
  - Opportunity to include children in non-household populations
  - Auxiliary information used to oversample small populations

- **Developing an online self-complete questionnaire**
  - Re-developed interviewer administered questions for self-completion
  - Cognitive testing with children

- **Safeguarding children during online data collection**
  - Survey responses lock down as survey progresses
  - Targeted signposting to support service

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Next steps

• Evaluation of pilot – explore response rate and data quality to inform decision around future of push-to-web data collection for the children's CSEW

• Ongoing questionnaire development and cognitive testing with children and young people
2. Child abuse feasibility study
Child abuse feasibility study – survey design

- Phase 1 – qualitative research, stakeholder engagement and public consultation
- Phase 2 – development of questionnaire, safeguarding approach and carrying out a pilot

**Questionnaire**

- Community violence
- Intimate partner violence
- Physical, sexual and emotional abuse
- Witnessing domestic abuse
- Criminal exploitation
- Risk & protective factors

**11-16 years school**

- In classroom, self-completed on a tablet – security screens
- Year 7 & 8 - opt out permission
- Year 9 onwards – provide own consent

**16-25 years Online**

- Postal invitation letter
- Untraceable link
- Survey locks down as questions answered
- All participants provide own consent
Developing a safeguarding approach

• Mixed views on safeguarding approach and anonymity of survey
• Agreed design: Survey will be anonymous

No mandatory referrals  
Safeguarding built in throughout the survey  
Children have autonomy over type of support received

• Developed through consultation with experts, professionals, ethics boards, and focus groups and 1:1s with children and young people, both with and without known experience of childhood violence
Questions?