

Grooming Gangs QSD on 14 May 2019

This briefing identifies relevant reports and useful documents, including recent parliamentary materials and press articles, which may be of assistance to Members in preparing for the following debate:

Baroness Cox to ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made in the prevention of grooming gangs in Rotherham and elsewhere; and what assistance they have offered to victims and their families.

Copies of the materials are available for collection from the Library.

Key Information

- Home Office, '[Keeping Our Children Safe](#)', 3 September 2018; and '[Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Online](#)', 3 September 2018

Speech by the Home Secretary, Sajid Javid, setting out action taken by the Government to tackle online child sexual exploitation; for example, making relationships education “mandatory” in primary schools and teaching children about online safety. The accompanying press release provides further detail on such measures.

- Home Office, [Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation: Progress Report](#), 16 February 2017

Report outlining the progress made by the Government in tackling child sexual exploitation since its initial report, published in 2015, including how it is assisting victims. This includes: the recruitment of around 100 additional Rape and Serious Sexual Offences managers and prosecutors to manage caseloads of all sexual offences, such as child sexual abuse cases; the launch of a Child Sexual Exploitation Response Unit to support professionals from all sectors with “concerns” about child sexual exploitation; and additional government funding for organisations that support victims of sexual abuse.

- House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee, [Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham: Ofsted and Further Government Issues](#), 17 March 2015, HC 1114 of session 2014–15, p 3 and pp 33–7; [Government Response to the 9th Report of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee 2014/15: Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham—Ofsted and Further Government Issues](#), August 2015, Cm 9128; and [Ofsted Response to the Committee's Ninth Report of Session 2014–15](#), 10 September 2015, HC 435 of session 2015–16

Report examining the extent and nature of child sexual exploitation in Rotherham and the responsibilities of Ofsted in relation to the inspection of children's services at Rotherham Council; government response to the report; and Ofsted's response to the report, which stated that it had now issued “much clearer” guidance and that training had been issued to Ofsted inspectors ensuring that they “track children” from a “range of vulnerable groups”.

Parliamentary Debate, Statements and Questions

- [Oral Question on 'Child Sexual Exploitation Victims: Criminal Records'](#), HC Hansard, 19 March 2019, cols 935–42
- [Oral Question on 'Child Sexual Exploitation: Grooming Gangs'](#), HL Hansard, 24 January 2019, cols 808–10
- [Oral Question on 'Child Sexual Exploitation: Grooming Gangs'](#), HL Hansard, 18 October 2018, cols 561–3
- A selection of written questions from both Houses: [247633](#) (30 April 2019); [246583](#) (30 April 2019); [HL14206](#) (18 March 2019); [HL12521](#) (8 January 2019); [HL12518](#) (8 January 2019); and [HL10404](#) (15 October 2018)

Press Articles and Comment

- Sean Morrison, '[27,000 Children in England Say They Are Gang Members, Major Study Warns](#)', *Evening Standard*, 28 February 2019
- Lizzie Dearden, '[Rotherham Grooming Gangs: National Crime Agency Investigating More Than 420 Suspects in 'Unprecedented' Operation](#)', *Independent*, 30 October 2018
- *Guardian*, '[The Observer View on Dealing with Child-Grooming Gangs](#)', 21 October 2018
- National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, '[Over 3,000 New Grooming Offences Recorded Since Last Year](#)', 15 June 2018

Further Information

- National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, '[Grooming](#)', accessed 2 May 2019
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, '[Inspection into the Governance of Rotherham Council and Subsequent Intervention](#)', updated 27 March 2019
- Peter Wanless and Richard Whittam QC, [An Independent Review of the Home Office's 'The Rotherham Internal Review: A Review into Information Passed to the Home Office in Connection with Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse in Rotherham \(1998-2005\)'](#), 17 July 2018, HC 1446-1 of session 2017–9
- House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee, [Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham: Some Issues for Local Government](#), 18 November 2014, HC 648 of session 2014–15
- Alexis Jay, [Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham 1997–2013](#), 21 August 2014
- Home Office, [Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation](#), 3 March 2015
- Prime Minister's Office, '[Prime Minister Unveils Tough New Measures to Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation](#)', 3 March 2015

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