



Norfolk Safeguarding
Children Partnership



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY

Our Priority is You

Child Sexual Exploitation Practice Week

21st – 24th October 2025

Sessions will be delivered via Microsoft Teams

These are free events but places are limited so to ensure your place please book asap.

To book places visit the NSCP website training page:

<https://norfolklscp.org.uk/people-working-with-children/nscp-training>

Tuesday 21st Oct – 10am to 11am

Group Based Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Detective Chief Inspector Bruce Clark Norfolk Constabulary

Lauren Downes, Head of Norfolk Youth Justice and Targeted Youth Support Services.

This presentation is designed to strengthen safeguarding practice, increase knowledge and awareness on Group-based Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (GBCSEA). Designed for frontline safeguarding practitioners, it offers practical insight into recognising the signs, understanding the Casey report key recommendations, and understanding how and when to report concerns to enable a swift and effective response.

Tuesday 21st Oct – 12noon to 1.30pm

Gangs, Grooming and County Lines Explained

St Giles Trust

The aim of the session is to increase knowledge of gangs, grooming and county lines

To provide understanding of the mindset of young people who are or might be involved in violence, vulnerability and exploitation

Learning Aims

By attending the session, participants will:

- Recognise how gangs groom & exploit young people.

- Explain the realities of county line & gang involvement.
- Outline joint enterprise involvement & its consequences.

Tuesday 21st Oct – 2pm to 3pm

[Norfolk Constabulary Operation Vigilant](#)

Police Sergeant Gary Owen

Project Vigilant is a tactic that focusses on the proactive identification of sexual predators/predatory behaviour in our nighttime economies and conducts early intervention to prevent offences from taking place. The tactic was launched in Norfolk on White Ribbon Day last year. As well as taking this innovative approach to tackling sexual offences, we want to empower people to call out predatory behaviour themselves and to restore trust and confidence in our service by showing that Police are out in our public spaces, taking positive and proactive steps towards keeping people safe.

The presentation will be delivered by Sergeant Gary Owen who leads Operation Vigilant for Norfolk Constabulary.

Wednesday 22nd Oct – 10am to 11am

[Appropriate language for frontline safeguarding practitioners in relation to child exploitation.](#)

Detective Chief Inspector Bruce Clark Norfolk Constabulary

This presentation aims to increase knowledge and awareness, for frontline safeguarding practitioners, in the use of trauma-informed language when discussing or recording information about children and young people who have been exploited or are at risk of exploitation. By choosing words carefully, we can challenge stigma, avoid victim-blaming and ensure our language supports – not harms – the vulnerable individuals we aim to protect.

DCI Bruce Clark has 25 years of experience serving as a Police officer in Norfolk. Since 2022 he has led Norfolk Constabulary's Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Team, safeguarding children and young people at risk of exploitation and targeting those perpetrators who wish to harm them.

Wednesday 22nd Oct – 12noon to 1pm

[Hydrant Programme Support for Frontline Practitioners](#)

This presentation is delivered by Phil Ashford who is a national CSE Development Coordinator from NPCC / Hydrant Programme and child exploitation taskforce.

This presentation will outline the role and work which the Hydrant Programme conduct nationally, and how their work can support and increase knowledge for frontline safeguarding practitioners.

Wednesday 22nd Oct – 5pm to 6pm

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Detective Chief Inspector Bruce Clark Norfolk Constabulary

Lauren Downes, Head of Norfolk Youth Justice and Targeted Youth Support Services.

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Thursday 23rd October – 10am to 11am

Scale and Nature of CSE from a National Picture

This presentation is delivered by Phil Ashford who is a national CSE Development Coordinator from NPCC / Hydrant Programme and child exploitation taskforce.

The presentation will explore the scale and nature of Child Exploitation on a national level and how data and recording of offences is shaping the National picture of understanding the nature and scale of group- based child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Thursday 23rd Oct – 12.30pm to 2.30pm

Adultification bias in safeguarding practice

Dr Nicholas Marsh

Overview

This session examines adultification bias, how children, especially black and other racially minoritised children, can be perceived as older, more resilient, and less vulnerable than their peers. It traces the historical and cultural origins of adultification and shows how it manifests within families, communities, and professional systems. Participants will critically reflect on its ongoing impact on assessments, service access, and protection, and explore practical ways to challenge it.

Learning Objectives - Participants will learn to:

1. Define adultification bias and explain its historical, cultural, and structural origins.
2. Identify how adultification manifests in both family and professional contexts.
3. Evaluate the impact of adultification on children's identity, visibility, and access to safeguarding.

4. Implement practical strategies to disrupt and challenge adultification within assessments and responses.

Bio:

Dr Nicholas Marsh is a social worker, researcher, and founder of 10 AND 23, a organisation dedicated to strengthening adolescent safety and well-being in the UK and US. With over twenty years' experience, his work focuses on adolescent development, child exploitation, intersectionality, and developing research-informed tools to support practitioners and young people.

His forthcoming book, *Boys and Criminal Exploitation* (Policy Press, Summer 2026), explores how boys' experiences of exploitation are often overlooked and calls for strengths-based, intersectional approaches to safeguarding.

Nicholas has led pioneering initiatives, including a co-designed service model for young people at risk of exploitation in Greater Manchester, and worked as National Practice Improvement Adviser at the National Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse. He is also an active community member in Chicago, serving as a youth mentor with Chicago Scholars and a member of the Community Advisory Council for Chicago's Children's Advocacy Centre.