

#LookCloser

Programme of Learning

The
Children's
Society

October 2025- December 2025

We're delighted to invite you to join us for our latest #LookCloser programme of learning. These sessions draw from The Children's Society's expertise working around child exploitation and abuse and the rich insights gained from consulting with strategic partners and young people across England and Wales.

All sessions are free of charge and delivered on Microsoft Teams Live which means:

- Interaction with the presenters and participants will be limited
- There will however, be a Q&A function
- We will use tools such as Menti to provide opportunities for engagement and discussion.

The timetable below has links to each learning event on EventBrite, where you can book on to as few or as many events as you please. All of our sessions have been designed for various professional audiences, so please share these events with anyone you think would benefit from attending.

If you have any questions about our learning events, please contact prevention@childrenssociety.org.uk

Date	Time	Session
Tuesday 14 October	13:00 - 15:00	Language Matters
Tuesday 18 November	10:00 - 12:00	Safeguarding transgender young people from exploitation
Thursday 11 December	13:00 - 15:00	Anti-racist practice to tackle child exploitation

Learning Session Information: These sessions are aimed at upskilling professionals in the topic area and identifying points of reflection for individuals' own practice and to take back to their wider teams and networks. The audience is expected to be varied and therefore the session has been written to engage professionals at different levels of knowledge and seniority and across a range of setting and sectors.

You may want to read some of our [resources](#) prior to attending our sessions in order to get the most out of these, but this is not a requirement.

Session Descriptions

Language Matters

This learning session will highlight the importance of using appropriate language when working with children and young people who are victims of exploitation and abuse.

What is victim blaming language?

Victim blaming language refers to any language that implies, intentionally or unintentionally, that a victim is responsible for the abuse they have experienced. As language evolves, phrases that were once commonly accepted may no longer be appropriate. Therefore, it is crucial to maintain an open and reflective attitude to make sure that our language evolves in a way that supports and respects all individuals.

Why is this important?

Victim blaming language exacerbates the trauma experienced by survivors of abuse and hinders their access to justice and support. Serious case reviews highlight the profound negative effect of victim blaming language on victims themselves and on professional and public perceptions of victims, often leaving them in unsafe and abusive circumstances.

What will I learn?

This session will discuss key themes within 'child exploitation and abuse: an appropriate language guide' co-developed by The Children's Society and NAPAC to explore the critical importance of avoiding victim blaming language in all forms of communications and ensure that the language we use as professionals supports, rather than harms, victims of child exploitation.

Who should join this session?

This session is suitable for any professional who may come into contact with a victim of exploitation and abuse, both directly and indirectly.

Session Descriptions

Safeguarding transgender young people from exploitation

This session will explore how barriers in society, including discrimination, can lead to us failing to protect transgender (trans) and non binary young people from exploitation and harm, and what we can do to overcome these in our practice and in our systems.

This session will draw on our recent consultation with young people from across England and Wales, existing literature and learning from various LGBTQ+ organisations.

From this evidence, it is clear that gender identity is fundamental to children and young people's lives, but that sadly trans young people in our society today still face systemic discrimination and disadvantage, demonstrated by the high rates of homelessness which trans young people experience. Discrimination against the trans community creates opportunities for perpetrators to exploit transgender young people, as they can prey on isolation, low self-esteem and offer access to gender affirmation.

In this session, we will explore the risks which trans young people are facing in 2025 and share the views and experiences of professionals who specialise in working with these young people. We will examine the specific risks trans young people face and how building more inclusive services will better protect them from harm. We are grateful to have had the support of trans specialist charity Gendered Intelligence in developing this session.

This session for professionals aims to:

- Support professionals to understand trans identities and how to respect these in their work with children and young people

Session Descriptions

Anti-racist practice to tackle child exploitation

We are making progress in our fight against exploitation, but it is clear that responses and outcomes are often not the same for all children and young people. Racially and ethnically minoritised young people are more likely to face disadvantage because of our assumptions and biases, siloed working, exclusionary practice, and wider social inequalities which impact our ability to protect them from harm.

In this session we will explore what it means to take a proactive 'anti-racist' approach to tackling child exploitation and why this is essential to ensuring we can support and safeguard every young victim.

In this session for professionals, we will:

- Consider how our assumptions and biases can influence our efforts to identify, prevent, and disrupt the exploitation of children and young people and the impact of disproportionality and discrimination on protecting young people from these forms of harm
- Further consider how institutional racism compromises our efforts to prevent exploitation by impacting on young people and communities trust in services and their likelihood to seek help or report exploitation and abuse concerns
- Explore 'adultification' and the importance of recognising victimhood in older children and young adults
- Explore how we can improve practices to protect and respect young people, and take an intersectional and holistic approach to working with them, in order to ensure that all children and young people receive the support they need
- Demonstrate the value of anti-racist practice in the fight against child exploitation and abuse and the importance of taking a person-centred, holistic approach.