

Response to the Home Secretary announcement 16th Jan 2025

The Home Secretary has pledged that by Easter 2025 the Government will lay out a clear timetable for taking forward the recommendations in the final IICSA report. That will be 2.5 years after the final report was issued so IICSA Changemakers hope that the plan will have well thought out and funded proposals for real change to be delivered swiftly.

“The issues raised in IICSA support what can only be described as a critical pandemic of child abuse, and I stress, a pandemic that has been crucial for years previously. For many children, we as a country have failed them. As we now have a date for action to be posed through a plan the question is how much longer can we afford to wait for real change?”

Poppy – Member of IICSA Changemakers Survivor Advisory Community

The focus on investigations and bringing perpetrators through the justice system for committing child sexual abuse is of course a needed and welcome activity. However, the journey to justice can be a very different path for individuals and our survivor advisor community, has consistently, highlighted to us that support with their recovery is a key aspect of that journey that has yet been actioned to by the government, so focus on this area in the forthcoming plan will be of particular importance.

“As a survivor who reported their perpetrator to the Police and was left deeply traumatised by the process, I must emphasise the urgent need for substantial investment in justice reform and support services. Survivors deserve a system that not only seeks accountability but also ensures their well-being. It is critical that these steps are prioritised and implemented without delay to provide meaningful support and to prevent further harm.”

Laura - Member of IICSA Changemakers Survivor Advisory Community

The financial support for the Child Sexual Exploitation Taskforce is as welcome as it is essential. We have seen a proactive, meaningful and victim-survivor centred approach from the Taskforce, and a willingness to work collaboratively in order to create safe spaces for learnings and reflections from those with lived experience, without fear of judgement, bias or tokenism.

“This funding enables essential police work to support survivors in seeking progress on their cases”

Adam – Member of IICSA Changemakers Survivor Advisory Community

The IICSA Changemakers and Survivor Advisory Community remain open to supporting the Government in delivery of progress against the recommendations to prevent child sexual abuse and provide much improved support to victims and survivors.

"After waiting over two years, it is good to hear that progress is now planned. We are moving in the right direction at last."

Tony – Member of IICSA Changemakers Survivor Advisory Community