



## THE CHILD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEW PANEL

### The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: Annual Report 2020

'The Panel received notification of 482 serious incidents which occurred between 1 January and 31 December 2020, relating to 514 children. Of those 482 notifications, 206 were in relation to child deaths and 267 related to serious harm'. Most incidents referred to under-1s (35%) and 15 - 17 year olds (30%).

Suicide was an important issue, 'accounting for 20%' of the 206 fatal incidents. 'Young people's feelings of isolation during the COVID-19 lockdown were a contributory factor in a number of incidents. More generally, it was not always clear whether a suicide was linked to suspected abuse or neglect. Often there was not a single trigger event.'

In 16% of the notified incidents, the child had experienced mental ill-health. These issues have taken on greater significance given the evident concerns about children and young people's mental health and emotional well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Read the full report and the executive summary here: [The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Report 2020](#)

### Should we report underage sexual activity to parents?

In the UK the age of consent for sexual activity is 16, for males and females. However, there is no legal obligation to report underage sex, either to Children's Services, or to their parents, unless exploitation, abuse or serious harm is suspected. Children under-13 cannot consent to any kind of sexual activity; this means that where it is occurs, this is likely to indicate serious harm and must be referred to Children's Services. For children between 13 and 16, the younger the child, the more likely it is to be of concern. There are a number of risks that should be considered, see local information on [Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership Board's website](#).

### Prevent Duty

In the year ending 31st March 2021, almost 5,000 referrals were made to Prevent. This represents a decrease of 22% compared to the previous year (6,287) and the lowest number of referrals received since March 2016. The decrease is likely to be as a result of public health restrictions that were in place to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Half the referrals were related to mixed, unclear or unstable ideologies; 22% to Islamist radicalisation; and 25% to extreme right-wing radicalisation

Some Prevent referrals will go on to the Channel programme. In 2020/2021, there were 688 cases adopted, of which:

46% were related to extreme right-wing radicalisation

30% came under a Mixed, Unclear or Unstable (MMU) ideology

22% were linked to Islamist radicalisation

2% were related to other radicalisation concerns

Source: <https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/10/18/factsheet-prevent-and-channel-2021>

**educate.against.**  
**hate**