



House of Commons
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Press Release – For immediate release

Sarah Champion
Member of Parliament for Rotherham
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Latest crime statistics show the Government is not doing enough to prevent child sex abuse

Shadow Minister for Preventing Abuse & Domestic Violence Sarah Champion has criticised the Government after the latest set of crime statistics revealed significant year-on-year rises in sexual offences against children.

The figures released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) showed that recorded incidents of sexual grooming of children increased by 79 per cent year-on-year and of the 36 per cent rise in recorded sexual offences, 44 per cent were found to be against children.

Sarah recently launched Dare2Care after discovering the extent to which child abuse and sexual violence has permeated society. Dare2Care is a campaign that aims to prevent child abuse and the normalisation of violence in young people's relationships by equipping them with the tools to protect themselves.

Sarah said: *"The approach which the Government is taking clearly isn't working. Rather than just dealing with the crime once it has occurred, they need to deal with the root causes. Dare2Care does just that by aiming to prevent child abuse and violence in young people's relationships."*

Dare2Care provides a website with signposted resources and support for young people, parents and professionals so that everyone is able to spot the signs of abuse and places comprehensive support in one easily accessible place. The Dare2Care website contains blogs and case studies from specialist charities, experts and young people that can be used to inform and educate.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

Statistical breakdown of offences - Trends in Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) crime experienced by adults and children aged 10-15 and Home Office police recorded crime <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3A77-401866>

Crime statistics statistical bulletin http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_430813.pdf

¹Average increase across last year is 79 per cent

Dare2Care website: www.dare2care.org.uk Twitter: [@Dare2Careuk](https://twitter.com/Dare2Careuk)