



8 May 2019

Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Our Ref: SC7065

Dear Sajid,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the APPG on Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse.

Over the last six months, the APPG has been running an inquiry into the experiences of survivors in accessing support services and the criminal justice system. Data was gathered in various ways: a survey of 365 survivors; direct testimony from 12 survivors in Parliament; evidence from the sector including the Victims Commissioner, The Survivors Trust, NHS, and Victim Support; written evidence from survivors, academics and specialist third sector organisations.

The data we have collated has been drafted into three reports to be released through 2019. On Tuesday 7 May we launched the first report, which looks at the quality and availability of information and support for survivors. I have enclosed a copy of the report along with this letter.

I am writing to you specifically regarding the recommendations that I believe falls within the purview of the Home Office while recognising it is a cross-departmental response that is required to improve outcomes for survivors.

An economic and social cost analysis of child sexual abuse.

- The Home Office should commission and publish research on the economic and social costs of child sexual abuse.
- Such research should mirror Professor Sylvia Walby's methodology and assess the costs to the economy of lost economic output, expenditure on public services, and the human and emotional costs of child sexual abuse.
- Research should attempt to understand the financial impact on the individual. This will highlight the severity of child sexual abuse, recognising the duty for Government to act is a fiscal one as well as a moral one.

Guidance and training to frontline professionals to practice in trauma-informed way.

- Government departments should issue guidance to frontline professionals on how to respond in a trauma-informed way, developed in collaboration with specialist sexual violence and abuse voluntary sector umbrella agencies.

Sarah Champion

Member of Parliament for Rotherham

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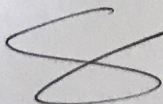
- The Strategic direction for sexual assault and abuse services (SAAS) Partnership Board, comprising representatives from the Department of Health and Social Care, the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice, NHS England, Public Health England and specialist sexual violence and abuse support services (SSVSS), should be mandated to develop guidelines and levels of accountability to support commissioning and delivery of specialist sexual violence and abuse support services.

A nationwide public health campaign.

- The Government should fund a nationwide public health campaign to raise awareness of the issues around childhood sexual abuse, highlight the potential impact on survivors, tackle social myths and stereotypes about sexual abuse and direct survivors and professionals to sources of support and information.
- The Government should provide and promote a one-stop-shop website where survivors can access information about the impact of abuse and be able to locate relevant services in their area. www.victimandwitnessinformation.org.uk should be reimagined as the first port of call for survivors independently trying to access information and should be co-designed with SSVSS to ensure survivors' priorities are reflected in the design.
- The website should be widely publicised so that frontline professionals such as GPs can direct survivors to the site, wherever they are based in the country, in the knowledge they can locate local services from there.
- The website should enable survivors to locate up-to-date information about local SSVSS, health and police services by typing in their postcode. The website should therefore integrate information with Police and Crime Commissioners' websites, as well as SSVSS locators, like The Survivors Trust's listings.
- Government should commission research into whether BAME, LGBT and disabled survivors have difficulty in accessing services and seek to address any shortfall.

I would welcome a response from your Department regarding the recommendations and would be pleased to discuss further with you at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Champion MP.

Chair of the APPG on Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse.