

# **No Whispers CIC Social Value Report 2024**



# Background & Context

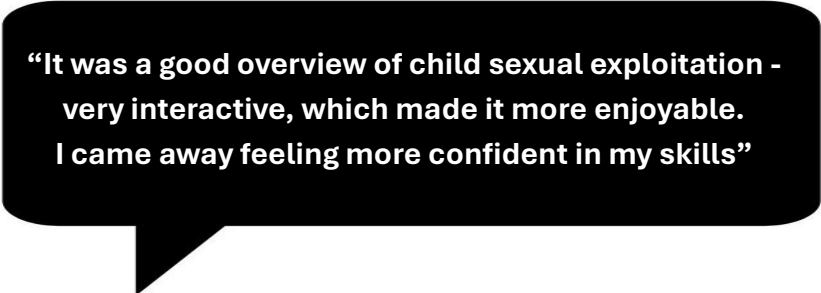
**No Whispers (CIC)** was established by **Karen Livesey** on 28th February 2020 with the aim of tackling the issue of child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation. The occurrence of Covid had a significant effect on the company and prevented action for the first couple of years. However, with determination, committed Directors and an unwavering belief in the value and impact of this work, the company progressed and created training, projects and campaigns.

We know not everyone is comfortable tackling the often-taboo subject of child sexual exploitation but this alongside the issue of child criminal exploitation needs to be addressed and understood by everyone. The Government's Tackling child sexual abuse strategy (Feb 2021) calls for everyone to play their part, ***"across every part of Government, across all agencies, all sectors, charities, communities, technology companies and society more widely"***. <https://rb.gy/l2ihrr>

Child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation are sensitive and difficult subjects to talk about, but we need to face the hard facts of reality that thousands and thousands of children and young people across the UK are victims of exploitation and abuse. For the first time a report from the Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme from the National Police Chief's Council, Jan 2024, sets out a detailed picture of child sexual abuse and exploitation and as reported to the police, including crimes within the family, group-based, children offending other children and online abuse. VKPP Report on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Crimes.

The Internet Watch Foundation data revealed 2024 as the worst year on record for online child sexual abuse imagery with an 830% increase since 2014. <https://rb.gy/ir0wvp>

No Whispers CIC create positive learning experiences that are informative, interactive and impactful with a trauma informed approach and always responsive to the needs and issues of participants. We aim to educate and empower professionals, volunteers, parents and carers to prevent children and young people from becoming victims of exploitation and abuse.



**"It was a good overview of child sexual exploitation - very interactive, which made it more enjoyable. I came away feeling more confident in my skills"**

# Core Values

Empowerment

Compassion

Community focused

Advocacy for change

The Independent Inquiry into Child sexual abuse (2022) identified the importance of adults recognising early signs of grooming and the need for a diverse range of organisations and agencies to undertake effective training and be able to confidently respond to the voice of the child. One young person stated, ***“all I needed was for one person to act.”*** <https://rb.gy/07k8ji>

Feb 2025 the Crime and Policing Bill has been presented to Parliament and includes updating the legislation around child sexual abuse material and creating new offences of cuckooing and child criminal exploitation. This is excellent news and will significantly contribute towards the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/crime-and-policing-bill-2025>

***“No Whispers work is quite distinct, unique and powerful working innovatively and relentlessly to raise awareness, create resources and train people to understand child sexual exploitation, county lines and more. Karen creates incredibly compassionate services, networks and events to reach the parts that others can’t with children, young people adults and professionals alike”***

Nickala Torkington MD Flourish Together CIC

This year we have been awarded a National Lottery Community Fund, a grant from the Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund and Seedfunding from Flourish Together CIC. We have had the privilege of working in association with Reachout ASC, Churches Together in Lancashire and the University of Lancashire to develop new pieces of training. No Whispers CIC has become a member of The CPD Certification Service and has created a new Child sexual exploitation awareness training CPD course.

We are also delighted to welcome Russell Hogarth, an Ambassador from the University of Lancashire, as our new Patron and we are always appreciative of the guidance & advice offered by Nickala Torkington, the business leader & Managing Director of Flourish Together CIC.

# Activities & Impact

No Whispers CIC deliver educational training, workshops, presentations and resources that are informative, interactive and impactful. We want adults to gain knowledge, understanding and awareness of issues related to child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation with an aim to educate and empower professionals, volunteers, parents and carers and anyone working within communities to prevent children and young people from becoming victims of exploitation and abuse.

## Training

In response to a bespoke request from **Reachout ASC**, Autism consultants, we created a Child sexual exploitation and Autism training day which has since been delivered three times. Many thanks to Larua McCann for co-training with us.

***“A huge thank you for one of the BEST CPD sessions ever”***

Designated Safeguarding Lead,  
Penwortham Priory Academy

Several accredited CPD courses in Child sexual exploitation awareness were delivered to social work students from the **University of Lancashire**. The course was also open to the public and delivered to professionals and volunteers from diverse backgrounds.

***“the training provided brilliant information which will directly support my new role in social work”***

***“all professionals working with children & young people should have this training”***

In partnership with **Churches Together in Lancashire** a training day was created entitled Child sexual abuse in religious organisations and was delivered to ecumenical safeguarding leads from the Northwest.

***“Churches Together in Lancashire is immensely grateful to No Whispers CIC for enabling this journey of collaboration to begin. Only in this way can we be sure that our places of worship really are the safe places that we all desire them to be”***

Rev Anton Muller



A Child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation and safeguarding training day was delivered to **Reside with Progress, part of Progress Housing** which included the four kinds of cuckooing & contextual safeguarding.

***“A really good overview and dates back to the core function of organisations”***

***“Informative and engaging. Cuckooing and legislation were good”***

**Tottenham Hotspur FA** received online training in Child sexual exploitation, which was delivered to Foundations Safeguarding Manager, Youth Employment & Skills Manager, Head of Academy Operations & Administration, Community Communications & Youth Voice, Sports Physiotherapist, Youth Employment & Skills Manager and Health & Wellbeing Lead.

***“A massive thank you for delivering the impactful and insightful training on CSE. This subject can be hard hitting but Karen did an amazing job in delivering her incredible knowledge in a way to suit all areas of the Club. Thank you”***

Leisha Harrell – Health & Wellbeing Lead

## **Friends of No Whispers Community Interest Company**

The Friends of No Whispers CIC evening took place twice at OneCoWork, which is a new venue that enabled people to share lived experiences in a safe and supportive space alongside Trust House Lancashire. At the University of Lancashire’s Authenticity to Action Conference one woman volunteered to work with No Whispers and co-present the validation, significance and impact of shared lived experiences.

Helen Bingley OBE, JP High Sheriff of Lancashire, remarked, “I was deeply moved listening to the stories shared by some very brave people with lived experience, and I was able to network with lots of people who are so passionate about this work. Thank you, No Whispers CIC for all you are doing. Keep doing what you are doing: your work is amazing”.



Members of No Whispers CIC, Andy Briarcliffe, Russell Hogarth, Ambassador at the University of Lancashire & Patron of No Whispers, Sarifa Kabir, the High Sheriff of Lancashire, Helen Bingley JP, Karen Livesey, Jackie Williams & Alison Malcolm



## Awareness & fundraising

This year was our third birthday, and we celebrated at Lancashire Football Association with guest speakers including HM Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire Mrs. Amanda Parker, the Mayor of South Ribble Cllr Chris Lomax, University of Lancashire Senior lecturer Jenny Foster, Director from Let's Grow Preston, Annie Wynn and Ofsted Inspector Cole Andrew. The event was a busy, informative and connected evening with stalls and networking activity, presentations, guest speakers, fundraising raffles & birthday cake.



Birthday cake created by Cath Rowe



Jackie Williams, HR Lord Lieutenant, Megan Harper-Bates & Karen Livesey



***“I was delighted to attend the No Whispers anniversary celebration. The training that No Whispers provides helps organisations recognise the signs of exploitation and provides vital information in the fight against Child exploitation and associated crimes. It was marvelous to see so many people and local businesses represented”***

HM Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire, Mrs. Amanda Parker JP

## Presentations

Child exploitation awareness presentations were given at Lancashire County Council Improvement Service day, Business breakfast networking group, Preston Community Network, Autism Partnership Board, Churches Together in Lancashire, Learning & Disability Partnership Board, Northern skills network, Greater Manchester police exploitation operation group, South Ribble Heads/Principles network meeting and the Inspiring Woman Award. At the No Whispers Birthday event we provided input to raise awareness regarding the National Child exploitation awareness day.



## Safeguarding zine

In association with the National charity Missing People, we created a zine to include Safecall, a confidential helpline for young people worried about or involved in county lines. The helpline is available from 9.00 a.m. – 11.00 p.m. 7 days a week and is supported by skilled staff who understand the issues and complexities of county lines and child exploitation. We also included Young Minds (mental health) Childline (for any issue) and Fearless (a young person's equivalent to Crimestoppers).



Copies of the zine ready to be 6 x folded

Pro vision World Ltd gave us the opportunity to show a 60-second awareness raising film at the Royal Preston Hospital in association with Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. The film was installed in Dec 2024 and is shown on 70" digital screens in the main A & E waiting room, Under 18's A & E waiting room and in Urgent care waiting room. The film will continue to be seen throughout 2025 with copies of the zine available in all waiting rooms.

## Key areas of impact:

- Increased education, understanding & knowledge about child exploitation
- Identify signs of grooming to prevent exploitation & abuse
- Increased confidence in understanding your safeguarding role
- Increased understanding of reporting exploitation & abuse
- Increased resources & strategies to empower adults, children & young people
- Increased understanding of the importance of language & victim blaming
- Upskilling & empowerment of diverse communities
- Refer and signpost people to appropriate support & advice services
- Increased understanding of contextual safeguarding
- Increased distribution of Safeguarding zine and Safecall county lines helpline
- Reduction in child sexual and child criminal exploitation and abuse

## Awards, Funding & Accreditations

- **Inspiring Women Award**
- University of Lancashire Propeller Enterprise Award
- **National Lottery Community Fund**
- Member of LANPAC (Lancashire Police and Crime)
- **Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund**
- Member of PACE, Parents Against Child Exploitation now known as Ivison
- **Member of CPD Certification Service**
- Member of PLASP (Pan Lancashire Anti- Slavery Partnership)
- **Member of Association of Child Protection Professionals**



Jacqueline Hughes-Lundy Awards Founder presenting Karen Livesey with an **Inspiring Women Award** in the Community category, 'recognising women whose contribution to society make a substantial difference to the lives of others'



# No Whispers

## Community Interest Company

### 2024 A YEAR IN NUMBERS

#### **1,074** TRAINING ATTENDEES

People who have attended training and presentations in child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation, county lines, modern slavery, mandatory reporting of sexual abuse and contextual safeguarding.

#### **3** ACCREDITED TRAINING COURSES

In association with the University of Lancashire we delivered Child sexual exploitation awareness training Accredited CPD Courses.

#### **211** ATTENDEES AT TRAINING

Always with a child centered focus different training courses in child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation & county lines, sexual health, child sexual abuse in religious organisations, child sexual exploitation & autism and child sexual exploitation in sport have been delivered to a diverse range of people including professionals, volunteers, members of the clergy, parents & carers.

#### **58** ATTENDEES AT FRIENDS OF No

Whispers CIC EVENTS

Enabling shared lived experiences in an empowering & supportive safe space.

#### **56** ATTENDEES AT THE BIRTHDAY EVENT

A diverse mix of people attended our third birthday event with networking, stalls, resources, presentations, guest speakers, canapes & birthday cake.

#### **1,441** ATTENDEES AT SHOWCASE EVENTS

Our community engagement stalls offer resources, information, education, advice & referrals and include, the Royal Lancashire Show, Preston Pride, World Mental Health awareness day, World Suicide prevention day, VCFSE event, Disability information day, Encounter Lancashire, and the University of Lancashire's Health Mela.

#### **68** REFERRALS & SIGN POSTING

We helped people get support, counselling & advice regarding sexual abuse, modern slavery, trauma, and mental health.

#### **40** CROSS SECTOR AGENCIES ENGAGED

Including University of Lancashire, Police, Borough Council, Charities, private sector, Schools & Academies, Churches Together in Lancashire, Football associations, Pan Lancashire Anti- slavery partnership, Voluntary & community groups, Housing associations, Solicitors, the Royal Preston Hospital & Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

#### **6** NATIONAL & REGIONAL CONFERENCES

Delivered presentations for EDUK Safeguarding & County lines (x2), EDUK Child sexual exploitation, University of Lancashire, HealthCare UK & Mothers against Violence Conference.

#### **3,200** SAFEGUARDING ZINES DISTRIBUTED

In association with the National charity Missing People, we created a zine to include Safecall, a confidential helpline for young people worried about or involved in county lines. Also, Young Minds (mental health) Childline (for any issue) and Fearless (a young person's equivalent to Crimestoppers).

#### **6,108** TOTAL PEOPLE SUPPORTED

# Testimonials & Logos

***“No Whispers CIC addresses the hard but important issue of child sexual exploitation (CSE), reaching out into the community not only to help raise awareness of the issue but to provide taboo-busting education for volunteers and social organisations to maximise the chances of CSE being spotted and/or prevented. Presentations and talks are very striking, and I am certain they make a very real and positive difference in enabling those most likely to encounter CSE to find and counter it.”***

Councillor and previous Mayor of Preston Neil Darby

***“Training allows opportunities for discussion, individual support, advice and signposting and to deliver on such a challenging and often taboo subject takes a huge amount of personal courage, determination and passion.***

***Although we may never see or hear about them, there are children across Lancashire and further afield who have not been groomed or abused because a professional or volunteer has attended No Whispers training and has taken appropriate steps to protect the child and/or disrupt the exploitation.”***

Ruth Packwood, Trainer with Hope for Justice

***“Training allows opportunities for discussion, individual support, advice and signposting and to deliver on such a challenging and often taboo subject takes a huge amount of personal courage, determination and passion.***

***When my little brother was awaiting his trial to start, I brought him along to a workshop I had organised, delivered by my good friend Karen Livesey from No Whispers CIC.***

***That evening he learnt from Karen what the word cuckooing meant. He was blown away there was a word for it, he was shocked that it left a lasting impact on those being exploited and what hit him harder – he shared with me had done it as recently as 5 months before this discussion. On paper (his identity to the police and community) he was a 17-year-old drug dealer, gang member, making thousands of pounds per week, ruining lives, destroying the community.***

***The reality was he didn’t understand his personal impact. He did more self-reflection being given a new word to his vocabulary than he had done in 5 years of criminal activity and constant negative enforcement.”***

Tasha Cowperthwaite, Project manager, Criminal Justice Alliance



## Churches Together in Lancashire and network partner No Whispers CIC

Since attending the birthday celebrations last year Churches Together in Lancashire has enjoyed working closely with No Whispers CIC. We were joined again by Karen and members of her team at the Royal Lancashire Show.

In November we joined together again to tackle the area of Child Sexual Abuse in Religious Organisations. The recent toppling of those at the very top of the Church of England will not have escaped your notice.

This event took place at Whalley Abbey. Karen brought together all her energy, skills and knowledge to work with this group of professional safeguarding leads across all the Christian denominations in Lancashire.

Although each of the denominations have robust safeguarding policies and training programmes in place this was the first opportunity to engage together to consider the painful and distressing issue of Child Sexual Abuse in religious organisations. Karen's skill as a presenter, teacher and facilitator was key to enabling this diverse group of safeguarding leads to work together as one, to challenge their own and each other's assumptions, to recognise the need for open communication and co-operation between each of the traditions at all times.

Churches Together in Lancashire is immensely grateful to Karen Livesey and No Whispers CIC for enabling this journey of collaboration to begin. Only in this way can we be sure that our places of worship really are the safe places that we desire them to be.

After careful scrutiny of each other's policies and procedures the group expressed the need to establish a much more uniform and collaborative /ecumenical approach to safeguarding processes.

Thank you, Karen and No Whispers CIC.  
We look forward to much fruitful collaboration in 2025 & beyond.

The Revd Anton Müller MA  
County Ecumenical Officer  
Churches Together in Lancashire  
14th March 2025



Denominational Leads for safeguarding at Whalley



Royal Lancashire Show 2024  
Church Tent Team



The Bishop of Blackburn The  
Rt Revd Philip North



The Mayor of Hyndburn Cllr  
Mike Booth

# Case Studies

**Y works for a local agency which supports young people & adults affected by domestic abuse**

Her core role is as a 'Healthy Relationships Practitioner' working with schools, colleges, care homes and the wider community. She came across the work of No Whispers in 2022 whilst on training to learn more about Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), at that time she was working in a children's care home where CSE was prevalent.

*"Earlier in my career I had struggled with the level and detail of disclosures I was coming across and had limited access to support or supervision. Prior training I received didn't prepare me for the role I was in. However attending the No Whispers training highlighting Child Sexual Exploitation of both boys and girls, men and women, was really powerful, helped me clarify my role and responsibilities. The conversations I had with other professionals during the training and subsequent events I have been part of, were really affirming, building my knowledge, confidence and access to resources and up to date information. I am much more able to spot the signs, aware of language to pick up on and have since cascaded the learning to other colleagues & the wider team."*

Y has become part of the Friends of No Whispers and has since shared experiences of her role, support services available through the organisation she works for, plus highlighted innovative preventative work she is doing with children and young people. She has powerfully shared her own experiences at No Whispers events, of being a victim of sexual violence as a teenager highlighting the stigma she has experienced and has inspired others her bravery, insight and straight talking – acting as an ambassador to raise awareness and reduce stigma.



# Case Studies cont.

**S works for Trust House Lancashire which is a leading provider of specialist support services for survivors of rape and sexual abuse in Lancashire**

The organisation has been a collaborative partner of No Whispers for some time hosting training, meetings and events and members of the team have benefitted from signposting to wider events, support and assistance from Karen as a sounding board. Trust House have also been able to support people referred across from No Whispers for specialist support and information.

*“I’ve been to a couple of events now and always find them informative with lots of different people able to give insights and perspectives. The human connection and hearing what people have been through gives others a safe space and the confidence to open up about their own experiences. The events give me confidence to talk to people I wouldn’t otherwise and the style of events promotes a different level of conversation.”*

**S** has since attended a range of wider events and accesses broader contacts and networks as a result of No Whispers support and the organisation are planning to further training with No Whispers in future.

# Case Studies cont.

**J works for Lancashire Women who offer a trauma informed approach to support women across a range of areas spanning health and wellbeing, careers support and wider welfare issues, often supporting those with complex unmet needs**

She has attended a range of events over the last 18 months and accessed No Whispers training at the start of 2024 which has helped her both personally and professionally.

***"I can't thank Karen and the No Whispers team enough. The events and training have been reassuring and powerful experiences and were the first time I had heard people talk so openly about such taboo issues, which resonate with me. The openness and safe space they create is so important – I feel like I have had a weight lifted to know I am not on my own. I know being part of No Whispers has made a massive impact of my life as I feel supported, safe and heard. Plus coming into contact with them has altered my own life path and studies."***

J is now volunteering at wider No Whispers events and showcasing activities to raise profile and awareness of their work and is benefiting from reaching out to others to help sign post them to wider support and training. Plus she is completing a degree in counselling studies and has shaped her studies to benefit those affected by Child Sexual Exploitation as a result of the contact with No Whispers.

# Further reading & useful information

## **Language matters. Barnardo's**

[https://cms.barnardos.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-04/Language\\_Matters\\_2022\\_review.pdf](https://cms.barnardos.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-04/Language_Matters_2022_review.pdf)

## **Appropriate language in relation to child exploitation. The Children's Society. 2022**

[https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-01/Child\\_Exploitation%20Appropriate\\_Language\\_Guide%202022.pdf](https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-01/Child_Exploitation%20Appropriate_Language_Guide%202022.pdf)

## **National review into child sexual abuse within the family environment**

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Nov 2024

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-review-into-child-sexual-abuse-within-the-family-environment>

## **Child sexual exploitation faith guidance NWG Dec 2024**

<https://nwgnetwork.org/thanks-and-call-for-support-faith-animation-launch/>

## **Tackling child sexual abuse strategy 2012**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/605c82328fa8f545dca2c643/Tackling\\_Child\\_Sexual\\_Abuse\\_Strategy\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/605c82328fa8f545dca2c643/Tackling_Child_Sexual_Abuse_Strategy_2021.pdf)

## **Child exploitation disruption toolkit 2022**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/63106669e90e076ebfb7f419/Child\\_Exploitation\\_Disruption\\_Toolkit\\_082022.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/63106669e90e076ebfb7f419/Child_Exploitation_Disruption_Toolkit_082022.pdf)

## **Communicating with children**

A guide for education professionals where there are concerns about sexual abuse or behaviour.

<https://www.csacentre.org.uk/app/uploads/2023/09/Communicating-with-children-education.pdf>

## **Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults. County lines Oct 2023**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines>

# Helpful contacts, advice & resources

**Barnardo's** [www.barnardos.org.uk](http://www.barnardos.org.uk)

**The Children's Society** [www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk) ChildLine 0800 11 1

**Ivison (formerly known as PACE)** – Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation  
[www.ivisiontrust.org.uk](http://www.ivisiontrust.org.uk)

**NSPCC** [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk) Child Protection Helpline 0808 800 5000

**CEOP** Child exploitation online protection. [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk) & [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

**Seen and heard** [www.seenandheard.org.uk](http://www.seenandheard.org.uk)

**Contextual Safeguarding** [www.contextualsafeguarding.gov.uk](http://www.contextualsafeguarding.gov.uk)

**Child net** [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)

**NNECA** National Network to End Child Abuse [www.nneca.org.uk](http://www.nneca.org.uk)

**NWG** Networking group for information and free downloadable resources  
[www.nwgnetwork.org/say-something](http://www.nwgnetwork.org/say-something)

**Fearless** <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless>

Non-judgemental information and advice about crime and criminality

**Resources to help identify & engage young people at risk of sexual abuse & exploitation**  
<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/resources-help-identify-and-engage-young-people-risk-sexual-abuse-and-exploitation>

## No Whispers CIC logo

Many thanks to **Lewis Rowe** who designed the **No Whispers CIC** logo. While the logo includes one depiction of a child, it is important to remember that **any** child regardless of age, sex, disability or ability, race, culture, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or geographical location can be vulnerable to child exploitation and abuse.



For further details, please contact [info@no-whispers.co.uk](mailto:info@no-whispers.co.uk)  
or visit our website [www.no-whispers.co.uk](http://www.no-whispers.co.uk)

