

**Freedom of Information Act 2000**

**The Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust Response to Information request**

**Date Request Received: 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**FOI Ref No 28809**

**Requested Information:**

1. The number of referrals made by your NHS Trust to other authorities - such as the police or social services - when there was a suspicion that a child is a victim of exploitation (sexual, criminal, gang-based grooming) for the years 2010 (or earliest available year of data) - 2024 inclusive.
2. The number of risks assessments conducted on children where there was concern that they had been the victim of child sexual exploitation (using the same timeframe as above).
3. Details of your NHS Trusts' CSE safeguarding arrangements, including work in multi-agency partnerships.
4. The number of staff employed by your NHS Trust who have received training on CSE.

**Response:**

**1. Referral Breakdown between the years 2019 – 2024**

- Multiagency Referral Unit: **64**
- Police Portal Information Sharing: **17**
- Sexual Assault Referral Centre: **3**
- Wise Up for Young People Services: **10**
- Missing and Child Exploitation Panel: **16**
- Sexual Health: **3**

Please note that this data does not capture all referrals made—only those that were shared with the safeguarding team. Additionally, referrals related to missing children and child exploitation are often included within broader multi-agency referrals.

Please note that data is only available from 2019 onward, due to limitations in the data collection processes prior to that time.

2. Risk assessments are managed by our multi-agency partners and, as such, are not uploaded to the Royal Cornwall Hospital NHS systems or stored within our internal databases.

3. The Safeguarding Team at the Royal Cornwall Hospital NHS Trust actively participates in the Safeguarding Partnership Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) Task and Finish Group. As part of this commitment, the Trust is implementing the Centre of Expertise's Child Sexual Abuse Response Pathway. The group is also working to embed the recommendations from the national CSA review, "I Wanted Them to Notice," into everyday practice.

Safeguarding training across the Trust includes both teaching and group work, equipping practitioners to recognise and respond to signs of abuse in both children and adults. This training is mandatory for all staff in patient-facing roles.

The safeguarding team maintains regular engagement with health representatives in the Multi-Agency Referral Unit (MARU) to ensure referrals are appropriately managed. The team also monitors and reports on MARU referrals made by Trust staff.

Safeguarding supervision is embedded in practice, supported by a policy requiring staff to attend supervision every 12 weeks. This process strengthens child protection efforts. Additionally, the Trust offers 'Think Family' safeguarding training, promoting an all-age safeguarding approach and ensuring children are considered in complex cases.

Trust practitioners attend multi-agency strategy meetings and contribute to joint safety planning as required, in line with the Southwest Child Protection Procedures.

The safeguarding team also maintains a strong working relationship with the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), ensuring their involvement in any case where sexual abuse is suspected.

A comprehensive Safeguarding Children Policy is in place to guide staff in responding to safeguarding concerns effectively



4. Between 2022 and 2025, a total of 1,492 staff members completed Level 3 Children's Safeguarding Training. However, there was no specific training on child sexual abuse identified within the local training system during this period.

**Date Response sent: 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025**