

Table of Contents

About The Green House	
The Size of the Challenge	3
CEO Gemma's Update	4
Young Person's Update	7
Our Vision, Our Mission & Our Values	9
Our 2024-2029 Strategy	11
Referrals	13
Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion	14
Our Services:	
Creative Arts Therapy	15
Nature Based Creative Therapy	17
Family Support	19
Young People's Voice	21
Parents' and Carers' Voice	22
Professional Consultation and Specialist Practice	23
Research	25
Thank You to Our Friends and Supporters	26
The Bluestar Project	27
Conversations We've Never Had	28
Beyond Therapy Festival	29
Hope and Healing For The Future	3

About The Green House

The Green House is a charity that provides specialist support for children, young people and families living in Avon and Somerset who have experienced sexual abuse.

We are a survivor-led organisation committed to ending the silence, stigma, and shame of child sexual abuse so that young people can build thriving relationships and communities.

We believe in meeting people where they are, and we strive to be honest, committed and authentic in all our actions.

We began our work in the 1980s as the Avon Sexual Abuse Centre, providing therapy for adult survivors of sexual abuse.

In 2010 we created a children's service to support families.

In 2019 we moved to St Agnes Lodge, our purpose-built therapy and family support centre in St Pauls, Bristol.

In January 2022 we decided to focus solely on supporting families so that children could have access to timely, specialist support services that were right for them. Later that year we launched a new Whole Family model of support that recognised the need for a collective healing journey.

In October 2024 we expanded our model, updating our referral pathways so that all areas of the service could be accessed independently of therapeutic support. This has been a key step in prioritising the choices of children and young people and widening access for everyone.

April 2024 to March 2025 We supported:

362 Children and Young People

244
Parents and
Carers

1.962
Professionals

"I'm blown away by what you do and how you're supporting us as a family. As a group of people, as a team, you make us feel so safe. I want to fundraise for TGH! I feel very, very fortunate that it exists. If we lived in a part of the country without access to TGH I don't know how we would have got through this or how we would get through it. It's extraordinary what you do. The fact that I can re-refer back, it's not one off, 'we're always here for you' to have that backstop, knowing there may be a need in the future is incredibly valuable, for my piece of mind."

Parent supported with one-to-one Family Support sessions

The Size of the Challenge

It's estimated that at least one in 10 children in England and Wales experience sexual abuse before the age of 16, and that 500,000 children are sexually abused each year. In the area we serve, the CSA Centre of Expertise estimates this is 14,540 children every year.

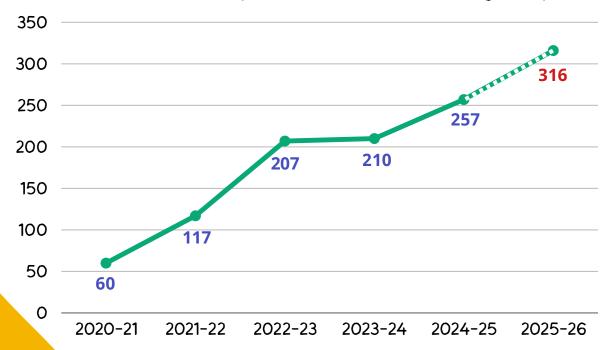
this new way of offering support brought the waiting time for our support down rapidly. The waiting list had peaked at a 2.9 year wait for support, but within 6 months our new model brought this down to just 4 weeks, an incredible feat.

Child sexual abuse remains underreported and hidden from view, but reported cases are rising. 2023/2024 saw the highest total number of offences recorded in over 10 years.

When we moved to our Whole Family Support Model in 2022, we were incredibly proud that

Since then, demand for our services has continued to grow; while in 2020-21 we received 60 referrals for children and young people, by 2024-25 this had quadrupled. Our research team have predicted that this trend will continue, and we expect it to rise by another 23% in 2025-26.

Referrals Accepted: Children and Young People



CEO Gemma's Update

I'm so proud of everything The Green House has achieved this year, together with young people, families and our community of partners and funders.

We've responded to rising demand with creativity and heart, knowing that every conversation can contribute to a child's healing journey. We've developed and expanded our whole family model, because healing happens in relationship, not in isolation. And we've begun to shape a future where young survivors voices and their families sit at the heart of local and national systems change.

Our 2024–2029 strategy, *End the Silence*, has clarified our vision. The silence surrounding child sexual abuse is one of its most enduring harms, and this year we've made more progress than ever in breaking it.

Through creative work with young people, research around CAMHS provision, and national

survivor-led projects like Upfront Survivors, we're changing the way society hears, understands and responds to sexual abuse.

Across the year, we delivered over 266 family support sessions, 2,229 individual therapy sessions, two Family Support parent groups, and supported 1962 professionals through liaisons, training and consultation.

We reached more children than ever through therapy services. Our growing nature-based therapy offer began as a pilot service around a fire circle two years ago, and has now become a core part of our practice, showing us that healing can happen in gardens, in woodland, in shared laughter and in quiet connection with nature.

Our VOICE project for children, young people and parents also continued evolving to offer creative spaces through our leadership programme, including filmmaking, peer support in nature, and co-produced parent and carer-led drop-ins.



Gemma Halliwell
CEO of The Green House



When asked what mattered most, young people and parents told us the same thing: "We want to feel understood. And we want to help others feel understood too." That commitment runs through this report, and through every decision we've made this year at the Green House.

At a national level, our Bluestar programme continued to shape how CSA is understood within the justice system and won a CYP Now Award for our training and accreditation programme.

We supported professionals across the UK to navigate family court processes, pre-trial therapy dilemmas, and safeguarding risks. We continued to use research and lived experience to inform policy including the Victim & Prisoners Bill.

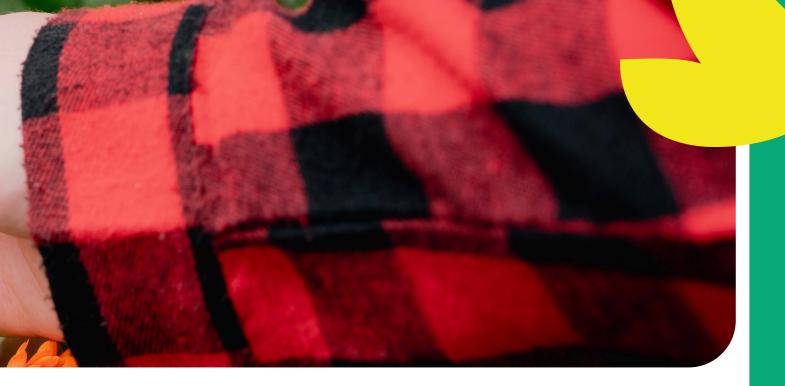
We mapped provision of CSA support in CAMHS services, and

found that child sexual abuse remains under-identified, under-resourced and inconsistently supported - underlining the scale of the task ahead and our next strategic priority for 2025-26, the need for joined-up trauma-informed care across sectors.

Our largest ever Festival of Activism Against Child Sexual Abuse in March, designed by young people and their parents/carers, brought together over 300+ people to understand how we can improve access to mental health care for young CSA survivors.

All of this has taken place within a context of growing demand and complexity.

This year we received four times as many referrals as we did just four years ago, and we know that trend will continue.



Yet we remain committed to never compromising on safety, creativity or the quality of relationships with our families, partners and funders.

We believe it's not just about offering more support - it's about offering the right support, in ways that truly meet families and practitioners where they are.

This year, that's included a renewed focus on inclusion, equity and belonging. Through our POW group, staff across the organisation have begun exploring our own practice - asking hard questions, listening deeply, and committing to building a service that is not only trauma-informed but anti-oppressive and accessible to all.

To our beautiful staff team, trustees, partners, funders, and -most of all - the children, young people and families who trust us with their stories: **thank you**.

Your courage creates hope for change.

As we look to the year ahead, our focus remains clear.

We will keep listening.

We will keep growing creatively.

And we will keep working toward a world where no child faces sexual abuse alone and in silence.

Cernafalluell

Gemma Halliwell

CEO of The Green House

Young Person's Update

Young people and their families sit at the heart of The Green House, and through our Voice programme they steer our work and shape their whole community so that they and other young people can have better support and services. One of the young people who took part in our Voice programme shared her highlights from 2024-25.

fai

Lorr

Short Film making

"In this group, we discussed films we wanted to make. I created something I am proud of, turning my complex feelings from a terrible part of my life into something positive that mirrored how I felt. I was able to use it as an explanation, putting myself out there and expressing what had happened to me, into a form of art.

I am truly proud of my film and appreciate that amazing chance to put my voice and experience into something I can show boldly. My film was shown at the Beyond Therapy Festival, a place for my voice to be heard by an audience."

Festival Planning and Panel

"As part of the Beyond Therapy Shapers group, we had online meetings to decide which panels and workshops to have, and helped with other important parts of the festival. This made my voice feel appreciated and heard. Our impact on the day showed me that our value had been applied into something we could physically see and experience. Many young people were on panels and in workshops, putting themselves in the spotlight to be listened to. My Voice work panel helped me preach about the importance of young people having a space for voice and seeing their impact."

ice Work: Young survivors and their milies leading systems change for tter healing journeys

na O'Doherty (Coventry University)
e (The Green House Parent VOICE group)
leline (Beyond Therapy Shapers Group)

Scan QR code to ask a question anonymously



School Leaflet and Presentation

"The school leaflet, comprised of quotes from young people and parents/guardians, advised schools on what to do when sexual violence occurs to someone in their care. Schools can often get it wrong, and in my situation they truly neglected me, so it gave me solace to know that my bad experience would hopefully improve another's.

We presented the leaflet to safeguarding leads in all schools in North Somerset and Bristol, recording a video explaining its importance and how to use it. I used my voice to speak to safeguarding leads with a real impact for young people. It comforted me to know my passion and my voice, fuelled by my neglect, would influence positive change."

The Future

"I hope young people's voices are more highly regarded and used in areas/services that benefit young people. Projects like the ones in the Green House help to see the value in young voices with experience and useful ideas, producing impactful results."



To offer safety, hope, and healing for children, young people, and families who have experienced child sexual abuse.

Cur Mission

To end the social silence, stigma, and shame of child sexual abuse so that children, young people, and families can build thriving relationships and communities.

Our Values

We have HOPE

We believe it's possible to grow beyond traumatic experiences. Our hope for change recognises the strengths and agency of the children, young people and families we support.

We foster CONNECTION

Our commitment lies in nurturing safe and trusting relationships that form the core of healing for both individuals and communities.

We embrace CREATIVITY

We have faith in the ability of creativity to facilitate healing and change the way our society supports children and families affected by sexual abuse.

We are GENUINE

We believe in meeting people where they are, and we strive to be honest, committed and authentic in all our actions.

We take ACTION

We stand with children, young people and families to create the change they want to see.

Our 2024-2029 Strategy

This year, we launched our new five-year strategy: *End the Silence*. It sets out a clear and creative vision: one where child sexual abuse is no longer hidden, misunderstood, or minimised, and where young survivors are met with safety, support, and justice at every level of society.

The silence surrounding child sexual abuse continues to isolate, disempower, and creates systemic barriers to healing. This strategy is our commitment to confronting that silence in all its forms: in families, in services, and across public systems.

We want a world where children and young people can disclose safely, where caregivers are believed and supported, and where professionals are confident in their responses.

Co-produced with young survivors, families, and professionals, *End the Silence* is rooted in our ecological model of care. It recognises that healing does not happen in isolation – it can only happen in relationship, across individual, family, systems, community and societal layers.

That's why this strategy doesn't just focus on what we do clinically, but how we influence systems, shift narratives, and centre equity in everything we do.







We have set out four strategic priorities:

1. Offer safety, hope and healing

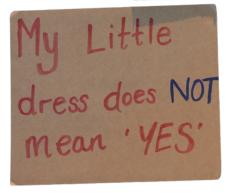
Expanding access to creative, inclusive therapeutic services and whole family support at a local level in Avon & Somerset.

2. Create supportive, connected systems

Working alongside professionals locally and nationally to strengthen practice, reduce retraumatisation, and improve coordination across sectors.



YOUR Story Matters





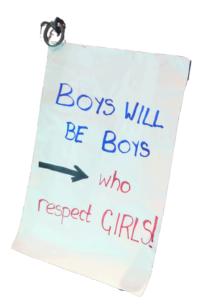
3. Write a new narrative

Using research, public engagement, and young survivor-led change-making to challenge stigma and break societal silence.

4. Look after our house

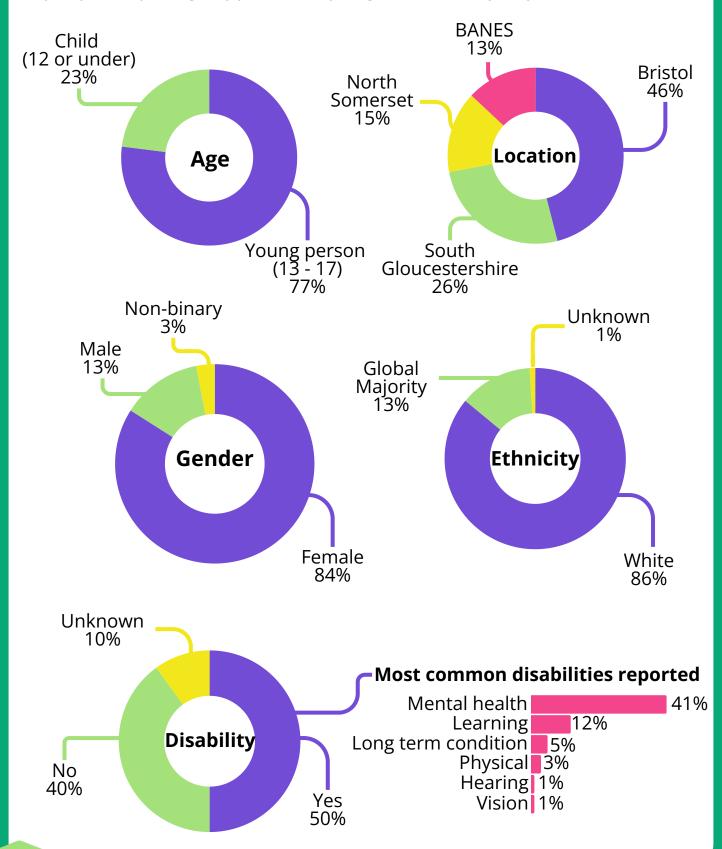
Investing in our people, structures, and culture so we remain sustainable, equitable, and trauma-informed.

End the Silence is a strategy built on belief: belief in young survivors, in systems that can change, and in the power of compassion to drive hope for change. Over the next five years, we will keep listening, keep building, and keep working toward a world where no child faces abuse in silence alone.



Referrals

The Green House received 261 referrals for children and young people requiring support, accepting the vast majority (91%).



Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

In September 2024, we asked staff and Trustees how we could push forward equality, equity, diversity and inclusion. The consultation led to exciting new initiatives aiming to build our understanding and take action to reach groups that are currently underrepresented or face additional barriers to accessing our services and create a culture where everyone feels they can belong.

The first initiative was to set up a working group of staff across the organisation, who are called the POW group. The POW group aims to promote equality, equity, diversity and inclusion, power, belonging and antioppressive practice (the name 'POW' is short for power).

"Personally, as my role is the Operations Administrator at the Green House, I've been thinking of ways to incorporate POW's ethos into my role. For example, I ordered some pronoun badges and the latest LGBTQIA+ flag in time for Pride Month. Similarly, I facilitated the organisation of having a permanent wheelchair ramp installed."

POW group member Osob

We've also been learning about aspects of marginalisation with monthly training from Representation Matters, including the experiences of people from global majority ethnicities, men and boys, people with disabilities or neurodivergence, and LGBT people including trans and non-binary people. The POW group and Senior Leadership Team have developed an Action Plan to continue widening access to our services.



Our new accessibility ramp. kindly funded by The Screwfix Foundation.

Creative Arts Therapy

Child sexual abuse can have a lasting impact on how children and young people navigate the way forward. This impact can be felt in their body, in their mental wellbeing, in their sense of self, in their relationships with others, and in their ability to take part in school, hobbies, or other opportunities that might help them learn, grow and thrive.

In 2024-25, 92% of children and young people accessing our therapy would have had a high likelihood of being diagnoses with PTSD because of the symptoms they were experiencing. By the end of therapy, this reduced by 30%.

We offer specialist creative arts therapy, making use of arts, play, nature, music or drama based on the interests of each child/young person.

We use creativity in therapy because the way that traumatic memories are stored in our brains and nervous system means that they can be very difficult and sometimes impossible to put into words. In practice, activities can range from creating collages, writing poetry, making slime or staging sandbox scenes with Lego.

"I felt very supported by [my therapist] and he has helped me get to a much stronger place with my mental health."

"I have felt listened to and accepted. [My therapist] has also offered me good tactics to cope with times I have found hard. I have never felt judged or dismissed by her and she has always made me feel safe."

"I enjoyed making art... The artwork I made is very important to me."

"I REALLY like the sand pit!!! It made expressing myself a little easier."

"A lot more casual and easy going than other therapy I have had. Really accommodating to all needs."



The Difference 1:1 Therapy Makes

167

children and young people in therapy 2.229

sessions of therapy delivered 86%

had reduced distress

70%

had better resilience and social skills 57%

had improved mental health 51%

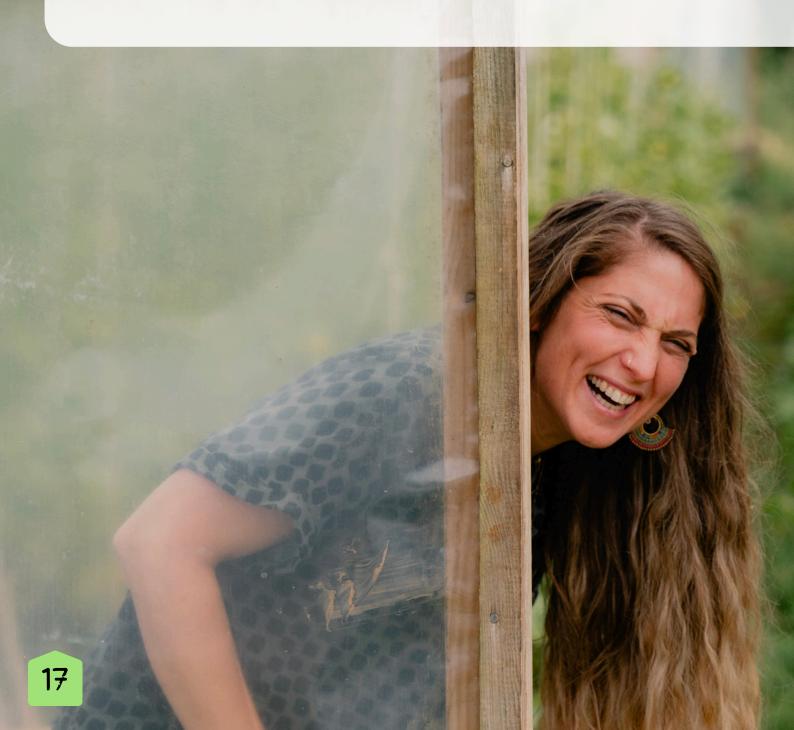
felt that their wellbeing had improved

Nature Based Creative Therapy

We are the only UK based CSA charity offering nature based therapy. We run two 12-week groups a year at Grow Wilder, where young people are invited to connect with themselves, with the natural world and with others. The group share hot chocolate round a fire and are supported to notice how natural

cycles of growth and retreat could help them make sense of their experiences. The group works with themes aligned to the 3 stage model of trauma recovery:

- 1. Safety and Stabilisation
- 2. Processing
- 3. Reintegration with the world.

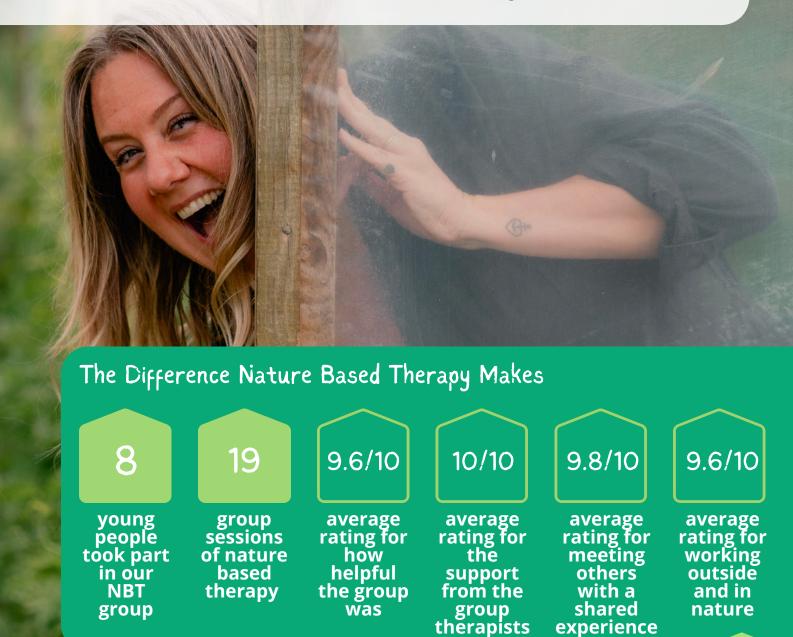


In March 2025, we started offering 1:1 nature based therapy at Grow Wilder, which means we can offer the benefits of nature to children who might prefer individual conversations to the group experience.

Feedback from the first children to take part in 1:1 nature based therapy has been great:

"It is so much easier to talk about difficult things when surrounded by nature."

"It feels better having therapy on the land as there is no stigma. We are just two people together in nature rather than being in a building that reminds me I have been sexually abused."





The Difference Family Support Makes

79

parents and carers had 1:1 Family Support sessions 266

1:1 sessions were held 10

parents and carers took part in the Parent Group 100%

felt they better understood trauma and its symptoms* 100%

agreed that it felt safe to talk about difficult things* 94%

felt that their support needs were recognised*

Family Support

Children and young people face a healing journey that will be lifelong for many. Parents and carers can be there in ways that professionals can't, and they are key to supporting children and young people to heal and recover after sexual abuse or sexual assault. Our Family Support Practitioners offer:

"[My support worker] was amazing, she's really helpful. She's made things a lot clearer, you look at things a new way, she has been amazing, she's given me that – another way of approaching it."

1:1 Family Support Sessions:

For parents/carers to learn more about trauma and the way it may be impacting their child, to build their own resilience and offer emotional support, and to receive support with advocacy, signposting and share useful resources.

Parent and Carer Psychoeducation Group:

Covering the impact of trauma on our brains and bodies, grounding and self-care, the impact on parents and carers, and myths about sexual abuse and trauma.

Family Connection Programme:

We hold Create and Connect Drop-Ins for whole families to attend and meet others, and Turn Up Tuesdays co-facilitated by our Parents Voice group. "What I valued the most was having the space to sit and discuss with someone else in the room. We were up against it – we both felt like we had been for a while now. Going into a room agreeing we were going to sit and talk about this for an hour.... holding the space.. was incredibly useful."

"Thank you for giving me my life back."

Young People's Voice

Many of the young people we work with have seen first-hand failings in systems that have let them down. Creating safety and promoting healing is the responsibility of our whole community, and young people's voices make powerful calls for change with creativity, flair and heart through our Voice programme.

We provide skills and opportunities for young people to change the conversations and services that impact young people like them, including ad hoc changemaking, the Beyond Therapy Festival. From September 2024, based on young people's feedback, we began offering 6 week creative leadership programmes.



The Difference Young People's Voice Makes

30 3 3 3 6 young young young young young young young people people people people people people people took part shaped the marched at consulted took part created joined in Voice short films in 'Your Beyond the 16 Days on the creative **Thérapy** Voice' of Activism Victim writing **Festival** outdoor Against Blaming workshops workshops **GBV** Bill

Parents' & Carers' VOICE

Parents and carers understand the experiences of families who need our services like no one else, and our Parents' and Carers' Voice members turn their experiences into lasting change to make services better for other families, from consulting on our strategy to creating resources to help other families navigate the way.

This year, the members created a podcast-style series of audio resources, now in the final stages of production, aimed at providing psychoeducation and information around trauma to parents and carers, who can hear how the theory applies to real life examples from the voices of the parents who took part.

Download guidance O評量证例



The Difference Parents' & Carer's Voice Makes

Scan here

36 19 5

parents & carers took part in Voice parents & carers attended Turn Up Tuesdays

parents & carers created an Audio

Resource

parents & carers joined monthly Voice groups

Parents and young people came together to produce this incredible Guidance For Schools to promote better support in education, which is being shared with over 400 local schools! Read it here

Professional Consultation & Specialist Practice

To reach the 14,540 children and young people in our area who are sexually abused every year, we need a community full of professionals with the understanding and confidence to support children and young people who may have been sexually abused.

We collaborate with professionals from the point when requests for support are made, and we continue working with them throughout and beyond young people's journeys with us.

Together with professionals and agencies across education, CAMHS, social care, health, criminal justice, housing and more, we promote the inclusion of choice and voice for each young person to get the support they need and want.

We also coordinate 'systemic working' with each young person's network to make sure support is joined-up.

Our work with professionals includes:

Multiagency Liaisons:

Advocacy for individual children and families.

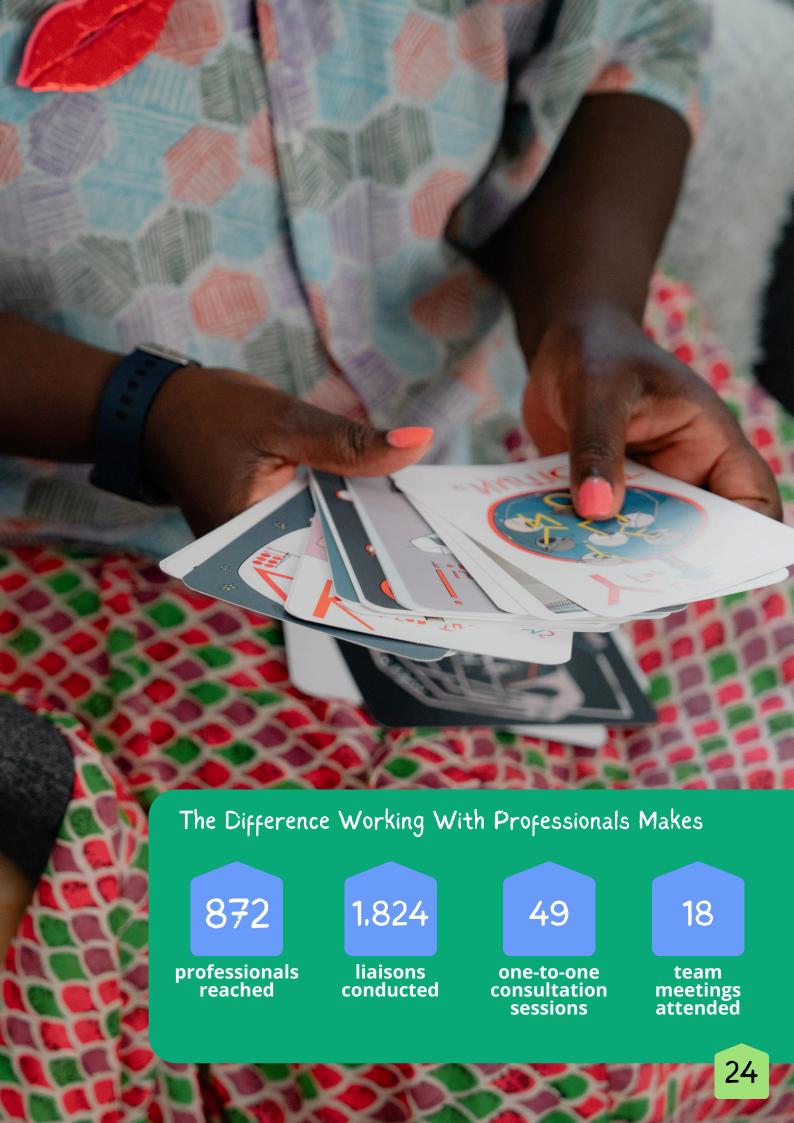
Consultations and Enquiries:

Upskilling professionals on trauma-informed support specific to sexual abuse, including relational skills.

Joining Team Meetings:

Promoting referrals and sharing key information about our services.

"This has been an invaluable service and the resources and knowledge I have received have been of great gain to my professional practise. It was lovely to feel so supported when navigating working with a student looking through a lens that is new to my work."
-Education professional



Research

In the last year, The Green House conducted research into what provision is available nationally within CAMHS services for children who have experienced sexual trauma.

There are no publicly available datasets outlining the forms of statutory support, referral criteria, waiting times or signposting opportunities, so our research team conducted a scoping exercise to map the different types of CAMHS services across England and Wales, with the intent of making the directory available to the affected families.

Of the 235 CAMHS services identified, only two services were identified publicly as having a sexual trauma service or pathway and only one with a harmful sexual behaviour service. The result of the investigation suggests that national statutory support for young survivors of child sexual abuse is unclear, inconsistent and in many cases a "postcode lottery".

If we couple this result with current evidences of extended waiting times and high rates of turning children away displayed by CAMHS, we conclude that many children with complex trauma-related needs are not receiving the timely and appropriate support they deserve.

Future Objectives

We are currently in the process of conducting a systematic literature review on male survivors of sexual abuse, focused on barriers encountered while seeking care and approaches of support that proved to be effective in such instances.

This is in line with the new CSA Centre Resource: Guide for Funding and Commissioning Child Sexual Abuse Services published in early 2025, which sets research into young male survivors' support needs/access to service as one of the key priorities.



Josh Research Manager
Giorgio Data Analyst

Thank you to our friends and supporters

Creating a community that can heal from the impact of child sexual abuse is a shared effort between young people, families, professionals, our brilliant team and the donors that fund us.

We'd like to take a moment to acknowledge the profound kindness of every organisation and individual who has chosen to stand side-by-side with us in this effort in 2024/25, and to share our heartfelt thanks.

With special thanks to:

Abbots Leigh Women's Institute Arts Council England BBC Children in Need **Better Foods Wapping Wharf Burges Salmon James Tudor Foundation** John James Bristol Foundation Lord Barnby's Foundation National Lottery Community Fund Pill Owls Community Choir Paul Hamlyn Foundation Portishead Nautical Trust **Quartet Community Foundation** Sir Isaac Newton Masonic Lodge St James's Place Foundation The Brook Trust The Leathersellers' Foundation The Masonic Charitable Foundation

The Nisbet Trust
The Rayne Foundation
The Spielman Charitable Trust
The Van Neste Foundation
Westfield Health
NHS England
Bristol City Council
Avon & Somerset Police and
Crime Commissioner
Ministry of Justice
Home Office

And all those who have supported our work in 2024/25, including those who prefer to remain anonymous.



Megan Head of Fundraising & Comms

Holly Trusts Fundraising Officer

26

The Bluestar Project 🔅 🖫



The Bluestar Pre-Trial Training Programme is a day-long course for professional agencies who support victims and families within the criminal justice system. It includes an overview of our national research (Keeping Secrets) and key principles from the CPS Pre-Trial Therapy Guidance, Topics include contracting, consent in the support process, note keeping and requests, and running groups.

In November 2024 The Bluestar Project was awarded The Workforce Development Award by the Children & Young People Now Awards

Training & Accreditation

From April 2024 to March 2025 we provided 70+ training sessions, reaching over 1000 practitioners and support workers. This included a bespoke training session for the National Police Chief's Council with 183 attendees. We also assessed and Accredited four services who met the Bluestar National Best Practice Standards.

We also delivered three Network spaces, attended by 71 participants overall, to allow practitioners to meet and discuss their experiences of working pretrial in the family courts.

Resources

This year Bluestar developed the Harmful Sexual Behaviour Resource and the Police Guidance resource. The HSB resource is the first guide to consider young people who are alleged to have caused harm. It outlines what we heard from HSB providers, and possible solutions practitioners should consider when working in this area.

The Police Guidance has been shared nationally and is currently listed on the NOMS (College of Policing Learning Database) as an approved guide. It supports frontline officers and senior police leads to understand what happens in pre-trial therapy and support spaces, and how to request access to information in a trauma-informed client-centred way, in line with CPS Guidelines and the statutory duties within the Victims & Prisoners Bill.

"It's had a really positive impact on the team's confidence."

Feedback



"We've got young people getting support from us who wouldn't have if we hadn't attended this training."

"We can now offer so much more for the young people that we support."



Emma Harewood & Gemma Halliwell

Bluestar Project Directors

Conversations We've Never Had

In 2025, the *Conversations We've Never Had* podcast returned for its second series.

Following discussions between survivors and friends Gemma Halliwell and Candice Harris, ten episodes covered a range of topics from anger, leadership, feeling stuck, responding to disclosures, redefining activism, and more. The conversations were filmed and uploaded to YouTube to allow them to be viewed as well as listened to.



@conversationsweveneverhad





Beyond Therapy Festival

The Beyond Therapy Festival, The Green House's annual crosssector event in partnership with Upfront Survivors, took place on 18th March 2025. The theme this year explored what mental wellbeing means for young people following experiences of sexual abuse.

The festival was curated by the Festival Shaper's Group, a group of young people aged 17-20, who worked together to choose the theme, review applications, and select the final line-up of panels and workshops.

192 survivors, activists, artists and allies attended the day's sessions and performances, which included 'Righteous Rage' via drumming, creating HOPE boxes, empowering parents to support their child's mental health, mental health and exploitation, self-harm, a panel from The Green House's VOICE group, as well as musical performances from The Good Stuff and Anouska Assisi.

The full programme can be viewed on <u>our website</u>.

MORE CHOICE

Hope and healing for the future

There are 11 million adults in the UK who were sexually abused as children. Every single year, 500,000 more children are sexually abused.

In a classroom of 30 children, three of those children will experience child sexual abuse.

There is so much silence shrouding child sexual abuse, that the average survivor is 40 years old the first time they tell anyone.

In the face of silence, we choose solidarity.

A powerful way to show your solidarity with young survivors of sexual abuse is supporting the Green House's work. You can get involved in a way that suits you:

Leaving a gift in your Will to The Green House

Speaking to your company about our training and partnerships

Making a monthly donation

Signing up to our newsletter

Visit the-green-house.org.uk/support-us to get involved





Contact Us

If you'd like to be kept up-to-date with news, impact and ways to be involved, you can sign up to our monthly newsletter at:

the-green-house.org.uk/newsletter

Phone 0117 935 1707

Email info@the-green-house.org.uk

Website the-green-house.org.uk

Visit
St Agnes Lodge, 45 Thomas Street
Bristol BS2 9LJ

