



THE VOLUNTARY & PRIVATE SECTORS

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1.1 Voluntary organisations, both local and national, and private sector providers play an important role in delivering services for children and young people, including in early years provision, family support services, youth work and children's social care and healthcare. Many voluntary organisations are skilled in preventative work and may be well placed to reach the most vulnerable children, young people and families. The vast majority work in partnership and will play an important part in protecting and supporting a child and their family.

1.2 Voluntary organisations offer, for example:

- Therapeutic work with children, young people and families, particularly in relation to child sexual abuse;
- Specialist support and services for children and young people with disabilities or health problems;
- Services for children and young people who are being sexually exploited and for children who abuse other children; and
- Advocacy for looked after children and young people, and for parents and children who are the subject of section 47 enquiries and child protection conferences.

1.3 Voluntary organisations play a key role in providing information and resources to the wider public about the needs of children and young people, and resources to help families. Many campaign on specific issues on behalf of groups.

1.4 The NSPCC is the only voluntary organisation authorised to initiate proceedings to protect children under the terms of the Children Act 1989 and offers a number of services to children, adults and practitioners. It operates a helpline service advising adults and professionals on safeguarding matters and where necessary liaises with local statutory agencies to refer children at risk of abuse. The NSPCC also operates ChildLine which provides a telephone helpline across the UK for all children and young people who need advice about abuse, bullying, and other concerns. These services, along with other helplines such as Stop it Now! (which specialises in child sexual abuse prevention) and Parentline Plus (which offers support to anyone parenting a child), provide information, advice and support as well as important routes into statutory and voluntary services