

# Child Sexual Exploitation

## What we know and what we don't

**Claire Winter**

**Deputy Director Children and Families  
Somerset County Council**

**Liz Hughes**

**Detective Chief Inspector – Protect Somerset  
Avon and Somerset Constabulary**



# National Context

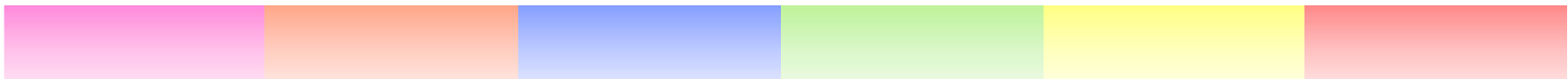
## Who is likely to be exploited?

It can happen to any young person:

- in any area (rural or urban),
- of any age,
- gender or
- ethnicity.

Victims have been identified nationally from heterosexual, gay, lesbian and bisexual orientations.

Victims most commonly become known to statutory and non-statutory agencies at the age of 14 and 15, although victims as young as 9 years old have been identified.



# Definition

*Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.*

Working Together 2015 (update Feb '16) p93



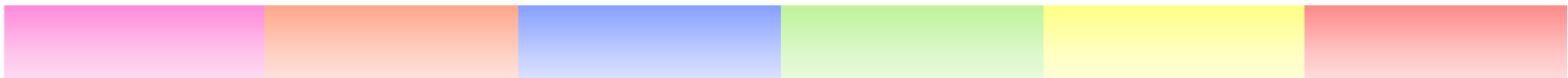
# Who are the perpetrators?

According to the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry, there is a great deal that we do not know about the perpetrators of Child Sexual Exploitation.

- Partly because agencies rarely record data on perpetrators, and when they do, it is incomplete and inconsistent.
- Frequently victims only know their abusers by aliases and nicknames, or they can only provide physical descriptions as children are often heavily intoxicated by drugs and alcohol, and abused by multiple men.

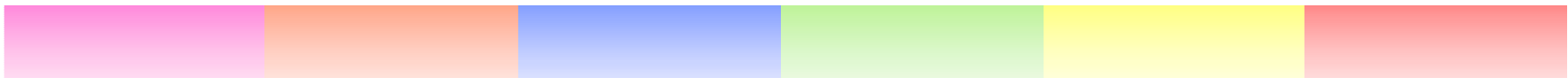
For these reasons, many abusers remain unidentified, and the actual number of abusers is likely to be far higher than those actually reported

Perpetrators often exacerbate their victims' vulnerabilities to gain, and maintain control over them and isolate them from the people who may be able to protect them (CEOP 20115).

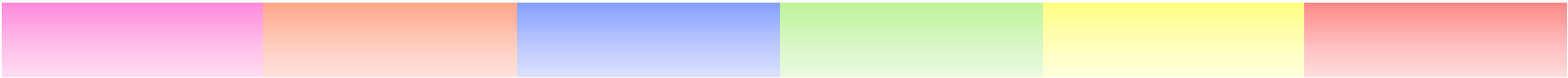
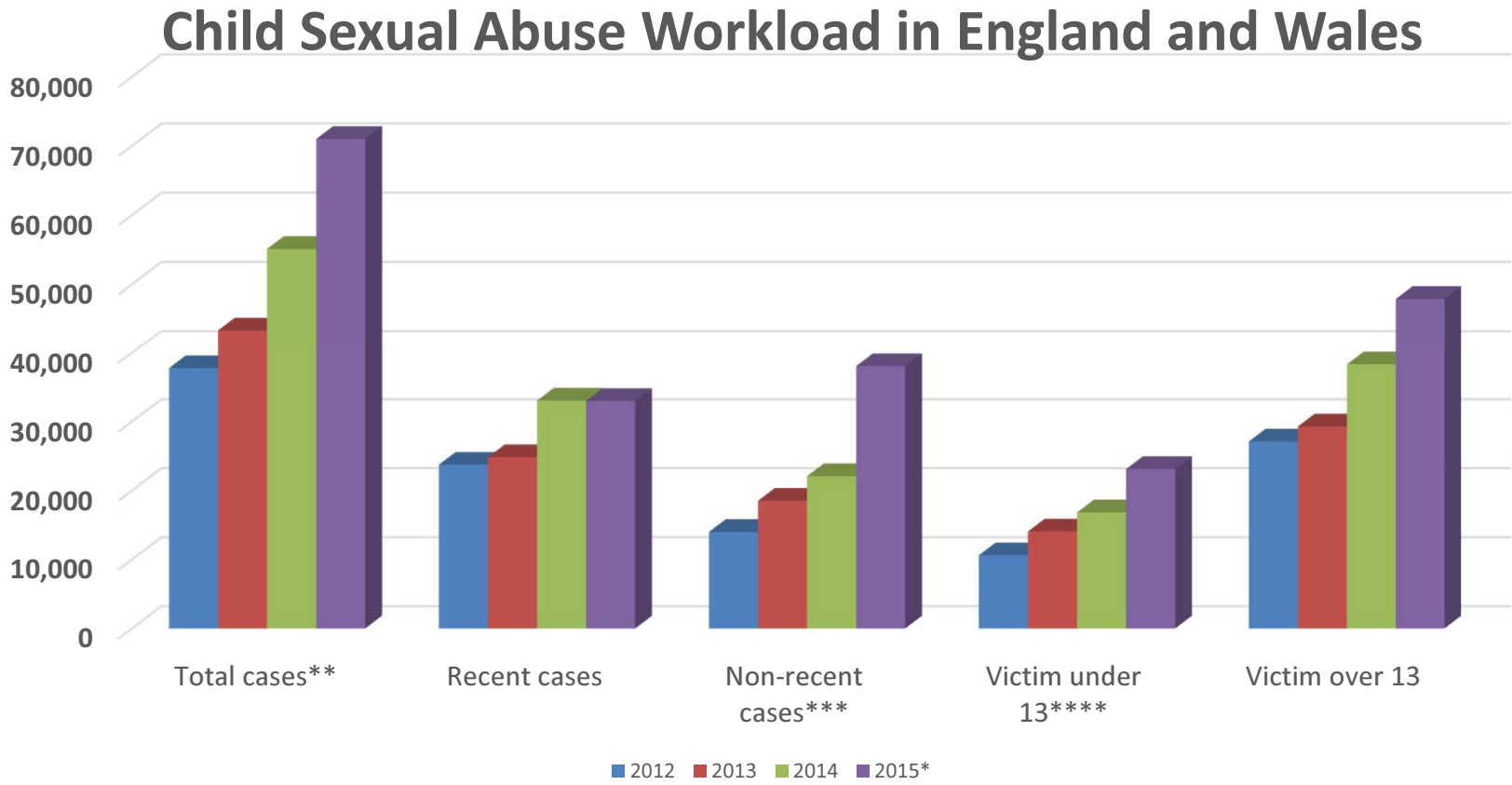


# What is the prevalence of Child Sexual Exploitation?

- It is difficult to assess the numbers of victims of Child Sexual Exploitation, as it is a “hidden” form of abuse which leaves victims reluctant to make disclosures.
- Many young people do not even recognise that they are being abused as those perpetrating the abuse manipulate them into believing they are in loving relationships, or they are dependent upon the abuser for protection (CEOP 2016).
- Until recently Child Sexual Exploitation has not been regarded within police databases and as a result the data relating to Child Sexual Exploitation is partial, concealed in other categories of data, or simply unrecorded
- The Children’s Commissioner’s Inquiry estimated from the evidence that 16,500 children in the UK were at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation.
  - Due to the reasons above, figures of reported victims is likely to be an underestimate of the true prevalence in the UK.
- Both the recent Ofsted report on Somerset County Council’s services for Children (including Somerset Safeguarding Children Board) , and the 2015 HMIC Police effectiveness inspection identified that further work was required across the partnership to fully understand the scale and prevalence of Child Sexual Exploitation within the County.



# Child Sexual Abuse Workload in England and Wales



# Nature of CSE - Types



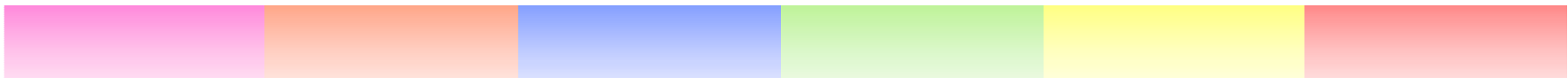
Source: Berelowitz et al (OCC)

CSE has no singular model (e.g. party model)

- OCC identified at least 13 different types in a gangs and group setting.
- New methods emerging as understanding/ recognition improves (e.g. online)

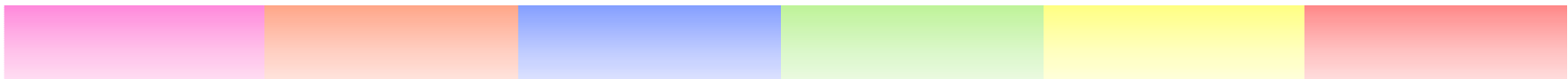
Key commonality is the power which the perpetrator holds over the victim and exploits.

Victim is likely to experience **physical** and **emotional** abuse as well as sexual



# Police Challenges

- Information sharing
- Increasing demand not matched with resources
- Reactive investigations rather than proactive
- Skills of officers and staff
- CSE- Not just the business of child protection specialist detectives.
- Too focused on victim disclosure

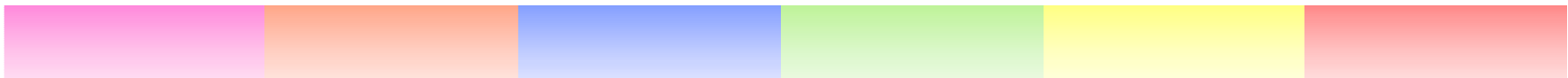




# Disclosure

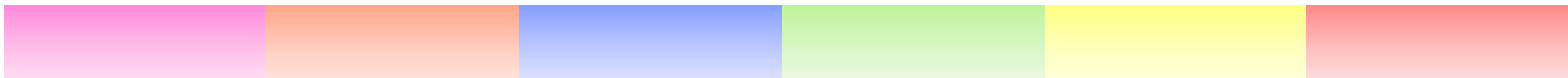
- Disclosure (or telling) can take a very long time (for example, 7.80 years on average); sometimes never at all
- Children tried to tell on average 4 times
- The younger a child at the age that abuse starts, the longer the delay to disclosure
- Research evidence suggests that 'false allegations' and 'retractions' of disclosures are uncommon

Dr Debbie Alnock – University of Bedfordshire



# What facilitates disclosure?

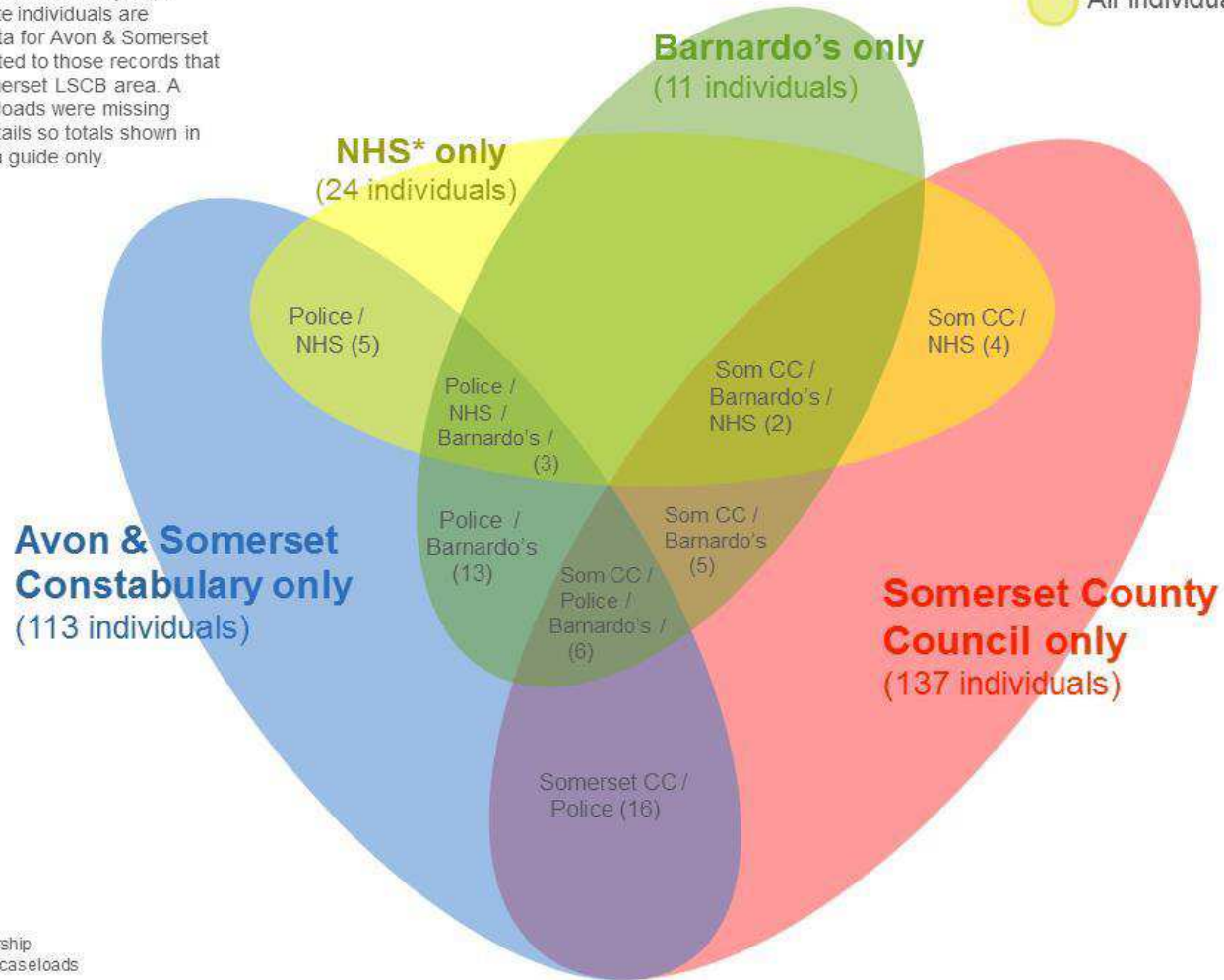
CSA (younger, intrafamilial, extra-familial, non-CSE specific)	CSE (older, extrafamilial)
Recognising abuse (sometimes simply by getting older, talking to friends)	Recognising/ accepting that a relationships they may be involved in are abusive
Being believed	Having a pathway to a supporting and trusted adult
Being noticed, Trust; having someone to talk to	Building good, positive relationships
Abuse getting worse	Fear of abuse (or sharing of images) may be escalating out of control



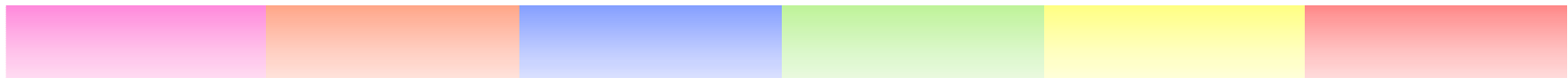
# CSE and CSE risk cases known to agencies in the Somerset LSCB area - 2015/16

**Note:** Figures in brackets relate to the number of individuals known either exclusively to or across the different agencies shown (based on the caseload data provided by Somerset County Council, Avon & Somerset Police, Barnardo's and Somerset Partnership NHS Services\*). In total, 339 separate individuals are represented in the diagram. Data for Avon & Somerset Police and Barnardo's is restricted to those records that could be located within the Somerset LSCB area. A number of records in both caseloads were missing postcode or other locational details so totals shown in the chart should be treated as a guide only.

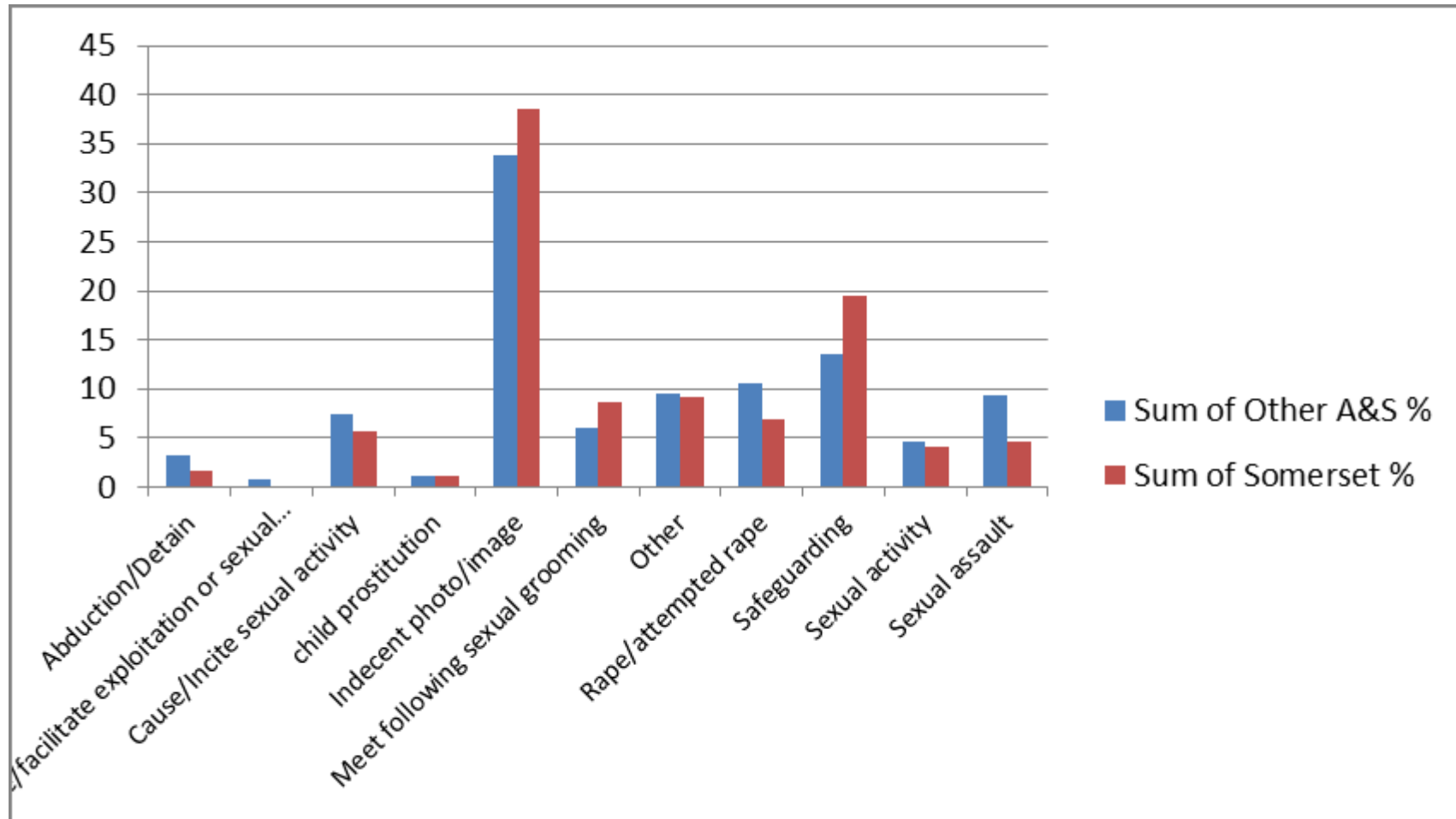
- All individuals - 170
- All individuals - 156  
(Figure is comprised of individuals with CSE warning markers and those appearing in police occurrences data)
- All individuals - 40
- All individuals - 38



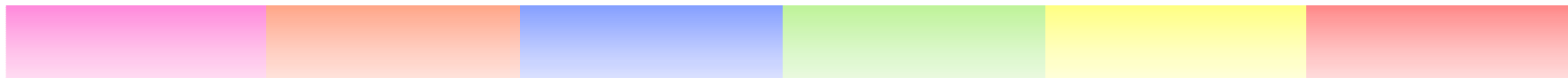
\* Comprising Somerset NHS Partnership Safeguarding and Somerset CAMHS caseloads



# How much offending and victimisation related to CSE do we know about?

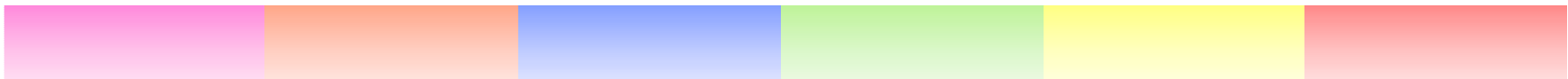


The prevalence of occurrence categories in Somerset and all other areas in Avon & Somerset



# Perpetrators

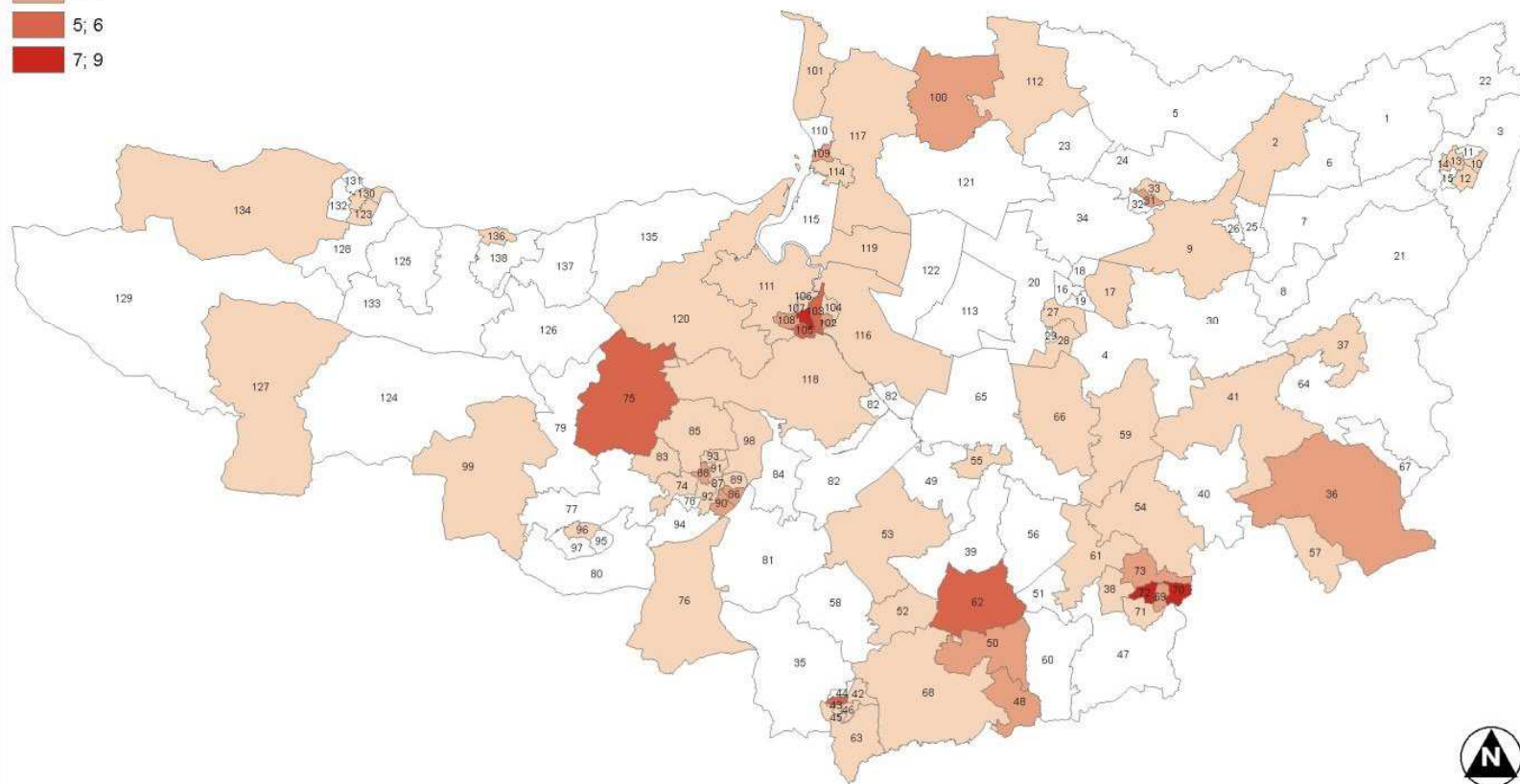
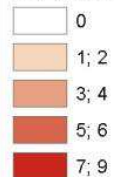
- Lone perpetrators more prevalent
- Male and under 25
- Intelligence gaps- employment, vehicle details etc
- Enforcement



### Police CSE Occurrences

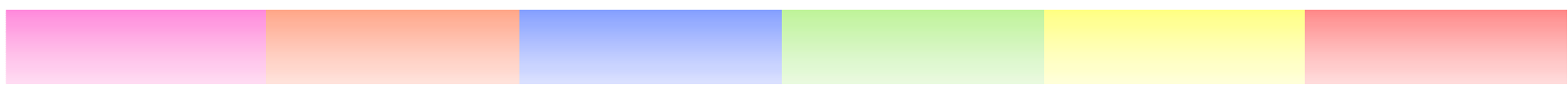
Somerset\_Wards

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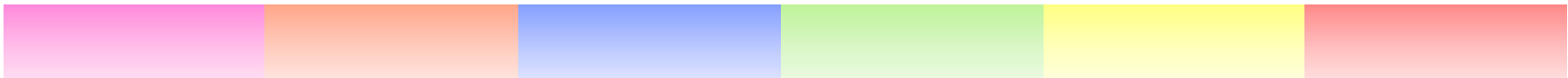


Scale : 0 5,500 11,000 22,000 Meters

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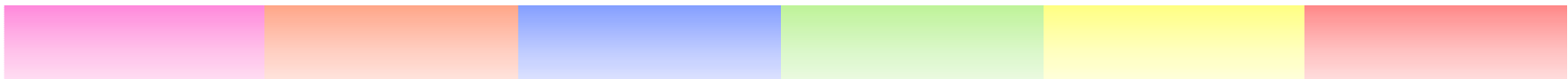


# Recipe for failing children



# CSE Sub-Group

- Reports to the Somerset Safeguarding Board
- Strategic Plan
  - Prevent
  - Protect
  - Pursue
- Key is to hear the “Voice of the Child”





# Foundations of good practice:



Berelowitz et al (OCC)

