

Establishing the Child Protection Authority (CPA) in England Consultation.

Briefing Paper

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Summary

The UK Government is planning to create a new organisation called the Child Protection Authority (CPA).

This proposal directly addresses findings from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) 2022, which highlighted systemic failures and 'disguised compliance' within some religious organisations.

Approximately **one in five** adults in the UK have experienced some form of abuse as a childⁱ and historically some sectors including the faith sector have seen failures and delays in reporting safeguarding concerns due to 'internal' handling as highlighted by IICSA.ⁱⁱ

For faith groups, the new CPA would mean moving away from a 'doing it our own way' approach to a more unified national standard. This briefing paper explains how to have your say before the March 5 2026, deadline: <https://consult.education.gov.uk/child-sexual-abuseexploitation-team/child-protection-authority/>

What does the consultation propose the CPA will do?

► Overview:

The CPA will have three core functions:

- Providing system leadership and national oversight.
- Promoting and embedding good practice.
- Driving improvement and accountability in multi-agency child protection.

Impact: The CPA will work in partnership, oversee and support safeguarding work in local contexts (including faith communities).

► Leadership and National Oversight:

The CPA will use data and 'horizon scanning' to identify emerging threats, such as group-based exploitation or risks in specific sectors.

Impact: Faith groups may be required to contribute more regularly to national data collections on safeguarding incidents or trends.

► System Learning and Support:

The CPA will host a national digital platform providing implementation support, resources, and evidence-based training.

Impact: This could provide a standardised baseline for organisations but may challenge those with stand-alone internal policies.

► Drive System Improvement:

The CPA will work alongside existing inspectorates (like Ofsted) to hold organisations to account.

Impact: While criminal enforcement remains with the police, the CPA will have powers to ensure local and national partners act on safeguarding recommendations.

Key questions for your organisation to consider:

The government wants to a variety of views. When submitting feedback, you should consider these three areas:

Leadership and National Oversight:

- How may the national oversight work in your context? Is there an overarching body that the Government can work with to support your context?
- What sort of oversight would you want from the Government in terms of Child Protection? If data sharing was voluntary – would you be open to this?
- What data would you be happy to share? Do you have systems in place to share that data?

Systems Learning and Support:

- How should the CPA's mandate to tackle racial and socio-economic disparities in safeguarding be reflected in its guidance for diverse religious communities?
- How can the CPA make research, learning, training and resources accessible to you in your context? Do you envisage any barriers to this? If so, what?

Drive System Improvement:

- Do you agree that the CPA should be able to intervene when there are persistent failings from an organisation?
- Where significant failings are identified, including persistent lack of action against recommendations, what additional actions or powers should the CPA be able to take to hold organisations to account?

Conclusion

The formation of a Child Protection Authority (CPA) will have a direct impact on safeguarding practice for faith communities.

When responding to this Consultation, you should consider the proposed approaches and how they may be applied to your specific contexts. The Department for Education (DfE) require full understanding of the needs and approaches of faith communities in safeguarding and any impact the proposed implementation of a Child Protection Authority (CPA) may have.

Submit your responses to the consultation here:

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/child-sexual-abuse-exploitation-team/child-protection-authority/>

References:

[ons.gov.uk/bulletins/abuseduringchildhoodinenglandandwales/march2024](https://www.ons.gov.uk/bulletins/abuseduringchildhoodinenglandandwales/march2024)

iicsa.org.uk/reports-recommendations/publications

Any queries or for further information about this briefing email Katy Jackson on policy@thirtyoneeight.org or go to [@Thirtyoneeight](http://thirtyoneeight.org/manifesto)

This briefing paper has been produced by Thirtyone:eight and NWG.



Creating safer places. Together.