

# How Safe Are Our Children?

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**MAE POB PLENTYNDOD WERTH BRWYDRO DROSTO**  
**EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR**

# How Safe Are Our Children?

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- **Annual report from NSPCC**
- **Most comprehensive overview of child protection in the UK**
- **Each year we compile data across 20 different indicators**
- **2017 was our fifth report**

# How Safe Are Our Children? 2013

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- **In some ways children are safer now than in previous generations**
- **But worrying levels of abuse remain**
- **More than one child dies every week because of maltreatment**

**1** 520,000  
estimated victims  
of maltreatment  
by a parent or  
guardian in 2011



**2** 260,000  
estimated victims  
of maltreatment  
by an adult outside  
the home in 2011



**3** 200,000  
estimated children  
in need due to  
abuse and neglect  
in 2011/12



**4** 58,000  
estimated children  
placed on a child  
protection plan or  
register in 2011/12



**5** 50,000  
estimated children  
Looked After due  
to abuse and neglect  
in 2011/12



**6** 29,305  
recorded sexual  
and cruelty/neglect  
offences against  
children in 2011/12



For every child subject  
to a child protection plan  
or on a child protection  
register,

we estimate another  
8 children have suffered  
maltreatment.

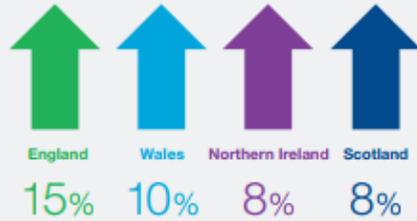
# How Safe Are Our Children? 2014

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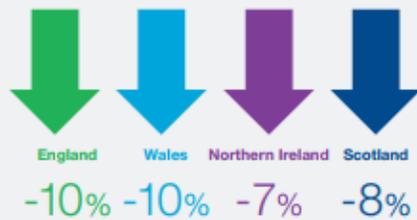
- **Child protection systems under immense pressure**
- **In part due to financial pressures**

## Expenditure

2006/7 – 2009/10



2010/11 – 2012/13



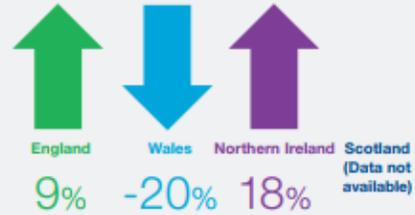
2012/13 – 2015/16 (forecast)



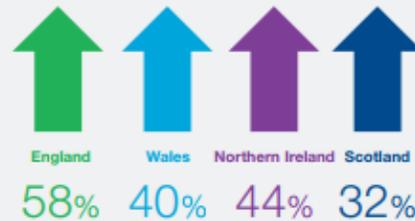
Source: HMT Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses. Detailed calculations in data briefing under [nspcc.org.uk/howwearedata](http://nspcc.org.uk/howwearedata).

## Demand 2006/7 – 2012/13

Referrals accepted by children's social care



Children on a protection plan/register



Looked-after children



Contacts to the NSPCC helpline



Source: Indicators 8,11,13,17.

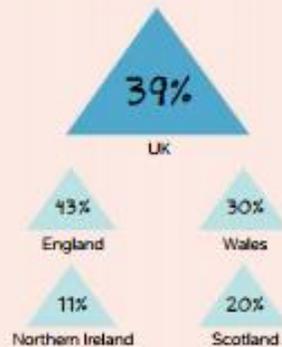
# How Safe Are Our Children? 2016&17

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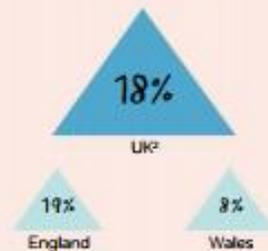
- **Social workers working with more children to keep them safe**
- **Police investigating more suspected cases of abuse than ever before**
- **More calls from the public to NSPCC to report concern**

## Child protection system

Number of children becoming subject to a child protection plan/being added to a child protection register (indicator 13)



Number of children becoming looked after due to abuse or neglect (indicator 17)



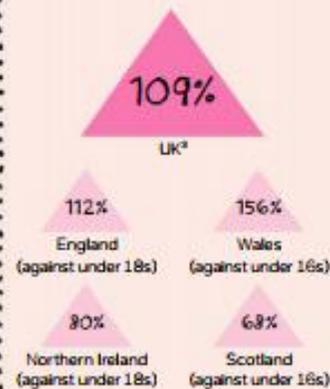
## Helpline

Number of helpline contacts (indicator 8)



## Police-recorded offences

Police-recorded sexual offences (indicator 4)



Police-recorded cruelty and neglect offences (indicator 5)



Police-recorded indecent image offences (indicator 9)



<sup>1</sup> Comparing data from 2015/16 with data from 2009/10. The NSPCC's prevalence survey took place between March and September 2009, making data from 2009/10 the best source of comparison data.

<sup>2</sup> Data available for England and Wales only.

<sup>3</sup> Using L18 data for England and Northern Ireland and L16 data for Wales and Scotland.

<sup>4</sup> Due to the way data is collected for England and Wales some of these offences may be against adults.

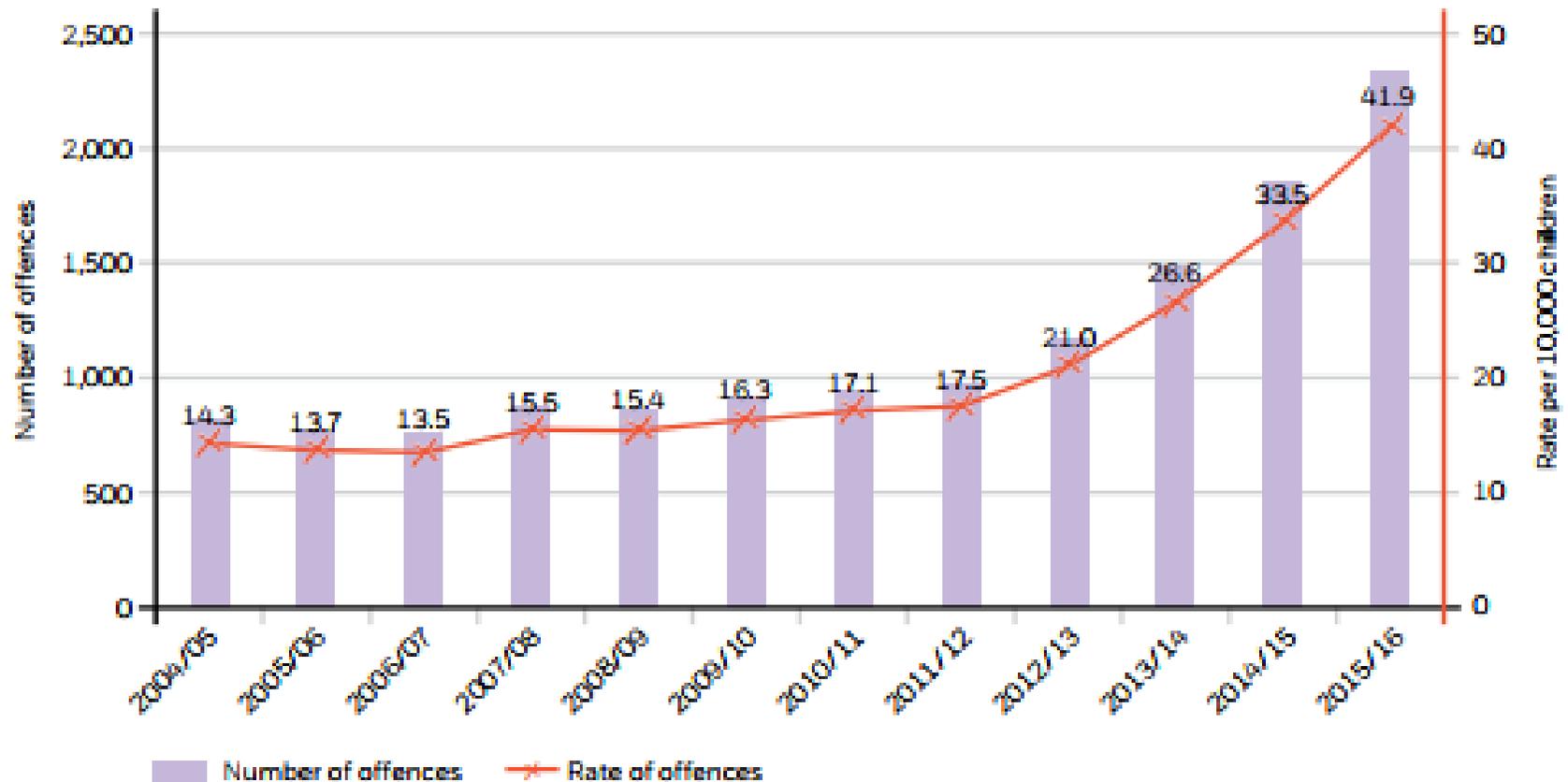
<sup>5</sup> In 2010/11, incidents of taking, possessing and distributing indecent photos of children were transferred from Group 6 Miscellaneous offences to Group 2 Sexual crimes. This resulted in a small discontinuity with data from 2009/10. Because of this we have used data from 2010/11 as the baseline for Scotland.

# How Safe Are Our Children? 2017

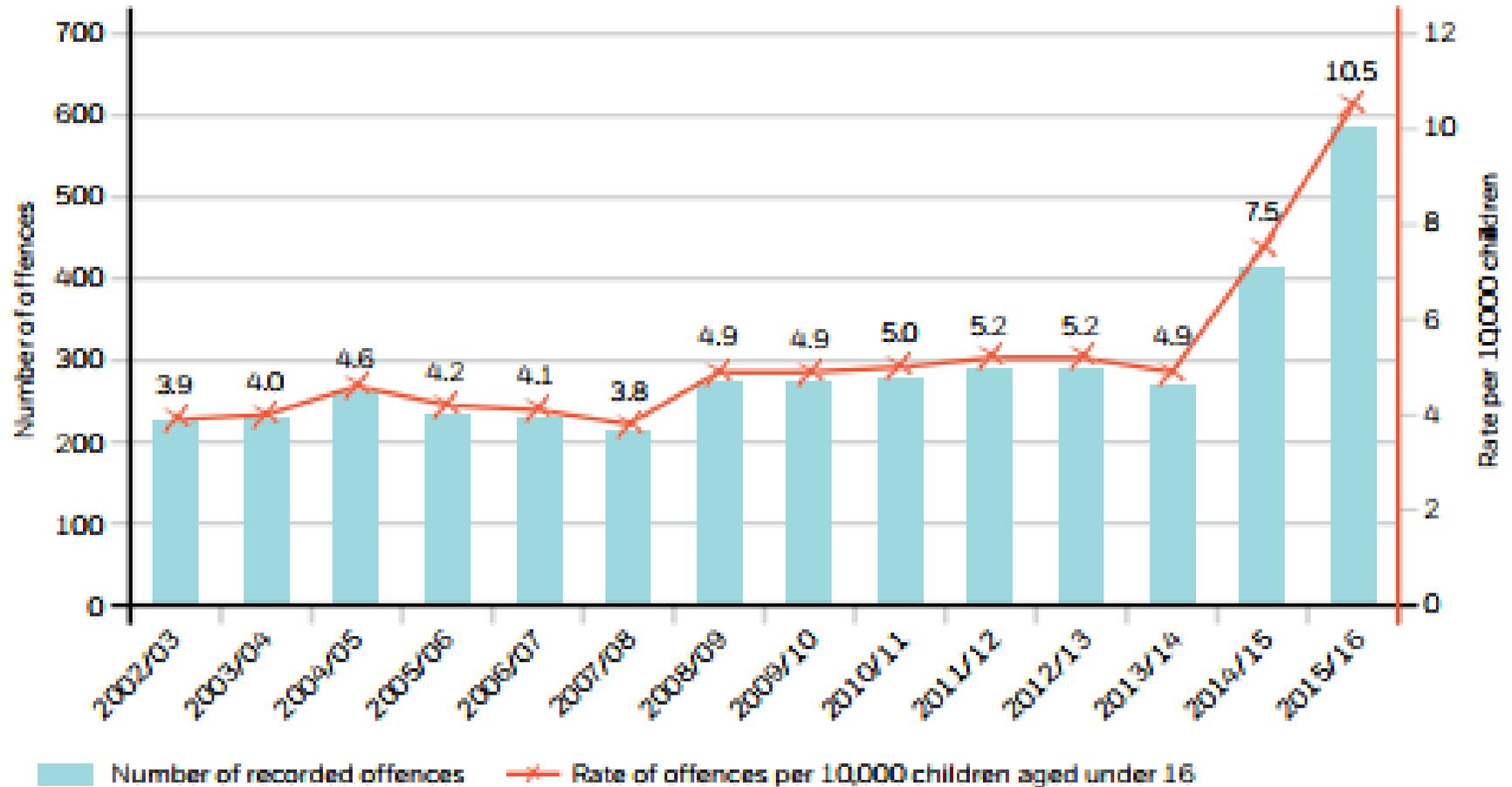
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- **Recorded cruelty and neglect offences in Wales continue to rise.**
- **50% increase in police recorded offences for 'Obscene Publications' in Wales in the past year.**
- **25% rise in the number of recorded sexual offences against children under 16.**
- **Upward trend in the proportion of children on a child protection register due to emotional abuse.**

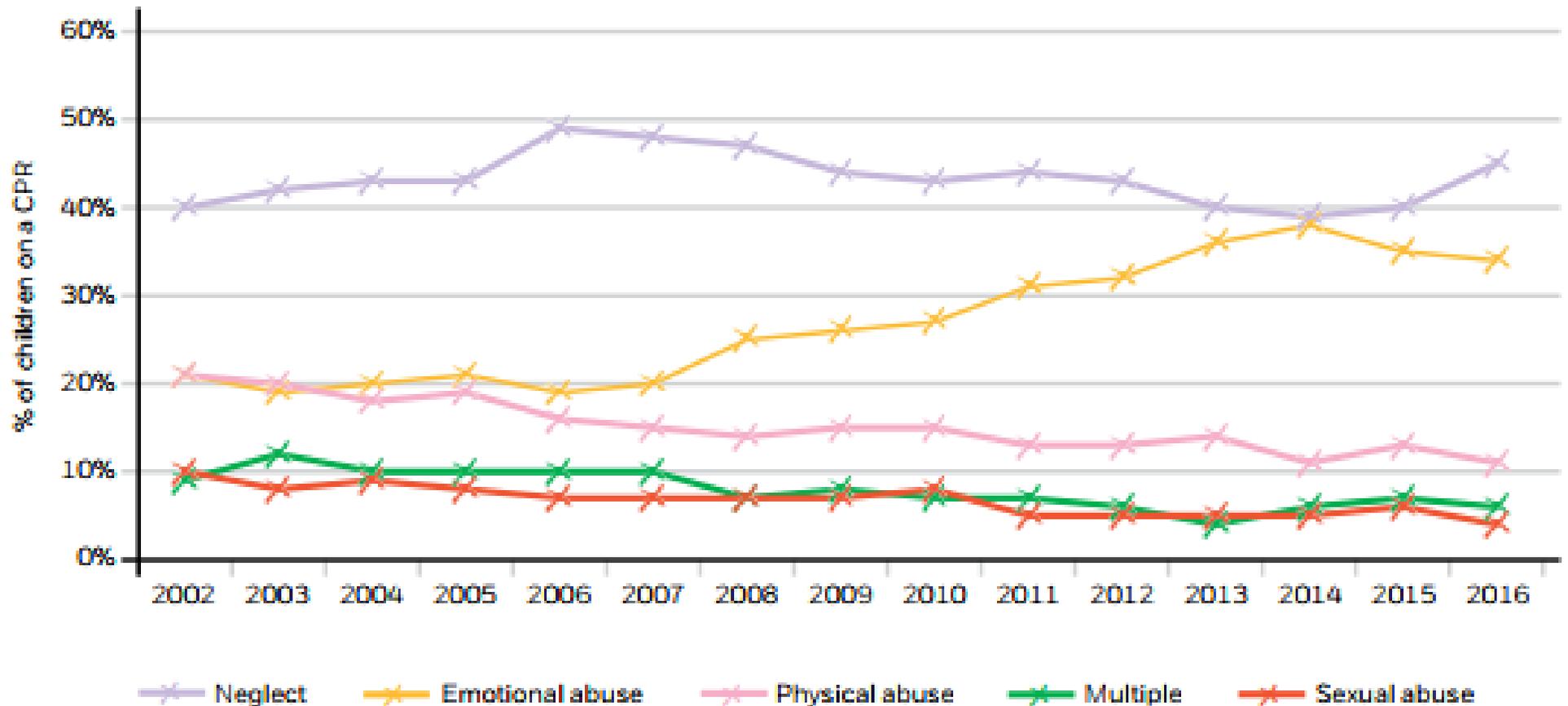
# Recorded Sexual Offences Against Children Under 16 in Wales 2004/5 – 2015/16



# Recorded Cruelty and Neglect Against Children Under 16 in Wales 2002/3 – 2015/16



# Composition of Child Protection Registers in Wales 2002 - 2016



# **NSPCC Helpline in Wales 2016/17**

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**- Across UK, responded to 66,000 contacts.**

**Most common reason for contact:**

- 1. Neglect (33%)**
- 2. Physical abuse (19%)**
- 3. Emotional abuse (17%)**
- 4. Sexual abuse (14%)**

# **NSPCC Helpline in Wales**

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- Neglect is the most common reason for contacting the NSPCC helpline in Wales.**
- In 2016/17, there were 900 contacts about neglect, but 804 were serious enough for NSPCC to refer to police/social services.**
- 80% rise in referrals due to neglect in 5 years.**

# Main Reasons Why Children & Young People in Wales Contact Childline 2016/17

Rank	Primary concern	Counselling sessions	% of total counselling sessions
1	Mental/emotional health	2,163	25%
2	Family relationships	990	11%
3	Suicidal thoughts/feelings	769	9%
4	Self-harm	635	7%

# What Children Tell us about Neglect

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- Children & YP rarely contact ChildLine to say they are being neglected
- Just 1,016 ChildLine counselling sessions with children and young people about neglect between 2014-2015 (out of 280,000 sessions)
- **But...** in a large proportion of our counselling sessions, children told us about situations which our counsellors recognised as neglectful
- Children **DO** indirectly talk about being neglected

*My mum is not giving me proper food at home and I never see her. All I have had today is an energy drink. Even the food that we do have is mouldy and mum hides the good food from me. (Girl aged 13)*

## **How children talk about neglect:**

- Having a lack of food
- Parents misuse of drugs or alcohol
- Being left home alone
- Having problems at school
- Feeling abandoned

# **Neglect and Serious Case Reviews (SCRs)**

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- **Systematic analysis of neglect in 139 serious case reviews in England 2009-2011**
- **Neglect is more prevalent in SCRs than was understood – 60%**
- **Neglect can be life-threatening & needs to be treated with as much urgency as other types of abuse.**

# In Summary

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- **Child protection systems under immense pressure, recorded offences rising when budgets are decreasing.**
- **Nothing has addressed neglect- it has been the common form of child maltreatment since 2002.**
- **NSPCC is calling for safeguarding/ PSBs to make neglectful parenting a key priority.**
- **Never too late to help a neglected child.**