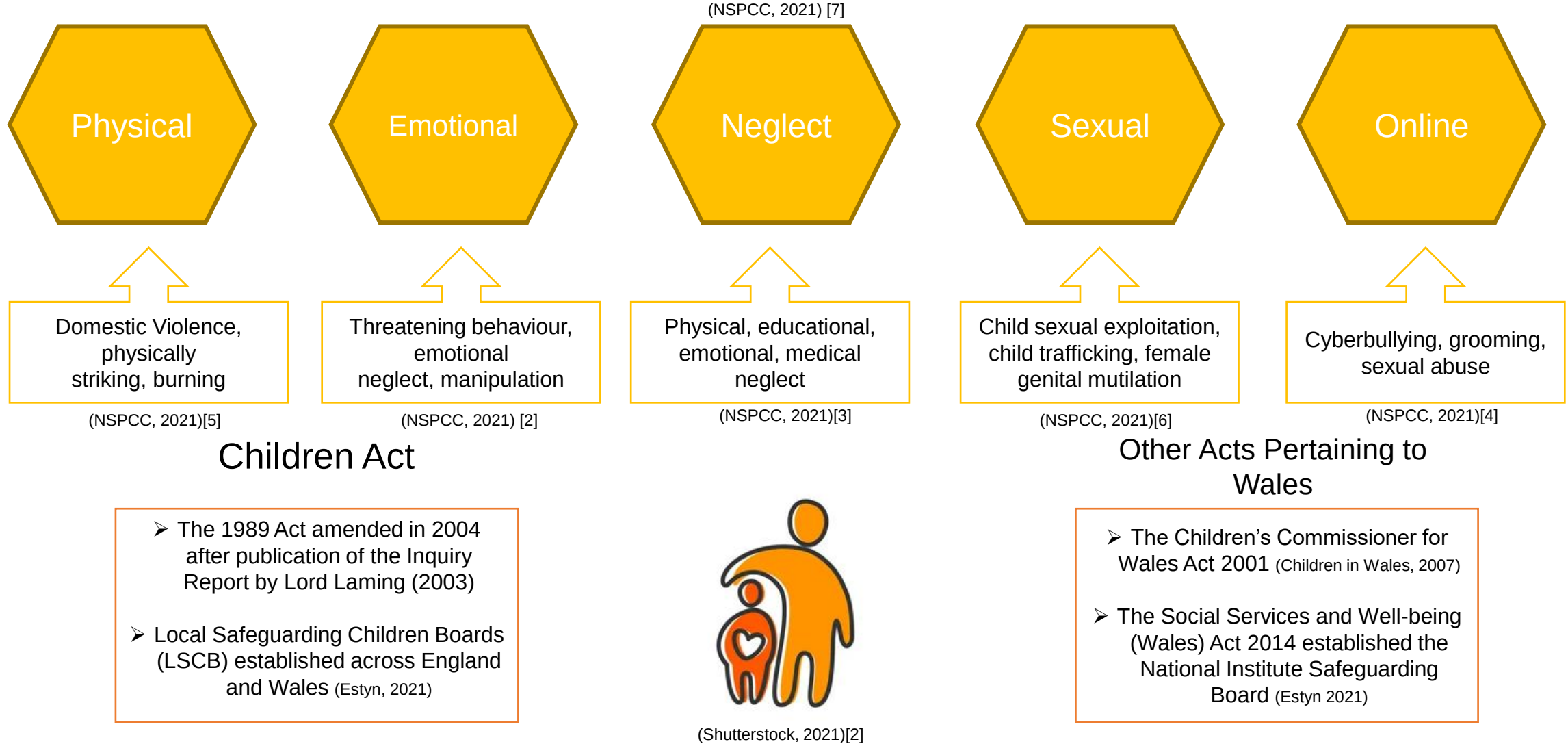


Types of Abuse and Legislations to Help Those Experiencing Them



Adolescent Safeguarding and Protection Concerns

Sexual Abuse

Higher rates of sexual abuse offences against adolescents, especially against girls, who account for 90% of victims of rape, against those between 13 and 15 years (NSPCC, 2020) [4]

The most offences recorded against those aged 14, with over 8,000 offences recorded in 2019/20 (NSPCC, 2020) [1]

Signs of sexual abuse :

- Changes in mood or behaviour (become angry or irritable)
- Changes in eating habits, including developing eating disorders
- Abusing alcohol and drugs
- Self-harming behaviours
- Using inappropriate sexual language

(NSPCC, 2021) [6]



(Shutterstock, 2021)[3]



(Shutterstock, 2021)[1]

Online Harm



More time spent online through different devices, adolescents in particular spending the most time online, up to 20 hours a week (Statista, 2019)

In 2020, police recorded higher rates of online grooming offences against adolescents than younger children (OFSTED et al, 2020)

In March 2020, 10,391 sexual offences with online involvement were recorded; an increase of 16% from 2019/2020 data (NSPCC, 2020)[3]

Article 34 of UNCRC – Governments must protect children from all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation (UNICEF, 2018)



Criminal Exploitation and County Lines

The police term for urban gangs who exploit teens as young as 12, into transporting narcotics and money from a city into suburban and coastal areas

(NSPCC, 2021) [1]

Young teens may be drawn in by gifts, money (Cysur, 2019), access to drugs, kinship, protection and social status (Children in Wales, 2014)

Becoming involved with a gang can put children at risk of other forms of abuse; they may be physically and sexually abused and exploited

May be trafficked away from their home to another country

(NSPCC, 2021) [1]

Children and particularly teens are at a higher risk of criminal exploitation and being groomed into a gang if they :

- Have been excluded from an educational establishment
- Have Additional Learning Needs (ALN)
- Have poor mental health (NSPCC, 2021) [1]
- Those who have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) are more likely to be involved in crime (NHS Wales, 2021) including domestic, sexual abuse or neglect at home
- Have a family link to the gang
- Live in existing gang territory (NSPCC, 2021) [1]



(iStock, 2021)

Article 33 of UNCRC – Governments must protect children from the illegal use, production and distribution of drugs

(UNICEF, 2018)

Over 1000 county lines drug networks across the UK (BBC, 2018)

Signs to look for :

- Frequently absent from school
- Become missing from home often
- Has friends or a partner much older
- Has unexplained money
- Having more than one mobile
- Taking drugs and abusing alcohol
- Carrying weapons

(NSPCC, 2021) [1]



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