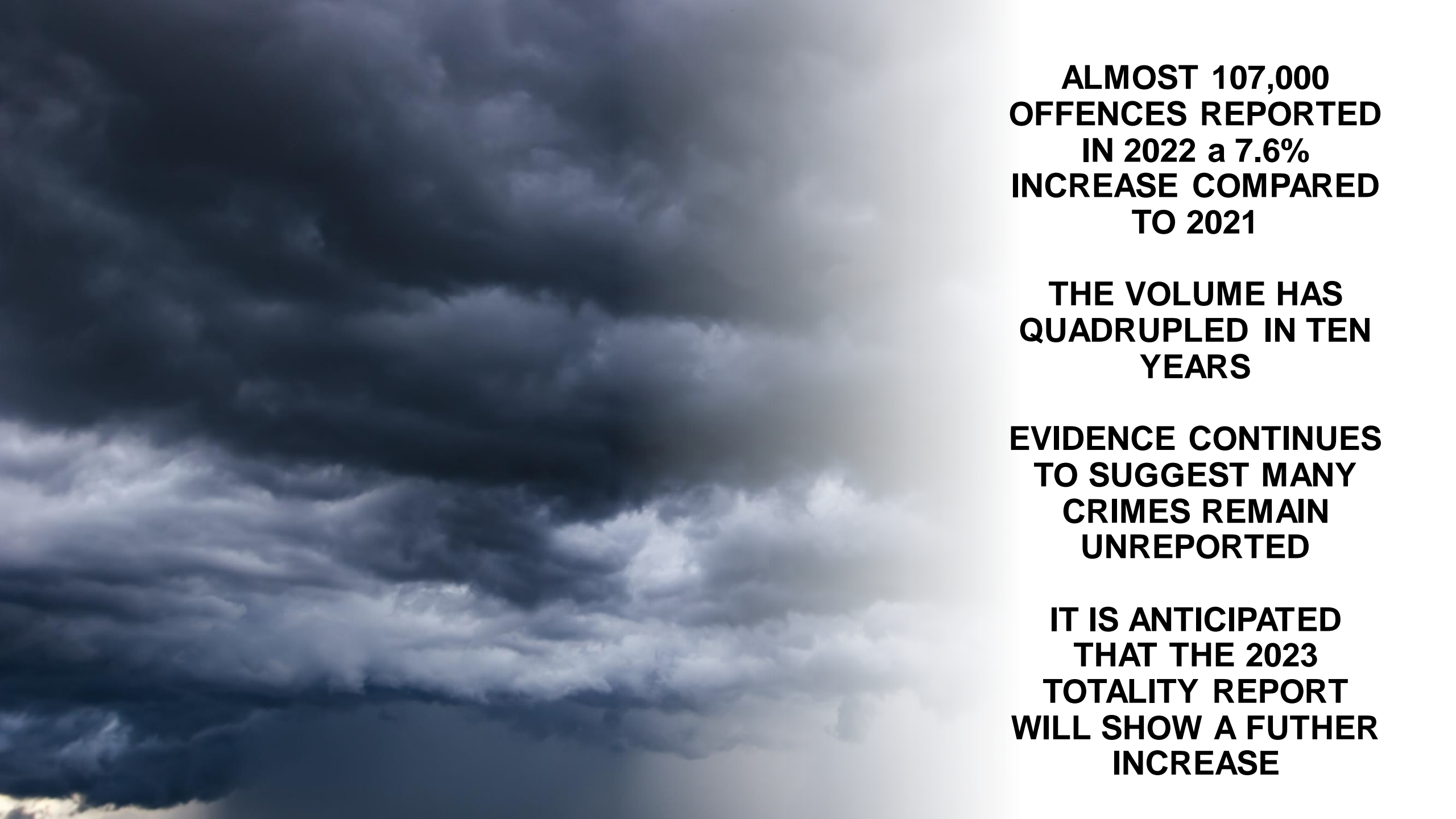# Turning the tide, is there hope tackling online offending?

Simon Bailey CBE, QPM, DL

ALMOST 107,000 OFFENCES REPORTED IN 2022 a 7.6% INCREASE COMPARED TO 2021

THE VOLUME HAS QUADRUPLED IN TEN YEARS

EVIDENCE CONTINUES TO SUGGEST MANY CRIMES REMAIN UNREPORTED

IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE 2023 TOTALITY REPORT WILL SHOW A FUTHER INCREASE

APPROXIMATELY 75% OF OFFENCES RELATED TO SEXUAL OFFENCES AGAINST CHILDREN

APPROXIMATLEY 25% RELATE TO CSAM

CSA CRIME TYPES ARE CHANGING, CHILD ON CHILD ABUSE NOW ACCOUNTS FOR JUST OVER 50%

CSA IN THE FAMILY ENVIRONMENT ACCOUNTS FOR AN ESTIMATED 1/3 OF REPORTED CONTACT CSA/E

GROUP BASED CSA/E ACCOUNTS FOR 5%

Children's Commissioners Report 2023

This report draws together research from focus groups with teenagers aged 13-19 and a survey of 1,000

The average age of which a child first see's pornography is 13.

Half of children who had seen pornography had seen it by the age of 13
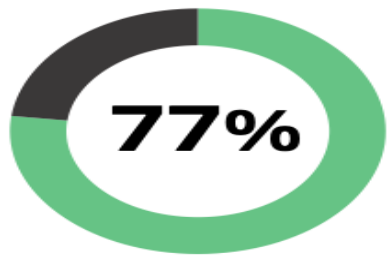
79% had encountered violent pornography by the age of 18

NCMEC 2023 – 36 million referrals

CAID 20+m images

850 arrest a month

1200 children safeguarded

77% of respondents have encountered CSAM or links to CSAM on the surface web

32% of respondents have actively used social media platforms to search for, view, or disseminate CSAM

29% of respondents have actively used messaging apps to search for, view, or disseminate CSAM

" *The abuse against me was recorded on video, pictures were taken and distributed to other people.* "
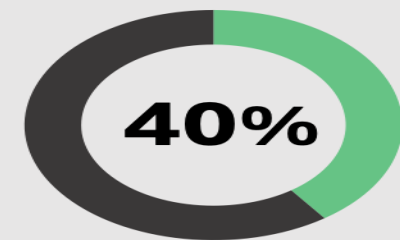
Adult survivor of online child sexual abuse

48% have contacted a child via social media

1. Instagram (45%)
2. Facebook (30%)
3. Discord (26%)
4. TikTok (25%)
5. Snapchat (23%)
6. Twitter/X (22%)

41% have contacted a child via an online game

37% have contacted a child via a messaging app

1. Telegram (45%)
2. WhatsApp (41%)
3. Signal (28%)
4. Wickr Me (25%)

40%

of CSAM users surveyed have tried to seek contact with a child

Technology is facilitating a pandemic of CSA in E2EE chat rooms

Offenders in these spaces are confident and comfortable talking about and sharing their experiences of abusing children.

Encryption gives companies plausible deniability and it doesn't affect their business model.

Technology exists to stop it as demonstrated with Instagram announcing the ability to look at images being shared by teens.

Turning the tide, is there hope tackling online offending?

YES

To make YES a reality the following is going to be necessary

Effective global regulation

Better education and awareness

A better global law enforcement response

Early offender deterrence

Effective offender management

Therapeutic services for victims

Culture: creating an inclusive culture where professional challenge is promoted.

Clear partnership intent: ensuring clear and balanced partnership working.

Strategy to delivery: ensuring strategy is carried through to frontline practice.

Assessing effectiveness: evaluating impact of the safeguarding system.

Getting upstream: ensuring learning feeds into prevention, early intervention and the commissioning of services.

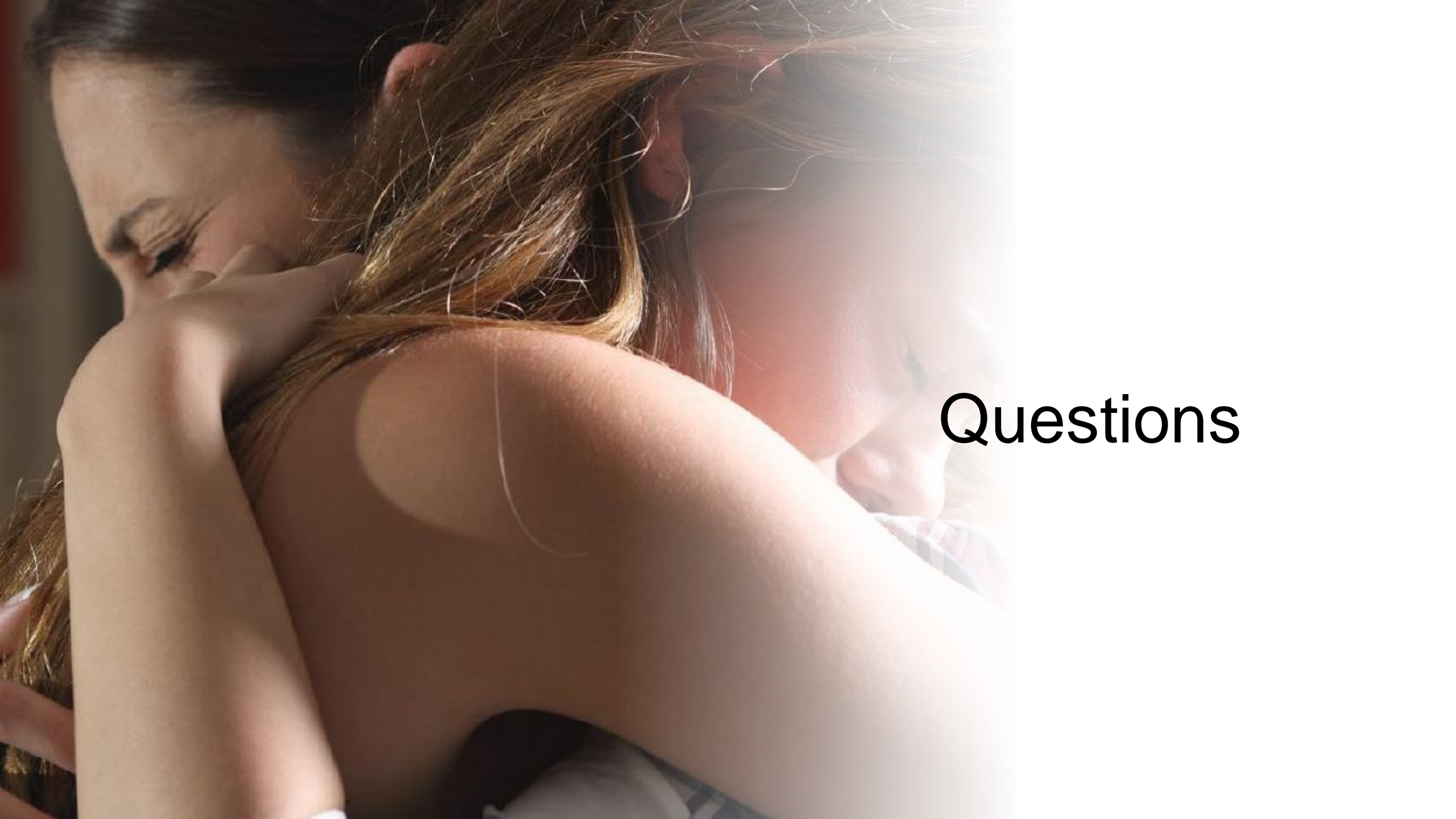**Workforce:** working together effectively across agencies and promoting development.

Negotiating and influencing at a strategic and tactical level

A personal reflection

Questions