CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION AND CARE PROGRAMME
Child sexual molestation is a type of abuse against children in which an adult takes advantage of their physical superiority and age to impose sexual or sexualised activities on a child.

*It is estimated that one in five children in Europe are victims of sexual abuse.*
The Convention on the Rights of the Child establishes that governments have a duty to protect children against this and all other forms of violence.

For this reason, in 2017 Barcelona City Council launched the

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION AND CARE PROGRAMME
The purpose of this programme is to guarantee zero tolerance towards child sexual abuse and to ensure the safety and well-being of children in all spaces managed by the city authorities, while also taking the gender perspective into account.

To this end, the Council has launched a programme to assess and improve municipal facilities frequented by children: libraries, youth clubs, municipal sports facilities, play centres, etc.
As part of this work, we provide child sexual abuse prevention training for municipal workers who manage services and facilities for children, as well as introducing specific protocols for action and drawing up proposals to redesign and improve facilities and furniture.
We are also aware that **coordination between institutions** is key for addressing this problem.

**COORDINATION**

Accordingly, we have created an **Inter-institutional Board** formed by departments and institutions engaged in different spheres of activity. This body meets annually to enable members to join forces and draw up proposals for action.
Moreover, for prevention to be really effective, the involvement of civil society is indispensable.

To this end, regular meetings are held with local organisations engaged in this field, and with which we share our determination to eradicate child sexual abuse.
We are aware, too, that in order to end child sexual abuse, we must also **empower children** and provide them with the necessary tools so that they know their rights and can defend themselves against inappropriate behaviour by adults, as well as **knowing how to ask for help** when they need this.
Accordingly, Barcelona City Council has created a section on the municipal website for children to inform citizens about the free, open resources that exist to assist them in addressing the subject, both with their own children and with professionals.

The section also contains details on all the protocols introduced to date.