



Department of  
**Education**

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# Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation in Northern Ireland

## Action Plan



## Background

On Tuesday 5 November 2013, Kathleen Marshall was appointed to chair an Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in the north of Ireland. The terms of reference of the Inquiry were to:

- seek to establish the nature of child sexual exploitation in the north of Ireland and a measure of the extent to which it occurs;
- examine the effectiveness of current cross-sectoral child safeguarding and protection arrangements and measures to prevent and tackle child sexual exploitation;
- make recommendations on the future actions required to prevent and tackle child sexual exploitation and who should be responsible for these actions; and
- Report the findings of the Inquiry to the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Education within one year of the commencement of the Inquiry.

Additionally the Inquiry was to:

- consider specific safeguarding and protection issues for looked after children, taking into account the ongoing thematic review by the SBNI;
- seek the views of children and young people in the north of Ireland and other key stakeholders; and
- Engage with parents to identify the issues they are facing and seek their views on what needs to be done to help them keep their children safe from the risk of CSE.

The Education Minister, John O'Dowd, MLA agreed that the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) would join the Inquiry to assist in relation to evaluating the role of schools and the effectiveness of the statutory curriculum exploitation. To this end, the ETI produced 'An evaluation of preventative education and the statutory curriculum to inform the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation'.

## Appendix A

In November 2014, the Report of the Inquiry, otherwise known as the 'Marshall Report', was presented to Ministers. The report is available at: [http://rqia.org.uk/cms\\_resources/CSE%20Inquiry%20Report%20Final\\_for\\_Publication.pdf](http://rqia.org.uk/cms_resources/CSE%20Inquiry%20Report%20Final_for_Publication.pdf).

A child/young person friendly version of the report in the form of animation is available at: <https://youtu.be/kGcn8wWVOuM>

The ETI report is available at: <http://www.etini.gov.uk/evaluation-of-preventative-education>

The reports contain a number of recommendations for Education which can be summarised as falling into 3 main categories: Training, Guidance and Support. The Department of Education takes these recommendations very seriously and has developed this action plan in response. The action plan outlines the Department's progress to date and activities ongoing. Implementation of the action plan will be monitored by an intra-departmental safeguarding group. The Department is also represented on an inter-departmental Senior Officials Group that will report progress to Ministers.

The Department of Education will also be collaborating with colleagues from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) and Department of Justice (DoJ) in the development of a strategy for tackling CSE in the north of Ireland.

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Recommendation	Action	Timescale
<p><b>Key Recommendation 8:</b></p> <p>The Department of Education should conduct a review of youth services that takes account of the views of young people and aims to ensure that such provision is attractive and appropriate</p>	<p><b>Accepted.</b> The Department has recently completed a review of youth services as part of the development of its youth policy, <i>Priorities for Youth</i>.</p> <p><i>Priorities for Youth</i> makes clear that planning, funding and delivery of DE funded youth services by the Education Authority and the Youth Council must be based on assessed need in line with a Regional Youth Development Plan (RYDP), within the resources available.</p> <p>In order to ensure that the views of young people shape the future provision of youth services, the Regional Advisory Group (RAG) set up to advise the ELBs/EA and YCNI on the development of the 2015-16 Regional Youth Development Plan includes two young people nominated by peers from the Youth Congress to represent the views of children and young people. They are supported at the RAG meetings by the NI Youth Forum.</p> <p>In response to this recommendation, the Department will ensure the continued and active participation of young people in youth service planning and delivery via the implementation of the RDYP and <i>Priorities for Youth</i>.</p>	<p>Implementation of <i>Priorities for Youth</i> is planned for the end of 2016</p>
<p><b>Supporting Recommendation 3:</b></p> <p>In order to improve understanding and vigilance, schools should be alert to the possibility that young people who do not return after holidays abroad may have been subject to forced marriage. Any concerns should be reported to the designated teacher for child protection within the school for further escalation if appropriate.</p>	<p>Accepted:</p> <p>Guidance issued to schools in July 2014 on Female Genital Mutilation (<i>'Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines: Female Genital Mutilation'</i>) also includes reference to the issue of forced marriage.</p> <p>The issue is also now covered in the specialist training provided to Designated and Deputy Designated teachers</p> <p>DE will also be including information and advice in the new Guide to Child Protection in Schools (which will replace Circular 1999/10.) This will include reference to the 2012 DFP Statutory Guidance on the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007.</p>	
<p><b>Supporting Recommendation 4:</b></p>	<p><b>Accepted.</b> The statutory curriculum gives schools considerable</p>	

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Schools should be encouraged to engage parents with regard to the preventative curriculum, including those with literacy difficulties or for whom English is not the first language	<p>flexibility in designing and delivering a wide range of preventative education programmes.</p> <p>In addition, DE has commissioned the NSPCC to undertake work as part of the preventative curriculum to develop a suite of resources for use by teachers with pupils and for parents to use with their children supported by the teacher. The Preventative Education project will include activities that are specifically targeted at encouraging parental interest/engagement e.g. homework activities developed to promote parental awareness and involvement. The resources will be used to identify the expressed training needs and the criteria for the delivery of a training and support package for teachers and other school staff.</p> <p>In response to the recommendation, the NSPCC has also been asked to ensure that materials developed take account of the particular needs of those with literacy difficulties or for whom English is not the first language.</p>	The NSPCC Preventative Education project commenced in September 2013 and will run for 5 years, ending in 2018.
<p><b>Supporting Recommendation 5:</b></p> <p>The Department of Education should give guidance to schools on how they can provide flexible support sessions about CSE that are accessible for parents of disabled children.</p>	<p><b>Accepted.</b> DE has asked the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) to carry out an extensive review of the existing Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) guidance for schools.</p> <p>New guidance will be published in time for the new (2015-16) school year and will specifically acknowledge the role that effective RSE provision can play with regard to child sexual exploitation.</p> <p>It will also highlight the need for careful planning and adaptation of resources and teaching activities for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN). There is reference to some learners being vulnerable to abuse and they may need explicit teaching There is also a version for MLD.</p> <p>The guidance will also highlight the need for communication with parents/carers so that learning can be reinforced in the home environment.</p>	Guidance to be published and available to schools by 31 August 2015.
<p><b>Supporting Recommendation 7:</b></p> <p>The Department of Education should ensure that all young people can access more information and support on healthy relationships, including LGBT young people. This could be</p>	<p><b>Accepted.</b> The revised Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) guidance for schools will highlight the need to provide young people with reliable, accurate and age appropriate information. It will also include links to relevant resources, including those on sexual</p>	Guidance to be published and available to schools by 31 August 2015

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included within the CCEA review of Relationships and Sexuality guidance materials	<p>orientation, gender identity and homophobic bullying.</p> <p>The Department will also share the revised Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) guidance for schools with the Education Authority and the Youth Council and ask these bodies to ensure that, where appropriate, the new guidance and resources are used to inform practice in Youth Service settings.</p>	
<p><b>Supporting Recommendation 29:</b></p> <p>The Department of Education should ensure that there is provision for parents, carers and other educational professionals to improve their knowledge and skills in relation to modern methods of communication and to keep up-to-date on developments in social media.</p>	<p><b>Accepted.</b> DE is committed to taking steps to ensure that pupils and staff can improve their knowledge and skills in this area.</p> <p>In relation to parents and carers, the Department is supporting the work that the Safeguarding Board NI (SBNI) has been commissioned to undertake in relation to the development of a new eSafety Strategy. Through its representation on the SBNI, the Education Authority will ensure educational input to this work.</p> <p>In addition the Education Authority's C2k service incorporates an eSafety strategy which is kept under continuous review and the service has in place password protection, internet monitoring, web and email filtering. The C2k system operates a rigorous internet filtering policy which blocks access to sites classed as unsuitable across all schools and which is kept under regular review</p> <p>The EA also communicates support materials and information to schools via a dedicated eSafety Zone on C2k and provides readily available teaching and learning resources and eSafety support materials through the C2k Exchange. The EA will continue to work alongside Safeguarding Board NI to update the resources and advice made available to schools via C2k.</p>	<p>Deadline of 18 months for production of a strategy – 2016/17 business year</p>
<p><b>Supporting Recommendation 30:</b></p> <p>The Department of Education should work with other departments to ensure that there are appropriate safeguarding arrangements for children in all non-statutory education settings.</p>	<p><b>Accepted.</b> DE is committed to working with other departments in all aspects of safeguarding for children and young people. DE has identified its key non-statutory education settings as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sure Start Settings</li> <li>• Pre-school settings</li> <li>• Other early years settings funded by the Early Years Fund</li> <li>• Youth Services</li> <li>• Education Otherwise Than At School</li> </ul> <p>The Department is working with other Departments where appropriate</p>	

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	<p>to take the following actions:</p> <p><b><u>Sure Start</u></b> As agreed in the Service Level Agreement between DE and Health and Social Care Board (HSCB), DE will receive written assurance statements from HSCB in year and at year end in respect of Child Protection in Sure Start. DE will also enhance assurance by requiring CCP managers to provide the details of Child Protection officers in each Sure Start project and confirmation that their training is current and regularly updated.</p> <p><b><u>Pre-School</u></b> Guidance on child protection issues for voluntary/private sector organisations, including pre-school settings, is in place in "Our Duty to Care" and "Choosing to Protect", Each setting has a designated social worker who makes regular visits to provide advice and ensure compliance with all aspects of the running of the setting. All settings are formally inspected by the H&amp;SCT on an annual basis. H&amp;SCTs have the authority to rescind a setting's registration certificate if there are issues which prevent it meeting the requirements of registration. Guidance for settings participating in the Pre-School Education Programme (PSEP) already includes the requirement to have a suitable pastoral care policy in place: this guidance will also be incorporated into updated Information to Providers pack.</p> <p><b><u>The Early Years Fund</u></b> Early Years – the Organisation for Young Children (EYO) administers the Early Years Fund on behalf of DE, providing funding to a range of early years settings. Recipient groups will receive Funding until end August 2015 due to Departmental budget reductions. DE will require EYO to ensure that Child Protection Policies are in place for all 2015/16 applications to the Fund. Compliance with child protection requirements will continue via annual Trust inspections of the groups which will review Child Protection policies.</p> <p><b><u>Youth Service</u></b> EA / YCNI to fund youth organisations and groups only where a Child Protection policy is in place and being operated. Monitoring and evaluation to take place to ensure compliance. Disclosure and Barring arrangements for the Youth Service are in place. Updated guidance will be provided as necessary for the Youth Service.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>October 2015</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p>

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	<p><b><u>Education Other Than At School (EOTAS)</u></b>  Guidance has been issued which addresses all aspects of EOTAS provision (including the duties of care to be met). The guidance aims to ensure parity of treatment/entitlement for pupils in EOTAS compared to their peers in mainstream schools. Accordingly, in respect of Safeguarding and Child Protection, it requires that all EOTAS centre staff must be appropriately vetted in line with the practice and procedures outlined in DE Circular 2013/01 Disclosure and Barring Arrangements and requires all centres to have in place Pastoral Care policies and procedures compliant with DE Circulars. Child Protection Guidance has issued on minimum requirements for Educational Otherwise Than At School (EOTAS) provision</p> <p>The Department is also taking the following action in relation to other non-statutory provision.</p> <p><b><u>Independent Schools</u></b></p> <p>The Department will ensure that Independent Schools receive the new RSE guidance, when it is published in August 2015.</p> <p><b><u>Elective Home Education</u></b></p> <p>The Education Authority (EA) is developing procedural guidance on Elective Home Education. This will set out the procedures and arrangements which the EA will establish relating to Elective Home Education including the statutory duties, roles and responsibilities of both the EA and parents. In developing the guidance the EA will consider appropriate safeguarding arrangements.</p>	Complete



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<p><b>Supporting Recommendation 31:</b></p> <p>Schools should ensure that Relationships and Sexuality Education is delivered by people with the skills and confidence to do so.</p>	<p><b>Accepted.</b></p> <p>Revised Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) guidance for schools is due to be published in time for the start of the 2015-16 school year. The new guidance is designed to help teachers improve their own skills and confidence in delivering the RSE curriculum.</p> <p>The Preventative Education Project commissioned by DE is about building the capacity of teachers to deliver an effective preventative curriculum in primary schools. The ultimate aim is to develop a blended learning package that equips teachers to embed preventative education in classroom life including teaching keeping safe messages to children (including those with special educational needs and disabilities); providing support to other school staff; involving parents through parent information and homework activities designed for them to use with their children; liaising with external agency staff to deliver additional enhanced learning opportunities for pupils; and responding appropriately to any disclosures made by pupils.</p>	
<p><b>Supporting Recommendation 32:</b></p> <p>The Department of Education should develop a central register of quality assured external agencies and/or programmes that schools could access to source appropriate specialist support to deliver the preventative curriculum.</p>	<p><b>Partially accepted.</b> It is not considered a viable suggestion that the Department could quality assure resources/support provided by commercial organisations. However the Department does, and will continue to, provide links on its website to statutory and voluntary agencies that offer schools information, resources and support in delivering the preventative curriculum.</p> <p>Additionally, the Department has commissioned the NSPCC to undertake a 5-year Preventative Education project that includes the production of resources to support schools and these will be made available as they are developed.</p>	
<p><b>Supporting Recommendation 33:</b></p> <p>The statutory personal development curriculum should specifically reference CSE, with a clear focus on progressively developing the confidence, self-esteem, resilience and personal coping strategies of all children and young people in schools.</p>	<p><b>Recommendation to be kept under review.</b> Specifying CSE would require legislative change. Therefore DE will return to this point as part of a wider review of the revised curriculum in due course. In the interim, the Department is ensuring that CSE will be specifically referenced in the revised Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE)</p>	30 June 2015

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	guidance for schools.	
<p><b>Supporting Recommendation 34:</b></p> <p>School staff and wider education professionals should receive training on CSE with the aim of integrating it into general safeguarding training.</p>	<p><b>Accepted.</b> The Department will ask the Education Authority and other employing authorities to ensure that safeguarding training for staff includes an embedded focus on CSE and how to recognise and take action. In addition, DE will draw this recommendation to the attention of Initial Teacher Education (ITE) and youth work training providers and ask them to consider it in relation to their ITE and youth work training programmes.</p>	
<p><b>Supporting Recommendation 35:</b></p> <p>The Department of Education should ensure that schools receive additional, regularly updated training and resources to support them in educating pupils and parents on how to use social media and online resources responsibly, and how to keep their pupils safe.</p>	<p><b>Accepted.</b> The Education Authority, via the C2k programme, is now providing teachers with detailed advice and guidance on eSafety within an eSafety zone available via the C2k Exchange. Resources are also available within the C2k Virtual Learning Environment, Fronter, for staff and pupils. Teachers have access to an Internet Safety Room which has a range of resources and eSafety policies.</p> <p>Teachers can also now access a Fronter resource called, 'Better safe than Sorry'. This is an online room that a teacher can bring children into, with a range of readily available educational resources relevant to safety.</p>	

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<p><b>Supporting Recommendation 36:</b></p> <p>The Department of Education should give further guidance to schools on CSE and in its review of Relationships and Sexuality Education guidance for schools; CCEA should consider specifically referencing CSE.</p>	<p><b>Accepted.</b> The revised Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) guidance for schools, due to be published in time for the start of the 2015-16 school year, will cover CSE.</p>	<p>Guidance to be published and available to schools by 31 August 2015</p>
<p><b>Supporting Recommendation 37:</b></p> <p>The Department of Education should explore the possibilities for peer education and mentoring as a way of informing and supporting young people about CSE.</p>	<p><b>Accepted.</b> DE has supported the dissemination of the Barnardo's/SBNI DVD and Resource Pack 'False Freedom' to all post-primary schools, the EA and regional youth officers. This resource was produced by young people for young people.</p> <p>Additionally, and building on the excellent work already underway in many parts of the youth sector, the Department will ask the Education Authority and Youth Council to work together to provide a report on how peer mentoring can be developed further in the youth sector.</p>	
<p><b>Supporting Recommendation 38:</b></p> <p>The Department of Education should provide schools with clear, consistent guidance on recording, storing and handling of child protection records including CSE.</p>	<p><b>Accepted.</b> In response to this recommendation, the Department is developing a records management policy for schools which will address this particular aspect of records management.</p>	<p>31 March 2016</p>
<p><b>Supporting Recommendation 39:</b></p> <p>Schools should ensure that all school governors have child protection awareness training which includes reference to CSE. The designated governor for child protection should have additional, enhanced training.</p>	<p><b>Accepted.</b> There are 3 strands to child protection training for governors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Governors receive child protection awareness training (which includes CSE) as part of their Governor induction training. This is provided by Assistant Advisory Officers in the EA.</li> <li>• The Chair of the Board of Governors and the designated Governors receive targeted child protection training (which also includes CSE), provided by the EA CPSSS</li> <li>• Safer recruitment and selection training is provided by EA HR staff</li> </ul> <p>The Department will write to the EA to stress the importance of ensuring that all governors avail of the relevant training and of keeping records so that follow up of those who do not attend can take place.</p>	<p>31 August 2015</p>
<p><b>Supporting Recommendation 40:</b></p>	<p><b>Accepted.</b> Following a recent Child Protection Audit, the EA is</p>	

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The Department of Education should ensure that youth workers, whether paid or voluntary, should receive training to help them to inform and support young people, who may be at risk of CSE, and to identify and report safeguarding issues appropriately.	reviewing Child Protection Policy, training and the provision of support materials. The Department has asked the EA to ensure that the review includes full consideration of CSE and the wider recommendations in the Marshall report.	Provisional EA target to complete review of policy by October 2015

## ETI Report Recommendations for improvement:

Recommendation	Action	Timescale
Further work is required to raise awareness in schools and wider community of the risk factors, indicators and signs of CSE	<b>Accepted.</b> The action being taken by DE and its arm's length bodies in response to the recommendations of the Marshall Report will be instrumental in addressing this recommendation. Additionally, the inter-departmental work to develop a strategy to prevent, identify, disrupt and tackle CSE will ensure further steps in raising awareness.	
The statutory personal development curriculum needs to specifically reference CSE.	This recommendation reflects Recommendation 33 in the Marshall Report. In response to that recommendation, DE has indicated that it accepts the principle behind the recommendation which is to ensure that pupils are supported to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to keep themselves safe. However, specifying CSE would require legislative change. DE will therefore return to this point as part of a wider review of the revised curriculum in due course. In the interim, the Department is ensuring that CSE will be specifically referenced in the revised Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) guidance for schools.	
Curriculum programmes that address risky behaviours need to be more explicit and implications for future life choices made clear	<b>Accepted.</b> The revised Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) guidance for schools will now specifically reference risky behaviours.	Guidance to be published and available to schools by 31 August 2015
Most schools need to engage with parents with regard to wider preventative curriculum provision.	<b>Accepted.</b> DE has reminded schools of the importance of ensuring that there is engagement with parents in relation to the preventative curriculum.  In the context of publishing the revised Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) guidance for schools, DE will also remind schools that it is a requirement that all schools have in place a RSE policy and it is also a requirement that this policy is developed with the involvement of parents, pupils, staff and governors.	30 June 2015.
Schools need additional updated training and resources to support them in educating parents and pupils on use of social media and online resources.	This recommendation reflects Recommendation 35 in the Marshall Report. In response to that recommendation, DE has indicated that the Education Authority, via the C2k programme, is now providing teachers with detailed advice and guidance on eSafety within an eSafety zone available via the C2k Exchange. Resources are also available within the C2k Virtual Learning Environment, Fronter, for staff and pupils. Teachers have access to an Internet Safety Room which has a range of resources and eSafety policies.  Teachers can also now access a Fronter resource called, 'Better safe than Sorry'. This is an online room that a teacher can bring children into, with a range of readily available educational resources relevant to safety.	

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<p>Guidance is required from DE on recording, storing and handling child protection records.</p>	<p>This recommendation reflects Recommendation 38 in the Marshall report. In response to that recommendation, the Department is developing a records management policy for schools which will address this particular aspect of records management.</p>	<p>31 March 2016</p>
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