

# **National Action Plan to Prevent and Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation**

**Update**

**March 2016**

# NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO PREVENT AND TACKLE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

## UPDATE

### Ministerial foreword



Child sexual exploitation is an often hidden form of child sexual abuse. It happens in person and online and has a devastating impact on victims and their families. No child or young person should experience abuse of any form and our aim is to eliminate child sexual exploitation in Scotland.

Preventing and tackling child sexual exploitation requires a co-ordinated, multi-agency response. Universal and specialist services have important roles to play and it is vital that all practitioners have the knowledge and skills to identify exploitation and respond appropriately. This response must be underpinned by strong leadership and a clear commitment from Chief Officers and senior managers, together with a focus on developing a shared understanding of the local profile of exploitation.

Technology is playing a significant role in changing the nature of child sexual abuse. The internet and social media makes it easier to access and share images, allows perpetrators to connect and provides a sense of anonymity. This makes online child sexual exploitation an increasingly global crime and action in Scotland is set within the framework of UK and international measures.

This plan builds on the wide range of activity underway since the publication of Scotland's first National Action Plan to Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation in November 2014 and has been developed in partnership with the Ministerial Working Group to Prevent and Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation and National Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group.

I would like to thank all those involved in its development. Their ongoing support and commitment will be critical in maintaining momentum and ensuring that all children and young people in Scotland are protected from harm.

## Introduction

Child sexual exploitation is a complex crime which happens in person or online or a combination of both. It can affect girls and boys from any background or community. Perpetrators are often well organised and use sophisticated tactics to manipulate children and young people and evade detection. Young people may not understand the exploitative nature of the experience until months or even years later which makes identification of victims more difficult. We know that young people who are sexually exploited are sometimes viewed negatively and that they are not always recognised as victims of abuse.

Preventing and tackling sexual exploitation requires a co-ordinated multi-agency response. Children and young people need information to help them build resilience and make safe choices. Parents and carers need information about how to talk to their children and how to recognise the signs that their child may be at risk. Practitioners must be equipped with the knowledge and skills to recognise sexual exploitation and respond appropriately. This must be accompanied by work to detect, disrupt and prosecute perpetrators and reduce re-offending.

## Definition

We currently define child sexual exploitation as follows:

The sexual exploitation of children and young people is an often hidden form of child sexual abuse, with distinctive elements of exploitation and exchange. In practice, the sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 might involve young people being coerced, manipulated, forced or deceived into performing and/or others performing on them, sexual activities in exchange for receiving some form of material goods or other entity (for example, food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, gifts, affection). Sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology and without the child's immediate recognition.

In all cases those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are often common features; involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child/young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social, economic and/or emotional vulnerability

In some cases, the sexual activity may just take place between one young person and the perpetrator (whether an adult or peer). In other situations a young person may be passed for sex between two or more perpetrators or this may be organised exploitation (often by criminal gangs or organised groups).<sup>1</sup>

This plan includes a commitment to develop a revised definition of child sexual exploitation and associated practitioner briefing paper by May 2016.

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<sup>1</sup> National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland, Scottish Government, 2014.

## Scale and nature of the issue

Establishing the scale and nature of child sexual exploitation is challenging; it is often hidden, there is a growing but still limited awareness amongst practitioners of the different forms of exploitation and young people do not always recognise that they are being exploited. In some cases, children and young people only know their abuser by an alias or nickname and can be passed between a number of perpetrators and moved between different locations or given alcohol or drugs. More generally, we know that child sexual abuse is under-reported. The Savile revelations gave a graphic illustration that many children have been unable to report abuse until well into adulthood.

Research has shown that a number of factors can increase a young person's vulnerability to exploitation. These include a disrupted family life, a history of abuse, mental health issues or parental substance misuse. We also know that some groups of young people are more vulnerable to targeting by perpetrators. These include young people who go missing or are looked after, children and young people with learning disabilities, those who are excluded from school or who misuse drugs and alcohol. Emerging evidence shows that children and young people at risk of online exploitation may not have the same vulnerabilities which can mean that they are less likely to be identified.<sup>2</sup>

We are seeing a rise in child sexual exploitation committed by children and young people, either directly by sexually exploiting their peers, or indirectly by introducing children and young people to abusers. In some cases, young people exploiting others have been targeted by adult perpetrators and threatened or manipulated into making or sharing images or forced into providing access to younger children.

The National Crime Agency leads the UK's response to serious and organised crime. Its strategic assessment of serious and organised crime in 2014 has identified child sexual exploitation and abuse as one of the key threats facing the UK.

The following statistics provide some context:

- ChildLine provided 635 counselling sessions to children and young people in Scotland worried about child sexual exploitation during 2014/15.
- Barnardo's Scotland provided specialist support to 266 children and young people who had experienced or were at risk of child sexual exploitation during 2014/15.
- The Internet Watch Foundation worked with partners to remove 31,266 URLs of child sexual abuse images worldwide in 2014, an increase of 137% from 2013/14.
- In 2012, the National Crime Agency's Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command received reports containing 16,200 indecent images generated by children and young people themselves.

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<sup>2</sup> Digital dangers: the impact of technology on the sexual abuse and exploitation of children and young people, Barnardo's and the Marie Collins Foundation, 2015.

- Between April 2015 and February 2016 child sexual exploitation cases accounted for 33% of Police Scotland's National Child Abuse Investigation Unit resource hours.
- Police Scotland charged 875 perpetrators involved in online child abuse between April 2013 and December 2015.

This plan sets out a range of current and future action that will improve our understanding of the scope and nature of child sexual exploitation in Scotland.

## **Context**

Eliminating child sexual exploitation contributes to our shared vision of making Scotland the best place in the world to grow up in and to achieving the following National Outcomes:

- Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
- Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.
- We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.
- We live our lives free from crime, disorder and danger.
- We have strong resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.
- We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society.

Action to prevent and tackle child sexual exploitation is set within the wider context of activity to promote wellbeing and prevent and tackle other forms of child sexual abuse, physical and emotional abuse and neglect.

Getting it Right for Every Child is Scotland's approach to improving outcomes for children and young people. The Named Person, introduced as part of the Getting it Right for Every Child provisions in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, will act as a single point of contact for any wellbeing concerns and provide support to children, young people and their families if needed. The aim is to identify issues as early as possible, working with parents and services before they escalate into potential crisis.

The Scottish Government has introduced a statutory entitlement to early learning and childcare for pre-school children and increased provision from 475 hours to 600 hours per year. This will be further increased to 1140 hours by the end of the next Parliament.

The Universal Health Visiting Pathway's programme of home visits is providing early and consistent support to families and an additional 500 health visitors will join the workforce over the next 4 years. The Keys to Life strategy sets out a range of action to help ensure that children, young people and adults with learning disabilities are respected, treated with dignity and have the same opportunities as other members of society. In January 2016, the First Minister announced investment of £54 million to improve access to psychological therapies for people of all ages.

The Scottish Government is also prioritising a range of measures to improve outcomes for the most vulnerable children. We have modernised the Children's Hearings system and are investing in the Family Nurse Partnership programme to provide intensive support to teenage parents. Our Looked After Children Strategy will ensure more children secure permanent placements quickly and the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 will introduce additional protections for child victims of human trafficking. The Scottish Attainment Challenge, backed by a £100 million fund, is ensuring that additional staff and resources are directed at more than 300 schools in our most deprived areas.

The Children, Young People and Families Early Intervention Fund will support the core operation of voluntary and statutory organisations from April 2016, allowing them to provide direct services to vulnerable children and families with focus on prevention and early intervention.

Preventing offending is integral to our approach to improving outcomes for vulnerable children. The youth justice strategy Preventing Offending: Getting It Right for Children and Young People provides a clear focus for developing capacity and supporting improvement. In the strategy, we recognise that children and young people who offend can be victims themselves and note the particular sensitivities where children commit sexual offences against other children.

In some cases, exploitation occurs through criminal gangs or organised groups and there are similarities in the risk factors and vulnerabilities of young people who are sexually exploited and those who become involved in serious organised crime. Scotland's Serious Organised Crime Strategy, which was refreshed in June 2015, sets out a range of action to divert people from becoming involved in serious organised crime, deter serious organised crime groups and detect and prosecute those involved. This plan sets out where we will draw on approaches developed to divert, deter and detect serious organised crime in developing our response to child sexual exploitation.

Action set out in our Equally Safe strategy, updated in March 2016, aims to prevent and eradicate the full spectrum of violence against women and girls, including domestic abuse, rape, incest and child sexual abuse. The strategy adopts a gendered approach but recognises that boys are also victims of sexual exploitation and other forms of sexual abuse.

In a statement to Parliament on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2016, the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning presented a Child Protection Improvement programme which commits to:

- review the effectiveness of the current child protection system;
- consider improvements to the Children's Hearings system;
- encourage and support leadership throughout the child protection system;
- strengthen scrutiny through a revised inspection regime;
- establish a child protection data and evidence programme;
- establish the improvements required so that the system better addresses and responds to neglect; and

- deliver an integrated action plan for a new robust child protection system which draws on the recommendations from the work outlined in the elements above.

Action to prevent and tackle child sexual exploitation is set within this improvement wider programme and within the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention, which has been ratified by the UK Government, includes a specific obligation for Governments to protect children and young people from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 places duties on Scottish Ministers to keep under consideration how the Convention can be further effected in Scotland.

This plan builds on action set out in Scotland's first National Action Plan to Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation, published in November 2014. It has been developed in partnership with the Ministerial Working Group to Prevent and Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation and National Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group. The Ministerial Working Group sets the national strategic framework for action in Scotland and is chaired by the Minister for Children and Young People. Membership of the group is drawn from organisations which advise, deliver or support improvement in child protection practices and services. The National Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group takes a lead role in developing proposals to improve policy and practice in preventing and tackling child sexual exploitation and reports to the Ministerial Working Group.

## **Strategic approach**

The Ministerial Working Group and National Sub-group have agreed the long term, intermediate and contributory outcomes which will achieve progress towards our aim of eliminating child sexual exploitation in Scotland. These outcomes are set out at page 7.

The plan is structured around four intermediate outcomes:

- The risk that children and young people are exploited is reduced through a focus on prevention and early identification.
- Children and young people at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation and their families receive appropriate and high quality support.
- Perpetrators are stopped, brought to justice and are less likely to re-offend.
- Cultural and social barriers to preventing and tackling CSE are reduced.

Each section provides an update on work underway since the publication of the first national plan and set out key actions over the next 2-3 years which build on current activity. Outcomes at each level are inter-related and many of the actions contribute to achieving more than one outcome. We will develop a set of indicators to measure progress towards achieving the outcomes set out in the plan by December 2016.

We want to find meaningful ways to involve children and young people in developing and reviewing the actions in this plan and shaping future policy. Organisations working with children and young people have established mechanisms for seeking views and involving young people in their work. We will work with stakeholders to develop a collaborative approach drawing on work being led by the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland to involving children and young people in shaping policy at national level.

Child sexual exploitation is a complex and evolving issue and we must continue to develop our collective response in the light of experience. We must also learn from the experience of others. We will continue to review the actions being taken forward in other parts of the UK and internationally and consider their applicability and value in Scotland in further developing our approach.



## SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IS ELIMINATED

Children and young people are protected from harm

Our society is a hostile place for perpetrators and facilitators of child sexual exploitation

The risk that children and young people are sexually exploited is reduced through a focus on prevention and early identification

Children and young people at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation and their families receive appropriate and high quality support

Perpetrators are stopped, brought to justice and are less likely to re-offend

Cultural and social barriers to preventing and tackling child sexual exploitation are reduced

Young people are resilient and are equipped to help themselves and their peers

Children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation are identified (early)

An appropriate range of high quality services are available

Children and young people affected by sexual exploitation are identified (early)

Perpetrators and facilitators of sexual exploitation are held to account through the criminal justice system

Perpetrators are supported to change their thoughts and behaviour

Communities feel empowered to report abuse

Legal preventative measures are robust and used effectively

Practitioners are equipped with the knowledge and skills to recognise and respond appropriately to the needs of children and young people at risk or affected by sexual exploitation

Perpetrators and facilitators of child sexual exploitation are disrupted

Children and young people affected by sexual exploitation are encouraged to report abuse

Social tolerance of gender inequalities is reduced

People who are at risk of sexually exploiting children are supported to change their thoughts and behaviour

Increased understanding amongst parents and the wider public of all forms of CSE, including risks and indicators, and appropriate responses

Perpetrators are identified (early)

Increased public and practitioner understanding that child sexual exploitation can affect boys and girls from any background or community

Increased public and practitioner understanding that child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse

## **The risk that children and young people are sexually exploited is reduced through a focus on prevention and early identification**

### **Contributory outcomes**

- Children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation are identified (early).
- Increased understanding amongst parents and the wider public of all forms of child sexual exploitation, including risks and indicators, and appropriate responses.
- Young people are resilient and are equipped to help themselves and their peers.
- Practitioners are equipped with the knowledge and skills to identify and respond appropriately to the needs of children and young people at risk or affected by sexual exploitation.
- People who are at risk of sexually exploiting children are supported to change their thoughts and behaviour.
- Legal preventative measures are robust and used effectively.

Reducing the risk of sexual exploitation requires a co-ordinated, multi-agency approach to raise awareness amongst children and young people, parents and the wider public, help children and young people develop resilience and make safe choices, ensure that practitioners and agencies have the knowledge and skills to identify exploitation and respond appropriately, disrupt and prosecute perpetrators and reduce re-offending, and reduce tolerance of abusive and exploitative behaviour.

## **What we're doing**

### **Raising awareness amongst parents and the wider public**

While we do not have a full understanding of the scale and nature of child sexual exploitation in Scotland, in the majority of known cases, children and young people are living at home when the exploitation starts. In many cases, parents will be the first to realise that something is wrong, although they may not be able to identify what. A survey of Scottish parents and carers found that whilst the majority of those who took part had heard of the term child sexual exploitation, understanding of what it means is limited. Almost a third of those surveyed said they knew little to nothing about what child sexual exploitation is, and over a third did not believe that it would affect their family.

Parents most commonly associated sexual exploitation with trafficking and organised gangs and were largely informed by media coverage of high profile cases in

Rotherham and other UK cities. Those surveyed had limited awareness of the nature of online grooming and the connections between online and offline abuse. Many parents felt that their child would be unlikely to be affected as only children in particular circumstances, such as those in care, were thought to be at risk. The reality is that sexual exploitation can affect any young person - boys and girls - from any background.

We launched the national campaign to raise public awareness and understanding of child sexual exploitation in January 2016. The campaign, which has been developed in partnership with stakeholders, is providing information to parents and the wider public through TV, outdoor and digital advertising and a campaign website – [www.csethesigns.scot](http://www.csethesigns.scot) It highlights that sexual exploitation affects more children and young people in more ways than people might think. The website was visited by 10,000 unique users in the first two weeks of the campaign.

ParentLine Scotland, provided by Children 1<sup>st</sup>, offers emotional support, information and advice to parents and carers by telephone, webchat and email on a wide range of issues including child sexual exploitation and other forms of sexual abuse. Funding through the Children, Young People and Families Early Intervention Fund from April 2016 will support key infrastructure posts to support delivery of all Children 1<sup>st</sup> services.

Vulnerabilities such as parental substance misuse can create the conditions which can increase a child or young person's risk of being sexually exploited. Alcohol and Drug Partnerships have formal relationships in place with Child Protection Committees to deliver on joint strategic objectives. The Scottish Government will continue to work with the Lloyds TSB Foundation and the Partnership Drugs Initiative to provide funding to organisations supporting vulnerable children and young people affected by parental substance misuse.

### **Building the knowledge and resilience of young people**

It is crucial that children and young people are resilient and develop the knowledge and skills to make safe and healthy choices about relationships and sexual health. This will help them to avoid situations that put them at risk and help them to identify who to turn to if they need advice and support.

The national child sexual exploitation campaign is raising awareness amongst young people aged 11-17 of what constitutes sexual exploitation and where they can go for advice and support. The campaign aims to build understanding of the differences between healthy and unhealthy relationships and empower young people to take appropriate action if they have concerns about themselves or a friend. As part of the campaign, advertising materials encouraging young people to 'listen to their alerts' have been distributed through local and national partner organisations and are being used alongside social media advertising.

The campaign website signposts children and young people to ChildLine, the confidential service for children and young people up to the age of 19, provided by the NSPCC. Calls are free, can be made at any time of the day or night. Funding through the Children, Young People and Families Early Intervention Fund from April

2016 will allow ChildLine to increase in contacts with children and young people by 20%.

Schools have a vital role to play in helping children and young people develop resilience and make safe choices. Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP) education in schools is a key part of Health and Wellbeing within Curriculum for Excellence. Revised guidance on delivering RSHP education, published in December 2014, highlights how raising awareness of what makes a safe and healthy relationship can protect children and young people from sexual exploitation and help young people to identify abuse.

Sexual exploitation has been added to the Safeguarding and Child Protection quality indicator of the How Good is Our School 4? Framework. The framework, which sets out a clear expectation that all staff undertake regular child protection learning activities, provides a focus for schools to evaluate how they are supporting children and young people develop their understanding of how to keep themselves safe.

### **Helping young people understand their rights and stay safe online**

The Scottish Government is an official supporter of the UK-wide iRights coalition, awarding funding to Young Scot to lead work to help young people to understand their online rights and make informed decisions and choices.

The Childnet Digital Leaders Programme, launched in September 2015, and funded by Facebook and the European Commission, is supporting young people aged 11-18 to champion digital citizenship and digital creativity within their schools and to educate their peers, parents and teachers about staying safe online.

### **Improving protection and encouraging reporting in minority ethnic communities**

Children and young people from minority ethnic communities can have specific vulnerabilities associated with their culture which create barriers to disclosing or reporting abuse, for example, blackmail connected with shame and dishonour can be used to control victims. Cultural sensitivities can lead to an unwillingness to discuss or recognise abuse.

The SAFE Project, a community outreach and education programme delivered by Roshni, aims to empower minority ethnic young people to disclose abuse and increase awareness of mainstream support services. Roshni also provide the Protecting You, Protecting Children Service which helps organisations providing services to minority ethnic communities put effective governance and child protection procedures in place.

### **Providing guidance and training to help equip practitioners to recognise and respond**

WithScotland provides a national resource for Scottish agencies, practitioners, policy makers and academics working to protect children, young people and adults at risk

of harm, including a dedicated child sexual exploitation area on its website for resources and signposts to relevant organisations.

Barnardo's Scotland, in partnership with the West of Scotland Child Protection Consortium, have developed a practitioner training resource to support frontline staff provide an effective response to child sexual exploitation and have delivered training in 29 local authority areas across Scotland. This resource will be highlighted in the practice guidance being developed by the National Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group.

Research shows that disabled children and young people are more likely to be abused than their non-disabled peers and that abuse is more likely to go undetected or unreported.<sup>3</sup> There can be gender differences – a study of services for young people affected by child sexual exploitation found that male service users were 2.6 times more likely to have a recorded disability than female service users (35% compared with 13%).<sup>4</sup> The Child Protection and Disability Toolkit, developed by WithScotland and the Scottish Government, provides guidance and resources to support practitioners working with this vulnerable group.

### **Supporting people who are at risk of sexually exploiting children to change their thoughts and behaviour**

Stop it Now! UK provides a UK wide confidential helpline for adults concerned about their own thoughts or behaviour and for families and friends who have concerns that someone they know may present a potential risk of sexual harm. Core funding from the Scottish Government is enabling Stop it Now! Scotland to provide direct support to adults and young people in Scotland at risk of sexually abusing others.

### **Raising awareness of legal preventative measures**

Police Scotland have issued guidance to police Child Protection Units to raise awareness of when restriction orders can be imposed on those thought to pose a risk of sexual harm to a child under 16. The Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Offences (Scotland) Bill will strengthen the system of civil preventative orders to better protect communities from those who may commit sexual offences.

## **What next**

### **Continue to build the knowledge and resilience of young people**

The Mentors in Violence Prevention Scotland Programme, which is delivered by the Violence Reduction Unit in partnership with the Scottish Government and Education Scotland, is a peer mentoring programme which equips young people with the skills to identify abusive and violent behaviours and develop safe options to support and challenge their peers. The programme is being delivered in 64 secondary schools

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<sup>3</sup> Disabled Children and Child Protection in Scotland: Investigation into the relationship between professional practice, child protection and disability, University of Edinburgh and University of Strathclyde, 2014.

<sup>4</sup> Hidden in plain sight: a scoping study into the sexual exploitation of boys and young men in the UK, Barnardo's NatCen Social Research and University College London, August 2014.

and has trained 1,300 young mentors across Scotland. Many of the scenarios in the programme relate to behaviours which increase the risk of sexual exploitation (including controlling, harassment, sexting, sharing of sexually explicit photos and the issue of consent) and are used to help young people build their resilience in order to develop safe options to support their friends and peers. The Scottish Government is providing an additional £450K to expand the programme and train a further 1,860 young mentors in an additional 93 secondary schools across Scotland by 2018.

The Scottish Government is also funding Rape Crisis Scotland to expand its national sexual violence prevention programme during 2016-19, taking the programme into secondary schools in 18 local authority areas. The programme is led by specialist prevention workers and covers a range of issues including consent, sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation, homophobia, Female Genital Mutilation and honour-related violence.

Action for Children deliver Sidestep, an early intervention and diversion programme which aims divert young people aged 14-18 from involvement in serious organised crime through peer mentoring and community engagement work. The approach supports young people who are 'perennial non-engagers', rejecting statutory services including those with a history of care or secure accommodation. Young mentors, all of whom have previously been involved in organised crime, provide positive role models to their peers and families showing that change is achievable. We will consider how the Sidestep approach can be used to support young people at risk or affected by sexual exploitation and their families.

Education Scotland will continue to support schools, colleges and education services in undertaking their safeguarding responsibilities and work with partners to identify existing resources and signpost on its website. Child sexual exploitation will be included in regional safeguarding events to share learning and best practice throughout 2016.

### **Strengthen the local response**

Chief Officers have lead responsibility for ensuring an effective multi-agency response to child sexual exploitation through their Child Protection Committees and progress is being made across Scotland. We know that some areas are more developed in their response due to a higher number of cases or because action to prevent and tackle child sexual exploitation has been prioritised. Some areas have established new strategic and operational groups to lead and plan the local response and in other parts of the country strategic and operational planning is overseen within existing governance structures.

The Scottish Government has commissioned the University of Bedfordshire to develop a definition of child sexual exploitation and its relationship to child sexual abuse in partnership with Scottish stakeholders. A briefing paper providing context on the definition will be disseminated to practitioners working in universal and specialist services in May 2016. This will ensure that all practitioners and agencies use the same definition to facilitate joint risk assessments and effective multi-agency responses.

The National Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group will:

- develop a framework for Child Protection Committees to facilitate a consistent and collaborative approach to preventing, identifying and responding to child sexual exploitation across Scotland.
- develop guidance for practitioners and agencies which will identify best practice and resources to support the identification and assessment of child sexual exploitation, by September 2016.
- deliver three child sexual exploitation regional workshops for practitioners during 2016-17 to share learning and best practice.

The Scottish Government has awarded three year funding to Barnardo's Scotland from April 2016 to support the local response to child sexual exploitation and deliver 150 community to raise public and practitioner awareness and understanding.

The Care Inspectorate will develop the new community justice self-evaluation framework to make cross-reference to adult and child protection arrangements, including the response to child sexual exploitation. The framework will be introduced in March 2017 and will support Community Planning Partnerships in evaluating the effectiveness of their response and in identifying actions to support continuous improvement.

Roshni will deliver practitioner training sessions during 2016 to raise awareness of the links between child sexual exploitation and radicalisation, highlight potential signs that a child or young person is being groomed and build understanding of the additional barriers that children and young people from minority ethnic communities may face when trying to access support. This will help to ensure a more culturally sensitive response in supporting minority ethnic young people affected by child sexual exploitation and radicalisation.

### **Develop a better understanding of scale and nature and a more robust evidence base**

Child sexual exploitation is an often hidden and under-reported form of abuse. However, developing an effective response requires a robust understanding of its scale and nature. We have committed to establishing a child protection data and evidence programme as part of the Child Protection Improvement Programme and work to develop our understanding and approach to preventing and tackling child sexual exploitation will be taken forward through this work. This will ensure that the development of policy and practice in Scotland is informed by a strong evidence base.

We know there is variation in the level and range of information collected about child sexual exploitation across Scotland. It is vital that every area has a process in place to build a shared understanding of scale and nature through the collection and analysis of information about children and young people at risk and affected, perpetrators, locations and hotspots. This will enable local problem profiles to be developed which describe where, when, why and how child sexual exploitation is

taking place, highlight potential new sources of information and assess the risk posed.

We want to improve consistency in local problem profiling in order to build a national profile of child sexual exploitation across Scotland. Key to achieving this is agreeing a template for local information capture. We will work with Police Scotland and Child Protection Committees to agree a template to capture information about child sexual exploitation and implement across Scotland by December 2016. We will draw on existing work to develop understanding of the scale and nature of serious organised crime in shaping this work.

Linked to local problem profiling is an agreed process for collecting and sharing information between partners about perpetrators and locations. Police Scotland's Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Intelligence Toolkit is being piloted in Glasgow between March and August 2016 in partnership with Roshni, Barnardo's and Glasgow Life. The toolkit formalises information collection and sharing arrangements between the police, other law enforcement agencies, statutory agencies (including social work, education, housing, health and licensing), community groups, voluntary sector services and the business community (including hotels, taxi companies, food outlets, off licenses and hostels). The pilot will be evaluated before being rolled out nationally by December 2016. This will build a more robust intelligence led approach to prevention, detection and disruption of perpetrators across Scotland.

The Scottish Government will develop a systematic approach to improving the evidence base in which existing and emerging information and research about child sexual exploitation from Scotland and the rest of the UK is consolidated and gaps identified by December 2016.

### **Develop guidance for medical practitioners**

The Scottish Government will work with partners to develop guidance for medical practitioners on child sexual exploitation for inclusion in the national child protection guidance for health professionals in Scotland (The Pink Book), by September 2016.

### **Support night-time economy workers to recognise and report warning signs**

The Jay report into cases of child sexual exploitation in Rotherham recognised the role that taxi drivers, hotel workers, bar staff and other night-time economy workers can play in protecting children and vulnerable adults.<sup>5</sup> A number of local areas in Scotland have taken forward work to raise awareness within the night-time economy, through community briefings and outreach work which strengthens links between statutory and voluntary services and the community. In some cases this has been reinforced through licensing conditions. Work in this area in England has been led by Barnardo's through a pilot of the Night Watch Service in 14 local authorities areas. We will work with the National Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group and the Scottish Business Resilience Centre to identify action at national level to support local areas raise awareness of child sexual exploitation with night-time economy

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<sup>5</sup> Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham 1997 – 2013, Alexis Jay, 2014.



workers, drawing on existing work in this area undertaken in Scotland and other parts of the UK, by October 2016.

### **Continue to raise awareness and empower communities to identify risks and act to prevent abuse**

The Scottish Government will evaluate the impact of the national child sexual exploitation awareness raising campaign and will continue to work closely with partners and key stakeholders to extend its reach during 2016/17.

The Scottish Government will fund Stop it Now! Scotland from April 2016 to raise awareness and understanding of child sexual abuse with a range of communities and organisations including sports clubs, churches and faith organisations, residential care homes for children and young people, LGBT communities and organisations supporting children with disabilities.

### **Reform the system of civil orders to better protect communities from those who may commit sexual offences**

We will introduce two new orders – the sexual harm prevention order and sexual risk order – through the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Offences (Scotland) Bill to replace the existing set of three orders that can be imposed on convicted sex offenders and those thought to pose a risk of sexual harm to a child under 16. The grounds on which the new orders will be made are wider than those for the current orders, so they could be used by the police to protect adults at risk of harm (including 16 and 17 year olds) as well as children. The test of ‘serious sexual harm’ in existing provision is to be replaced and a court will be able to grant a new order if it is satisfied that it is necessary to protect a person from ‘sexual harm’. This lower threshold is designed to ensure courts can impose an order to protect the community where a realistic threat to public protection exists. The Bill also removes the condition that the subject of a risk of sexual harm order must have carried out a specified act in relation to a child on at least two occasions, along with the need for evidence from within the last three months to form the basis of an application for a sexual risk order. This will assist the police in the prevention of sexual harm.

## **Children and young people at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation and their families receive appropriate and high quality support**

### **Contributory outcomes**

- Children and young people at risk or affected by sexual exploitation are identified early.
- Increased understanding amongst parents and the wider public of all forms of child sexual exploitation, including risks and indicators, and appropriate responses.
- Practitioners are equipped with the knowledge and skills to identify and respond appropriately to the needs of children and young people at risk or affected by sexual exploitation.
- An appropriate range of high quality services are available.

Sexual exploitation can lead to range of emotional, psychological and physical issues such as anger, anxiety, low self-esteem, self-harm, depression, suicide, sexualised behaviour, eating disorders and substance misuse. Children and young people who have been sexually exploited are likely to require long term, specialist support to overcome these effects. In some cases, children will be unable to report abuse until well into adulthood.

## **What we're doing**

### **Improving access to quality support services**

Since 2009/10, the Scottish Government has invested over £19.8 million to increase the number of psychologists working in specialist Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services by 70%. An additional £15 million is being made available through the Mental Health Innovation Fund during 2015-18, to support better access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and to develop innovative approaches to delivering mental health services. The innovation element of the funding covers all ages and is aimed at supporting people in distress including those who have experienced trauma. £1 million is also being provided to NHS Education for Scotland to deliver a three year programme of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services workforce development.

The Survivor Scotland Strategic Priorities Framework sets out Scottish Government's vision that adult survivors of child abuse should be supported to have equal access to integrated care, support and treatment to reduce the impact of abuse.

We have invested £1.5 million in the current in care survivor support service since 2007 and a further £9 million to voluntary sector organisations which support survivors across Scotland. The Survivor Scotland Innovation and Development Fund is providing an additional £1 million during 2015/16 to test new approaches to providing support and care for survivors. The fund has enabled the development of a free-to-use e-learning resource to improve the knowledge and practical skills of frontline staff and practitioners who may interact with survivors of child abuse in their day to day work.

### **Supporting improvement in services for looked after and accommodated children**

Since April 2015, the Care Inspectorate has required care services for looked after and accommodated children to submit information about how they recognise and respond to support vulnerable young people who may be at risk of sexual exploitation. This information is followed up by inspectors during the inspection process.

### **Improving support for child victims of trafficking**

Children and young people are at greater risk of being trafficked and can be more vulnerable to the long term impacts of trafficking and exploitation than adults. The Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 strengthens criminal law by introducing a new single human trafficking offence for the purpose of criminalising all forms of exploitation of adults and children, and increasing the maximum penalty for perpetrators to life imprisonment. The Act makes provision for independent guardians for trafficked and unaccompanied children who have no-one in the UK with parental rights and responsibilities for them. Section 12 of the Act relates to presumption of age and when brought into effect will ensure that where a victim of trafficking's age is uncertain but where there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person may be a child, the person will be presumed to be a child for the purpose of receiving immediate age-appropriate support and services.

### **What next**

This plan sets out action to reduce the risk to all children and young people through a focus on early identification and prevention. While any child or young person can be a victim of exploitation, some young people are particularly vulnerable. The risk of exploitation is higher when children and young go missing or are looked after. Children and young people with learning disabilities are particularly at risk and face additional barriers to protection and support. Targeted work to reduce these risks is required.

### **Better protection for children and young people who go missing**

A child or young person going missing is nearly always a sign that something is badly wrong. They may be experiencing problems at home such as family disagreements, neglect or abuse, or problems outside the home such as grooming, bullying or involvement in gangs, or may be suffering from mental health problems. Many children and young people go missing repeatedly. Whilst away from home

they are even more vulnerable, with an estimated 1 in 6 sleeping rough or with strangers, and 1 in 9 experiencing harm while missing. Up to 70% of children who are known to be sexually exploited have been reported missing, sometimes repeatedly.

We will finalise the National Missing Persons Strategy for Scotland during 2016 and make these linkages clear. The strategy provides a framework for partnership working to reduce harm and will provide a national focus for consistent good practice. The strategy, which will be overseen by the National Steering Group on Missing People, will set out our expectations in relation to prevention, response, support and protection. It will recommend that return interviews are undertaken every time a child or young person has been missing and that prevention planning for going missing takes place, and will include a commitment to ensuring that relevant training and guidance for practitioners highlights the links between going missing and vulnerability to abuse.

Missing People provide the Runaway and Say Something UK helpline services. Say Something raises awareness amongst children and young people of the risks and dangers of sexual exploitation and provides advice on how to keep safe and where to seek support. The Scottish Government will fund Missing People from April 2016 to market these helpline services directly to young people in Scotland to ensure that more children and young people are supported when they are thinking of going missing or need help to stay safe.

### **Improve support for looked after children**

Police Scotland's Partnership Protocol with local authorities for looked after children who go missing from residential and foster care sets out how they will work together to minimise harm. The protocol is currently being piloted in Lanarkshire, Edinburgh, and Tayside and with a view to rolling out nationally by December 2016.

The Care Inspectorate will support all care services for looked after and accommodated children inspected during 2016/17 to address any issues in identifying and supporting vulnerable children and young people who may be at risk of or affected by sexual exploitation.

### **Consider the needs of children and young people with learning disabilities**

Young people with learning disabilities share many of the same vulnerabilities to sexual exploitation as all young people but can face a number of additional factors including infantilisation, social isolation, lack of empowerment and voice, a lack of access to information and education on sex and relationships, false perceptions that children and young people with learning disabilities do not have the same needs, wishes and desires to have a relationship as all young people, and a perception that they cannot be sexually exploited.<sup>6</sup> The National Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group will consider the findings of the study and recommend further action to

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<sup>6</sup> *Unprotected, Overprotected: meeting the needs of young people with learning disabilities who experience, or are at risk of sexual exploitation*, Barnardo's, The Children's Society, British Institute of Learning Disabilities, Paradigm Research and Coventry University, September 2015

provide better protection for children and young people with learning disabilities, by December 2016.

### **Continue to improve access to quality support services**

The Scottish Government is investing a total of £150 million through NHS Boards to improve mental health services over the next 5 years. As part of this funding, the First Minister announced a £54 million package of support to improve access to mental health services for adults and children. This includes £24.7 million to improve capacity to see more people more quickly, £4.8 million through Healthcare Improvement Scotland to help redesign service delivery and £24.6 million to improve workforce supply and train existing staff to deliver services for children and young people, as well as psychological therapies for all ages. An additional £13.5 million is being invested during 2015 to 2020 to develop a dedicated In Care Survivor Support Fund to enable survivors access support to achieve their personal outcomes.

The Scottish Government has awarded three year funding to Barnardo's Scotland from April 2016 to expand frontline services and ensure that more children and young people at risk of or affected by sexual exploitation are identified early and receive appropriate support. Funding has also been awarded to Moira Anderson Foundation to increase the support it provides to children and young people who have experienced child sexual abuse.

NHS Education Scotland has been commissioned to lead the development of a comprehensive skills and knowledge framework and national training plan for practitioners working with people across the lifespan (including children and young people) who are affected by trauma and abuse. The framework, which will be developed by March 2017, will equip practitioners working in the statutory and voluntary sectors with the knowledge and skills to identify the risk of abuse and be able to respond in a way which will enhance the safety of children and adults currently exposed to abuse and trauma. The national training plan, which will be developed by September 2017, will identify training to meet the needs identified in the framework and inform and prioritise future commissioning of services.

A programme to support implementation of the framework and training plan will be developed during 2017-19. Prevention of future abuse and increasing the safety of those currently affected by abuse and trauma will be a central theme of both of these pieces of work.

### **Share emerging themes from inspection to inform service planning and delivery**

Child sexual exploitation is included as a theme in joint inspections of children's services by the Care Inspectorate, Education Scotland, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland. The Care Inspectorate will report on emerging themes from inspections undertaken in the last 12-18 months to inform service development by June 2016.

### **Further support child victims of trafficking**

The Scottish Government will consider how child victims of trafficking can be further supported through the development of Scotland's first Human Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy by May 2017. Supporting guidance will provide information on the roles and functions of the guardianship service and revised guidance on conducting age assessment to support the application of the presumption of age provision being introduced through The Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015.

## **Perpetrators are stopped, brought to justice and are less likely to re-offend**

### **Contributory outcomes**

- Children and young people affected by child sexual exploitation are encouraged to report abuse.
- Perpetrators are identified (early).
- Perpetrators and facilitators are disrupted.
- Perpetrators and facilitators are held to account through the criminal justice system.
- Perpetrators are supported to change their thoughts and behaviour.

## **What we're doing**

### **Providing specialist support to child abuse investigations**

Police Scotland launched the National Child Abuse Investigation Unit in April 2015 to provide specialist support to local policing Child Protection Units and develop a more co-ordinated and strategic response to child abuse investigations across Scotland. The Unit is staffed with over 40 officers and has provided over 40,000 hours of assistance during 2015 to the investigation of cases of current and historic abuse, sexual exploitation and other forms of abuse, physical abuse, neglect and institutional abuse. Child sexual exploitation cases accounted for 33% of Police Scotland's National Child Abuse Investigation Unit resource hours between April 2015 and February 2016. As well as assisting local policing teams, the Unit is working with other national specialist investigatory units such as the National Rape Task Force and Major Investigation Teams.

### **Improving the identification of victims and perpetrators**

Police Scotland has updated national training for police staff to include information about child sexual exploitation and has provided an online learning resource to raise awareness and build understanding of child protection and how to prevent and tackle child sexual exploitation. A new child protection investigators course has been delivered to police officers from across Scotland and information about child sexual exploitation has been provided to police officers attached to Specialist Operations Departments. Child protection guidance has been developed for organised crime and counter terrorist detectives which includes information on the risk factors and potential indicators of child sexual exploitation.

## **Raising awareness of online sexual abuse and support for people who want help to stop**

Stop it Now! launched a UK wide campaign in October 2015 to raise awareness of the law relating to viewing indecent images of children and young people and the consequences of doing so. The campaign is providing resources and information for people concerned about their own online viewing and giving practical advice to families and friends of abusers to help them recognise the signs of abusive behaviour and understand what to do next.

## **Increasing the support available to vulnerable victims and witnesses**

Victims and witnesses involved in cases of child sexual exploitation are particularly vulnerable. Support for victims and witnesses is vital in its own right and is also an important aspect of ensuring successful prosecutions. The Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014 introduces measures to improve the information and support available to victims and witnesses, for example extending automatic eligibility to certain supportive measures to all witnesses aged under 18 and to alleged victims of sexual offences, domestic abuse, human trafficking and stalking. This includes the use of screens to shield witnesses from the accused, giving evidence via video link or having a supporter. A new Victims' Code for Scotland which sets out the rights of victims of crime was launched in February 2016

## **Continuing to provide specialist prosecution support**

The National Sexual Crimes Unit, established by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service in 2009, is providing dedicated senior prosecutors who direct criminal investigations in all serious sexual offences from the earliest stage and prosecute all those that proceed in the High Court.

## **Keeping communities safe through robust management of registered sex offenders**

There are 5,074 registered sex offenders in Scotland. The Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements were set up in 2007 to co-ordinate the approach of a range of agencies who work together to reduce the potential risk of serious harm posed by registered sex offenders and keep communities safe. A joint thematic review by the Care Inspectorate and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary for Scotland, published in November 2015, concluded that well established and robust arrangements are in place to manage registered sex offenders through dedicated offender management teams, joint working and information sharing.

## **Preventing and tackling online sexual exploitation**

Online sexual exploitation involves young people being persuaded or forced to send or post sexually explicit images of themselves, take part in sexual activities via a webcam or device or have sexual conversations by text or online. Perpetrators may threaten to send images, video or copies of conversations to friends and family if the young person does not continue to take part. Online child sexual exploitation is an



increasingly global crime and action in Scotland is set within the framework of UK and international measures.

The National Crime Agency (NCA) has assessed live streaming of child abuse for payment and the use of the 'hidden web' to access indecent images of children as likely to increase over the next two years. The NCA co-ordinates work through the national tasking process to identify those individuals and organised groups of offenders who pose the greatest risk to children and young people and plan a comprehensive, targeted law enforcement approach.

Police Scotland is working in partnership with the NCA and a number of other UK law enforcement agencies to enhance the effectiveness of software used to identify perpetrators, improve the determination of the level of risk posed and develop a standardised method of identification. Between April 2013 and December 2015, Police Scotland charged 875 perpetrators involved in online child abuse, including the possession/distribution of indecent images of children. 80 of these charges were as a result of collaborative work with the National Crime Agency.

WePROTECT is the global alliance against online sexual abuse and exploitation led by the UK government and supported by over 50 countries, 30, non-government organisations and 20 leading technology companies. The Scottish Government is a member through its membership of the United Kingdom Council on Child Internet Safety.

In November 2015, Governments, companies and civil society organisations came together in Abu Dhabi for the second WePROTECT Summit, to agree global measures to protect children from online sexual exploitation. This built on the first Summit hosted by the Prime Minister in 2014. The summit commitments include an agreement to take coordinated national action against online child sexual exploitation, guided by the WePROTECT Model National Response. To drive national action, Governments will publish an analysis of their own response and use this to identify further capabilities needed.

In 2014, the UK Government launched the Child Abuse Image Database (CAID) a single secure database of indecent images of children to improve identification of victims and bring more perpetrators to justice. All UK police forces and the NCA are now connected to the database which is underpinning work to improve how online child sexual exploitation is tackled, including taking less time to review images and allowing more time and resource to identify and protect victims.

In addition, a new joint team has been established between the NCA and the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) to detect and track down perpetrators in the most complex cases of online sexual exploitation.

Online sexual exploitation is an issue that cannot be tackled by Governments and law enforcement agencies alone. Technology companies also have a vital role to play and Google and Microsoft have made significant progress in ensuring that child sexual abuse images and videos no longer appear in their search results. As a result of these changes, Google has seen an eight-fold reduction in people searching for this material on the web. Both companies can now, through shared technologies

such as PhotoDNA and video hashing, find and remove more images and videos of child abuse wherever they appear on the internet.

In addition, the Internet Watch Foundation has shared over 19,000 hashes - the digital fingerprints of child sexual abuse images - with Microsoft, Google, Facebook, Twitter and Yahoo, to enable the removal of this material from their platforms and services all over the world. Companies have committed to build on this by coordinating the sharing of these digital fingerprints globally.

To drive further progress, the WePROTECT Advisory Board will take forward a joint proposal by the UK, US and EU Commission to merge WePROTECT with the Global Alliance Against Child Sexual Abuse Online to bring together global efforts to combat online child sexual exploitation.

## **What next**

### **Further action to prevent and tackle online abuse**

Action in Scotland to keep child and young people safe online is overseen by the Scottish Government led Stakeholder Group on Child Internet Safety. We are reviewing the remit and membership of the group to ensure that it supports current and emerging priorities and will agree the direction of future action by June 2016. This involves close collaboration with Police Scotland as it develops its online safety strategy to ensure approaches are aligned and responsive to the developing challenges posed by online crime.

### **Further support for child and vulnerable witnesses**

The Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service published its Evidence and Procedure Review – Next Steps report in February 2016. This sets out proposals to improve how evidence is taken from children and vulnerable witnesses. The Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service will work with the Justice Board, legal profession and voluntary sector to prepare a detailed programme of change to present to Scottish Government later in 2016.

Children 1<sup>st</sup> will pilot the Stop to Listen approach which will test new ways of supporting children and young people to disclose sexual abuse and support practitioners to act in a child-centred way. Children 1<sup>st</sup> will also share best practice in developing child-centred support for child victims and witnesses of violence from the European PROMISE Learning Exchange with Child Protection Committees.

### **Improve specialist prosecution support**

The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service will provide new and improved training and associated accreditation for staff preparing and prosecuting sexual offences cases throughout 2016/17. This will include the considerations of the particular risk and vulnerability factors associated with child sexual exploitation and other forms of child sexual abuse as well as the nuanced dynamics of cases involving the physical abuse of children in institutions.

### **Evaluate specialist support for child abuse investigations**

The University of the West of Scotland will conclude its evaluation of the operation of the National Child Abuse Investigation Unit in April 2016. Police Scotland will use the findings to inform the future development of the Unit.

### **Support practice development to prevent offending involving children and young people**

The youth justice strategy sets out a clear set of priorities to prevent offending involving children and young people and there is a strong recognition of the importance of timely and effective interventions, taking account of risk and the complexity of needs to help reduce offending and improve life chances. The Youth Justice Improvement Board will lead work to improve risk management and develop practice through evidence based approaches. This includes children and young people who are victims of sexual exploitation as well as young people who pose a risk to others.

### **Ensure child sexual offences committed in the rest of the UK can be prosecuted in Scotland**

The Scottish Government will extend the extra-territorial effect of the law concerning sexual offences committed against children to include offences committed elsewhere in the UK through the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Offences (Scotland) Bill.

## **Cultural and social barriers to preventing and tackling child sexual exploitation are reduced**

### **Contributory outcomes**

- Increased public and practitioner understanding that child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse.
- Increased public and practitioner understanding that boys and girls from any background or community can be affected.
- Communities feel empowered to report abuse.
- Social tolerance of gender inequalities is reduced.

### **What we're doing and what next**

This plan set out a range of activity which will begin to break down barriers to preventing and tackling child sexual exploitation including:

- action to raise public and practitioner awareness that sexual exploitation affects boys and girls from any background and community and that exploitation is a form of abuse and should be responded to accordingly;
- work to change false perceptions and discriminatory social and gender-based attitudes through practice guidance and training, for example, the perception that young people with learning disabilities do not have the same needs, wishes and desires to have a relationship as all young people and that they cannot be sexually exploited, the view that all perpetrators are men and a less protective response towards male victims than female victims.
- work with young people to challenge negative gender-based attitudes and assumptions that underpin bullying, abusive and violent behaviour through a range of initiatives including Sidestep and the Mentors in Violence Prevention Scotland and Rape Crisis prevention programmes.

Equally Safe, updated in March 2016, sets out our vision of a strong and flourishing Scotland where all individuals are equally safe and respected, and where women and girls are free from all forms of violence and abuse – and the attitudes that help perpetuate. We state unambiguously that no woman or girl in Scotland should be subjected to violence or abuse of any kind and no child or young person should have to live with gender based violence or its impact. The strategy sets out action to address a range of factors including inequality, discrimination and objectification which supports a culture in which exploitation takes place.

We will strengthen links with work being progressed to implement Equally Safe to ensure alignment with national and local work to prevent and tackle child sexual exploitation.

## **Next Steps**

As we set out earlier in this plan, child sexual exploitation is a complex and evolving issue and we must continue to develop our collective response in the light of experience. We must also learn from the experience of others and we will continue to review the actions being taken forward in other parts of the UK and internationally and consider their applicability and value in Scotland, in further developing our approach.

The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning and the Minister for Children and Young People will receive regular updates on progress and the Ministerial Working Group will provide leadership and challenge, and make recommendations to Ministers for further action to protect children and young people from sexual exploitation.

## Summary of actions

Action	Lead responsibility	Timescale for completion
<b>General</b>		
1. Develop a set of indicators to measure progress towards achieving the outcomes in this plan.	Scottish Government	December 2016
2. Develop an approach to involving children and young people in developing and reviewing the actions in this plan and shaping future national policy on child sexual exploitation.	Scottish Government	September 2016
<b>The risk that children and young people are sexually exploited is reduced through a focus on prevention and early identification</b>		
3. Train a further 1,860 young mentors to develop the skills to identify abusive and violent behaviours and develop safe options to support and challenge their peers.	Violence Reduction Unit Education Scotland	March 2018
4. Expand the national sexual violence prevention programme in secondary schools across Scotland.	Rape Crisis Scotland	April 2016 – March 2019
5. Consider how the Sidestep peer mentoring and community engagement approach can support young people at risk or affected by sexual exploitation and their families.	Action for Children	September 2016
6. Support schools, colleges and education services in undertaking their safeguarding responsibilities.	Education Scotland	March 2017
7. Deliver regional safeguarding events for education staff to share learning	Education Scotland	December 2016

and best practice.		
8. Ensure that all practitioners and agencies use the same definition of child sexual exploitation to facilitate joint risk assessments and effective multi-agency responses.	Scottish Government	May 2016
9. Develop a framework for Child Protection Committees to facilitate a consistent and collaborative approach to identifying and responding to child sexual exploitation across Scotland.	National Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group	May 2016
10. Develop guidance for practitioners and agencies to support the identification and assessment of child sexual exploitation.	National Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group	September 2016
11. Deliver child sexual exploitation regional workshops for practitioners to share learning and best practice.	National Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group	May 2017
12. Deliver 150 community events across Scotland to support local areas raise public and practitioner awareness of child sexual exploitation.	Barnardo's Scotland	April 2016 – March 2019
13. Develop the new community justice self-evaluation framework to cross-reference adult and child protection arrangements, including the response to child sexual exploitation, to support Community Planning Partnerships in evaluating the effectiveness of their response.	Care Inspectorate	March 2017
14. Deliver training sessions to raise awareness of the links between child sexual exploitation and radicalisation.	Roshni	December 2016
15. Agree a template to capture information about child sexual exploitation and implement across Scotland to improve consistency of information collection.	Scottish Government Police Scotland	December 2016
16. Pilot, evaluate and roll out a child sexual exploitation and abuse intelligence sharing toolkit to strengthen the multi-agency response to prevention, disruption and detection.	Police Scotland	December 2016



17. Develop a coordinated evidence base in which existing and emerging information and research is consolidated and gaps identified.	Scottish Government	December 2016
18. Develop guidance for medical practitioners on child sexual exploitation for inclusion in national child protection guidance for health professionals in Scotland.	Scottish Government	September 2016
19. Identify action at national level to support local areas raise awareness of child sexual exploitation with night-time economy workers.	Scottish Government National Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group	October 2016
20. Evaluate the impact of the national awareness raising campaign and work with partners and key stakeholders to extend its reach.	Scottish Government	March 2016 – March 2017
21. Raise awareness and understanding of child sexual abuse with sports clubs, churches and faith organisations, residential care homes for children and young people, LGBT communities and organisations supporting children with disabilities.	Stop it Now! Scotland	April 2016 – March 2019
22. Reform the system of civil orders available to protect communities from those who may commit sexual offences.	Scottish Government	December 2016
<b>Children and young people at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation and their families receive appropriate and high quality support</b>		
23. Ensure that return interviews are undertaken in all cases where a child or young person has been missing to help identify abuse.	Local authorities Police Scotland	June 2016 - June 2017
24. Ensure that relevant training for practitioners highlights the links between going missing and vulnerability to abuse.	National Steering Group on Missing People	June 2017
25. Ensure that prevention planning for going missing takes place for	Local authorities	June 2016 - June 2017

vulnerable individuals and groups.	Health Boards/Health and Social Care Partnerships	
26. Market the Runaway and Say Something helpline services directly to young people in Scotland to ensure that more children and young people are supported when they are thinking of going missing or need help to stay safe.	Missing People	April 2016 – March 2019
27. Pilot a protocol for looked after children who go missing from residential and foster care with a view to rolling out nationally.	Police Scotland Local authorities	December 2016
28. Support all care services for looked after and accommodated children inspected address any issues in identifying and supporting vulnerable children and young people who may be at risk of, or affected by, sexual exploitation.	Care Inspectorate	March 2017
29. Consider further action to provide better protection for children and young people with learning disabilities and support them develop an understanding of relationships and risk.	National Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group	December 2016
30. Ensure that more children and young people at risk of or affected by sexual exploitation and other forms of sexual abuse are identified early and receive appropriate support.	Barnardo's Scotland Moira Anderson Foundation	April 2016 – March 2019
31. Develop a skills and knowledge framework for those working with adults and children and young people affected by trauma and abuse to help practitioners identify the risk of abuse and respond to keep people safe.	NHS Education Scotland	March 2017
32. Develop a national training plan for those working with children and young people and adults affected by trauma and abuse to inform and prioritise commissioning of services.	NHS Education Scotland	September 2017
33. Develop a programme to support implementation of the trauma and abuse skills and knowledge framework and training plan.	NHS Education Scotland	September 2017 - March 2019

34. Report on emerging themes in relation to child sexual exploitation from inspections in the last 12-18 months to inform service planning and delivery.	Care Inspectorate	June 2016
35. Publish Scotland's first Human Trafficking and Exploitation strategy.	Scottish Government	May 2017
<b>Perpetrators are stopped, brought to justice and are less likely to re-offend</b>		
36. Agree the future direction of online safety work in Scotland.	Scottish Government	June 2016
37. Develop a programme of change to improve how evidence is taken from children and vulnerable witnesses.	Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service	Timescale dependant on process for development.
38. Pilot and evaluate the Stop to Listen approach to supporting children and young people disclose sexual abuse and supporting practitioners to act in a child-centred way.	Children 1 <sup>st</sup>	November 2016 – November 2017
39. Share best practice in supporting child victims and witnesses of violence from across Europe with Child Protection Committees.	Children 1st	March 2017
40. Provide training and accreditation for staff preparing and prosecuting sexual offences cases.	Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service	December 2017
41. Use the findings of the evaluation of the National Child Abuse Investigation Unit to inform future development.	Police Scotland	June 2016
42. Improve practice to better support young people who may be at risk of or involved in offending.	Youth Justice Improvement Board	April 2016 – March 2020
43. Ensure child sexual offences committed in the rest of the UK can be prosecuted in Scotland.	Scottish Government	December 2016

<b>Cultural and social barriers to preventing and tackling child sexual exploitation are reduced</b>		
44. Strengthen links with Equally Safe to ensure alignment with action to prevent and tackle child sexual exploitation.	Scottish Government	March 2019



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