

# 'Learning the Lessons'

## Protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation in Northern Ireland: Learning the Lessons

Thursday 17 September 2015



# WELCOME

**Mairéad McCafferty**

**NICCY Chief Executive**

- **Welcome and overview of the day**

**Remember to use #CSEProtect**

# OPENING REMARKS

**Koulla Yiasouma**

**Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People**

- **Introduction and opening remarks**

# SETTING THE SCENE

**John McComb**

**Include Youth**

- **Include Youth presents 'Agent Kathleen'**



# INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

**Kathleen Marshall**

**Inquiry lead**

# INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

## Engagement with Children, Young People and Others

- Consultations involving 580 young people and 795 parents
- Work streams by the 3 inspectorates: RQIA, CJI, ETI (See Appendix 3)
- Targeted work with health professionals
- Call for Evidence – 50 submissions
- Stakeholder events
- Meetings with individuals and groups
- Visits to children's homes and other facilities

# INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

## Engagement with Young People

- NICCY Youth Panel (to help shape the consultation process)
- Children in Northern Ireland through their Participation Network
  - 5 groups involving 64 children and young people
- VOYPIC – 55 children and young people from:
  - Non relative foster care
  - Kinship care
  - Children’s residential homes
  - Independent living
  - Secure accommodation
- Barnardo’s Safe Choices – 3 young people interviewed by the Inquiry
- ETI engagements as part of Thematic Survey
- Forum organised by Include Youth – 19 young people



# INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

## Engagement with Parents

- Parenting NI:
  - Online survey – 183 parents
  - Focus groups – 24 parents
- ETI:
  - 570 parents – mainstream
  - 17 parents – special schools
- Inquiry:
  - One personal interview
  - Meeting with parents of children involved in youth justice

# INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

## Engagement with Others

- 5 adults shared experiences of CSE as children
- Meetings with representatives of:
  - 18 agencies in the voluntary sector
  - Staff from the Office of the Children's Commissioner for England
  - Consultant for the Scottish Parliament CSE Inquiry
  - Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry Acknowledgement Forum

# INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

## Key Recommendations: From Animation

- Police should build stronger relationships with communities, especially with children and young people
- People should be able to report concerns about children and young people 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Everyone should know more about CSE
- There should be safe places for children and young people to go
- All adults working with children and young people should receive better training and improve how they share information with each other

# INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

## Key Message from Young People

- Young people didn't want their suggestions to give adults all the power. Instead, they wanted children and young people to feel empowered.

# INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

## Other Key Recommendations

- There should be a **review of youth services** by the Department of Education, taking into account the views of children and young people, to ensure that such provision is attractive and appropriate
- The Department of Justice should establish an inter-agency forum to examine how to achieve more successful **prosecutions** of perpetrators
- DHSSPS to lead on a regional **strategy** on CSE, to involve the Departments of Education and Justice
- HSC Board to ensure accessible and appropriate **support for adults** who were abused as children

# INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

## Concerns

- Consulting BME communities
- Disability and special needs
- Understanding rights to protection AND participation, etc

# INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

## Challenges

- The changing nature of CSE
- Measuring extent
- Balancing hard information, the perspectives of professionals and messages from the grass roots

# INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

## Some Balancing Acts

- Organised or not? (P 32)
- Child “prostitution” (P 45)
- “Powerful individuals” (P 47)
- Targeting of care homes (P 89)
- Risks in foster care (P 91)
- General awareness of CSE versus understanding implications (P 104)
- Revised Circular 3/96 – official perspectives versus “coal face” (P 123)



# INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

## Conclusions

- The ABC approach:
  - Awareness
  - Balance
  - Confidence
- A response that is:
  - Targeted
  - Proportionate
  - Flexible
- Ongoing commitment to listening to and involving children and young people and their parents

# CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

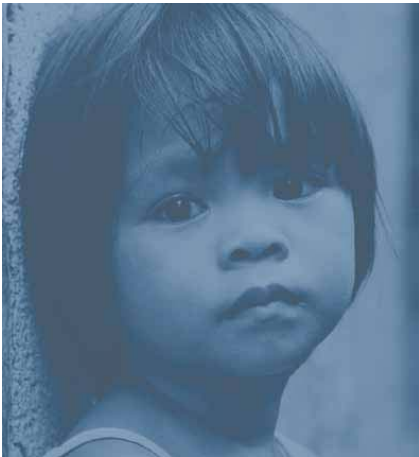
**George Clarke**

**Chief Superintendent**

**Police Service of Northern Ireland**



# CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



# CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

## Setting the Scene

- 73,450 offences were recorded in 2014/15 (where a person was a victim)
- 9% were on committed on children and young people
- Of those who were under 18, 23% were victims of sexual violence
- In April 2015 – 1048 people were reported as missing, 531 were under the age of 18, the majority were between 12 to 17 years of age.

# CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

## Reporting of Sexual Crime

# CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

- CSE is not a specific criminal offence in itself; however it is the context within which a range of sexual offences and other forms of serious criminal misconduct take place against children and young people.
- Sometime it is only when relevant information from a disparate number of sources is put together that it becomes clear that children are at risk of significant harm.

# CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

## Child Sexual Exploitation On-Line

# CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Young people engaged in offending behaviour



# CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

## The Northern Ireland Experience

- Significant emphasis on:
  - the 'party house' model of CSE,
  - the 'boyfriend' model, and
  - abuse as a result of 'discharging a debt', for example, for drugs.
- Links are also noted with:
  - 'trafficked' children, and
  - 'missing' episodes.
- Of note: most young people did not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and did not see themselves as victims.

# CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

## The Northern Ireland Experience

- In terms of offenders, we note that some individuals allow children to be in their company e.g. to stay in their home or to associate with them in other places, even arranging for transport, without informing the child's parent/guardian/carer of their intentions. They either directly or indirectly encouraged them to go missing or to stay away from their parents/guardians/carers for the purpose of exploiting their vulnerabilities.

# CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

## Moving Forward

# CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Thank you

# WORK OF THE SAFEGUARDING BOARD

**Sharon Beattie**

**Safeguarding Board of Northern Ireland**



# SBNI

**Safeguarding Board  
for Northern Ireland**

## Child Sexual Exploitation

**Sharon Beattie  
Director, SBNI**

@safeguardingni

Facebook.com/safeguardingni



# Overview

SBNI's Role in ...

- Child Sexual Exploitation
- On-line grooming



# Role of the SBNI

Established in 2012 by Legislation

- To raise awareness of Safeguarding issues
- To improve professional learning & enhance their practice
- Ensuring the voice of the child & young person is heard





# Functions

- 
- Development of Policies and Procedures
  - Promote Awareness
  - Promote Communication

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)  
On-line Grooming / E-Safety



# CSE Awareness

## Information leaflets:

- Professionals
  - CSE in NI – Key Messages
  - CSE Myths and Realities
- Children and Young People
- Parents and Carers



Acquisition of money, clothes, mobile phone etc without plausible explanation

- Leaving home/care without permission
- Low self-esteem
- Change in personal hygiene (greater attention or less)
- Self harm and other expressions of despair
- Evidence or suspicion of substance misuse

Some of the signs you can take to help protect young people include:

- Being aware of the possibility that young people you are working with may be sexually exploited
- Knowing who your child protection lead is
- Thinking about how you can better support and help young people to share information if they are worried about their own or another young person's situation
- Identifying opportunities to educate young people and their parents/carers about healthy relationships and sexual exploitation.

**Contacts:**

If a child or young person is in immediate danger call 999 or contact the PSNI on **T: 0545 600 8000**

If you have specific concerns about child sexual exploitation or want further information about this issue, you can contact: 0800 369 1701

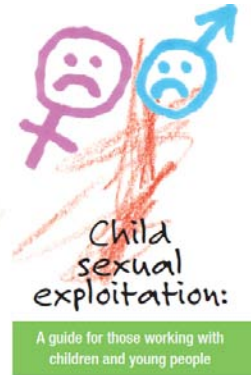
This is a helpline staffed by the NSPCC providing 24 hour confidential advice and support to allow us to take protective action to safeguard children and young people.

Your local Gateway team:

Belfast HSC Trust	T: 028 9650 7000
South Eastern HSC Trust	T: 0200 1000 300
Northern HSC Trust	T: 0200 1234 323
Southern HSC Trust	T: 0600 7837 745
Western HSC Trust	T: 028 7131 4000

Dammond's has a specialist child sexual exploitation service based in Northern Ireland that you can also contact:

Barnardo's NI Safe Choices: T: 028 9065 8511



Child sexual exploitation:

A guide for those working with children and young people

Supported by



## CSE Conference



# CSE Definition

Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP)

**concept of exchange.**

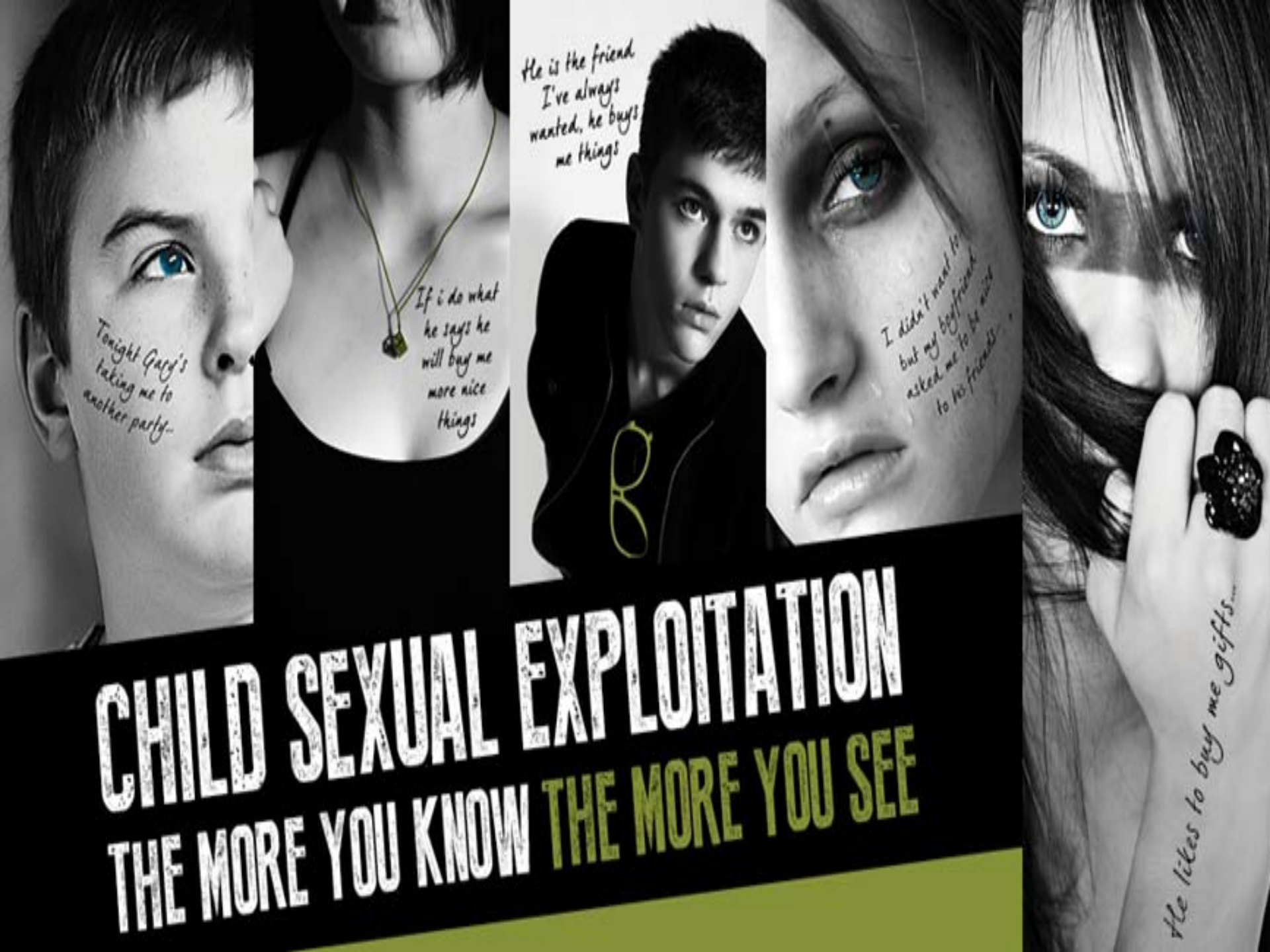
*‘.....is a form of sexual abuse in which a person(s) exploits, coerces and /or manipulates a child or young person into engaging in some form of sexual activity in return for something the child needs or desires and / or for the gain of the person(s) perpetrating or facilitating the abuse’.*



# CSE Guidance

- Risk Assessment Toolkit
- Guidance





# CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

THE MORE YOU KNOW THE MORE YOU SEE







# FALSE FREEDOM

## FACILITATORS' NOTES

### [False Freedom](#)

- KTP
- Created by young people
- Acted in the film
- Young girl who finds herself in an exploitative relationship
- Dangers around sexual exploitation - generate discussion
- Empower young people to make safe choices

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# Relationships and Sexuality Education Guidance

An Update for Post-Primary Schools

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Click to continue ►



# Marshall Recommendations

- SBNI's developing plan for data collection should include a commitment to collation and analysis of the data in a way that will facilitate a strategic response to CSE (4)
- SBNI should periodically audit that all statutory agencies record CSE details in a consistent manner (19)
- SBNI should explore the potential for a regional electronic system for collating and analysing CSE data (58)
- The protocol for sharing information amongst agencies being developed by SBNI should be concluded as a matter of priority (12).



# Marshall Recommendations

- SBNI should ensure that as part of its information sharing protocol consistency of terminology is pursued as an aid to effective information sharing (57)
- SBNI should ensure that the information sharing protocol being developed addresses any hesitations on the part of the statutory agencies about sharing information with non-statutory agencies (59)
- SBNI and its member agencies should seek to ensure that there is a delivery of professional training, both multi agency and profession specific and this is based upon a clear and shared definition of CSE (14)



# E-Safety Strategy

- Government supported recommendations
- 7 Departmental Bodies commissioned SBNI to develop e-safety strategy
- Expected launch date Q3 2016



# E-Safety /Grooming

- Sexting Guidance for Schools
- Grooming Guidance for Schools
- Children exposed to abuse through digital media



# Summary

SBNI's Role in ...

- Child Sexual Exploitation
- On-line grooming



# QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

**Chaired by Mairéad McCafferty**

**NICCY Chief Executive**

# Comfort break and refreshments

# IMPLEMENTATION OF LEARNING AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**Eilís McDaniel**

**Director of Family and Children's Policy Directorate**

**Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS)**



# IMPLEMENTATION OF LEARNING AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**Caroline Gillian**

**Director for Access, Inclusion and Wellbeing Directorate  
Department of Education (DE)**

# PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND: LEARNING THE LESSONS

## Role of Education - Child Protection

# PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND: LEARNING THE LESSONS

## Education and the Marshall Report

# PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND: LEARNING THE LESSONS

## DE Key Recommendation

- DE 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.

# PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND: LEARNING THE LESSONS

## DE Supporting Recommendations

- Prevention
- Response

# PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND: LEARNING THE LESSONS

## Monitoring and Review

# PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND: LEARNING THE LESSONS

## Challenges

# PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND: LEARNING THE LESSONS

## Conclusion



# IMPLEMENTATION OF LEARNING AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**Steven McCourt**

**Acting Director of Community Safety Unit  
Department of Justice (DoJ)**

# QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

**Chaired by Mairéad McCafferty**

**NICCY Chief Executive**

# REFLECTIONS AND CONCLUDING COMMENTS

**Koulla Yiasouma**

**Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People**

**Thank you and enjoy lunch**

**Information and PowerPoint presentations from today's event  
available at [www.niccy.org](http://www.niccy.org)**