



HM Government

Sexual Violence against Children and Vulnerable People National Group Progress Report and Action Plan

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1. Ministerial Foreword



Protecting children and vulnerable people is a key priority for this Government.

None of us needs reminding of the scale and severity of the issues surrounding the sexual abuse and exploitation of children and vulnerable people. Child sexual abuse is an abhorrent crime, no matter when or where it occurs. We are committed to tackling it, in whatever form it takes.

Child sexual abuse and exploitation can take many different forms and is not exclusive to any single culture or community. We are very clear that political sensitivities must not get in the way of preventing and uncovering child sexual abuse and agencies must be committed to dealing with this terrible form of criminal activity, whenever and wherever it occurs.

Both the historical cases into child sexual abuse and recent cases of organised child sexual exploitation raise a number of important issues for the Government, social services, the police, the criminal justice system (CJS) and others.

Tackling this issue requires a multi-agency response and coordination across a range of policy areas, operational partners and experts in the field. It is critical that arrangements are in place so that Government, Children and Adults Social Care Services, the police, the CJS and others learn from and build upon important emerging issues following on from the horrific recent cases of historical child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation.

That is why I am leading a National Group which will be working with Departments across Government to urgently address any missed opportunities to protect children and vulnerable people. The newly formed National Group builds on the already strong foundations across Government, but it will also address the lessons emerging from reviews of historical child sexual abuse cases.

I am grateful to colleagues in other Government Departments, agencies, national and local organisations and experts for working with us to deliver the highest levels of protection to those that need it.

Rt Hon Damian Green MP

Minister of State for Policing and Criminal Justice

2. The Sexual Violence against Children and Vulnerable People National Group

Introduction

The Sexual Violence Against Children and Vulnerable People National Group (SVACV) is a panel of experts and policy makers brought together by the Home Office to co-ordinate and implement the learning from recent inquiries into historical child sexual abuse and current sexual violence prevention issues.

The National Group has identified an ambitious programme of activity which builds upon the already extensive programme of work underway across Government to strengthen and enhance the response and protection to children and vulnerable people. It builds upon our strategies to end violence against women and girls, tackle gang and youth violence, review and reform our child protection and care systems and improve outcomes for vulnerable people within our health and care environments.

Significant progress has already been made through the Government's national Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan (2011). This has set firm foundations for the radical increase in the pace and profile of work, both within and outside Government, at a national and at a local level which is being taken forward to protect children from this horrendous form of child abuse.

More widely, the Department for Education's (DfE) extensive reforms of child protection, social work and care for looked after children, are putting the needs of individual children at the heart of the system. Earlier this year, the DfE published revised statutory guidance, 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2013 which sets out more clearly the statutory duties on different agencies in keeping children safe and promoting their welfare, and removes unnecessary bureaucracy to empower professionals to do their best for vulnerable children and their families.

The DfE is supporting the strengthening of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) in holding local agencies to account for safeguarding children, while Ofsted has introduced new inspection arrangements for child protection.

Within health and adult social care, significant improvements are being driven by the Department of Health (DH). The NHS Trusts' Savile investigations which are expected to be published later this year, and Kate Lampard's independent overview report expected by March 2014, will set out the lessons arising for the health services from the Savile

inquiries. Programmes such as 'Transforming Care', on the national response to events at Winterbourne View Hospital, and those that followed the independent public inquiry by Robert Francis QC into events at Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust: 'Treating People with Dignity, Compassion and Care' as well as the Government's initial response, 'Patients First and Foremost', set out a number of actions which together, will ensure a consistent culture of compassionate care, with the patient's interest at its very heart. This will be followed by a further Government response to the public inquiry report in the Autumn. More widely, the Government is seeking to substantially strengthen adult safeguarding arrangements. Legislative proposals in the Care Bill are seeking to put Safeguarding Adults Boards on a statutory footing for the first time, and include specifying the responsibilities of Boards and sharing relevant information between partners.

The Group's work also builds on the platform of reform already well underway across the police and CJS which not only seeks to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and empower frontline officers, but also seeks to place victims at the heart of the CJS.

The Government is committed to transforming the CJS into a modern public service that is digital, faster and right first time, transparent and responsive and shows care and consideration for victims and witnesses. Its 'Transforming the CJS strategy and Action Plan', published in June, identifies tackling violence against women and girls and child sexual abuse as a priority crime and commits to a range of measures to address it.

In addition, recognising the links between child sexual exploitation and children going missing, the Home Office continues to lead the national 'Missing Children and Adults Strategy' which sets out three clear priorities to prevent, protect and provide support to missing children, adults and their families. Through its 'Violence Against Women and Girls Action Plan', 'Ending Gangs and Youth Violence Action Plan' and 'Human Trafficking Strategy', the Home Office is delivering a comprehensive range of targeted action to improve the identification, protection and support of vulnerable children and adults from these forms of abuse and exploitation. More widely, urgent work is underway within the Home Office to undertake a review of child protection policies across the Department to ensure our response recognises the specific vulnerabilities of children.

The National Group

The newly formed National Group builds on the already strong foundations across Government, but it will also address the learning emerging from reviews of historical child sexual abuse cases and recent child sexual exploitation cases now within the public domain.

The Government is committed to working together with experts to ensure that we continue to build upon existing foundations, and this is reflected in The Group's membership. The Group includes key partners such as the police, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), other Government departments and importantly, experts such as the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP), Barnardo's, Rape Crisis and the National Society for the

Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC). We will seek to build further links with the many other stakeholders who have relevant knowledge and expertise.

The National Group will work together to improve cross Government delivery, identify problems, solutions and act swiftly to bring prompt resolution. The Group has already identified nine key areas for action and is prioritising these areas to prevent abuse happening in the first place, protect children online, make sure the police can more effectively identify and deal with problems, and ensure victims are put first in the CJS.

3. Review of Progress

Reviews from a number of recent horrific cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation have identified issues and areas of concern requiring learning and urgent action. This has led to the establishment of the SVACV National Group. The Group, which reports directly to the Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice is responsible for overseeing and driving action to address these concerns and improve our ability to prevent these crimes occurring, ensuring that victims remain at the heart of our approach. The Group, which has met every 3-4 weeks since April 2013 has already identified a comprehensive programme of work, with action to be taken across the following key areas:

Reducing the vulnerability of victims

- Prevention
- Culture Change
- Supporting Victims

Reducing the risks from abuse of authority and power

- Offenders
- Institutions
- Cyber

Maximising the effectiveness and accountability of our systems

- Police Systems, Capability and Investigative Practice (Policing)
- Criminal Justice System (CJS)
- Local Implementation

Recognising that delivery of action across these areas represents an ambitious programme of reform, the Group has initially prioritised immediate action within the critical areas of Prevention, Cyber, Policing, and the CJS. Priority action on these key issues will help to prevent abuse happening in the first place, protect children online (cyber), and make sure that the police can more effectively identify and deal with problems promptly and effectively whilst ensuring victims remain at the heart of the CJS. Whilst there is more to do, we have already delivered in a number of key areas since the establishment of this Group.

Prevention

Preventing children and vulnerable people from becoming victims is the most powerful way to combat sexual violence. Since the creation of the National Group, accelerated action in this area has already ensured delivery of a number of targeted actions and reforms.

Delivered:

- Publication of an early findings report for local areas to consider key themes and barriers encountered in delivering multi-agency working and information sharing models.
- Held a Ministerial Roundtable to review progress in implementing the 'Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan' to ensure delivery of a wide range of actions by statutory and voluntary sector organisations.
- Begun implementation of revised statutory safeguarding guidance – 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013' – which makes clear the statutory roles and responsibilities of individual agencies to keep children safe and improve their welfare.
- Established a new national panel to provide challenge and support to LSCBs on the publication of Serious Case Reviews to learn lessons for more effective multi-agency work to protect children.
- Appointed the first national Chief Social Worker for children and families, who will take office at the beginning of September and work with new Principal Children and Family Social Workers in local areas to drive improvements in local practice.
- Commissioned Sir Martin Narey to examine the current state of social work education and training, including standards and regulation.
- Commissioned a 'pilot from Frontline' to establish a new elite entry route into the social work profession.
- Launch of consultations to improve protection of children in care including:
 - changing the regulatory framework governing children's homes to put in place stronger, more explicit measures so children are reliably and effectively safeguarded wherever they are placed.
 - Strengthening safeguards for looked after children placed out of authority through amendments to regulations.
 - revising statutory guidance on 'Children Who Run Away and Go Missing from Home or Care'.
- Commitment to launch training for private security staff to increase awareness of child sexual exploitation and assist police in target hardening.

Policing

We need to look at the practical guidance available to police officers and prosecutors, to help improve and support victims' journeys through the system and ensure that victims are listened to. Since the creation of the National Group, a number of key actions have been delivered in support of this.

Delivered:

- New guidance for police. A public consultation on revised guidance for sexual violence victims was launched on 11 June which will run until September. The new guidance, informed through a series of Roundtables, is already being used. The guidance aims to move the focus of investigations away from testing the credibility of victims onto the credibility of the allegation and ensuring victims are listened to by the police.
- CEOP published its annual Threat Assessment of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse report on 2 July.
- The College of Policing (CoP) carried out a 'health check' at the request of Surrey Police which included the quality of service afforded to victims and witnesses. Recommendations for action published on 10 July have been disseminated to all police forces across England and Wales.

Criminal Justice System

Putting victims and witnesses first must be a common goal for everyone working in the CJS. It is vital that vulnerable witnesses should receive proper protection. Since the creation of the National Group a number of significant actions have been announced and delivered in this area.

Delivered:

- Publication of interim guidelines for prosecutors. These were informed by a series of Roundtables with stakeholders. The new guidance states that prosecutors must challenge myths and stereotypes about victims in court; ask for ground rules hearings with the judge and defence to set basis and timetable for trial and defence cross examination; ensure special measures are considered and reviewed; and assess the credibility of the overall allegation rather than the victim only. These are currently the subject of consultation.
- Launch of a new Criminal Justice Strategy and Action Plan on 28 June including significant measures to improve the court process for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation.
- Announcement on 11 June to pilot measures for recorded pre-trial cross-examination of vulnerable and intimidated witnesses.
- Following consultation on the Victims' Code, the revised Code, with a bespoke chapter on children will be launched in the summer.

- Established a new joint CPS/police panel to review historical child abuse cases at the request of victims which has already reopened a number of cases.
- Introduced the use of ticketed prosecution counsel for all new child sexual abuse cases.

Cyber

At his speech on 22 July, the Prime Minister set out the Government's determination to make the internet safer by meeting two distinct challenges: tackling the proliferation and accessibility of child abuse images on the internet, and addressing the fact that many children are viewing online pornography and other damaging material at a very young age. This can distort their view of sex and relationships and normalise violence and abuse. These challenges need to be met, ensuring that Government, parents, internet providers and platforms, educators and charities, are more active, more aware and more responsible about what happens online.

The Government has worked with industry to develop some of the tightest controls in the world on access to age-restricted and harmful material. The main Internet Service Providers (ISPs) offer free parental controls to all their customers and new customers are forced to make a decision about whether or not to install them.

Images of child abuse are illegal. ISPs and search engines automatically block access to known images of child abuse and take action to remove material as soon as they are made aware of it. Last year, over half of child abuse webpages reported were removed within 60 minutes or less. CEOP is actively monitoring the internet for images of child abuse and takes swift action, in connection with police forces, to remove it. The police also investigate any sources of the material and prosecute the perpetrators wherever possible.

We know that we need to take further action to tackle child abuse images available online. The recent summit with industry was a promising starting point for driving greater industry action and this will be fed into the National Group. The Prime Minister has stressed the importance of maintaining the momentum, and set out a clear programme for how the Government will work with partners to make the internet safer. This work builds on the accelerated progress since the creation of the National Group which has delivered action in a number of key areas.

Delivered:

- On the 18 June some of the world's largest ISPs attended a summit chaired by Culture Secretary Maria Miller to discuss the blocking of child abuse images available on the internet. The summit secured a major step change in tackling images of child abuse on the internet – for the first time, the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) will take a proactive approach to detect and act against this criminal material.

The summit agreed that:

- Leading companies will pledge funding to the IWF to strengthen its work with CEOP and identify images before they are widely distributed online.
- Anyone trying to access a page blocked by the IWF will see a warning message – known as a splash page – which will state that an attempt to access illegal material is being made.
- Industry will commit to sharing technological knowledge to enable all corners of the industry to tackle the availability of images of abuse online.

4. Actions

Recent cases have highlighted areas where we need to do better to support victims and ensure perpetrators are brought to justice. A number of key themes have already emerged from cases both historic and current. Through the National Group we will continue to work to ensure victims are not left to suffer in silence and those who exploit them are brought to justice. We will ensure that lessons to be learnt are identified and take action where opportunities to intervene have been missed or where our collective response has not reached the standards we aspire to, in ensuring children and vulnerable people are protected and supported.

Building on the robust action already outlined, The Group will continue to conduct robust and comprehensive gap analysis work to develop shorter and longer term goals to successfully deliver the Group's objectives. It will continuously review learning as further cases come to light. By ensuring continuous review and evaluation of both our policy and practice, The Group will play a key role in ensuring we respond in real time to any new or additional challenges in this area.

Our programme of work will be subject to further development and review, with the following actions now being delivered:

Actions: July 2013 – January 2014

REDUCING THE VULNERABILITY OF VICTIMS		
Work Area: Prevention		
Actions:	Detail	Timeline
1. Publish multi-agency working and information sharing models project – early findings report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report for local areas to consider key themes and barriers encountered in delivering multi-agency working and information sharing models (including multi-agency safeguarding hubs). Will include case study examples of different multi-agency models. 	July 2013
2. Develop a programme to support, disseminate information and findings on multi-agency safeguarding approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scope options for sharing findings with practitioners and interested partners to encourage effective multi agency approaches (e.g. events, toolkit, online peer to peer support forums). Inputs to include partners e.g. Policing and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), Health and Inspectorates. 	October 2013
3. Publish Communication Insight Pack covering sexual violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A practical guide for practitioners on how effective communication can increase public awareness in tackling violence against women and girls including sexual violence. Pack will include advice on rape myth-busting messages. 	September 2013
4. Enhanced measures to disrupt and prevent Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand more about the attitudes that may underpin the offending behaviour in cases of CSE. Raise awareness of CSE within areas or environments (e.g. night time economy, private security industry, hotels and B&Bs) associated with CSE. Understand more about reoccurring themes of CSE offending through mapping of police operations and court trials to produce case studies/lessons learnt papers. 	September 2013
5. Develop resource packs covering healthy relationships, consent, illegal content and adult imagery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource published by the Home Office on preventing youth violence referencing material on safeguarding, child protection, on-line safety and 'sexting.' Publish resources linked to the Home Office Teenage Rape Prevention Campaign. 	July 2013 September 2013

<p>6. Deliver a programme of reform which puts the needs of individual children at the heart of the child protection system</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep under review the impact of changes announced in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013. • Continue support for the national panel who are providing challenge and support to Local Safeguarding Childrens Boards (LSCB's) on the publication of Serious Case Reviews. • Fund the Independent Association of LSCB's to work to improve the effectiveness of LSCB's at a local level. • Scope and deliver a range of work looking at the quality of social work assessments and social worker practice and behaviour. 	<p>Report May 2014</p> <p>First Panel meeting July 2013</p> <p>Funding agreed until end of March 2014</p> <p>Work programme begun 2013; initial findings report due April 2014</p>
<p>7. Reform social work education and practice development to ensure that social workers are able to identify and respond to instances where children are subject to sexual violence or abuse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a further round of Step Up to Social Work to bring high quality entrants into the profession. • Continue work on the Frontline pilot to establish a new elite entry route into the profession. • Respond to recommendations from Sir Martin Narey on the current state of social work education and training, including standards and regulation. 	<p>January 2014 start</p> <p>September 2014 start</p> <p>April - July 2013</p>
<p>8. Promote the teaching of sexual consent and the importance of healthy relationships in schools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department for Education (DfE) has provided grant funding to the PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) Association in 2013-14 to undertake work advising schools in developing curricula, improving staff training, and promoting the teaching of consent in Sex and Relationship Education (SRE). • DfE has asked Ofsted to draw together specific examples of effective practice in PSHE, as well as providing grant funding to the PSHE Association. 	<p>March 2014</p>
<p>Work Area: Culture Change</p>		
<p>Actions:</p>	<p>Detail</p>	<p>Timeline</p>
<p>9. Publish 'myth busting' guide on information sharing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective practice/advice to areas to dispel myths that prevent effective information sharing working with Information Commissioner. 	<p>December 2013</p>
<p>10. Roundtable on promoting culture change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage leaders who have driven through culture change within their organisation (police leaders/private sector) to identify 'what works'. 	<p>September 2013</p>
<p>11. Publish a further Government response to the Mid Staffordshire Public Inquiry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a further response to the report of the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry. 	<p>Autumn 2013</p>

<p>12. Publish an Annual report on: 'A national response to Winterbourne View Hospital; Department of Health Review'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This report initially published in December 2012, addresses the need for cultural change within care home settings. This will be the first annual report of progress. 	<p>December 2013</p>
<p>Work Area: Supporting Victims</p>		
<p>Actions:</p>	<p>Detail</p>	<p>Timeline</p>
<p>13. Trial new ways of supporting victims of child sexual exploitation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DfE is investing £1.8m over the next two years in four new projects which will help trial new ways of delivering improved support to children and young people specifically at risk of sexual exploitation. 	<p>April 2013 – March 2015</p>
<p>14. Consider forthcoming scoping review on practical care arrangements for trafficked children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Office funded, Independent review into the practical care arrangements for looked after children who may have been trafficked. To be published by Refugee Council, Children's Society. 	<p>September - December 2013</p>
<p>15. Professionalisation of Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise profile of ISVA's with statutory agencies through e-newsletter. Compile a register of ISVA's. Update National Occupational Standards for ISVA's. Support establishment of an ISVA national network. Enable earlier identification of victims and provision of speedier support. 	<p>September 2013</p>
<p>16. Publish revised statutory guidance on children who go missing or run away from home or care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance will provide national framework for agencies and professionals to draw up and agree ways of working together to prevent and safeguard children who go missing 	<p>Autumn 2013</p>
<p>17. Publish commissioning guidance on paediatric provision in sexual assault services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHS England are developing good practice guidance on effective paediatric provision to inform national commissioning and local delivery of sexual assault services to children and young people. 	<p>December 2013</p>
<p>18. As part of the Ending Gang and Youth Violence programme, develop a pro forma for use by healthcare practitioners providing sexual health services to detect child sexual exploitation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pro forma will support sharing of information and safeguarding outcomes for children and young people. It will be jointly owned and endorsed by the leading stakeholder organisations representing sexual health clinicians and service providers. 	<p>March 2014</p>

REDUCING THE RISKS FROM ABUSE OF AUTHORITY AND POWER		
Work Area: Offenders		
Actions	Detail	Timeline
19. Continue to ensure delivery of robust package of measures to manage sex offenders both within and outside the UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The United Kingdom has one of the most robust regimes for sex offender management in the world. This includes a comprehensive system of notification requirements and other legislative measures, as well as a suite of vital public protection and rehabilitative work undertaken with offenders. Develop a suite of accredited treatment programmes for offenders in the community and in custody. Roll out mandatory polygraph testing as licence condition to high risk sex offenders across England and Wales (subject to legislation). 	Autumn 2013
20. Facilitate and support work with affected communities that tackle the cultural issues associated with CSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with key organisations and individuals to establish how Government can support their work focused on raising awareness of CSE and tackling cultural barriers on reporting of suspected cases. Identify what support is needed for specific communities affected by CSE and support organisations which are delivering tailored services for those communities. Work with organisations to identify how best to engage the night-time economy in identifying and reporting suspected cases of CSE. 	December 2013 – January 2014
Work Area: Institutions		
Action	Detail	Timescales
21. Safeguarding in Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish revised statutory guidance (Keeping Children Safe in Education) for all schools and Further Education (FE) colleges, focussed on their statutory responsibilities for safeguarding. <p>This will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help schools and FE colleges ensure that staff, volunteers and contractors have been subject to appropriate safeguarding checks if they have regular unsupervised contact with pupils. Reinforce the need for schools to have child protection policies in line with procedures established by the LSCB. Help frontline skilled professionals use their own knowledge and judgment to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their care. 	September 2013

<p>22. Deliver enhanced package of measures to protect children in care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to consultations underway in relation to ‘Looked after Children’ regulations and guidance. • Strengthening the requirements on childrens homes to work with local police forces to prevent children going missing. • Improve arrangements for independent monitoring visits of childrens homes quality of care • Collect national data for all children missing from care, not just those missing for 24 hours. 	<p>Autumn 2014</p> <p>April 2014</p>
<p>Work Area: Cyber</p>		
<p>Action</p>	<p>Detail</p>	<p>Timescale</p>
<p>23. Introduction of parental controls to reduce children’s exposure to harmful online content</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All main Internet Search Provider’s (ISP’s) have committed to deliver network level filtering to prevent children’s access to age-restricted pornographic material which can only be changed by an account holder who is an adult. • ISP’s to apply family-friendly filters to public wi-fi network. • Role for Ofcom in measuring industry progress. 	<p>December 2013</p> <p>September 2013</p>
<p>24. Improve education and awareness of children and parents about harmful content and inappropriate online behaviour</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve education and awareness of children: from September 2014, changes to the national curriculum. • Computing programmes of study will see e-safety taught for the first time to primary pupils from 5 -11 as well as inclusion in the secondary curriculum. • Improve education and awareness of parents: industry will fund a major awareness raising campaign being developed for rollout early next year to build the confidence of parents to extend their parenting into the online world. • Ensure that industry continues to act responsibly: Continuing promotion of filtering tools to parents from ISP’s to increase awareness and take-up. • Launch of updated Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) material to protect children on-line, address relationship abuse, peer-on-peer exploitation, and CSE. 	<p>2014</p> <p>December 2013</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>October 2013</p>
<p>25. Change the law on extreme pornography to ban possession of pornographic portrayals of rape</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government will legislate to make it an offence to possess internet pornography that depicts rape by closing the loophole in the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 on extreme pornography. 	<p>2014</p>

26. Target the proliferation of child abuse images online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain Government focus and pressure at the highest level: a further summit chaired by the Prime Minister to ensure that there is no let up on ensuring real action is now taking place. • Ensure that the internet industry continues to work collaboratively to tackle this issue: Industry is working collaboratively with CEOP and the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) to improve and share the technology that can identify child abuse images – such as PhotoDNA. 	October 2013
27. Promote the further proactive takedown of child abuse images by CEOP and the IWF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry has already committed to provide funding to the IWF. CEOP and IWF to develop an agreed plan to proactively take down illegal images. • Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) review of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IWF and ACPO to support proactive action. 	October 2013
28. Develop single secure database of hashes of illegal images of children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link up existing fragmented databases across police forces to help police to work together to take down illegal images of children and more efficiently identify victims and prosecute offenders, in the UK and abroad. 	2014
29. Industry sign up to zero tolerance in child sexual abuse images	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry has signed-up to a zero tolerance pledge. • Departments developing plans to ensure the pledge is linked to tangible action such as support for a database of hashes of child abuse images. 	October 2013
30. Work with search engines and ISPs to block searches for child abuse images	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISPs to introduce splash pages to warn users that page contains illegal images. 	July 2013
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop black-list of internet search terms to stop any returns of child abuse images. 	October 2013
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage industry to develop technical solutions to promote online child safety. 	October 2013

MAXIMISING THE EFFECTIVENESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF OUR SYSTEMS

Work Area: Police Systems, Capability and Investigative Practice

Actions	Detail	Timeline
31. Review and launch College of Policing guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The College of Policing is consulting on a review of guidance covering all aspects of violence and public protection, starting with child abuse and child sexual exploitation. 	September 2013
32. Deliver a joint Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) & Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI) inspection on investigation and prosecution of CSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will examine the investigation and prosecution process from initial charging decision right through to final disposal at court. • Will address voluntary and community sector concerns and produce better victim-focused services. 	Start: January 2014

<p>33. Complete HMIC thematic inspection on online child pornography</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early research suggests that the volume of offending across the internet is substantial. • CEOP stated in their last annual review (12-13) they dealt with 18,887 individual reports of abuse from the public and industry, a 14% increase from the previous year. • A pilot will test methodology prior to a full thematic inspection. The full inspection will incorporate lessons gleaned from the pilot. 	<p>Pilot start: July 2013</p> <p>Thematic inspection start: October 2013</p>
<p>34. Expand CEOP's missing children function to include creation of a national child abduction hub to develop policy and provide information on child abduction for the public and professionals alike.</p>	<p>The hub and partner agencies should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree a UK-wide definition of child abduction. • Create a means of identifying all incidents of child abduction and attempted child abduction reported to police forces. • Harness opportunities to collect survey data on child abduction from children and/or parents. • Expand research into child abduction through partnerships with e.g. universities etc. • Publish an annual summary of statistics on child abduction. • Create a publicly accessible 'one-stop shop' for information on child abduction. 	<p>October 2013</p>
<p>35. Support better police reporting and recording of sexual offences</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Office, DPP and national policing leads Roundtable to explore trends on referrals of cases involving violence against women and girls to the CPS. • HMIC Rape Monitoring Group to provide biannual update of performance figures on adult and child rape for all police forces in England and Wales to all Chief Constables and Policing and Crime Commissioners (PCC's) as a basis for improving performance. 	<p>September 2013</p> <p>October 2013</p>
<p>Work Area: Criminal Justice System (CJS)</p>		
<p>Actions</p>	<p>Detail</p>	<p>Timeline</p>
<p>36. Publish final guidelines for prosecutors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To assist prosecutors in challenging myths and stereotypes about victims in court. • They ask for ground rules hearings with the judge and defence to set the basis and timetables for trial and defence cross examinations. • Will ensure special measures are considered and reviewed. • Assess the credibility of the overall allegation rather than the victim only. 	<p>October 2013</p>
<p>37. Extend the use of intermediaries within police interviews and the court room</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will enhance and build upon existing practice. • Aim is to encourage police to use intermediaries more in order to get a better account of victims experiences. • This will ensure support continues throughout the victim's journey through the criminal justice system. 	<p>Autumn 2013</p>

38. Deliver analysis of victims experiences of the CJS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse how victims of sexual violence experience their contact with the CJS. Establish an evidence base by gathering information via rape support groups and other stakeholders. This will inform improvements to the CJS response which are focussed on the victim. 	October 2013
39. Introduction of pre-recorded cross-examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot Section 28 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999, which provides for pre-recorded cross-examination of a vulnerable witness in three courts - Leeds, Liverpool and Kingston-upon-Thames - starting in late 2013. 	Start December 2013
40. Complete review of victims rights and expectations of the CJS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes how victims are being supported by services (under future national commissioning arrangements), informed about rights and expectations. 	January/ February 2014
41. Complete analysis of responses to review of the Victims' Code	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider consultation responses on revising the Victims' Code. Develop proposals to provide an enhanced service to victims of sexual violence, domestic violence and human trafficking (as well as an enhanced service to those under 18) by the CJS agencies. 	August / September 2013
42. Consideration of the use of extra or reserve jurors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extra or reserve jurors could be used in these cases to take the place of any jurors who have to be discharged during the trial. This would minimise the risk of having to halt and postpone hearings to a later date. 	November 2013
43. Review the use of multiple barristers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This aims to reduce the distress caused to some victims by cross examination, particularly where there are multiple defence barristers. 	October 2013
Work Area: Local Implementation		
Actions	Detail	Timeline
44. Support PCCs as galvanisers of local action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Office to issue fact pack to PCCs on violence against women and girls and sexual violence. Home Office to work with Association of Policing and Crime Commissioners (APCC) to organise an event on early intervention and violence prevention to provide an opportunity to engage PCC's directly on their role in galvanising local action. 	July 2013 September 2013
45. Produce a checklist for Health and Well Being Boards (HWBB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department for Health (DH) will provide support including a checklist to promote awareness on violence for HWBB members and other local partners – which will include information on Violence Against Women Group (VAWG). 	October 2013

<p>46. Strengthen Adult Safeguarding Boards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Care Bill will for the first time put Safeguarding Adult Boards on a statutory footing. The legislation will specify the responsibilities of Boards and sharing relevant information between partners.	<p>April 2014 subject to Royal Assent</p>
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