

OFFICIAL: [PARTNERS]



Police Service
of Northern Ireland

**PSNI ACTION PLAN IN RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS FROM
CJINI REPORT:**

**CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND
AN INSPECTION OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM'S RESPONSE**

DECEMBER 2025

Strategic Recommendation 1 (Department of Justice)

Within six months of the publication of this report, the Department of Justice (DoJ), working in collaboration with criminal justice organisations, should develop a strategic framework which baselines how the criminal justice system is tackling child criminal exploitation, sets out indicators of success and develop and implement an effective mechanism to monitor criminal justice outcomes. This framework should be used to inform and influence the Department of Justice’s contributions to cross-Departmental oversight of child criminal exploitation and emerging child protection issues.

Action

- Develop a strategic framework, performance indicators and measures of success;
- Establish governance framework,
- Contribute to the cross-Departmental oversight of CCE and emerging child protection issues.

Intended Outcome

- Strategic framework in place,
- Performance indicators implemented;
- Collated data informs and influences Department of Justice’s contribution to cross-departmental oversight of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE).

Measured by

December 2025 update

PSNI

- Monthly meeting implemented between DoJ and PSNI to enable closer partnership working and delivery of shared goals;
- Work is ongoing to enable the capture of data from Niche to Pulse by creating bespoke person flags similar to the “At risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)” in relation to CCE. Additional “Motivation” options for individual occurrences for are being explored. Estimated timeframe

	<p>June 2026 due to Niche Canada timelines;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An amendment to the Prosecutor Information Form at section 10: Exploitation has been submitted to the Working Together Sub-group for approval; this will highlight children who have been exploited and any National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referrals; • Reporting to the Northern Ireland Policing Board in relation to CCE commences in 2026. The performance indicators will be reviewed and updated in line with any Niche updates which enable better collation of data in relation to CCE.
<p>Status: Ongoing</p>	<p>Timeframe: 12 months</p>

<p>Strategic Recommendation 2 (PSNI)</p> <p>The Police Service of Northern Ireland should immediately develop an adequately resourced delivery model for the identification, response and disruption of child criminal exploitation across the organisation and plan for the effective operationalisation of the work emerging from the cross-Departmental action plan to tackle child criminal exploitation. This should include a mechanism to monitor the effectiveness of police responses.</p>	
<p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an adequately resourced delivery model for the identification, response and disruption of CCE across the PSNI; 	<p>Intended Outcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-Service CCE delivery model implemented with governance structure; • This will clearly demonstrate how

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for the effective operationalisation of the work emerging from the cross-Departmental action plan to tackle CCE. 	<p>CCE is identified, responded to and disrupted.</p>
<p>Measured by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCE Delivery Group has strategic oversight of the governance framework; • Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) reporting to the Performance Committee, Partnership Committee and Board; • Pulse performance data; • Child exploitation analytical profile; • NRM referral data and ongoing pilot evaluation. 	<p><u>December 2025 update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSNI cross-departmental workshop convened in June 2025 chaired by Head of Public Protection Branch and attended by senior officers from PPB, C1, C5, local policing, and strategic analysis partners. A CCE Delivery Group was then established which meets 6-weekly; • PSNI Senior Executive Team have agreed the definition of CCE in line with the cross-departmental definition from the DoJ CCE Action Plan 2024; • An eLearning package and internal communication plan is under development to raise awareness of the indicators of CCE, including those specific to Northern Ireland and as well as raising awareness of the application of the National Referral Mechanism to exploitation; • CCE is to be incorporated into foundation training, Initial Crime Investigators Development Programme, Initial Supervisor

	<p>Development Programme, Senior Investigating Officer and Specialist Child Abuse Development Programme training packages;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CSE Multi-agency Hydra – Multi-agency Simulated Learning package developed from Case Management Review recommendations and feedback is being updated to incorporate Child Criminal Exploitation;• PSNI and Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) are collaborating with Queens University to develop a CCE Screening tool to improve the identification of CCE;• PSNI have engaged with Queens University on Twin Sight North to use police crime data to map networks and relationships between adults and children, as well as crime models. This is based on the Greentown Project, University of Limerick and Department of Justice, Ireland;• The PSNI reports to the NIPB on the number of child referrals to the National Referral Mechanism;• The data to be captured on individuals and occurrences above will allow police to identify the number of incidents being
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	<p>identified as Criminal Exploitation and therefore allow PSNI and criminal Justice Partners to identify the number of offenders prosecuted for CCE offences;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The PSNI service-wide CCE operating model will be developed to integrate into the proposed Prevention Hubs (which will incorporate the Support Hubs) and Youth Diversion Officers;• Another Way - Community safety initiative developed under the Executive Programme on Paramilitarism & Organised Crime. Pilot which was initially 18-24yr olds, has been extended to accepting 11-17 year olds since 13/10/25. A key element is the identification of 'Another Way' champions within Neighbourhood Policing (NPT), Paramilitary Crime Task Force (PCTF), Terrorism Investigation Unit (TIU), Public Protection Branch (PPB) and the Reducing Offending Unit (ROU) to ensure we are maximising opportunities to identify young people at risk of exploitation;• Ongoing partnership work led by SBNI Child Exploitation Committee which is chaired by Public Protection Branch Detective
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	<p>Superintendent including CCE guidance which has been approved by SBNI Board and is awaiting review by Department of Justice and Minister sign off;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPB have proposed to the Department of Justice the creation of an Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF) Sub-Group focused on Child Criminal and Sexual Exploitation.
<p>Status: Ongoing</p>	<p><u>Timeframe: 24 months</u></p>

<p>Operational Recommendation 1 (PSNI)</p>	
<p>Within three months of the publication of this report, the Police Service of Northern Ireland should, in conjunction with statutory partners, include other forms of child exploitation in the Philomena Protocol form so that a fuller picture of the risk of harm to the child informs its' assessment of risk and response when children are reported missing.</p>	
<p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include other forms of child exploitation in the Philomena Protocol form. 	<p>Intended Outcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased opportunities to safeguarding children by understanding the full extent of the risk of harm; • Increased opportunities to work with partners to safeguard children.
<p>Measured by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated Protocol agreed and supported by all stakeholders. 	<p><u>December 2025 Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing,
<p>Status: Ongoing</p>	<p><u>Timeframe: 6 months</u></p>

<p>Operational Recommendation 2 (PSNI)</p> <p>The Police Service of Northern Ireland should immediately improve its response to missing children and be able to demonstrate an improved understanding of the relationship between forms of child exploitation and missing children reports. This should include a robust process of monitoring and quality assuring reports for missing children, and effective child centred arrangements with strategic partners to reduce the number of children who go missing</p>	
<p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate an improved understanding of the relationship between the forms of CE and missing children reports; • A robust process of monitoring and quality assuring reports for missing children; • Ensure effective child-centred arrangements with strategic partners to reduce the number of children who go missing. 	<p>Intended Outcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased effectiveness in monitoring performance data to identify which children are most at risk; • Reduction in the number of children who go missing, and the number of times children go missing; • Enhanced training package with a focus on vulnerability incorporating national best practice.
<p>Measured by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in both the number of children who go missing, and the number of repeat incidents of individual children going missing. 	<p><u>December 2025 Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing performance measures in relation to missing children are currently under review by the Missing Persons Gold Group and Local Policing performance regimes.
<p>Status: Ongoing Timeframe: 12 months</p>	