

**Garda Inspectorate Report**

**“Responding to Child Sexual Abuse – A Follow-up Review December 2017”**

**FIRST PROGRESS REPORT OF THE INTER-AGENCY IMPLEMENTATION GROUP**

**Chaired by Caroline Biggs, SC**

**11 October 2018**

## **1. GENERAL OVERVIEW**

### **1.1 Establishment of Implementation Group**

The Garda Síochána Inspectorate report “Responding to Child Sexual Abuse – A Follow-up Review” followed up on progress made in relation to recommendations in its 2012 report and identified areas where further progress is needed. In accordance with the Government decision dated 27 February 2018 (see Appendix A) an independently chaired inter-agency Implementation Group has been established to examine and drive forward the implementation of recommendations in the follow-up report. Chaired by Ms. Caroline Biggs SC, the Group’s membership comprises senior officials from the Departments of Justice & Equality, Children & Youth Affairs, and Public Expenditure & Reform, as well as senior officers from An Garda Síochána and Tusla (see Appendix B)

### **1.2 Terms of Reference**

Terms of Reference were agreed at the first meeting of the Implementation Group on 11 June 2018 (see Appendix C).

### **1.3 Reporting Requirements**

The Implementation Group will operate for an initial period of 12 months from the date of its first meeting on 11 June 2018 and in accordance with the Government decision, will report on a quarterly basis to the Cabinet Committee on Social Policy.

This first quarterly progress report has been prepared with input from all members of the Implementation Group, whose work to date has been facilitated by the co-operation and assistance of officials from relevant Departmental Divisions and Offices. Others will be invited to provide input as the Group’s work progresses. These include but are not limited to the Courts Policy Division, the Courts Service, Judiciary, Probation Service, Irish Prisons Service, the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment and the Rape Crisis Centre.

In its final report at the end of this 12-month period, the Group will make a recommendation as to whether it should continue in existence for a further period, having regard to monitoring and oversight of the implementation of recommendations in the medium term.

## **2. WORK SCHEDULE**

### **2.1 Preparatory Work**

A summary table of the Group’s actions and meetings schedule is attached at Appendix D. In advance of the Group’s first formal meeting, the Chair held preliminary meetings with An Garda Síochána, the Policing Authority and the Department of Justice & Equality for briefing purposes. Individual members of the Group familiarised themselves with the content of the follow-up report and other supporting documentation in order to facilitate general discussion and to identify any key areas of concern. Draft Terms of Reference were circulated to the Group for consideration.

### **2.2 Meetings**

First Implementation Group Meeting 11 June 2018

- Draft Terms of Reference agreed and a provisional work schedule put in place.
- Preliminary discussions regarding the content of Chapters 2, 3 and 4.

- Recommendations attributed to the relevant Office/Agency/Department or jointly attributed where appropriate.

#### Second Implementation Group Meeting 23 July 2018

- Update on the ongoing work by AGS towards implementation of the recommendations, including the rollout of Divisional Protective Services Units
- Discussion regarding information sharing between Tusla and AGS
- Timeline agreed for the Group's work during September, including a series of meetings between the Chair and relevant offices/agencies.

#### Chair's Bilateral Meetings

- Tusla and DCYA 10 September 2018
- An Garda Síochána 17 September 2018
- Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions 19 September 2018
- Garda Inspectorate 21 September 2018
- DJE (Criminal Law Reform Division and Cosc) 26 September 2018

#### Third Implementation Group Meeting 28 September 2018

- Detailed discussion and appraisal of recommendations and key actions
- General discussion - National Strategy
- General discussion - Section 3 of the Childcare Act 1991
- Work schedule agreed for October 2018 to January 2019.

### **3. CO-OPERATION AND CONSULTATION**

#### **3.1 Policing Authority**

Ms. Josephine Feehily, Chairperson of the Policing Authority wrote to the Implementation Group on 22 June 2018 to advise that its processes for monitoring and assessing Garda performance are available to assist the Group in its work as required. A meeting has been scheduled to take place between the Chair of the Implementation Group and the Policing Authority on 16 October 2018.

#### **3.2 Garda Inspectorate**

Mr. Mark Toland, Chief Inspector, met with the Chair of the Implementation Group on 21 September 2018 and has assured the Group of his ongoing assistance should clarification or further discussion as necessary. Significantly, Mr. Toland confirmed that the Garda Inspectorate's priority is that the "*spirit*" of the recommendations be implemented. Key actions outlined in the follow-up report are intended as guidance and should not be regarded as prescriptive. The Group was mindful of the Inspectorate's position in this regard while examining and appraising the recommendations and the key actions listed to achieve them.

#### **3.3 Expert Working Group on Investigation and Prosecution of Sexual Offences**

The Implementation Group was interested to note that an expert Working Group, chaired by Mr. Tom O'Malley BL, has been established to review the investigation and prosecution of sexual offences. The time frame for completion of this review is end December 2018. It is apparent from the Terms of Reference recently published for the expert Working Group that there are areas of significant overlap between their work and that of the Implementation Group.

The Chair of the Implementation Group contacted Mr. O'Malley in early October 2018 to ensure ongoing liaison and information sharing between the two groups, and a meeting will be scheduled shortly to discuss matters further.

## **4. FIRST STAGE – APPRAISAL OF RECOMENDATIONS**

### **4.1 Appraisal Process**

The first stage of the Implementation Group's work, which is the subject of this progress report, involved an appraisal of all 24 substantive recommendations in the Garda Inspectorate follow-up Report, and the 103 associated key actions to be taken to achieve them. During this stage of its work, the Group formed a view as to whether each recommendation and associated actions, where applicable, should be;

- Accepted in full (Green)
- Accepted with modification (Amber)
- Not accepted - further evaluation required (Blue)
- Not accepted - clarification required (Grey)
- Rejected (Red)

### **4.2 Timeframes for Implementation**

Separate consideration was given to the provision of practical timeframes (short, medium or long term) for implementation of the recommendations and the key actions listed in the follow-up report as being necessary to achieve them.

## **5. KEY FINDINGS ON COMPLETION OF APPRAISAL STAGE**

The Group's findings, having completed an appraisal of all 24 recommendations and 103 actions listed to achieve them, are set out in the final section of this report. They are summarised as follows;

- All 24 recommendations and 103 key actions to achieve them were considered.
- Recommendation 2.1 regarding the development of a National Strategy was specifically referred to in the Government decision and is dealt with separately.
- Of the remaining 23 recommendations, all except recommendation 2.6 are accepted. Recommendations 2.8, 3.5 and 3.10 are, however, accepted with modification.
- The Group's proposed timelines for implementation of the recommendations differ to those suggested by the Garda Inspectorate.
- While the vast majority of key actions are accepted by the Implementation Group, there are considerable reservations in relation to others at the present time. Further time is necessary for evaluation before deciding to accept, accept with modification or reject these key actions. These will be addressed in future reports.
- Of the 103 key actions considered, 75 were accepted and a further 14 were accepted with modification. Of those remaining, 7 were not accepted at this stage as further clarification is needed from the Inspectorate, and 6 actions require further evaluation to enable the Group to determine whether they should be accepted.
- Only one key action was rejected at this stage. This pertains to recommendation 2.5 regarding the appointment of missing persons officers in all Divisional Protective Services Units.

- During the appraisal process, the Implementation Group noted that there is some variation in the manner in which key actions are phrased within the Inspectorate’s follow-up report. Some would appear to be advisory whereas others are expressed in more mandatory terms.

The Garda Inspectorate determined that 13 of its previous recommendations are implemented, 6 were not implemented, 6 were partially implemented and 4 were not addressed. The Implementation Group has formed the view that a number of recommendations cited in Chapter 1 (7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.6, 7.7, 7.10, 7.11, 7.13, 7.15, 7.16, 7.19, 7.20, 7.25, 7.26 and 7.29) are embraced in the recommendations that are the subject matter of Chapters 2, 3 and 4 of the follow-up report. Recommendation 7.22 would appear to be the only recommendation that has not been explicitly or implicitly covered by Chapters 2, 3 or 4. Clarification will be sought from the Inspectorate regarding the status of recommendation 7.22, together with confirmation of the Inspectorate’s view in relation to the other Chapter 1 recommendations listed above.

## **6. NEXT STAGES**

### **6.1 Short Term**

#### *(a) Further Progress Reports*

Having regard to the tasks to be undertaken during its next stage of work, the Implementation Group expects to be in a position to complete its second progress report in January 2019, and a third progress report in April 2019.

#### *(b) Verification Process*

At the time of writing this report, indications are that at least 30 of the 103 key actions have been addressed and achieved. The Implementation Group must be fully satisfied in this regard and will therefore engage in a verification process to substantiate implementation of these actions on the ground.

#### *(c) Further Evaluation*

The Group is of the view that further evaluation is required in respect of 6 key actions and 1 recommendation where reservations have been expressed by members of the Group and/or relevant stakeholders.

#### *(d) Final Evaluation of Recommendation 2.1*

Recommendation 2.1 proposes that the Department of Justice & Equality convene an inter-departmental and multi-agency representative group to develop a National Strategy for Child Sexual Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation and Online Risks to Child Safety, within a short-term timeline. It is explicitly referred to in the Government decision and the Group is mandated to examine its feasibility. The Group’s terms of reference further require that as part of these deliberations, the Group should also seek to agree a common position as to which Government Department should assume overall responsibility for developing any such National Strategy or overarching framework.

The Group further notes that several of the Garda Inspectorate’s other overall recommendations include in their listed key actions, a reference to the fact that they might also be considered as part of recommendation 2.1 to develop a national strategy.

Preliminary discussions have taken place in relation to recommendation 2.1 and the Group is cognisant of the fact that implementation of this recommendation could have far reaching implications. The Group intends to complete final evaluation of this recommendation in the short term.

Having regard to the Garda Inspectorate's references to the National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence 2016 -2021 as a comparable strategy, some discussions have already taken place with Cosc regarding the process involved in its development, consultation with stakeholders, timelines and anticipated costs. Relevant material will be circulated to the Implementation Group to facilitate the next stage of discussion.

*(e) Clarifications to be Sought*

Clarification will be sought from the Garda Inspectorate in relation to 6 key actions, to enable the Group to determine whether they should be accepted with or without modification and the appropriate timeline for implementation.

*(f) Final Evaluation of Recommendation 2.3*

The Group intends to examine Recommendation 2.3 with particular regard to key action 3 and its implications in relation to notifications in the case of historical child abuse and Section 3 of the Childcare Act 1991, with a view to completing a final evaluation in time for its January progress report.

*(g) Update on Progress in relation to Medium Term Recommendations*

The Group will satisfy itself by April 2019, as to progress in relation to recommendations to be achieved in the medium term.

*(h) Meetings with Relevant Stakeholders*

To further advance the work of the Implementation Group, the Chair will seek meetings and/or follow-up meetings with;

- The Ombudsman for Children
- National SORAM Office
- Director of Public Prosecutions
- Probation Service
- An Garda Síochána re OnCEU
- Criminal Law Reform Division, DJE
- Cybercrime Unit, DJE
- Garda Inspectorate

*(i) Verification Data*

The Group will seek verification data from the Garda National Protective Services Unit in respect of recommendations and key actions implemented to date.

*(j) Next Meetings of the Implementation Group*

The Implementation Group will meet in December, January and February – exact dates to be confirmed.

## **6.2. Medium Term**

Oversee the implementation of recommendations identified as medium term (ending June 2020).

## **6.3 Long Term**

It is envisaged that oversight and monitoring of the implementation of recommendations in the long term (up to 5 years) will be conducted by a separate Long Term/National Oversight Group.

## **7. APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT**

- A. Government Decision dated 27 February 2018
- B. Membership of Implementation Group
- C. Terms of Reference
- D. Implementation Group Actions and Meetings

## **8. APPRAISAL FINDINGS**

The Implementation Group's appraisal findings on all 24 recommendations and 103 actions listed to achieve them are set out on pages 14 to 49 of this report.

**Caroline Biggs, SC**  
**Chair to Implementation Group**

**11 October 2018.**

Uimhir Thagartha: S 180/20/10/1307A

## CRUINNIÚ RIALTAIS

Dáta: 27/02/2018

Ábhar: Report of the Garda Síochána Inspectorate: 'Responding to Child Sexual Abuse - a Follow-up Review'

An tAire a thionscain: Oifig an Aire Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhinonannais

Dáta an Mheabhráin: 26/02/2018

Cinneadh an Rialtais:

(1) Noted

(i) the report of the Garda Síochána Inspectorate, Responding to Child Sexual Abuse - a Follow-up Review, prior to publication;

(ii) that this Review was requested by the then Minister for Justice and Equality in 2013 to examine the implementation of recommendations made by the Garda Síochána Inspectorate in a

2012 report;

(iii) that the Review

(a) assesses the implementation of those recommendations;

(b) concludes much work remains to be done; and

(c) makes further recommendations which encompass An Garda Síochána, the Director of Public Prosecutions, Tusla, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, the HSE, the Department of Justice and Equality and other State bodies/Departments; and

(iv) the intention of the Minister for Justice and Equality to refer the new report to the Policing Authority in view of the role of the Authority under section 62H(I)(a) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005, as amended, in overseeing the performance by the Garda Síochána of its functions relating to policing services and, in particular, in accordance with the role of the Authority under section 62H(1)(g) of the amended Act, in monitoring, assessing and reporting to the Minister on the measures taken by the Garda Síochána in relation to recommendations made in the report;

(2) agreed to the establishment of a multi-agency Implementation Group chaired by an independent expert, with senior level representatives of relevant Departments, agencies and organisations, in particular, but not necessarily limited to, An Garda Síochána, Tusla, the Department of Justice and Equality, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, the latter for the online risks element. The Group will also take account of the views of the Policing Authority; and

(3) noted



- (i) this Implementation Group will be tasked with examining and driving forward the detailed recommendations in the report;
  - (ii) as part of its consideration of the recommendation to establish a new National Strategy, the Implementation Group will be asked to consider the extent to which existing strategies and initiatives address the recommendations of the Garda Síochána Inspectorate. Consideration should be given to the development, if appropriate, of an overarching national framework that coherently draws together existing strategies and initiatives and those now under development;
  - (iii) the Department of Children and Youth Affairs will be involved in drawing up the terms of reference for the Implementation Group, so that issues raised by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs are addressed; and
  - (iv) the Implementation Group will report its progress on a quarterly basis to Cabinet Committee B, dealing with Social Policy and Public Services.
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#### Ard-Rúnaí an Rialtais

Cóip curtha chuig: Oifig an Aire Airgeadais, Oifig an Taoisigh, Oifig an Aire Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt, Oifig an Aire Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige, Oifig an Aire Caiteachais

Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe, Oifig an Aire Sláinte, Oifig an Aire Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála, Oifig an Aire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara, Oifig an Árd-Aighne, Oifig an Aire Cosanta, Oifig an Aire Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí, Oifig an Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, Oifig an Aire Gnó, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta, Oifig an Aire Oideachais agus Scileanna, Oifig an Aire Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide agus

Comhshaoil, Oifig an Aire Tithíochta, Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil, Oifig an Aire Cultúir, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta

**Garda Inspectorate Report**

**“Responding to Child Sexual Abuse – A Follow-up Review December 2017”**

**Membership of Implementation Group**

*(October 2018)*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Department/Agency</b>
Caroline Biggs, SC	Independent Chair
Detective Chief Superintendent Declan Daly	An Garda Síochána
Linda Creamer, Service Director	Tusla
Liz Cullen, Social Work Specialist	D/Children & Family Affairs
John Burke, Principal Officer	D/Public Expenditure & Reform
Gráinne Whelan, Assistant Principal <i>(Secretary to Implementation Group)</i>	D/Justice & Equality

### **Garda Síochána Inspectorate report: *Responding to Child Sexual Abuse - a Follow-up Review***

#### **Terms of Reference for the Implementation Group**

Under the direction of its independent Chairperson, the Implementation Group shall:

- Appraise the report's recommendations and assess whether each should be accepted in full, accepted in part, accepted with modifications, or rejected;
- Evaluate any arrangements already in place, or being advanced, that serve to give effect to the applicable recommendations, and determine what further arrangements need to be put in place to give full effect to those recommendations;
- Oversee further progress on implementing the applicable recommendations;
- Establish, if required, expert subgroups to examine and advance the detailed implementation of specific recommendations in the report;
- In relation to recommendation 2.1, assess – having regard to existing inter-agency frameworks and initiatives of relevance – the desirability of a National Strategy or other overarching whole-of-government framework that would coherently draw together the existing actions and key stakeholders (both within and without Government) and which would identify a cohesive set of strategic objectives, targets and mutual commitments to be pursued collectively and individually over a multi-annual period. As part of these deliberations the Group should also seek to agree a common position as to which Government Department should assume overall responsibility for developing any such National Strategy or overarching framework;
- From the date of its first meeting, report on a quarterly basis to the Cabinet Committee on Social Policy ('Cabinet Committee B'), in the first instance with its appraisal of the Inspectorate recommendations and thereafter with updates on the implementation of relevant recommendations;
- Oversee (for the duration of its existence) the implementation of decisions made by Government, or by relevant Ministers of the Government, on foot of the Group's reports.

#### **Other arrangements relating to the Group**

The Implementation Group shall operate for an initial period of 12 months from the date of its first meeting. In its final report to Cabinet Committee B at the end of that 12 month period, the Group shall make a recommendation as to whether it should continue in existence for a further defined period.

For the duration of its existence the Group shall retain an independent external Chairperson and a standing membership of senior representatives of the Department of Justice and Equality, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, An Garda Síochána and Tusla.

The Chairperson may invite representatives of other Departments or State agencies to participate in meetings of the Implementation Group or any of its subgroups. The Chairperson may also invite representatives from academia, industry or civil society to make presentations or submissions to the Group.

The Implementation Group shall work on a consensus basis and strive for unanimous agreement on the acceptance (or otherwise) and implementation of all applicable recommendations in the Inspectorate's report. However, in the event that the Group cannot reach unanimous agreement on a given matter, the corresponding quarterly report to Cabinet Committee B shall explain the reasons for the dissent and include the Chairperson's recommendation on how the matter in question should be decided.

11 June 2018

**Garda Síochána Inspectorate Report:  
“Responding to Child Sexual Abuse – A follow Up Review”**

**Implementation Group Actions and Meetings**

**February 2018 to October 2018**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Date</b>
Government Decision S180/20/10/1307A to establish multi-agency Implementation Group	27 February 2018
Departments invited to nominate members to Implementation Group	23 April 2018
Chair’s meeting with Det Chief Supt Declan Daly - background briefing	21 May 2018
Chair’s meeting with Policing Authority	23 May 2018
Chair’s meeting with D/Justice & Equality, 94 St. Stephen’s Green	28 May 2018
<b>First meeting of Implementation Group</b>	<b>11 June 2018</b>
<b>Second meeting of Implementation Group</b>	<b>23 July 2018</b>
Chair’s meeting with Liz Cullen DCYA, Linda Creamer & Boyd Dodds Tusla	10 September 2018
Chair’s meeting with Det Chief Supt Declan Daly AGS	17 September 2018
Chair’s meeting with DPP	19 September 2018
Preliminary Progress Report issued to D/Taoiseach for information of Senior Officials Group Cabinet Committee on Social Policy	20 September 2018
Chair’s meeting with Mark Toland, Garda Inspectorate	21 Sept 2018
Chair’s meeting with Michael Flahive, Marion Walsh, D/Justice & Equality	26 September 2018
<b>Third meeting of Implementation Group</b>	<b>28 September 2018</b>
First quarterly report to Cabinet Committee B	11 October 2018
Chair’s meeting with Helen Hall, Policing Authority (scheduled)	16 October 2018

No.	Recommendation	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
2.1	<p>The Inspectorate recommends that the Department of Justice Equality convene an interdepartmental and multi-agency representative group to develop a National Strategy for Child Sexual Abuse Child Sexual Exploitation and On line Risks to Child Safety. (Short term)</p>	Accepted	Short	<p>The Group accepts the objectives behind this recommendation without question. The Group also accepts that a national approach is required. How this is to manifest itself is in need of further evaluation. Various Departmental Groups and Sub-Groups exist whose functions include child protection. These include but are not limited to The Children First Interdepartmental Implementation Group, National Child Safeguarding Strategic Liaison Committee, National Children First Liaison Management Committee, National Steering Group for Sexual Abuse, Interdepartmental Group on Child Sexual Abuse Support Services and the Working Group on Investigation and Prosecution of Sexual Offences. The Group recognises that this could be a key opportunity to align existing groups and progress child protection issues, and any consultation process would have to be meaningful. The Inspectorate's references to the National Strategy on Domestic Sexual and Gender Based Violence are noted for comparison purposes. Evaluation of the best method to achieve the objectives behind recommendation 2.1 will be completed and addressed in the Implementation Group's January progress report. The timeline for this recommendation is short term to consider, but long term to implement.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
2.2	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána in conjunction with Tusla establish Local Child Safeguarding Committees at a divisional level to ensure more effective child protection arrangements in all local areas. (Short term)	Accepted	Medium	The Inspectorate's Report refers to the UK model. While Tusla agrees with the principle behind the recommendation, it should fit into existing structures as outlined in the Joint Working Protocol (signed Dec 2017) and two new Liaison Forums i.e. Senior Management Liaison Forum and Liaison Management Team.

No.	Actions required to implement this recommendation.	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
	Ensure the remit of the local safeguarding committees includes:	Accepted	Medium	
1	Assessing whether the agencies are fulfilling their statutory and non-statutory obligations;	Accepted		
2	Assessing the delivery of the Children First National Guidance;	Accepted		
3	Introducing quality assurance practices, including joint auditing of cases and identifying lessons learnt;	Accepted		
4	Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of training, including multi-agency training; and	Accepted		
5	Functions identified in the Garda Síochána/Tusla Joint Working Protocol for the Senior Local Management Liaison Forum	Accepted		

6	Consider whether the national and local committees should operate on a statutory footing; and	<b>Accepted</b>	
7	Ensure senior management representation at the Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSCs) and at local committee meetings.	<b>Accepted with modification</b>	This action is accepted with some reservations. An Garda Síochána is firmly of the view that that Superintendents are of sufficient rank for the purpose of these Committees. Clarification will be sought from Garda Inspectorate regarding appropriate rank for attendance.
	Consider whether this recommendation and associated actions should be included as part of Recommendation 2.1 to develop a national strategy.	<b>Accepted</b>	



No.	Recommendation	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
2.3	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána in conjunction with Tusla develop a new joint approach for assessing and managing child protection/welfare notifications that adopts best practices found in Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs and Concern Hubs. (Medium term)	Accepted	Medium	Re actions 1, 2 and 7 below, a protocol on sharing information (MOU) between An Garda Síochána and Tusla is near completion and has been shared with the Data Commissioner. There is a National Child Safeguarding Strategic Liaison Committee (NCSSLC) sub-group on information sharing and co-location. The IT Divisions of AGS and TUSLA are in agreement regarding feasibility. The Joint Working Protocol in place between AGS and Tusla addresses actions 3,4,6 and 8.

No.	Actions required to implement this recommendation.	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
1	Develop a joint single electronic notification and tracking system;	Accepted	Medium	MOU refers - see comments above.
2	Develop a unique reference number for each case;	Accepted	Medium	MOU refers - see comments above.
3	Develop a standard operating procedure for the creation of quality of notifications to ensure that sufficient information is provided to allow for immediate assessment of risk and case management. This standard operating procedure should include the sending of notifications in the case of historical child abuse, missing children and domestic incidents;	Accepted	Medium	Addressed in the Joint Working Protocol between AGS and Tusla. The Implementation Group will monitor and ensure that the Joint Working Protocol is being followed and this action will be subject to a verification process.

4	Develop a clear framework for strategy meetings and Child Protection Conferences to record decisions and attendance;	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Addressed in the Joint Working Protocol between AGS and Tusla. The Implementation Group will monitor and ensure that the Joint Working Protocol is being followed and this action will be subject to a verification process.
5	Ensure that only specially trained personnel and professionals make key decisions on the management of notifications;	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Accepted in principle but clarification required from Garda Inspectorate regarding the agency/agencies to which this action refers, AGS or Tusla.
6	Develop a standard operating procedure for closing cases;	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Addressed in the Joint Working Protocol between AGS and Tusla. The Implementation Group will monitor and ensure that the Joint Working Protocol is being followed and this action will be subject to a verification process.
7	Develop a national protocol for the sharing of information;	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Medium</b>	MOU refers - see comments above.
8	Deliver joint-agency training to improve the quality of notifications;	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Addressed in the Joint Working Protocol between AGS and Tusla. The Implementation Group will monitor and ensure that the Joint Working Protocol is being followed and this action will be subject to a verification process.
9	Develop joint-agency data/metrics on notifications and actions such as attendance rates at meetings;	<b>Accepted with modification</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Partial agreement re joint-agency data/metrics, subject to feasibility
10	Ensure that there is a full evaluation of the out of hours service provided in child protection matters.	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Medium</b>	This action will be put on the agenda of the National Child Safeguarding Strategic Liaison Committee (NCSSLC) agenda for consideration.
	Consider whether this recommendation and associated actions should be included as part of Recommendation 2.1 to develop a national strategy.			

No.	Recommendation	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
2.4	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána review the Sexual Incident and Child Welfare Key Performance Indicator (KPI) report to assess whether it is necessary in its current format. (Short term)	Accepted	Medium	Recommendation accepted but likely to be in the medium term.

No.	Actions required to implement this recommendation.	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
1	Review the use of metrics on prosecution of sexual incidents in the light of PULSE 6.8;	Accepted	Medium	Action accepted but medium term.
2	IF KPI report is retained, PULSE should be updated to record additional data such as attendance rates at Child Protection Conferences;	Accepted	Medium	Accepted in principle, but subject to operational feasibility.
3	Ensure that strategy meetings held and joint action plans arising out of meetings are accurately recorded on PULSE for production in the KPI reports; and	Accepted	Medium	Accepted in principle, but subject to operational feasibility.
4	Provide full access to Sexual Incident and Child Welfare KPI reports and training for those sergeants and inspectors designated to monitor and update KPIs.	Accepted	Medium	Action accepted but medium term.

No.	Recommendation	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
2.5	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána in conjunction with Tusla review the approach and the protocol for dealing with missing children, particularly those who are in various forms of care and those who are at high risk of exploitation. (Short term)	Accepted	Medium	Review to take place by both AGS and Tusla - committee has been established.

No.	Actions required to implement this recommendation.	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
1	Appoint missing persons officers in all divisional Protective Services Units	Rejected	Medium	Action is not accepted due to the multiplicity of reasons why children go missing. It is considered that Missing Persons Officers fit better into Divisions. However, when cause is identified as being an abuse/exploitation issue, the matter will be taken on by the DPSU.
2	Ensure that all high-risk cases are reviewed by a detective supervisor and investigation strategies are completed;	Accepted with modification	Medium	Agreed to review of all high-risk cases but rank of Sergeant considered sufficient for this task.
3	Ensure that the Garda Missing Persons Bureau has a more intrusive supervisory role in checking the quality of investigations conducted;	Accepted	Medium	Accepted and to be formalised. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.
4	Ensure that return interviews are always conducted;	Not accepted - clarification needed	Medium	Clarification required from Garda Inspectorate as to who should conduct these return interviews.
5	Review the approach for conducting interviews with children missing from care, particularly those children who are at high risk of exploitation;	Not accepted - clarification needed	Medium	Clarification required from Garda Inspectorate as to why the approach for conducting these interviews needs to be reviewed.

6	Identify those children who go missing that are at a high risk of sexual exploitation and develop early preventative actions;	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Work is already underway in relation to this issue. Tusla's Protocol on Organised Exploitation is to be reviewed.
7	Ensure that all missing persons investigation reports on PULSE contain full details of the case, including descriptions, actions taken to find persons and the locations where they are found; and	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Work is already underway in relation to this issue. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.
8	Develop a mobile phone application similar to the Australian system that allows parents and guardians to collect information that is vital for any future investigation.	<b>Not accepted - evaluation needed</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Cri Alert System is in place in Ireland. Further evaluation is required to compare Australian system with Irish system.
	Consider whether this recommendation (2.5) and associated actions should be included as part of Recommendation 2.1 to develop a national strategy.			

No.	Recommendation	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
2.6	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána, in conjunction with other Sex Offenders Risk Assessment and Management (SORAM) partners, develop a national high- level executive group to take overall responsibility for SORAM and to review the joint approach to managing sex offenders and particularly those at risk of causing most harm. (Short term)	Rejected	Short	A high level executive group already exists with overall responsibility for SORAM in the form of a National SORAM Office and its associated National Steering Group Committee. Department of Housing and the Irish Prisons Service are included. Further evaluation is required as to whether another high level group is warranted.

No.	Actions required to implement this recommendation.	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
1	Ensure that the high-level executive group is made up of senior managers similar to the group that drove the implementation of the J-ARC initiative;	Not accepted - evaluation needed	Medium	As indicated above, further evaluation is required as to whether another high level group is warranted. To inform this evaluation, the Chair will attend SORAM Office and examine details of J-ARC initiative.
2	Develop Violent and Sex Offenders Register (ViSOR) or a similar e-type information sharing system;	Accepted	Long	This action is accepted but legislation will be required. Legislation does not allow for Register, just for monitoring. Legislation for a Violent Offenders Register may be needed but would be long term.
3	Ensure that all SORAM personnel charged with managing sex offenders are risk assessment trained;	Accepted	Short	Accepted and already in place. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.

4	Develop a standard operating procedure for managing prison pre-release meetings and to consider assignment of gardaí and probation officers to manage the release of sex offenders;	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Short</b>	SOP agreed and in place. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.
5	Ensure that the National SORAM Office performs an oversight and governance role;	<b>Not accepted - clarification needed</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Clarification is needed from the Garda Inspectorate as to the extent of oversight envisaged, in every local office or less.
6	Ensure full representation at SORAM meetings from relevant agencies including local authority housing and mental health services;	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Short</b>	This action is accepted and agreed, but is a matter of enforcement. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report, subject to availability of data.
7	Conduct research/evaluation of offender treatment programmes and develop metrics on reoffending rates;	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Medium</b>	This action is accepted but evaluation will be raised with the Probation Office.
8	Provide ongoing SORAM refresher training as well as training for those criminal justice representatives involved in cases in court.	<b>Not accepted - clarification needed</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Clarification is needed from the Garda Inspectorate as to what is required. The DPP/Bar Council/Courts Service/NSO already has ongoing training as part of their annual work plans.
	Consider whether this recommendation (2.6) and associated actions should be included as part of Recommendation 2.1 to develop a national strategy.			

<b>2.7</b>	<b>The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána review the procedures for managing sex offenders contained in the Policy on the Investigation of Sexual Crimes, Crimes against Children and Child Welfare. (Short term)</b>	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Accepted in principle. Policy view is underway. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.
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No.	Actions required to implement this recommendation.	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
1	Ensure that gardaí deployed to sex offender management are part of the new Protective Services Units	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Long</b>	Agreed in principle but aspirational as the DPSUs are not yet fully functional and there are capacity issues.
2	Promote the updating and use of Violent Crime Linkage Analysis System (ViCLAS) as an important source of offender information	<b>Not accepted - evaluation needed</b>	<b>Medium</b>	
3	Ensure that all outstanding booklets are entered on the ViCLAS system	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Medium</b>	This is currently being done but there is a backlog. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.
4	Conduct a review of the use of Sex Offenders Orders	<b>Not accepted - clarification needed</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Not accepted at this time as further clarification is required from the Garda Inspectorate in light of the Sex Offenders (Amendment) Bill and whether section 16 of the 2001 Act is the focus of this action.
5	Provide training for those gardaí conducting risk assessments.	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Training provided. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.
	Consider whether this recommendation and associated actions should be included as part of Recommendation 2.1 to develop a national strategy.			



No.	Recommendation	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
2.8	<b>The Inspectorate recommends that the Department of Justice convene a multi-agency group to review legislative issues in connection with managing sex offenders and particularly those at risk of causing most harm. (Medium term)</b>	<b>Accepted with modification</b>	<b>Medium</b>	This recommendation is partially accepted. A review may be carried out but in the light of proposed legislative changes it may not be necessary to convene a multi-agency sub-group.

No.	Actions required to implement this recommendation.	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
1	Consider extending the Sex Offenders Risk Assessment and Management (SORAM) model to include other categories of offenders who pose a significant threat to public safety;	<b>Accepted with modification</b>	<b>Long</b>	Action is accepted in principle but further evaluation is necessary and legislation required.
2	Review the process for the monitoring of young offenders who are under 18 years of age	<b>Accepted with modification</b>	<b>Short</b>	Consideration to be given to Head 4 of the Sex Offenders (Amendment) Bill and the JLO system in operation.
3	Review those sexual offences that are currently excluded from the schedule of offences;	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Short</b>	Under consideration with regard to the rationale behind the 2001 legislation and reasons behind the exclusion of two categories of offenders. Subject to verification and will be addressed in the Group's January report.
4	Address gaps in the powers to deal with those who refuse to engage with monitoring gardaí;	<b>Accepted with modification</b>	<b>Short</b>	Under consideration in light of 2001 legislation and Sex Offenders (Amendment) Bill, in particular Head 11.

5	Consider legislation to remove the need for a supervision order for SORAM monitoring; and	<b>Accepted with modification</b>	<b>Short</b>	For further discussion with Criminal Law Reform Division.
6	Consider an obligation to request a pre-sanction report for all adult persons convicted of a sexual offence.	<b>Accepted with modification</b>	<b>Short</b>	Section 28(3) of 2001 Act refers. For further discussion with Criminal Law Reform Division.
	Consider whether this recommendation and associated actions should be included as part of Recommendation 2.1 to develop a national strategy.			

No.	Recommendation	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
3.1	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána develop PULSE recording practices that clearly identify child sexual abuse/child sexual exploitation incidents and other incidents involving children at risk such as human trafficking, female genital mutilation, forced marriage and honour based violence. (Short term)	Accepted	Medium	Accepted subject to operational feasibility. Discussions to take place with ICT Division and if implemented, would be part of a PULSE overhaul.

No.	Actions required to implement this recommendation.	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
	N/A			

No.	Recommendation	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
3.2	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána conduct a review of PULSE incident categories to ensure that all offences of a sexual nature are recorded in a single sexual offence category and issue clear national directions on the correct recording of sexual offences. (Short term)	Accepted	Long	Recommendation accepted but long term.

No.	Actions required to implement this recommendation.	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
1	Revise the descriptions in the PULSE Incident Recording Manual to ensure that all offences of a sexual nature, including child pornography offences, are recorded in the sexual offences category;	Accepted	Medium	
2	The Central Statistics Office and the Garda Síochána to agree a single categorisation system for all sexual offences; and	Accepted	Long	Feasibility to be discussed with the CSO and AGS. Some further evaluation is required.
3	Address the recurring theme of over-counting of sexual offences.	Accepted	Medium	Causes of over-counting will have to be identified and addressed. Training may resolve this issue.
	Consider whether this recommendation and associated actions should be included as part of Recommendation 2.1 to develop a national strategy.			

No.	Recommendation	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
3.3	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána review the policy of not approaching child abuse victims as part of third party referral (including clerical notification cases) who are initially unwilling to make a complaint. (Short term)	Accepted	Short	This policy has been reviewed. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.

No.	Actions required to implement this recommendation.	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
	N/A			

No.	Recommendation	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
3.4	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána take immediate action to increase the numbers of members trained to Level 3 and Level 4 interview standard and to ensure there is sufficient suitably trained members to conduct interview with suspects and take statements from adult victims of child sexual abuse. (Medium Term)	Accepted	Short	Training is underway with courses being rolled out. Stats required to support compliance. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.

No.	Actions required to implement this recommendation.	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
	N/A			

No.	Recommendation	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
3.5	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána specifically include interviewing of suspects and the taking of statements from witnesses in child sexual abuse cases in the detective training programme (Short term)	Accepted with modification	Short	This recommendation is partially accepted. Bespoke training is not considered feasible but more emphasis will be put on these elements in existing training programmes. For verification in Implementation Group's January progress report.

No.	Actions required to implement this recommendation.	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
	N/A			

No.	Recommendation	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
3.6	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána, in conjunction with Tusla, move to a standard operating procedure for conducting joint interviewing of child victims. (Medium term)	Accepted	Medium	A joint protocol has been agreed between AGS and Tusla which will include a standard operating procedure, and is expected to be signed off shortly.

No.	Actions required to implement this recommendation.	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
1	Ensure that sufficient numbers of social workers are trained as child specialist interviewers to allow joint interviews to take place;	Accepted	Medium	Training is ongoing, with 12 participants for each course, 6 from AGS and 6 from Tusla. Training venue is Abbey Hotel Nenagh as Templemore does not have capacity. For verification in the Implementaion Group's January progress report.
2	Both agencies to be involved in the development and delivery of a joint interview training course that caters for the child interview requirements of social workers and garda members;	Accepted	Medium	Action is accepted but some further evaluation is needed. 2003 Guidelines are to be examined in the context of development of joint interview training.
3	Review the use and conduct of clarification interviews;	Accepted	Medium	Action is accepted and review is underway.
4	Develop metrics and quality assurance processes for interviews;	Accepted	Medium	Action is accepted and will be subject to verification process in a later progress report by the Implementation Group.



5	Ensure that all specialist interviewers are attached full-time to investigation units or are released on a rotational basis for immediate deployment;	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Action is accepted and will be subject to verification process in a later progress report by the Implementation Group.
6	Encourage more male gardaí to become specialist interviewers;	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Action is accepted in principle but difficult to enforce in practice.
7	Ensure that investigating officers view the victim interviews;	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Short</b>	Victim interviews are being viewed by investigating gardaí. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.
8	Develop a programme of refresher training for specialist interviewers;	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Refresher training is provided. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report. Timeline is medium term as this takes time to roll out.
9	Remove the need for specialist interviewers to create transcripts of interviews;	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Medium</b>	This action is accepted in principle but needs further evaluation. An earlier protocol to be examined and checks to be done to ascertain if interviewers are currently performing this task. Consideration to be given to the difference between a working document and a document required to be admissible for trial.
10	Review the issue of parents/guardians who refuse to allow a child to be interviewed or medically examined; and	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Long</b>	Such a review will involve consultation with the Attorney General's Office and may require legislative change.
11	Review the referral process to units such as St Clare's and St Louise's and in particular resolve the use of credibility assessments.	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Accepted that such a review is necessary.

Consider whether this recommendation and associated actions should be included as part of Recommendation 2.1 to develop a national strategy.			
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No.	Recommendation	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
3.7	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána, in conjunction with the Director of Public Prosecutions, review the processes and develop joint protocol and approaches for the management of child sexual abuse cases. (Short term)	Accepted	Short	

No.	Actions required to implement this recommendation.	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
1	Clarify the types of cases that should be referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions;	Accepted	Short	Work already underway - HQ Directive to issue. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.
2	Consider the findings and recommendations of the 2015 independent review of the investigation and prosecution of rape cases by the Metropolitan Police Service and the Crown Prosecution Service; and	Accepted	Short	The report has been considered by the DPP. There are reservations, however, regarding the benefit of any further extensive review of the report. Further evaluation is required by AGS and the Chair before reverting to DPP as to whether any additional guidance or assistance can be extracted from the Met report. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.

3	Develop a best practice model for providing early investigative advice.	<b>Accepted with modification</b>	<b>Short</b>	AGS view is that national units and AGS Legal Section would be first port of call for legal advice and not DPP. If further roll-out of the DPSUs takes place as expected, the need for legal advice will decrease. DPP provides guidance on a case by case basis if and when necessary. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.
	Consider whether this recommendation and associated actions should be included as part of Recommendation 2.1 to develop a national strategy.			

No.	Recommendation	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
3.8	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána develop a mandatory welfare referral process for gardaí and garda staff carrying out child sexual abuse investigative or examination roles. (Short term)	Accepted	Short	Potentially implemented, for verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report. Carecall and Entry Level 1 stipulates that Gardaí may not come in without counselling and 4 mandatory sessions.

No.	Actions required to implement this recommendation.	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
	N/A			

No.	Recommendation	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
3.9	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána complete the roll-out of all Divisional Protective Services Units by the end of 2018. (Short term)	Accepted	Medium	Recommendation is accepted but timeline is medium term.

No.	Actions required to implement this recommendation.	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
	N/A			

No.	Recommendation	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
3.10	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána assign the Divisional Protective Services Units with responsibility for all aspects of investigating child sexual abuse including taking the initial report, interviewing victims and suspects, inter-agency notification and implementation of the revised Policy on the Investigation of Sexual Crime, Crimes against Children and Child Welfare. (Short term)	Accepted with modification	Medium	Recommendation is accepted with modification as the capacity needs of the DPSUs will need to be assessed. Consideration to be given if necessary to some cases, e.g. those that might ordinarily be tried summarily being investigated outside of the DPSUs.

No.	Actions required to implement this recommendation.	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
1	Following the introduction of the functional model of policing outlined in the Crime Investigation (2014) report, ensure that the superintendent in charge of crime has overall divisional responsibility for investigating child sexual abuse;	Accepted	Short	This has been done. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.
2	Ensure that each divisional unit has a dedicated detective inspector in charge;	Accepted with modification	Short	This has been done insofar as an inspector will be in charge. Not all will be detective inspector.
3	Ensure that all investigators assigned to the unit are fully trained and complete specific training in the investigation of sexual offences and child protection;	Accepted	Short	Training has been approved. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.

4	When using gardaí who are not assigned to the divisional PSU to gather evidence, ensure that they have received specialist training in the investigation of sexual offences and child protection;	<b>Accepted with modification</b>	<b>Short</b>	This action is not fully agreed as it is considered unduly prescriptive. It may not always be necessary to provide specialist training as it depends on the task, e.g. gathering CCTV footage would be part of the investigation but would not require specialist training.
5	Identify opportunities for the assignment of garda support staff;	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Short</b>	This is being done. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.
6	Revise the Policy on the Investigation of Sexual Crime, Crimes Against Children and Child Welfare in the light of the recommendations in this report and deliver bespoke training on the new policy to those who have core responsibilities;	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Short</b>	This is being done. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.
7	Consider attachments for probationary gardaí to divisional units; and	<b>Accepted with modification</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Practitioners training for sexual offences is provided. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report. Clarification required from Garda Inspectorate as to whether this goes far enough.
8	Develop a process for sharing learning and good practice between units.	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Short</b>	This is being done. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.



No.	Recommendation	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
3.11	The Inspectorate recommends that the Department of Justice and Equality convene a criminal justice multi-agency working group to deliver a more victim-centred service to child sexual abuse victims. (Medium term)	Accepted	Short	An expert working group has been established, chaired by Tom O'Malley BL. Terms of Reference refer to vulnerable witnesses, which must be taken to include children. Contact has been made with Mr. O'Malley to ensure co-operation and information sharing as their work progresses as it will impact upon actions 1, 2, 3, and 4 below.

No.	Actions required to implement this recommendation.	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
1	Consider the extension of pre-trial hearings;	Accepted	Long	A meeting has taken place between the Chair of the Implementation Group and Criminal Law Reform Division, DJE, with additional meeting(s) to take place before end 2018.
2	Reduce unnecessary and repeated court appearances by witnesses;	Accepted	Long	The Criminal Procedures Bill will reduce delays insofar as Heads of Bill envisage pre-trial hearings to involve inter alia evidentiary and severance applications to be dealt with as part of pre-trial process.
3	Develop joint-agency monitoring of data on case timeliness and factors affecting the outcome of criminal cases;	Accepted	Long	A criminal justice data hub is under development to facilitate information and data sharing between relevant agencies. The first stage involves a pilot project for Charge Sheets. It is expected that the system will be rolled out to other areas over time, but it is accepted that this is a long term project.

4	Develop pre-trial evidence for children, vulnerable victims and witnesses; and	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Long</b>	Work of the Interdepartmental Group in relation to Child Sexual Abuse Support Centres in ongoing. A site has been identified for a pilot project which is intended to be up and running in 2019. This will inform the development of similar centres in other locations. The key aim is to provide all necessary services, investigative, medical and therapeutic, to CSA victims and their families in one location to minimise trauma. Centres will be based on the 'Barnahus' model.
5	Include the provision of special measures as part of a pre-trial hearing process.	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Long</b>	Consideration to be given to seeking separate provision for special measures/ground rules as part of pre-trial process.
	Consider whether this recommendation and associated actions should be included as part of Recommendation 2.1 to develop a national strategy.			

No.	Recommendation	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
4.1	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána conduct a review of the findings emanating from the response to the Garda Inspectorate's request for information on the management of referrals of child abuse material. (Short term)	Accepted	Short	Review has taken place and this recommendation is potentially implemented. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.

No.	Actions required to implement this recommendation.	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
1	Examine why divisions did not respond to the request for information;	Accepted	Short	For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.
2	Review the packages sent to divisions from 2014 and 2015 that were still outstanding at 31 December 2016;	Accepted	Short	For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.
3	Analyse the reasons for the time taken to conduct searches by the divisions;	Accepted	Short	For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.
4	Review the searches that took place after the request date of 2 August 2016; and	Accepted	Short	For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.
5	Examine the delays in sending requests for examination of devices from divisions.	Accepted	Short	For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.

No.	Recommendation	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
4.2	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána implement a standard operating procedure for assessing, managing and investigating child abuse material referrals and for tackling online child sexual abuse. (Short term)	Accepted	Short	

No.	Actions required to implement this recommendation.	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
1	Review the resourcing needs for pro-active operations and re-active investigations;	Accepted	Short	Resourcing needs reviewed. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.
2	Develop a new image categorisation system in line with international best practice;	Accepted	Long	Action is accepted but is a matter for the Courts and is long term.
3	Develop a risk-based assessment process using a model such as the Kent Internet Risk Assessment Tool for use at all stages of investigations into CAM;	Not accepted - evaluation needed	Short	The objective of this action is agreed but the use of the Kent model is not necessarily considered appropriate. Under the Irish system, risk is assessed on case by case basis by two sergeants who examine the individual case and take a decision.
4	Activate a pro-active system such as Child Protection Systems or Round-Up that generates real time intelligence on offenders accessing CAM;	Accepted	Short	Done - ' <i>Operation Ketch</i> '. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.

5	Ensure that Child Abuse Image Database or a derivative of this system is developed for use in CAM assessment;	<b>Not accepted - evaluation needed</b>	<b>Medium</b>	It is not clear what additional benefits this action would add. Interpol's database is used currently and costs involved in development of another system would have to be examined.
6	Develop a dedicated pro-active investigation unit to tackle online abusers operating in P2P networks and those seeking to have contact abuse with children;	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Short</b>	Done - 'Operation Ketch'. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.
7	Develop a dedicated victim identification unit; and	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Short</b>	Done. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.
8	Develop an information pack for suspects that includes information on suicide prevention support.	<b>Accepted with modification</b>	<b>Short</b>	This is a work in progress. AGS is involved in consultation with One in Four. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.

No.	Recommendation	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
4.3	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána implement a standard operating procedure for conducting searches of addresses in child abuse material cases and other cases where devices are likely to be seized. (Short term)	Accepted	Short	

No.	Actions required to implement this recommendation.	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
1	Implement triage technology to assist with initial assessments;	Accepted	Medium	CCIU delivers forensic examination. Will be rolled out to PSUs.
2	Utilise the skills of forensic examiners at searches;	Accepted with modification	Medium	Action is partially agreed but there is a resource issue.
3	Provide accreditation for forensic examiners;	Accepted	Short	Done - Masters qualification. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.
4	Acquire encryption technology and develop the specialist skills of examiners; and	Accepted	Short	Done. For verification in the Implementation Group's January progress report.
5	Consider the assignment of forensic examiners to the Garda National Protective Services Bureau.	Not accepted - clarification needed	Short	Clarification required from the Garda Inspectorate. A SLA already exists for this purpose and it is not clear whether the Inspectorate envisages that more is needed.

No.	Recommendation	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
4.4	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána, in consultation with key partner agencies, conduct an annual joint strategic assessment process on the threats posed by the internet to the safety of children. (Short term)	Accepted	Long	While this recommendation is accepted, further evaluation is required and findings will be closely linked to the decision to be taken regarding Recommendation 2.1 in relation to a national strategy.

No.	Actions required to implement this recommendation.	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
1	Develop problem profiles and plans for CSE and internet-related CSA crimes;	Not accepted - clarification needed	Short	Not accepted at this stage as further discussion is required with the Inspectorate as to what is envisaged.
2	Develop crime prevention plans including opportunities to promote the use of blocking, take down and filtering;	Not accepted - evaluation needed	Short	This is a complex issue and the subject of AG's advice.
3	Develop pro-active policing approaches to tackle online CSE;	Accepted	Short	Done - Operation Ketch. For verification in Implementation Group's January progress report.
4	Combat the live streaming of on-demand abuse;	Accepted	Medium	Action is agreed in principle but particularly difficult to put into effect.
5	Target groups that produce CAM on the Darknet; and	Accepted	Long	Action is agreed in principle but would be resource intensive.
6	Tackle the misuse of legitimate online platforms for CSE-related crimes such as the dissemination of child abuse material, grooming and child sexual exploitation.	Accepted	Long	Action is agreed in principle but needs examination and evaluation as it is somewhat aspirational and would be resource intensive. The establishment of a Cybercrime Unit DJE is a positive step and the Chair will meet with that Unit as part of the next stage of the Group's work.

Consider whether this recommendation and associated actions should be included as part of recommendation 2.1 to develop a national strategy.			
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No.	Recommendation	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
4.5	The Inspectorate recommends that the Department of Justice and Equality consider introducing legislation in child sexual abuse related cases to provide power to compel any person who appears to have lawful access to a computer or other device to provide a password and any encryption key or code in order to operate the computer. Failure to comply with this requirement should be an offence. (Medium term)	Accepted	Medium	Recommendation is accepted in principle and it is agreed that this issue will be considered. There are, however, broader implications as it would be intended that such powers would also be applicable in the investigation of other categories of crime, such as online fraud. The Chair has met with Criminal Law Reform Division for initial discussion, with a follow-up meeting to take place before end 2018.

No.	Actions required to implement this recommendation.	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
1	To consider whether these powers should be provided with or without the authority of a warrant.	Accepted	Medium	