

Second Progress Report of the Inter-Agency Implementation Group: Spreadsheet

No.	Recommendation	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
2.1	The Inspectorate recommends that the Department of Justice and 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)	Accepted	Short	Update April 2019 The majority view of the Implementation Group is that it stands over its initial finding, i.e. that it accepts the objectives behind this recommendation and that a national approach is required. How this should manifest itself is a complex issue that still requires further examination and discussion. Direct engagement has taken place with the Ombudsman for Children, Rape Crisis Network Ireland (RCNI) and Cosc. Further engagement in the next stage of work is expected to include the Department of Justice and Equality, and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, the CARI Foundation and the Special Rapporteur for Children.
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 Rec 2.2	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		

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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	Accepted		
7	Ensure senior management representation at the Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSCs) and at local committee meetings.	Accepted with modification		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.	Accepted		

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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.
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No.	Actions required to implement Rec 2.3	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;	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.
5	Ensure that only specially trained personnel and professionals make key decisions on the management of notifications;	Accepted	Medium	Accepted in principle but clarification required from Garda Inspectorate regarding the agency/agencies to which this action refers, AGS or Tusla.

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6	Develop a standard operating procedure for closing cases;	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.
7	Develop a national protocol for the sharing of information;	Accepted	Medium	MOU refers - see comments above.
8	Deliver joint-agency training to improve the quality of notifications;	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.
9	Develop joint-agency data/metrics on notifications and actions such as attendance rates at meetings;	Accepted with modification	Medium	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.	Accepted	Medium	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 Rec 2.4	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
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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 Rec 2.5	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
1	Appoint missing persons officers in all divisional Protective Services Units	Rejected	Medium	This key 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.

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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	Update April 2019 Accepted and to be formalised. For verification in a later progress report.
4	Ensure that return interviews are always conducted;	Accepted	Medium	Update April 2019 This key action has been accepted following clarification from the Garda Inspectorate as to who should conduct such interviews. To be substantively addressed in a later progress report.
5	Review the approach for conducting interviews with children missing from care, particularly those children who are at high risk of exploitation;	Accepted	Medium	Update April 2019 Clarification was sought from Garda Inspectorate as to why such review was deemed necessary. To be substantively addressed in a later progress report.
6	Identify those children who go missing that are at a high risk of sexual exploitation and develop early preventative actions;	Accepted	Medium	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	Accepted	Medium	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group is advised that work is underway in relation to this issue. As the Group is not yet in a position to verify implementation however, it will address this matter substantively in a later 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.	Not accepted - evaluation needed	Medium	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.			

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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	Update April 2019 This recommendation remains rejected. A high level executive group already exists in the form of the National SORAM Office and National Steering Group Committee which includes representation from Dept/Housing and the Irish Prisons Service. Having conducted further evaluation, the Group stands over its initial findings and does not consider it necessary or appropriate that another high-level executive group be convened. See Key Action 1 below.

No.	Actions required to implement Rec 2.6	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;	Rejected	Medium	Update April 2019 This key action is now rejected. The Implementation Group is satisfied that the objective behind both this key action and Recommendation 2.6 above can be achieved through existing structures which encompass the National SORAM Office and National Steering Committee.
2	Develop Violent and Sex Offenders Register (ViSOR) or a similar e-type information sharing system;	Accepted with modification	Long	Update April 2019 This key action is still accepted but only with modification. An e-sharing information system would be beneficial and could potentially be given more emphasis in the next Joint Strategy on the Management of Offenders. While developing a ViSOR would be of value, it should be managed and operated separately to SORAM.
3	Ensure that all SORAM personnel charged with managing sex offenders are risk assessment trained;	Accepted	Short	Update April 2019 On the basis of details verified by An Garda Síochána and the National SORAM Office, the Implementation Group is satisfied that this key action has been implemented.

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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;	Accepted	Short	<p>Update April 2019</p> <p>Each agency involved in SORAM has its own SOP but none exists for pre-release meetings. This matter could potentially be included as an action in the next Joint Strategy on the Management of Offenders.</p>
5	Ensure that the National SORAM Office performs an oversight and governance role;	Accepted	Medium	<p>Update April 2019</p> <p>Following clarification from the Garda Inspectorate, this key action is now accepted by the Implementation Group and is considered implemented. The Group is satisfied that existing governance procedures, soon to be enhanced by Local SORAM Team Meeting Reviews, satisfy this objective.</p>
6	Ensure full representation at SORAM meetings from relevant agencies including local authority housing and mental health services;	Accepted	Short	<p>Update April 2019</p> <p>This key action is accepted and implemented insofar as is reasonable and feasible. While no overall records of attendances are maintained, experience is that all those who are required to attend SORAM meetings do so. Any issues regarding attendance, should they arise, can be brought to the attention of the National Steering Committee.</p>
7	Conduct research/evaluation of offender treatment programmes and develop metrics on reoffending rates;	Accepted	Medium	<p>Update April 2019</p> <p>This key action is considered to be implemented on the basis that some research projects are completed and others are underway. Such projects should however, continue into the future to facilitate ongoing development of data metrics.</p>
8	Provide ongoing SORAM refresher training as well as training for those criminal justice representatives involved in cases in court.	Accepted	Medium	<p>Update April 2019</p> <p>This key action is now accepted, having received clarification from the Garda Inspectorate as to what is required. It is also considered implemented as Chief Prosecution Solicitors are now involved in cases involving breaches of post-supervision orders in the District Court. A CPD module has also been delivered to District Court Judges.</p>

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	Consider whether this recommendation (2.6) and associated actions should be included as part of Recommendation 2.1 to develop a national strategy.			
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2.7	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)	Accepted	Medium	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group is not yet in a position to verify implementation and will address this matter substantively in a later progress report.
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No.	Actions required to implement Rec 2.7	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
1	Ensure that gardaí deployed to sex offender management are part of the new Protective Services Units	Accepted	Long	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	Not accepted - evaluation needed	Medium	
3	Ensure that all outstanding booklets are entered on the ViCLAS system	Accepted	Medium	Update April 2019 This is currently being done but a backlog exists. For verification in a later progress report.
4	Conduct a review of the use of Sex Offenders Orders	Accepted	Medium	Update April 2019 Following clarification from the Garda Inspectorate that this key action relates to the <u>use</u> of Sex Offenders Orders, it is now accepted. This matter will be addressed substantively in a later progress report.
5	Provide training for those gardaí conducting risk assessments.	Accepted	Medium	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group is satisfied that that the verification of training arrangements in place, as set out in

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				relation to Recommendation 2.6, Key Action 3 also satisfies Key Action 5.
	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	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)	Accepted with modification	Medium	Update April 2019 The Group does not consider it necessary to convene a multi-agency sub-group but is satisfied that these legislative issues are under review. The Department of Justice and Equality is progressing the Sex Offenders (Amendment) Bill which is now at drafting stage. Any potential gaps identified in this area can be addressed in this Bill (subject to the agreement of the OPC).

No.	Actions required to implement Rec 2.8	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;	Accepted with modification	Long	Update April 2019 The Group acknowledges that the SORAM model is working very well, but including other categories of offender could dilute its effectiveness. Other categories of offender who pose a risk to public safety should be risk assessed and managed in a way that reflects the SORAM model, without being absorbed into it.
2	Review the process for the monitoring of young offenders who are under 18 years of age;	Accepted with modification	Medium	Update April 2019 This key action was accepted with modification on the basis that consideration would need to be given to Head 4 of the Sex Offenders (Amendment) Bill and the JLO system in operation. The Group is now satisfied on the basis of

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				legislative amendments and other developments as outlined in this progress report, that the process for monitoring of young offenders under 18 years of age is being reviewed. A medium time frame is considered realistic and appropriate.
3	Review those sexual offences that are currently excluded from the schedule of offences;	Accepted	Short	Update April 2019 Following detailed consideration, the Implementation Group is satisfied that the exclusion of burglary and indecency offences from the schedule of offences is well founded. The review in relation to this issue is deemed to have taken place and this key action has therefore been implemented.
4	Address gaps in the powers to deal with those who refuse to engage with monitoring gardaí;	Accepted with modification	Short	Update April 2019 The Group is satisfied that many of the Garda Inspectorate's concerns will be addressed when the Sex Offenders (Amendment) Bill is enacted into law. The objective behind this key action is very close to being achieved, subject to the timeframe for enactment of this legislation.
5	Consider legislation to remove the need for a supervision order for SORAM monitoring;	Accepted with modification	Short	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group considers that giving effect to key action 6 will meet the objectives of actions 5 and 6. Legislation should be considered to request a pre-sanction report for all adult persons coming under the provisions of the Sex Offenders Act 2001. Subject to agreement from the OPC, the Department of Justice and Equality will consider this view for the purposes of inserting such a provision in the Sex Offenders (Amendment) Bill, which is at drafting stage.
6	Consider an obligation to request a pre-sanction report for all adult persons convicted of a sexual offence.	Accepted with modification	Short	Update April 2019 See comments re action 5 above.
	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
3.1	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 release.

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 Rec 3.2	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.

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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	Update April 2019 This policy is being amended as part of the review by AGS of its policy on the Investigation of Sexual Crime, Crimes Against Children and Child Welfare. This policy change has been factored into relevant training courses. The Group considers this recommendation to be implemented in principle, but can only be deemed fully implemented when the HQ Directive giving effect to the policy change has issued.

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	Update April 2019 Having received details of training provided during 2017 and 2018, the Implementation Group is satisfied that the number of members trained at Levels 3 and 4 interview standard has increased and considers this recommendation to be implemented.

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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	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group accepted this recommendation with modification on the basis that bespoke training would not be feasible and stands over its initial finding. Aspects of child abuse are covered specifically in three separate training courses. Further, the rollout of DPSUs on a national level by end 2019 should ensure that only specially trained members of AGS are involved in the investigation of child sexual abuse. The Group is satisfied that the rollout of DPSUs with associated training will fulfil the spirit of this recommendation.

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	Update April 2019 While the Implementation Group is satisfied that progress is being made, it is not yet in a position to report on this recommendation and will address it substantively in a later progress report. Key action 1 below, has been examined separately.

No.	Actions required to implement Rec 3.6	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	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group is satisfied that the ratio of AGS and Tusla staff to whom this training has been provided has changed from 90:10 to 50:50. Implementation of this key action must be kept under ongoing review and the provision of this specialist training prioritised whenever possible.

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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.
5	Ensure that all specialist interviewers are attached full-time to investigation units or are released on a rotational basis for immediate deployment;	Accepted	Medium	Action is accepted and will be subject to verification process in a later progress report.
6	Encourage more male gardaí to become specialist interviewers;	Accepted	Medium	Action is accepted in principle but difficult to enforce in practice.
7	Ensure that investigating officers view the victim interviews;	Accepted	Short	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group is advised that victim interviews are being viewed by investigating gardaí and will address this issue substantively in a later progress report.
8	Develop a programme of refresher training for specialist interviewers;	Accepted	Medium	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group is advised that refresher training is being provided and will address this issue substantively in a later progress report.
9	Remove the need for specialist interviewers to create transcripts of interviews;	Accepted	Medium	Action is accepted in principle but needs further evaluation. 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.

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10	Review the issue of parents/guardians who refuse to allow a child to be interviewed or medically examined; and	Accepted	Long	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.	Accepted	Medium	Accepted that such a review is necessary.

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 Rec 3.7	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
1	Clarify the types of cases that should be referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions;	Accepted	Short	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group is advised that work is already underway but a HQ Directive has yet to issue. The Implementation Group will address this issue substantively in a later 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	Update April 2019 As this matter is being explored further with the DPP and the Legal and Compliance Unit of AGS, the Implementation Group will address this issue substantively in a later progress report.

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3	Develop a best practice model for providing early investigative advice.	Accepted with modification	Short	Update April 2019 As this matter is being explored further with the DPP and the Legal and Compliance Unit of AGS, the Implementation Group will address this issue substantively in a later 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	Update April 2019 Indications are that this recommendation is implemented, but the Implementation Group will report substantively on this issue in a later progress report.

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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	<p>Update April 2019</p> <p>The Implementation Group is satisfied that progress is being made with 10 DPSUs now up and running, and the remaining 19 expected to be in place by end 2019. As the rollout is still at a relatively early stage, the Group is of the view that the efficacy of these DPSUs should be monitored, evaluated and reviewed as the programme progresses.</p>
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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 Rec 3.10	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	<p>Update April 2019</p> <p>The Implementation Group is advised that this has been done but will report substantively on this issue in a later progress report.</p>
2	Ensure that each divisional unit has a dedicated detective inspector in charge;	Accepted with modification	Short	<p>Update April 2019</p> <p>The Implementation Group is satisfied that this key action has been implemented but with modification insofar as an inspector will be in charge but not all will be detective inspector.</p>

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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	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group is advised that training has been approved but will report substantively on this issue in a later 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;	Accepted with modification	Short	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;	Accepted	Short	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group is advised that this key action is being implemented but will report substantively on this issue in a later 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;	Accepted	Short	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group is advised that this key action is being implemented but will report substantively on this issue in a later progress report.
7	Consider attachments for probationary gardaí to divisional units; and	Accepted with modification	Medium	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group is advised that practitioners training for sexual offences is provided but will report substantively on this issue in a later progress report.
8	Develop a process for sharing learning and good practice between units.	Accepted	Short	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group is advised that this key action is being implemented but will report substantively on this issue in a later progress report.

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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	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group has agreed a collaborative approach including the sharing of information with the expert working group chaired by Tom O'Malley BL as the work of both groups progresses, as it will impact upon key actions 1, 2, 3, and 4 below.

No.	Actions required to implement Rec 3.11	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
1	Consider the extension of pre-trial hearings;	Accepted	Long	Update April 2019 See comments above.
2	Reduce unnecessary and repeated court appearances by witnesses;	Accepted	Long	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group expects that 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. The Group awaits the findings of the Tom O'Malley working group, before reporting substantively on this issue.
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.

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4	Develop pre-trial evidence for children, vulnerable victims and witnesses; and	Accepted	Long	Work of the Interdepartmental Group in relation to Child Sexual Abuse Support Centres is 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 integrated services, investigative, medical and therapeutic, to CSA victims and their families to minimise trauma. Centres will be based on the internationally recognised 'Barnahus' model.
5	Include the provision of special measures as part of a pre-trial hearing process.	Accepted	Long	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	Update April 2019 As the Implementation Group is not yet in a position to report substantively on this recommendation and associated key actions, the matter will be addressed in a later progress report.

No.	Actions required to implement Rec 4.1	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
1	Examine why divisions did not respond to the request for information;	Accepted	Short	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group is advised that this key action is implemented but will report substantively on this issue in a later progress report.

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2	Review the packages sent to divisions from 2014 and 2015 that were still outstanding at 31 December 2016;	Accepted	Short	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group is advised that this key action is implemented but will report substantively on this issue in a later progress report.
3	Analyse the reasons for the time taken to conduct searches by the divisions;	Accepted	Short	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group is advised that this key action is implemented but will report substantively on this issue in a later progress report.
4	Review the searches that took place after the request date of 2 August 2016; and	Accepted	Short	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group is advised that this key action is implemented but will report substantively on this issue in a later progress report.
5	Examine the delays in sending requests for examination of devices from divisions.	Accepted	Short	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group is advised that this key action is implemented but will report substantively on this issue in a later 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	Update April 2019 As the Implementation Group has not yet had the opportunity to consider this recommendation and some of its associated key actions in their entirety, this matter will be addressed in a later progress report. Findings in relation to key actions 1 and 7 are set out below.

No.	Actions required to implement Rec 4.2	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
1	Review the resourcing needs for pro-active operations and re-active investigations;	Accepted	Short	Update April 2019 AGS has shown to the satisfaction of the Implementation Group that the resourcing needs of all units within the GNPSB including the OnCE Unit are under constant review. Resourcing needs for the OnCE Unit were reviewed in 2015 and again in 2017. A further review is underway.

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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	Update April 2019 The objective of this action is agreed but the use of the Kent model is not necessarily considered appropriate. The Implementation Group will report substantively on this issue in a later progress report.
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	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group is advised that this key action is implemented but will report substantively on this issue in a later progress report.
5	Ensure that Child Abuse Image Database or a derivative of this system is developed for use in CAM assessment;	Not accepted - evaluation needed	Medium	Update April 2019 The Group is advised that Interpol's database is used currently and costs involved in development of another system would have to be examined. The Implementation Group will report substantively on this issue in a later progress report.
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;	Accepted	Short	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group is advised that this key action is being implemented but will report substantively on this issue in a later progress report
7	Develop a dedicated victim identification unit; and	Accepted	Short	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group is satisfied that this key action has been implemented. A dedicated Victim Identification Unit was established within the OnCE Unit in September 2017. For the year ending 2018, a total of 52 children were identified, exceeding the target set under the GNPSB Policing Plan by 30%.
8	Develop an information pack for suspects that includes information on suicide prevention support.	Accepted with modification	Short	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group is advised that this key action is being implemented but will report substantively on this issue in a later progress report

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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 Rec 4.3	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	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group is advised that this key action is implemented but will report substantively on this issue in a later progress report.
4	Acquire encryption technology and develop the specialist skills of examiners; and	Accepted	Short	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group is advised that this key action is implemented but will report substantively on this issue in a later progress report.
5	Consider the assignment of forensic examiners to the Garda National Protective Services Bureau.	Not accepted - clarification needed	Short	Update April 2019 Clarification has been received from the Garda Inspectorate as to what is envisaged. The Implementation Group will report substantively on this issue in a later progress report.

No.	Recommendation	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
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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	<p>Update April 2019 While this recommendation is accepted, this is a complex area involving multiple stakeholders. It is expected that the Implementation Group's findings will be closely linked to the decision to be taken regarding Recommendation 2.1 in relation to a national strategy. The Group will address this matter substantively in a later progress report.</p>
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No.	Actions required to implement Rec 4.4	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
1	Develop problem profiles and plans for CSE and internet-related CSA crimes;	Not accepted - clarification needed	Short	<p>Update April 2019 The Implementation Group will report substantively on this issue in a later progress report.</p>
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	<p>Update April 2019 Operation Ketch, the establishment of new cybercrime policy area within the Department of Justice and Equality, the Action Plan for Online Safety 2018-2019 and Hotline.ie are all progressive steps that seek to deal with the threats posed by the internet to the safety of children. The Group will address this matter in more detail in a later progress report.</p>
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	<p>Update April 2019 Action is agreed in principle but needs examination and evaluation as it is somewhat aspirational and would be resource intensive. The establishment of a new cybercrime policy area within the Crime and Security Directorate of</p>

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				DJE is a positive step. The Chair has met with that policy area and will liaise further with it 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.			

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	Update April 2019 The Implementation Group agrees that while legislative amendment would address this recommendation, it would also have to be considered in the context of other categories of crime. A 2015 Report from the Law Reform Commission and 2018 report from the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland (CoFPI) may serve as additional drivers for the implementation of this recommendation.

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	Update April 2019 See comments above.