

Fourth 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 October 2020 The Implementation Group considers that the Inspectorate's report is the core document for a National Strategy going forward. It will be important to keep this updated to ensure that it is a live document. The appropriate oversight mechanism should ensure from an operational perspective that the balance of actions are implemented, and those currently implemented are monitored and supervised to ensure continued best practice. Either the Department of Justice or an identified Interdepartmental Group (convened at senior level) should manage oversight and alignment of the actions. The Cabinet Committee should receive regular updates on progress, with an annual report going to Government and submitted to the Oireachtas library. Progress in relation to this recommendation should be kept under review, and is not currently implemented. Once the appropriate oversight mechanism has been confirmed the spirit of this action can be considered implemented.

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	Update October 2020 On the basis that the national roll-out of Divisional Protective Services Units implements the spirit of this Recommendation, this Recommendation is considered implemented.
No.	Actions required to implement Rec 2.2	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
	Ensure the remit of the local safeguarding committees includes:	Accepted	Medium	

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1	Assessing whether the agencies are fulfilling their statutory and non-statutory obligations;	Accepted	<p>Update October 2020 These Key Actions are implemented. However, ongoing review is required to ensure implementation of these Key Actions. This is the responsibility of the relevant agencies and government Departments.</p>
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 with modification	<p>Update October 2020 Update October 2020 The Implementation Group accepted this key action in its October 2018 Progress Report. The Group considers that if there is an appropriate mechanism in place for governance and oversight, there is no added benefit to putting these Committees on a statutory footing. In order to ensure that focus is maintained, the Group proposes that an update on the Committees be provided to the Children First Interdepartmental Group (CFIDG) on a biannual basis. Progress has been made but this Key Action is not yet implemented.</p>
7	Ensure senior management representation at the Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSCs) and at local committee meetings.	Accepted with modification	<p>Update October 2020 The Group found that the current Garda Síochána representation on the Children and Young People's Services Committees, which is at Superintendent level, is the most appropriate Garda representative. This Key Action is implemented.</p>
	Consider whether this recommendation and associated actions should be included as part of Recommendation 2.1 to develop a national strategy.	Accepted	<p>Update October 2020 See comments in relation to Recommendation 2.1</p>

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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	Update October 2020 Consultations have taken place between An Garda Síochána (AGS) and Tusla about agreeing a Data Sharing Agreement and model for co-located working. Progress has been made but this Recommendation is not yet implemented. This Recommendation is to be kept under ongoing review until an agreement/decision has been reached by AGS and Tusla.

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	Update October 2020 The Group understands that implementation of the AGS PULSE- Tusla NCCIS integration project has been recommended at the highest level in both organisations. This project will allow for notifications created in accordance with Children First by either agency to automatically populate the other agencies' computer system. The Garda Executive has given approval for scoping meetings in relation to this project and that implementation will be determined by resource/funding availability in the Garda ICT section. Implementation of this Key Action has progressed but is not yet achieved and must be kept under review. Progress has been made but this Key Action is not yet implemented.
2	Develop a unique reference number for each case;	Rejected	Medium	Update October 2020 PULSE-NCCIS integration will negate the need for any unique reference numbers, as each agency's reference number will automatically be created/updated on each item of electronic correspondence. The Implementation Group therefore rejects this Key Action

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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	Update October 2020 This is included in the Joint Working Protocol for An Garda Síochána/Tusla – Child and Family Agency Liaison and has been incorporated in all Children First training. This Key Action has been implemented.
4	Develop a clear framework for strategy meetings and Child Protection Conferences to record decisions and attendance;	Accepted	Medium	Update October 2020 The process and structure of strategy meetings is outlined in the Joint Working Protocol for An Garda Síochána/Tusla. The framework for Child Protection Conferences is set out in the Tusla Child Protection and Welfare Practice Handbook and in additional guidance available on the Tusla website. The Joint Working Protocol came into effect in December 2017. While this Key Action has been implemented, the framework would be further enhanced by PULSE-NCCIS integration. Progress has been made but this Key Action is not yet implemented. It should be kept under review until PULSE-NCCIS integration is completed.
5	Ensure that only specially trained personnel and professionals make key decisions on the management of notifications;	Accepted	Medium	Update October 2020 AGS and Tusla are appropriately trained to make these decisions and structures are in place to provide oversight. This Key Action has been implemented.
6	Develop a standard operating procedure for closing cases;	Accepted	Medium	Update October 2020 This process is included in the Joint Working Protocol and will be further improved with the introduction of the PULSE-NCCIS integration. This Key Action has been implemented.
7	Develop a national protocol for the sharing of information;	Accepted	Medium	Update October 2020 This Key Action is dependent on the finalisation of the Data Sharing Agreement between AGS and Tusla. Progress has been made but this Key Action is not yet implemented and is therefore is to be kept under review.

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8	Deliver joint-agency training to improve the quality of notifications;	Accepted	Medium	Update October 2020 Addressed in the Joint Working Protocol between AGS and Tusla. This Key Action is implemented but should be kept under review to ensure it is maintained.
9	Develop joint-agency data/metrics on notifications and actions such as attendance rates at meetings;	Accepted with modification	Medium	Update October 2020 This will be achieved as part of the PULSE-NCCIS integration. Progress has been made but this Key Action is not yet implemented. It will be deemed to be fully implemented when PULSE-NCCIS integration is completed and should be kept under review until that point.
10	Ensure that there is a full evaluation of the out of hours service provided in child protection matters.	Accepted	Medium	Update October 2020 Tusla offers an out-of-hours service throughout the country with identified social workers on call. This Key Action is considered implemented.
	Consider whether this recommendation and associated actions should be included as part of Recommendation 2.1 to develop a national strategy.			Update October 2020 See comments in relation to Recommendation 2.1

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	Update October 2020 A request for review of KPIs has been submitted to the Assistant Commissioner, Special Crime Operations, but has not begun. This Recommendation is to be kept under review. This Recommendation is not yet implemented.

No.	Actions required to implement Rec 2.4	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	Update October 2020 Will need to be considered as part of review mentioned above. This Key Action is not yet implemented.

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2	IF KPI report is retained, PULSE should be updated to record additional data such as attendance rates at Child Protection Conferences;	Accepted	Medium	Update October 2020 Will be impacted by result of review mentioned above. Attendance at strategy meetings and Child Protection is to be included in the PULSE-NCCIS integration project. This Key Action is not yet implemented and is to be kept under review.
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	Update October 2020 This Key Action will be covered by the PULSE-NCCIS integration project and will be considered implemented once that is complete. Progress has been made but this Key Action is not yet implemented.
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	Update October 2020 Full access is available, as required, on completion of an electronic form on the AGS Portal. Training in the use of these KPI reports is provided by the NCPU on request. This Key Action has been implemented.

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	Update October 2020 The Tusla – Garda Síochána protocol and guidance on Organised Exploitation of Children has been drafted and forwarded for approval by both organisations, but is not yet finalised. The Missing Persons Protocol is also to be updated as soon as resources allow. Progress has been made but this Recommendation is not yet implemented and so it is to be kept under review.

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 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, this Key Action is marked as implemented.
3	Ensure that the Garda Missing Persons Bureau has a more intrusive supervisory role in checking the quality of investigations conducted;	Accepted	Medium	Update October 2020 The AGS Missing Persons Bureau liaises with local investigators and a number of missing person reports are available via the Garda Síochána portal to assist in the supervision of missing person investigations by local management. Supervision and review of this kind are outlined within the “Guidance on the Recording, Management and Investigation of Missing Persons” (2012). An application for an increase in resources has been made to expand the Missing Persons Unit, which would allow for additional oversight of high-risk cases. This Key Action has been implemented but progress is to be kept under ongoing review.
4	Ensure that return interviews are always conducted;	Accepted	Medium	Update October 2020 Social Workers interview children in care and AGS carry out all other interviews. In cases where a risk has been identified, a Children First notification will be sent to Tusla and if there is an indication that a crime has been committed, an AGS investigation will be initiated which will include interview of the child. This Key Action is implemented.
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 October 2020 A review of the approach for conducting interviews with children missing from care has taken place, and only those who are suitably trained can interview a person under 18. This Key Action has been implemented, but the provision of training should be kept under review.
6	Identify those children who go missing that are at a high risk of sexual exploitation and develop early preventative actions;	Accepted	Medium	Update October 2020 The Tusla – Garda Síochána protocol and guidance on Organised Exploitation of Children has been drafted and forwarded for approval by both organisations, but is not yet

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				finalised. This will incorporate guidance for carers in this regard. Progress has been made but this Key Action is not yet implemented. It is to be kept under review pending the finalisation of the protocol.
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 October 2020 Garda Information Service Centre (GISC) review and quality control all incidents in accordance with GISC Standard Operating Procedures. The basic description of the missing person and the circumstances of disappearance are all mandatory fields within the missing persons tab, and the creator of the incident cannot finalise/save a missing person incident without populating it. The location of where the person is found must also be added to an incident along with the reporter's details in order to save the incident. This Key Action has been implemented.
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.	Accepted	Medium	Update October 2020 Having reviewed the description of the functionalities offered by both applications, the Group is satisfied that the CRI alert app allows for collection and storage of the relevant information. This Key Action has been implemented.
	Consider whether this recommendation (2.5) and associated actions should be included as part of Recommendation 2.1 to develop a national strategy.			See comments in relation to Recommendation 2.1

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2.6	<p>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)</p>	<p>Rejected</p>	<p>Short</p>	<p>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 Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage 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.</p>
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No.	Actions required to implement Rec 2.6	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
1	<p>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;</p>	<p>Rejected</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>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.</p>
2	<p>Develop Violent and Sex Offenders Register (ViSOR) or a similar e-type information sharing system;</p>	<p>Accepted with modification</p>	<p>Long</p>	<p>Update October 2020 This Key Action is still accepted but only with modification. An e-sharing information system would be beneficial. AGS has sought approval to develop a dedicated Sex Offender Management Screen within PULSE. The Action Plan for the Joint Management of Offenders 2019-21 includes a commitment to develop an electronic information-sharing platform for SORAM. Progress has been made but this Key Action is not yet implemented. It is to be kept under review until this electronic information-sharing platform is rolled out.</p>
3	<p>Ensure that all SORAM personnel charged with managing sex offenders are risk assessment trained;</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>Short</p>	<p>Update April 2019 On the basis of details verified by AGS and the National SORAM Office, the Implementation Group is satisfied that this Key Action has been implemented.</p>

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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 October 2020</p> <p>The Action Plan for the Joint Management of Offenders 2019-21 contains a commitment that the Irish Prison Service will convene SORAM meetings in prisons within the last three months of sentence, preparing for the integration and management of soon-to-be-released sex offenders who are subject to supervision. Progress has been made but this Key Action is not yet implemented, so it should be kept under review.</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 October 2020</p> <p>The National SORAM Office has ongoing training as part of their annual work plan. Nine workshops were completed around the country with Local SORAM Teams in 2018, and two in 2019 (as of October 2019). This Key Action is considered implemented.</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.			See comments in relation to Recommendation 2.1
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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 October 2020 While the Group agreed that a review of legislative issues in connection with managing sex offenders could have merit, it noted that proposed legislative changes were already underway that could potentially address many of these issues. To conduct a review of the procedures now would therefore bring being no benefit. It is anticipated that the new Sex Offenders (Amendment) legislation which is being drafted by the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel will provide for further strengthening of the management of sex offenders. Progress has been made but this Recommendation is not yet implemented.
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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	Update October 2020 The SORAM process is well established and operating successfully, with a cohort of trained Gardaí of various ranks around the country separate to the DPSU system. It may be appropriate to incorporate sex offender management in the DPSU at a later stage, once the system has bedded in and more resources are made available. However, currently SORAM management is operating effectively, and the spirit of this recommendation is therefore considered implemented.
2	Promote the updating and use of Violent Crime Linkage Analysis System (ViCLAS) as an important source of offender information	Accepted	Medium	Update October 2020 A report has been prepared for the Commissioner of the Garda Síochána outlining the history of ViCLAS and the current operation of the system. This Key Action has been

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				accepted but not yet implemented and should be kept under review.
3	Ensure that all outstanding booklets are entered on the ViCLAS system	Accepted	Medium	Update October 2020 The Criminal Intelligence Office of the GNPSB is undertaking this process on a continuing basis. The spirit of this Key Action has been implemented.
4	Conduct a review of the use of Sex Offenders Orders	Accepted	Medium	Update October 2020 Sex Offender Orders are reviewed by the Sex Offender Management and Intelligence Unit on a continuous basis. All intended applications for a section 16 Order require advance discussion with the Sex Offender Management and Intelligence Unit. The Implementation Group is satisfied that a robust review process for the use of Sex Offender orders is already in place. This Key Action has been implemented.
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 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.			Update October 2020 See comments in relation to Recommendation 2.1

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 October 2020 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

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			in this area can be addressed in this Bill (subject to the agreement of the OPC).
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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 October 2020 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. While progress has been made, this Key Action is not implemented and should be kept under review.
2	Review the process for the monitoring of young offenders who are under 18 years of age;	Accepted with modification	Medium	Update October 2020 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 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. While progress has been made, this Key Action is not implemented and should be kept under review.
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 October 2020 The Group is satisfied that many of the Garda Inspectorate's concerns will be addressed when the Sex Offenders

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				(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. The Group considers that progress has been made and this action should be kept under review.
5	Consider legislation to remove the need for a supervision order for SORAM monitoring;	Accepted with modification	Short	Update October 2020 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. While progress has been made, this Key Action is not implemented and should be kept under review.
6	Consider an obligation to request a pre-sanction report for all adult persons convicted of a sexual offence.	Accepted with modification	Short	Update October 2020 See comments re action 5 above. While progress has been made, this Key Action is not implemented and should be kept under review.
	Consider whether this recommendation and associated actions should be included as part of Recommendation 2.1 to develop a national strategy.			Update October 2020 See comments in relation to Recommendation 2.1

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	Update October 2020 These incidents are relatively easily identified on PULSE and further updates to PULSE have been requested from Garda ICT in relation to child pornography offences, which have been agreed and will be completed in accordance with Garda ICT processes. Progress has been made but this

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				Recommendation is not yet implemented and is to be kept under review.
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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	Update October 2020 Recommendation accepted but long term. An update in this regard has been requested from Garda ICT section and will be completed in accordance with ICT processes. Progress has been made but this Recommendation is not yet implemented, and should be kept under review until these updates are completed.

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	Update October 2020 Garda ICT have been requested to move “Child Pornography” incidents in to “Sexual Offences” category, which has been agreed and will be completed in accordance with ICT processes. “Child Pornography” incidents currently have the same anonymity measures as all sexual offences, so the information is not available to all PULSE users. Progress has been made but this Key Action will not be considered implemented until the updates have been completed.
2	The Central Statistics Office and the Garda Síochána to agree a single categorisation system for all sexual offences; and	Accepted	Long	Update October 2020

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3	Address the recurring theme of over-counting of sexual offences.	Accepted	Long	These two Key Actions are for long-term consideration, and for that reason, have not yet been implemented and should be kept under review.
	Consider whether this recommendation and associated actions should be included as part of Recommendation 2.1 to develop a national strategy.			Update October 2020 See comments in relation to Recommendation 2.1

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 October 2020 AGS will amend this policy as part of the ongoing review of the “Garda Síochána Policy on the Investigation of Sexual Crime, Crimes against Children and Child Welfare”. In the interim, National Guidance is to issue providing detail of best practice on approaching adult victims of childhood sexual abuse. The removal of the procedure is already being included in relevant training courses. Progress has been made but this Recommendation is not yet implemented and is to be kept under ongoing review.

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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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	<p>Update October 2020</p> <p>The Implementation Group accepted this Recommendation with modification on the basis that bespoke training would not be feasible and stands over its initial finding. It was agreed in April 2019 that this Recommendation would be implemented once the roll-out of DPSUs on national level had taken place, ensuring that only specially trained members of AGS are involved in the investigation of child sexual abuse. This roll-out has been completed and therefore this Recommendation is implemented.</p>
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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 Working Protocol on Specialist Interviewing by Tusla and the Garda Síochána has been prepared and is under consideration by Legal and Compliance Section of the Garda Síochána. Training in Specialist Interviewing is provided by the Garda Síochána College to members of the Garda Síochána and Tusla staff on a 50-50 basis, with equal numbers of places offered to each agency on each course. Progress has been made but this Recommendation is not yet implemented and is to be kept under ongoing review.

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	<p>Update October 2020</p> <p>Training in Specialist Interviewing is provided by the Garda Síochána College to members of AGS and Tusla staff on a 50-50 basis, with equal numbers of places offered to each agency on each course. It will take time to train sufficient numbers of social worker staff to meet capacity. Progress has been made but this Key Action is not yet implemented and consequently, is to be kept under review.</p>

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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	<p>Update October 2020</p> <p>A high-level group has been established to consider the specialist interviewing training course. This group will consider joint interviewing, joint training and recommendations to amend this process. Any changes in training will require a review of the Good Practice Guidelines. Given the personnel who originally drafted these guidelines, such a review must be completed by a qualified panel selected by the Department of Justice and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. This Key Action has not been implemented and is to be kept under review.</p>
3	Review the use and conduct of clarification interviews;	Accepted	Medium	<p>Update October 2020</p> <p>A committee has been established with active interviewers from AGS and Tusla and representatives of the Garda Síochána College in order to review the purpose of the “Clarification meeting” and provide input into the review of the Good Practice Guidelines. Progress has been made but this Key Action is not yet implemented and is to be kept under review.</p>
4	Develop metrics and quality assurance processes for interviews;	Accepted	Medium	<p>Update October 2020</p> <p>This is to be incorporated into the review of the Good Practice Guidelines (see 3.6(2) above). It will include a strategy on oversight with regard to quality assurance and establish minimum required standards. This Key Action is not yet implemented and is to be kept under review.</p>
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	<p>Update October 2020</p> <p>Garda Specialist Interviewers are to be attached to DPSUs. Tusla Specialist Interviewers are a regional resource. It has provisionally been agreed that Tusla Specialist Interviewers will be part of a co-located Garda – Tusla Unit, but with no specific date set. This Key Action has been implemented but should be kept under review to ensure effective operation.</p>
6	Encourage more male gardaí to become specialist interviewers;	Accepted	Medium	<p>Update October 2020</p> <p>Action is accepted in principle but difficult to enforce in practice. As of October 2019, 15% of all Garda Interviewers</p>

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				were male, as were 15% of all Tusla Interviewers. No strategies have as yet been identified as to how to implement this recommendation. This Key Action is not yet implemented and is therefore to be kept under review.
7	Ensure that investigating officers view the victim interviews;	Accepted	Short	<p>Update October 2020</p> <p>The S.I.3 form is completed by all Specialist Interviewers to certify that they have reviewed the transcription of the interview, with the DVD recording, and have highlighted any discrepancies between the two. The S.I.3 must also be signed off by the investigating Garda to the effect that they have viewed the DVD. This training is provided at all Senior Investigating Officer courses and Detective Garda courses. This Key Action has been implemented.</p>
8	Develop a programme of refresher training for specialist interviewers;	Accepted	Medium	<p>Update October 2020</p> <p>Refresher Training for Specialist Interviewers has always been a feature of Specialist Interviewer Training. The Crime Training Faculty Governance Board have recommended an examination into the current training structure surrounding Specialist Interviewers. A sub-group has been established and may review the idea of refresher training. Progress has been made but this Key Action is not yet implemented.</p>
9	Remove the need for specialist interviewers to create transcripts of interviews;	Accepted	Medium	<p>Update October 2020</p> <p>Transcription kits with foot pedals have been supplied to all DPSUs for Garda staff to use to create transcripts. These foot pedals are provided to specialist interviewers on request. Various software transcription packages are being considered by the National Crime Prevention Unit: none currently meet the needs of specialist interviewing, but they're evolving rapidly and will continue to be considered.</p> <p>In the DPSUs, a position at Clerical Officer grade has been created to facilitate transcription. When fully rolled out, there should be no need for any specialist interviewer to transcribe interviews. This Key Action will be considered fully implemented when the Clerical Officers are fully rolled</p>

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				out. Progress has been made but this Key Action is not yet implemented.
10	Review the issue of parents/guardians who refuse to allow a child to be interviewed or medically examined; and	Accepted	Long	<p>Update October 2020 A report on this matter, in relation to specialist interviewing, rests with the Attorney General's Office. The HSE explain the medical concerns and benefits of examination to parents/guardians. This information and reassurance should improve with the roll-out of the Barnahus (child and adolescent Sexual Assault Treatment Unit) project.</p> <p>In the absence of permission for children in care, Section 47 of the Child Care Act 1991 (as amended) may and has been considered for carrying out specialist interviews with children in care. Progress has been made but this Key Action is not yet implemented and is to be kept under review.</p>
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	<p>Update October 2020 Tusla staff are to meet with St Clare's and St Louise's regarding the assessment process, and representatives of the Garda Síochána are to be invited as appropriate. These meetings had not taken place as of August 2020, and so this Key Action is not yet implemented and is to be kept under review.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
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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	<p>Update October 2020</p> <p>The Garda National Protective Services Bureau (GNPSB) is to continue high-level liaison with the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) with a view to developing formal protocols and best practice in all cases. The establishment of the DPSUs and a Sexual Offences Unit in the Office of the DPP will go a long way to giving effect to the spirit of this recommendation, but it should be kept under review.</p>
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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	<p>Update October 2020</p> <p>Garda Headquarters Directive 24/2012 states files on all sexual crime investigations are to be sent to the DPP for direction in accordance with General Direction 3 arising from section 8 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005. A new HQ Directive is to issue, from AGS Legal and Compliance section, with more detail regarding the specific files to be sent to the DPP. Progress has been made but this Key Action will not be considered implemented until a new HQ Directive issues and is to be kept under review until then.</p>
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	<p>Update October 2020</p> <p>The DPP has reviewed this report and considered its findings. This Key Action has been implemented.</p>
3	Develop a best practice model for providing early investigative advice.	Accepted with modification	Short	<p>Update October 2020</p> <p>Advice is provided internally by AGS through Legal and Compliance Section and the GNPSB. The national roll-out of the DPSUs will improve the availability and dissemination of such advice and information. The process will be included in the review of the “Garda Síochána Policy on the Investigation of Sexual Crime, Crimes against Children and</p>

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				Child Welfare”. The establishment of a dedicated Sexual Offences Unit in the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is a positive development. Progress has been made and once this dedicated Unit is established, the Group considers that the spirit of this Key Action will have been implemented, so this Key Action is to be kept under review until then.
	Consider whether this recommendation and associated actions should be included as part of Recommendation 2.1 to develop a national strategy.			Update October 2020 See comments in relation to Recommendation 2.1

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 October 2020 An independent telephone counselling service is available for all members of AGS through “Inspire wellbeing”, with an additional service available for more complex cases. Counselling is provided at entry, on departure, and four times throughout the year. A specific protocol for use by staff in GNPSB and Garda National Cyber Crime Bureau (GNCCB) has been submitted to the Garda Síochána Chief Medical Officer for consideration. Progress has been made but this Recommendation is not yet implemented and is to be kept under review.

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	Update October 2020 This roll-out is complete, and there is now a DPSU in operation within every Garda division. There are 27 DPSUs with approximately 320 personnel, who have been provided with bespoke training on issues such as investigating sexual

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			crime, child protection, investigating domestic abuse, online child exploitation, and sex offender management. This Recommendation has been implemented.
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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	Update October 2020 All DPSUs hold the remit for the investigation of child sexual abuse and all such units come within the direction of the Detective Superintendent or the Divisional Crime Superintendent in the Functional Model of Policing which is being rolled out across the country. The crime types covered by the DPSUs are under regular review and updated as appropriate, taking capacity issues into consideration. The Case Allocation Guide is complete and is with Assistant Commissioner Special Crime Operations for consideration. With the nationwide roll-out of DPSUs, this Key Action has been implemented. However, detailed oversight of An Garda Síochána’s progress in relation to this recommendation will be required to ensure that the DPSUs are functioning in an efficient and effective manner.

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	Update October 2020 Under the Functional Policing Model, the investigation of sexual crime comes within the remit of the Superintendent Crime, and so this Key Action has been implemented.
2	Ensure that each divisional unit has a dedicated detective inspector in charge;	Accepted with modification	Short	Update October 2020 This Key Action was accepted with modification on the basis that each divisional unit would have an Inspector in

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				charge, but not all would be Detective Inspectors. This has been approved by the AGS Commissioner and Detective Inspectors will be assigned as the DPSUs are rolled out. An application for the conduct of a competition has been made to the Commissioner. This Key Action is considered implemented.
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 October 2020 All members assigned to the DPSUs receive a mandatory full training package including the investigation of sexual offences, domestic abuse and child protection. This Key Action has been implemented.
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	Update October 2020 This Key Action was accepted with modification, on the basis that the original Key Action was unduly prescriptive and not all investigative roles or tasks require specialised training. Specialised sexual offences and child protection training is provided to all trainees on Part 3 of their basic training in the Garda College. At the recruitment competition stage, a panel of successful candidates is maintained, and as needed resources are drawn into the Units. All panel candidates receive training. This modified Key Action has been implemented.
5	Identify opportunities for the assignment of garda support staff;	Accepted	Short	Update October 2020 AGS have identified that a complement of two Garda staff are required for each DPSU. With the national roll-out of the DPSUs, this Key Action has been implemented.
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 October 2020 Updating and publishing this policy is part of the GNPSB's core work. The GNPSB will also have a significant role in providing training to all Garda members on this updated policy. This Key Action has not been implemented, pending the publication of the revised policy, and will need to be kept under review.

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7	Consider attachments for probationary gardaí to divisional units; and	Accepted with modification	Medium	<p>Update October 2020</p> <p>While specialised sexual offences and child protection training is provided to all trainees on Part 3 of their basic training in the Garda College, AGS were not considering this recommendation as of October 2019. This Key Action has not been implemented and should be revisited in the future if circumstances change.</p>
8	Develop a process for sharing learning and good practice between units.	Accepted	Short	<p>Update October 2020</p> <p>DPSU training provides the opportunity to share best practice to all DPSUs. A process for further information sharing via seminars or an intranet (Garda Portal) team website will be created once all DPSUs are fully established. Once the national roll-out is complete, a biennial conference will be held for all DPSU personnel. Areas of good and best practice will be discussed and delivered at this event. It has not been practicable to determine yet whether this Key Action has been implemented, but progress has been made. This Key Action, along with others, is one that will require supervision and monitoring by the Policing Authority.</p>

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	<p>Update October 2020</p> <p>The publication of the report of the working group chaired by Tom O'Malley BL to review the investigation and prosecution of sexual offences is a major milestone in relation to this Recommendation, as is the creation of a implementation plan for the recommendations contained in the report and an Implementation Group chaired by the Department of Justice and including the Department of Health, the Department of Children, Disability, Equality and Integration, the Department of Higher Education, the</p>

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			Department of Education, AGS, Tusla, the Higher Education Authority, Courts Service, Probation Service, and the Legal Aid Board. The Implementation Group consider this Recommendation implemented given the work outlined above, however this recommendation will need to be supervised and monitored to ensure the views of the group are implemented and a more child-centred services is provided to child abuse victims.
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No.	Actions required to implement Rec 3.11	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
1	Consider the extension of pre-trial hearings;	Accepted	Long	Update October 2020 As per the Implementation Plan for the O'Malley report, Supporting a Victim's Journey, the recommendations on legislation for Preliminary Trial Hearings (4.1 and 8.2) will be progressed with draft legislation to be published before the end of December 2020. This Key Action has been implemented.
2	Reduce unnecessary and repeated court appearances by witnesses;	Accepted	Long	Update October 2020 These Key Actions are long-term undertakings requiring legislative change, are not yet implemented, and are to remain under review.
3	Develop joint-agency monitoring of data on case timeliness and factors affecting the outcome of criminal cases;	Accepted	Long	
4	Develop pre-trial evidence for children, vulnerable victims and witnesses; and	Accepted	Long	Significant progress has been made in relation to this Key Action, which should be kept under review.
5	Include the provision of special measures as part of a pre-trial hearing process.	Accepted	Long	[Update awaited from criminal legislation team in D/Justice]

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	Consider whether this recommendation and associated actions should be included as part of Recommendation 2.1 to develop a national strategy.		<p>Update October 2020 See comments in relation to Recommendation 2.1</p>
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No.	Recommendation	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
4.1	<p>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)</p>	Accepted	Short	<p>Update October 2020 This matter was reviewed within AGS and discussed with the relevant Divisional Officers. The GI’s request came towards the end of 2016 at a seasonally busy period for AGS. The return required the provision of information relative to child abuse imagery investigations over a number of years, which was found to be challenging. Any failure did not impact the investigation of cases but it is clear that AGS failed to meet the standard of the return required, both in terms of quality and quantity. The main reasons for this failure were: lack of resources, seasonal commitments, retirement of personnel, poor record keeping, and neglect of duty by members.</p> <p>A system for tracking cases forwarded to different Divisions for investigation has been in place since January 2017 and there is a dedicated resource for tracking cases of child abuse imagery. Each and every case involving child pornography is tracked monthly until conclusion. In addition to these measures, the establishment of DPSUs has ensured dedicated units are assigned to online Child Abuse investigations and manage timely investigations and follow up. This Recommendation has been implemented.</p>

No.	Actions required to implement Rec 4.1	Outcome of Appraisal	Timeframe	Comments
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1	Examine why divisions did not respond to the request for information;	Accepted	Short	Update October 2020 Please see detailed explanation above. This Key Action has been implemented.
2	Review the packages sent to divisions from 2014 and 2015 that were still outstanding at 31 December 2016;	Accepted	Short	Update October 2020 The AGS review was instigated in 2017 and as part of the corrective mechanism put in place to monitor such investigations, all cases going back to 2014 and even prior to that are included in the tracking process. This Key Action has been implemented.
3	Analyse the reasons for the time taken to conduct searches by the divisions;	Accepted	Short	Update October 2020 The GI's request came towards the end of 2016 at a seasonally busy period for AGS. The return required the provision of information relative to child abuse imagery investigations over a number of years, which was found to be challenging. It is nonetheless clear that there was a failure by AGS to meet the standard of the return required, both in terms of quality and quantity. This Key Action has been implemented.
4	Review the searches that took place after the request date of 2 August 2016; and	Accepted	Short	Update October 2020 The tracking mechanism introduced in 2017 undertook this function, ensuring the robust oversight existed, and so this Key Action has been implemented.
5	Examine the delays in sending requests for examination of devices from divisions.	Accepted	Short	Update October 2020 AGS have explained that delays were largely the result of a backlog at the Garda Computer Crime Bureau. This Key Action has been implemented.

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 October 2020 A Standard Operating Procedure has been drafted by the Online Child Exploitation (OnCE) Unit and is with the Garda Legal Section for proofing. The DPP has provided advice relating to the questioning of persons in their residence and

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			the SOP will be adjusted in line with this advice. This Recommendation is not yet implemented, pending the agreement and implementation of this Standard Operating Procedure.
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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 October 2020 AGS has shown to the satisfaction of the Implementation Group that the resourcing needs of all units within the GNPSB including the Online Child Exploitation Unit (OnCE) are under constant review. This Key Action is therefore implemented.
2	Develop a new image categorisation system in line with international best practice;	Accepted	Long	Update October 2020 GNCCB has made significant progress with its categorisation processes by introducing a much more robust, efficient and effective hash database manager (Griffeye) than the one previously in use. This Key Action is consequently deemed implemented. In addition to Griffeye, GNCCB are trying to get access to the UK's Child Abuse Image Database (CAID), which is discussed below at 4.2.5. Separately, there is an issue relating to categorisation of child sexual abuse material, as the Courts and GNCCB are currently using different scales. A common approach needs to be agreed.
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;	Rejected	Short	Update October 2020 The Group considers that the methodology employed by An Garda Síochána which involves personal review of CAM is a better and safer method of assessment than using a model such as the Kent Internet Risk Assessment Tool, and consequently rejects this Key Action.

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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	<p>Update October 2020 AGS currently use Round-Up. This Key Action has been implemented. The secondary issue of a common categorisation scale of CAM has not been implemented.</p>
5	Ensure that Child Abuse Image Database or a derivative of this system is developed for use in CAM assessment;	Accepted	Medium	<p>Update October 2020 The Implementation Group initially sought further evaluation without accepting this Key Action. Having considered this Key Action further, the Group is now satisfied to accept it. Government approval was secured in 2019 on a Memorandum seeking approval for the Garda Commissioner to sign an Information-Sharing Agreement (ISA) between UK Law Enforcement and AGS for Sharing of Indecent Images of Children (IloC) and Data Related to IloC. The UK's national IloC library is hosted on the Child Abuse Image Database (CAID), the most proactive and extensive hash-set library available to law enforcement.</p> <p>Access to the CAID for the GNCCB will facilitate quicker turnaround in examinations of content and investigations. Access to the CAID will also help maintain the welfare of Garda members by reducing exposure to images of abuse.</p> <p>Following on from Government approval, the text of the draft ISA has been reviewed by both parties with a view to sign-off by the Garda Commissioner in accordance with Section 28 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005. This Key Action is not implemented, pending sign off by the Garda Commissioner on the ISA.</p>
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	<p>Update October 2020 The Implementation Group is satisfied that this Key Action is being implemented and should be kept under review.</p>
7	Develop a dedicated victim identification unit; and	Accepted	Short	<p>Update April 2019</p>

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				This Key Action has been implemented. A dedicated Victim Identification Unit was established within OnCE 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 October 2020 Suspects are currently made aware of the “Phoenix” programme operated by One-in-Four. A more comprehensive and tangible information pack is under consideration by OnCE. This Key Action has not been implemented and is therefore to be kept under review.

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	Update October 2020 GNCCB triage all exhibits received, but rather than a GNCCB member going to the exhibit, the exhibit is brought to the member. While this can give rise to longer timescales, the approach has the advantage of ensuring that the process is subject to supervision and quality review, and it is much less likely that evidence will be missed. Given that much of the work currently undertaken by the Bureau relates to the sexual exploitation of children, the Bureau considers it appropriate that the current GNCCB system places a far

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				greater emphasis and value on quality examination over time taken. The Implementation Group considers that the spirit of this Key Action has been implemented, but suggests that this should be kept under review as triage technology evolves.
2	Utilise the skills of forensic examiners at searches;	Accepted with modification	Medium	Update October 2020 In terms of delivering on-site triage capacity, a Request for Tender Document was drafted by AGS seeking external third-level Institutes to deliver First Responder Training by end 2019. It is envisaged that the strategic positioning of trained GNCCB personnel in Strategic Hubs nationwide will ensure that a higher level of search site capacity is more readily available. Progress has been made but this Key Action is not yet implemented. This Key Action will be considered implemented when the First Responder Training has been delivered and the trained first responders begin their duties.
3	Provide accreditation for forensic examiners;	Accepted	Short	Update October 2020 A detailed training matrix, which includes accreditation from the International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists and an associated business plan has been completed and is to be submitted for consideration by Garda Management. Progress has been made but this Key Action is not yet implemented.
4	Acquire encryption technology and develop the specialist skills of examiners; and	Accepted	Short	Update October 2020 Funding is available for provision of an encryption device to An Garda Síochána. This Key Action is not yet implemented and will be regarded as implemented once encryption technology is acquired and staff are trained to use it.
5	Consider the assignment of forensic examiners to the Garda National Protective Services Bureau.	Rejected	Short	Update October 2020 The skillset required to forensically examine electronic devices with the degree of competence that GNCCB does takes some years to accumulate. The forensic process is subject to a high degree of supervision and the outcome is subject to two separate levels of peer review. The allocation

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			of forensic analysts to GNPSB would represent a dilution of skills. The Implementation Group therefore rejects this Key Action.
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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	Update October 2020 This is a complex area with multiple stakeholders, and consequently any action in this regard must be linked to an overall national strategy. The substantive recommendation has been dealt with in the section of the Implementation Group’s report dealing with recommendation 2.1. Significant progress has been made over the last two years, by AGS and other relevant bodies, in taking steps to address the threats posed by the internet to the safety of children, and this progress must continue. This Recommendation is not implemented and is to be kept under review.

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;	Accepted	Short	Update October 2020 This Implementation Group accepts this Key Action and considers that it has not been implemented and is for ongoing review. This work is carried out by Europol and other related International Law Enforcement Agencies. AGS support the work of Europol and would welcome an annual strategic assessment.
2	Develop crime prevention plans including opportunities to promote the use of blocking, take down and filtering;	Accepted	Short	Update October 2020 The Garda Blocking Initiative (GBI) was established in order to implement Article 25.2 of Directive 2011/93 on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography. Under the GBI, a participating internet service provider (ISP) is provided with a list of internet addresses (URLs) which are known by An

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				<p>Garda Síochána to contain illegal child sexual abuse material. The ISP then blocks access to these URLs on its services, redirecting subscribers who attempt to access a URL on the list to a 'Stop Page'. This page is provided by AGS and provides details for the subscriber to contact them in relation to any questions or complaints. The GBI now applies to approximately 96% of internet users in Ireland. This recommendation is considered implemented but should be kept under review.</p> <p>There are concerns at the development and roll-out of 'DNS over HTTPS' browser-based encryption to impair ISPs' ability to block access to illegal child sexual abuse material under the GBI, and the Department of Justice is currently considering this issue.</p>
3	Develop pro-active policing approaches to tackle online CSE;	Accepted	Short	<p>Update October 2020</p> <p>The Implementation Group is satisfied that pro-active policing approaches are being used to tackle online child sexual exploitation – for example, Operation Ketch – but this must continue. This Key Action has been implemented but is to be kept under review to ensure these approaches continue.</p>
4	Combat the live streaming of on-demand abuse;	Accepted	Medium	<p>Update October 2020</p> <p>This Key Action is agreed in principle but particularly difficult to put into effect. OnCe work with financial services companies to target payments to areas known for live streaming. Two Detective Sergeants have received training from the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training on financial investigations into child sexual exploitation. The EU strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse, published in July 2020, puts forward a number of Key Actions which will be relevant in this area over the medium term, and which will involve multi-stakeholder cooperation, including the proposed European centre to prevent and counter child sexual abuse</p>

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				<p>and the proposed Innovation Hub and Lab, to be set up by Europol and will develop and coordinate cutting edge technical capacities in this area.</p> <p>The implementation Group notes that while progress has been made, this Key Action has not been implemented efforts to combat the live streaming of on-demand abuse must continue and evolve. Consequently, this Key Action must remain under review.</p>
5	Target groups that produce CAM on the Darknet; and	Accepted	Long	<p>Update October 2020</p> <p>This is a resource-intensive undertaking as well as an international issue. Specific cases are addressed by AGS when they are made aware of them. The undercover programme being developed by OnCE will be able to specifically target these particular groups.</p> <p>From 1 March to 31 May 2020, OnCE observed a 29% increase in traffic on Dark Web sites exclusively dedicated to online child sexual exploitation which were being monitored. AGS currently use open-source investigation tools for investigative purposes in this regard. The increase highlights the need to invest in technology to support these investigative activities, particularly in response to the increasing availability of sophisticated encryption technologies.</p> <p>The Europol Innovation Hub and Lab, proposed under the EU strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse, proposes to utilise cutting edge technical capacities in investigative efforts, including for online undercover investigation. Consideration will be given to making this</p>

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			<p>capability available across the EU to more effectively target these offenders without being dependent on other partners.</p> <p>While progress has been made, the Implementation Group does not consider this Key Action to be implemented and it must be kept under review.</p>
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	<p>Long</p> <p>Update October 2020 OnCE work closely with online platforms and receive numerous daily notifications from the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, which has a statutory remit to receive and disseminate reports of online child abuse. OnCE received 6,800 notifications from NCMEC in 2018. COVID-19 has had an impact in this area, with a marked increase of 26% in notifications issued from NCMEC to AGS between 1 March and 31 May of this year.</p> <p>D/Justice provides oversight for Hotline.ie and for Ireland’s Safer Internet Centre, of which Hotline.ie is a member. D/Justice has facilitated the development of Hotline.ie’s new Code of Practice, published in July 2020, which updates the processes by which Hotline.ie receives reports of suspected illegal content online, primarily child sexual abuse material, and issues ‘Notice and Takedown’ requests to internet service providers. These Notice and Takedown requests are simultaneously issued to AGS for further investigation. The new Code of Practice provides for the swift removal of child sexual abuse material from companies who have taken up a membership option with Hotline.ie. The Department of Justice supports efforts to expand membership in order to tackle the misuse of legitimate online platforms.</p>

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				While progress has been made, the Implementation Group does not consider this Key Action to be implemented and it must be kept under review.
	Consider whether this recommendation and associated actions should be included as part of recommendation 2.1 to develop a national strategy.			Update October 2020 See comments in relation to Recommendation 2.1

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	<p>Update October 2020</p> <p>In June 2019, the Government approved the preparation of a General Scheme of a Police Powers Bill to implement the recommendation of the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland to codify powers of search, arrest and detention. The Group understands that the development of the General Scheme is well advanced, and it is expected to be submitted to Government for approval in 2021.</p> <p>It is intended that the Part of the General Scheme relating to search warrants will be largely based on the Law Reform Commission's 2015 Report, including the power for members of AGS to execute search warrants to compel persons to facilitate access to information on a computer by providing passwords, and so on. This would apply to all indictable offences and any summary offences for which there is already a search warrant provision in force. As such, it would apply to offences such as possession of child pornography under section 6 of the Child Trafficking and Pornography Act. The Group notes that this is</p>

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				subject to Government approval. The Group considers this recommendation and its Key Action to be implemented.
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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 October 2020 See comments above.