



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Máinnystrie O Poustie

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Equality Screening, Disability Duties and Human Rights Assessment

Guidance on Information Sharing for Child Protection Purposes

- Part 1 – Policy scoping
- Part 2 – Screening questions
- Part 3 – Screening decision
- Part 4 – Monitoring
- Part 5 – Disability Duties
- Part 6 – Human Rights
- Part 7 – Approval and Authorisation

Part 1 - Policy scoping

1.1 Information about the policy / decision

1.1.1 What is the name of the policy / decision?

Guidance on Information Sharing for Child Protection Purposes

1.1.2 Is this an existing, revised or a new policy / decision?

This is new high level policy guidance which will replace existing Circular HSS CC 3/96 (Revised) – Sharing to Safeguard – September 2008 (amended May 2009). The guidance sits under *Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland*.

1.1.3 What is it trying to achieve? (intended aims/outcomes)

The aim of the guidance is to provide clear direction to practitioners on the lawful sharing of information for child protection purposes. The guidance seeks to meet supporting recommendation 52 of the Marshall report on child sexual exploitation in Northern Ireland - that the revision of Circular HSS CC 3/96 is accompanied by clear guidance that will give workers the confidence to act appropriately. The guidance will replace Circular HSS CC 3/96 and address criticisms made against the Circular by the judge in JR57, namely that the Circular was confusing and contradictory and that it does not make it clear that the decision making process on sharing information about allegations of abuse must be a fair one. Procedures will subsequently be developed on a regional basis and multi-agency information sharing agreements put in place by the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI). The outcomes of the guidance are that it will give practitioners the confidence to share information when appropriate and thereby enhance child protection and reduce abuse; and that it will reduce incidence of inappropriate sharing of sensitive information and thereby enhance data protection and individuals' privacy rights.

1.1.4 If there are any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy, please explain how.

Age: the guidance seeks to give practitioners the confidence to know when and how they can lawfully share information for child protection purposes and thereby enhance the sharing of information to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are at risk from significant harm. The guidance will also enhance data protection for children by seeking to ensure that confidential and personal sensitive information belonging to children is only shared when necessary and that the sharing is proportionate and in accordance with data protection and human rights legislation.

Racial group; disability; sexual orientation: The guidance sits under *Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland* which acknowledges that children and young people from minority ethnic communities, those with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people may be more vulnerable to harm. These groups,

therefore, are expected to benefit from the policy, which aims to reduce child abuse.

Gender: The sharing of information for child protection purposes includes the sharing of information on individuals who pose a risk of significant harm to a child. The wrongful sharing of information infringes an individual's Article 8 rights – as in JR57 which involved the sharing of allegations of sexual abuse. Statistics in relation to convictions on sexual abuse and domestic abuse and on violent and sexual offenders being managed through the Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland suggest that men are more likely to be convicted of these type of offences.

Dependents (with or without): The guidance will enhance data protection for children by seeking to ensure that confidential and personal sensitive information belonging to families, including parents, is only shared when necessary and that the sharing is proportionate and in accordance with data protection and human rights legislation. More effective sharing of information and earlier intervention will also improve outcomes for families, and parents.

1.1.5 Who initiated or wrote the policy?

DoH, with input from other relevant government departments / stakeholders.

1.1.6 Who owns and who implements the policy?

DoH owns the policy. Complementary procedural guidance will be developed on a regional basis and implemented by HSC Trust Children's Services Teams in cooperation with others as appropriate. The SBNI will develop information sharing agreements between its member agencies.

1.2 Implementation factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision? If yes, are they

- Financial
- Legislative
- Other

Please explain:
Successful implementation is dependent on policy and procedures at HSCT level reflecting the guidance and on staff fully understanding and implementing it.

1.3 Main stakeholders affected

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon?

Staff

The policy will impact on children at risk

Service users	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	of significant harm and professionals who work with children and their families in HSCTs. It will also impact on organisations which HSCT staff seek information from, and share information with, for child protection purposes.
Other public sector organisations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Voluntary/community/trade unions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Other, please specify		
		Individuals whose information may need to be shared for the purposes of protecting children

1.4 Other policies with a bearing on this policy / decision. If any:

Policy	Owner(s) of the policy
Circular HSS CC 3/96 (Revised) –Sharing to Safeguard, DHSSPS (2008, revised May 2009)	DoH
Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland	DoH
Code of Practice on Protecting the Confidentiality of Service User Information	DoH
Information Commissioner’s Office Data Sharing Code of Practice	ICO
Information Commissioner’s Office Guide to Data Protection	ICO
Protocol for Joint Investigation by Social Workers and Police Officers of Alleged and Suspected Cases of Child Abuse – Northern Ireland	HSCB/PSNI
Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland (PPANI);	DOJ
SBNI Core Child Protection Policy and Procedures	SBNI
UNOCINI Guidance (revised June 2011)	HSCB

1.5 Available evidence

What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative*) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories.

This policy has been informed by a range of evidence including relevant caselaw and other publications as referenced in the guidance, and statistical information, including from the Children’s Social Care Statistics for NI 2017/18¹ the 2011 Census; the Mid Year Estimate 2017².

Other evidence relevant to the equality screening exercise:

- *We have the right to be safe: protecting disabled children from abuse*, NSPCC 2014³,
- *Safeguarding Disabled Children: Practice Guidance*, DCSF 2009
- *“It doesn’t happen to disabled children”* Child protection and disabled children Report of the National Working Group on Child Protection and Disability, NSPCC 2003

The Children’s Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland 2017/18 reports that at 31 March 2018, of the 436,403⁴ children living in Northern Ireland:

- 23,510 children were known to Social Services as a child in need
- 2,082 were on the child protection register
- 3,109 were children in the care of HSC Trusts (a looked after child)
- 3,407 child protection referrals were received during the year ending March 2018.
- 3, 057 child protection investigations were carried out during the year ending March 2018.

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information																
Religious belief	<p>The Children’s Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland 2017/18 records the following on religion in relation to children in need:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="464 1360 706 1392">Religious belief</th> <th data-bbox="906 1360 1446 1392">Percentage of total children in need</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="464 1398 706 1430">Roman Catholic</td> <td data-bbox="906 1398 976 1430">33%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="464 1436 706 1467">Presbyterian</td> <td data-bbox="906 1436 959 1467">8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="464 1474 706 1505">Church of Ireland</td> <td data-bbox="906 1474 959 1505">6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="464 1512 706 1543">Other Christian</td> <td data-bbox="906 1512 976 1543">16%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="464 1549 544 1581">None</td> <td data-bbox="906 1549 959 1581">4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="464 1587 544 1619">Other</td> <td data-bbox="906 1587 959 1619">9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="464 1625 787 1656">Refused/Unknown/Not Recorded</td> <td data-bbox="906 1625 976 1656">24%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Religious belief	Percentage of total children in need	Roman Catholic	33%	Presbyterian	8%	Church of Ireland	6%	Other Christian	16%	None	4%	Other	9%	Refused/Unknown/Not Recorded	24%
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¹ <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/children-need>

² Mid Year Estimate 2017 (NISRA 2018)

³ <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/research-reports/right-safe-disabled-children-abuse-report.pdf>

⁴ Mid-Year Estimate 2017 (NISRA 2018)

	<p>Statistics on religion in relation to children on the child protection register at 31 March 2019⁵:</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Roman Catholic</td><td>41%</td></tr> <tr><td>Presbyterian</td><td>9%</td></tr> <tr><td>Church of Ireland</td><td>6%</td></tr> <tr><td>Methodist</td><td>1%</td></tr> <tr><td>None</td><td>7%</td></tr> <tr><td>Other</td><td>21%</td></tr> <tr><td>Refused/unknown</td><td>16%</td></tr> </table> <p>Statistics in relation to those under 18 on 2011 Census:</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Catholic</td><td>45%</td></tr> <tr><td>Presbyterian</td><td>16%</td></tr> <tr><td>Church of Ireland</td><td>12%</td></tr> <tr><td>Methodist</td><td>2.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>Other Christian</td><td>5.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>Other religion</td><td>0.7%</td></tr> <tr><td>None</td><td>11%</td></tr> <tr><td>Not stated</td><td>7.5%</td></tr> </table>	Roman Catholic	41%	Presbyterian	9%	Church of Ireland	6%	Methodist	1%	None	7%	Other	21%	Refused/unknown	16%	Catholic	45%	Presbyterian	16%	Church of Ireland	12%	Methodist	2.5%	Other Christian	5.5%	Other religion	0.7%	None	11%	Not stated	7.5%
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Political opinion	None																														
Racial group	<p>Children's social care statistics for children in need in Northern Ireland for 2017/18 show that, 75.4% were recorded as White, 0.2% Chinese, 1.5% Traveller 0.17% Indian Subcontinent, 0.72% Black, 2.6% Other, 19.2% Refused/unknown.</p> <p>At 31 March 2019, 88% of children on the Child Protection Register were White, 7% were Other (including Chinese, Irish Traveller, Roma Traveller, Indian, Bangladeshi, Black African, Black Other, Mixed Ethnicity and Other) and 5% Not Stated.⁶</p> <p>Of those usually resident in Northern Ireland on Census Day 2011, 98 per cent were White, 1.1 per cent (19,100) were Asian, 0.3 per cent (6,000) were Mixed, 0.2 per cent (3,600) were Black and 0.1 per cent (2,400) belonged to Other ethnic groups. Of those under aged 18, 98% were White, 1.2 percent were Asian, 0.8 per cent were Mixed, 0.2 per cent were Black and 0.1 per cent</p>																														

⁵ Health and Social Care Boards Regional Child Protection Committee Returns for quarter ending 31 March 2019

⁶ Sourced from the Health and Social Care Boards Regional Child Protection Committee Returns for quarter ending 31 March 2019.

	belonged to Other ethnic groups. Of those recorded as White, 0.1 per cent were Irish Travellers ⁷ .																																																
Age	<p>Of the estimated population of 1.871 million in Northern Ireland in 2017, 414,313⁸ were aged under 18, equating to 22% of the Northern Ireland population.</p> <p>The Children's Social Care Statistics 2017/18 record that at 31 March 2018, 2082 children were listed on the child protection register in Northern Ireland. 38% of children on the register were aged under 5, higher than the overall child population which is 28% for this age group. Of those children on the register 11% were under 1, compared to 5% of the Northern Ireland child population; 25% were aged over 12 – lower than the overall child population (31%).</p> <p>Children in Need (Children's Social Care Statistics for NI 2017/18).</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age Band</th> <th>No. of Children</th> <th>% of total in need</th> <th>% of Overall child pop.*</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Under 1</td> <td>931</td> <td>4%</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1-4</td> <td>4,681</td> <td>20%</td> <td>23%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5-11</td> <td>9,935</td> <td>42%</td> <td>41%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12-15</td> <td>5,389</td> <td>23%</td> <td>21%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16+</td> <td>2,574</td> <td>11%</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Children on the Child Protection Register (Children's Social Care Statistics for NI 2017/18).</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age Band</th> <th>No. of Children</th> <th>% total child protection</th> <th>% Overall child pop*</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Under 1</td> <td>236</td> <td>11%</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1-4</td> <td>559</td> <td>27%</td> <td>23%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5-11</td> <td>775</td> <td>37%</td> <td>41%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12-15</td> <td>397</td> <td>19%</td> <td>21%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16+</td> <td>115</td> <td>6%</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>* 2017 Mid-Year Population Estimate (NISRA 2018)</p>	Age Band	No. of Children	% of total in need	% of Overall child pop.*	Under 1	931	4%	5%	1-4	4,681	20%	23%	5-11	9,935	42%	41%	12-15	5,389	23%	21%	16+	2,574	11%	10%	Age Band	No. of Children	% total child protection	% Overall child pop*	Under 1	236	11%	5%	1-4	559	27%	23%	5-11	775	37%	41%	12-15	397	19%	21%	16+	115	6%	10%
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Gender (Men and	The Children's Social Care Statistics 2017/18 states that the gender breakdown of the 23,510 children known to social services as a child in need																																																

⁷ Table DC2101NI <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/census/2011/results/detailed-characteristics/statistics-bulletin-28-06-2013.pdf>

⁸ Mid-Year Estimate 2017 (NISRA 2018)

<p>women generally)</p>	<p>as at 31 March 2018 was 54% male, 46% female. The gender breakdown in the child population in general was 51% male and 49% female.⁹</p> <p>Of the 2,082 children were listed on the Child Protection Register at 31 March 2018 50% were boys and 50% girls.¹⁰</p> <p>Convictions for sexual offences at courts in Northern Ireland by gender, 2017</p> <table data-bbox="467 436 1247 541"> <tr> <td>Males</td> <td>170</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Females/Other/Gender not recorded</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>172</td> </tr> </table> <p>Source: DoJ Note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Figures relate to cases where at least one of the offences for which a conviction was handed down was a sexual offence. 2. Figures relate to initial disposals at court: disposals as a result of appeals are not included. <p>Of domestic abuse detected crimes in 2017/18, 3,539 of offenders were male, 497 were female (unknown/missing: 61).¹¹ Domestic Abuse is defined as ‘threatening, controlling, coercive behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, virtual, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) inflicted on anyone (irrespective of age, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or any form of disability) by a current or former intimate partner or family member.’</p>	Males	170	Females/Other/Gender not recorded	2	Total	172												
Males	170																		
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<p>Disability (with or without)</p>	<p>Children’s social care statistics for children in need in Northern Ireland 2017/18 record that of the 23,510 children in need in Northern Ireland, 18% were recorded as having a disability as follows:</p> <p>Children in need</p> <table data-bbox="467 1371 1458 1623"> <thead> <tr> <th>Disability</th> <th>No of Children</th> <th>% of total children in need</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Sensory</td> <td>210</td> <td>0.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Physical</td> <td>503</td> <td>2.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Learning</td> <td>2,091</td> <td>8.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Autism</td> <td>1,413</td> <td>6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>84</td> <td>0.36%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Disability	No of Children	% of total children in need	Sensory	210	0.9%	Physical	503	2.1%	Learning	2,091	8.9%	Autism	1,413	6%	Other	84	0.36%
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⁹ Mid-Year Estimate 2017 (NISRA 2018)

¹⁰ Children’s Social Care Statistics 2017/18

¹¹ Trends in Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2004/05-2017/18 PSNI October 2018

	<p>At 31 March 2019, 98.4% of children on the Child Protection Register did not have a disability, 1.1% had a Learning Disability and 0.5% had a Visual, Hearing or Physical Disability.¹²</p> <p>The 2011 Census figures on the number of residents in households with a long term health problem or disability records 23,224 children whose day-to-day activities are limited a little or a lot.¹³ This equates to 5% of the total child population in 2011.</p> <p>It is known that disabled children are at significantly greater risk of physical, sexual and emotional abuse and neglect than non-disabled children. <i>Co-operating to Safeguard Children in Northern Ireland</i> lists some of the reasons for this, including because children with disabilities may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • find it difficult to tell others what is happening; • have an impaired capacity to resist or avoid; • lack knowledge about sex or sexuality; • receive intimate personal care which may both increase the risk of physical abusive behaviour and make it more difficult to set and maintain physical boundaries; • have fewer outside contacts; • be more compliant; • sometimes be assumed to lack credibility as witnesses; <p>Research and inspection indicates that disabled children are underrepresented in safeguarding systems despite being at more risk of abuse or neglect.¹⁴</p> <p>According to the SBNI, disabled children in Northern Ireland are under represented on the current child protection register. (SBNI Strategic Plan 2013-17 p24)</p>
<p>Dependants (with or without)</p>	<p>None</p>

*Qualitative data – refers to the experiences of individuals related in their own terms, and based on their own experiences and attitudes. Qualitative data is often used to complement quantitative data to determine why policies are successful or unsuccessful and the reasons for this.

¹² Health and Social Care Boards Regional Child Protection Committee Returns for quarter ending 31 March 2019.

¹³ Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service Table CT0251NI Long-term health problem or disability by single year by age by sex

¹⁴ Safeguarding Disabled Children: Practice Guidance, DCSF 2009

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/190544/00374-2009DOM-EN.pdf

Quantitative data -refers to numbers (that is, quantities), typically derived from either a population in general or samples of that population. This information is often analysed either using descriptive statistics (which summarise patterns) or inferential statistics (which are used to infer from a sample about the wider population).

1.6 Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information recorded in 1.1 to 1.5, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy/decision? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories

Section 75 category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious belief	Nothing identified or evidenced to indicate needs specific to this category in relation to the lawful sharing of information for child protection purposes.
Political opinion	Nothing identified or evidenced to indicate needs specific to this category in relation to the lawful sharing of information for child protection purposes.
Racial group	The statistics recorded at 1.5 show that there is larger proportion of children from ethnic minorities on the child protection register compared to the whole child population in Northern Ireland. Nothing identified or evidenced, however, indicates specific needs in relation to the lawful sharing of information for child protection purposes for this group.
Age	The statistics recorded at 1.5 show that the proportion of children aged under 5 on the child protection register is significantly larger than the proportion of children aged under 5 in the general child population of Northern Ireland. The same is true for children aged under 1. The proportion of children aged over 12 on the child protection register is lower than that in the general child population. Nothing identified or evidenced, however, indicates that there are needs specific to this category in relation to the lawful sharing of information.
Marital status	Nothing specific identified or evidenced.
Sexual orientation	Nothing specific identified or evidenced.

<p>Gender (Men and women generally)</p>	<p>The statistics at 1.5 show that a slightly larger proportion of children on the child protection register are girls compared to the proportion of children in the general population. Nothing specific is identified or evidenced to show that girls have specific needs in relation to the lawful sharing of information.</p> <p>Statistics in relation to domestic abuse crimes and sexual abuse convictions show that males are more likely to be convicted of the type of offences that may indicate risk of significant harm to a child. Caselaw shows that where this information is not shared properly it can infringe an individual's Article 8 rights to privacy.</p>
<p>Disability (with or without)</p>	<p>Children with disabilities are at greater risk of child of abuse and are underrepresented on the child protection register. No evidence of specific needs to this group in relation to the lawfulness of information sharing for child protection purposes has been identified. UNOCINI guidance makes clear that the assessment process, including for child protection, must be a partnership approach with the child and that information should be shared in a way which is accessible to the child. The SBNI policies and procedures will address communicating effectively with children and young people and their families where there are specific communication needs.</p>
<p>Dependants (with or without)</p>	<p>Nothing specific identified or evidenced.</p>

Part 2. Screening questions

2.1 What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? (minor/major/none)		
Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? minor/major/none
Religious belief	The guidance will have no differential impact in respect of equality of opportunity for those of different religious belief.	None
Political opinion	The guidance will have no differential impact in respect of equality of opportunity for those of different political opinion.	None
Racial group	The guidance will have no differential impact in respect of equality of opportunity for those from different racial groups.	None
Age	The guidance will have no differential impact in respect of equality of opportunity for children from different racial groups. The aim of the guidance is to promote lawful information sharing for child protection purposes, thereby enhancing outcomes for children	None
Marital status	The guidance will have no differential impact in respect of equality of opportunity for children.	None
Sexual orientation	The guidance will have no differential impact in respect of equality of opportunity for children with different sexual orientation.	None
Gender (Men and women)	The policy will have no differential impact in respect of equality of opportunity on males	None

generally)	or females. The aim of the guidance is to ensure that such information is shared lawfully and that any infringement of an individual's rights under the ECHR is necessary and proportionate.	
Disability (with or without)	The guidance will have no differential impact in respect of equality of opportunity for children with disabilities.	None
Dependants (with or without)	The policy will have no differential impact in respect of equality of opportunity for those with or without dependants.	None

2.2 Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?		
Section 75 category	If Yes , provide details	If No , provide reasons
Religious belief		No – no specific needs have been identified in relation to the lawful sharing of information to be addressed for this group in order to promote equality of opportunity.
Political opinion		No - no specific needs have been identified in relation to the lawful sharing of information to be addressed for this group in order to promote equality of opportunity.
Racial group		No - while the guidance is expected to benefit this group given the larger proportion of children from ethnic minorities on the child protection register than in the general population, no specific needs have been identified in relation to the lawful sharing of information to be addressed for this group in order to promote equality of opportunity.
Age		No – while the guidance is expected to benefit younger children given the larger proportion of young children on the child protection register than in the general population, no specific needs have been identified in relation to the lawful sharing of information to be addressed for younger children in order to promote equality of

		opportunity.
Marital status		No – no specific needs have been identified in relation to the lawful sharing of information for this group in order to promote equality of opportunity.
Sexual orientation		No - no specific needs have been identified in relation to the lawful sharing of information for this group in order to promote equality of opportunity.
Gender (Men and women generally)		No - no specific needs have been identified in relation to the lawful sharing of information for this group in order to promote equality of opportunity.
Disability (with or without)		No –no specific needs have been identified in relation to the lawful sharing of information to be addressed for this group in order to promote equality of opportunity.
Dependants (with or without)		No - no specific needs have been identified in relation to the lawful sharing of information to be addressed for this group in order to promote equality of opportunity.

2.3 To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? (minor/major/none)		
Good relations category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact minor/major/none
Religious belief		None
Political opinion		None
Racial group		None

2.4 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?		
Good relations category	If Yes , provide details	If No , provide reasons
Religious belief		No - it is not possible to identify children in need of protection who are of different religious belief in order to promote good relations.
Political opinion		No - it is not possible to identify children in need of protection who are of different political opinion in order to promote good relations.
Racial group		No - it is not possible to identify children in need of protection from different racial groups in order to promote good relations.

2.5 Additional considerations

Multiple Identity

Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities (e.g. minority ethnic people with a disability, women with a disability, young protestant men, young lesbian, gay or bisexual persons). Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

There is no data available on the impact of the guidance on people with multiple identities.

2.6 Was the original policy / decision changed in any way to address any adverse impacts identified either through the screening process or from consultation feedback? If so please provide details.

Not applicable at this stage

Part 3. Screening decision

3.1 How would you summarise the impact of the policy / decision?

No impact

Minor impact

Major impact

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Consider mitigation (3.4 – 3.5)

3.2 Do you consider that this policy / decision needs to be subjected to a full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)?

Yes - screened in

No - screened out

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.3 Please explain your reason for making your decision at 3.2.

Children are the main group affected by this guidance. There is no evidence of any adverse or substantial differential impact on any of the Section 75 groups from this guidance. The guidance seeks to improve outcomes for children.

Mitigation

If you have concluded at 3.1 and 3.2 that the likely impact is ‘**minor**’ and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, you must consider mitigation (or scope for further mitigation if some is already included as per 2.6) to lessen the severity of any equality impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations.

3.4 Can the policy/decision be amended or changed or an alternative policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?

Yes

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No

3.5 If you responded “**Yes**”, please give the **reasons** to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative policy.

Part 4. Monitoring

Monitoring is an important part of policy development and implementation. Through monitoring it is possible to assess the impacts of the policy / decision both beneficial and adverse.

4.1 Please detail how you will monitor the effect of the policy / decision?

The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland is responsible for co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of what is done by each person or body represented on its Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

The Safeguarding Board must prepare an annual report containing such information as prescribed by the Department of Health. The Department of Health must lay a copy of the report before the NI Assembly.

4.2 What data will you collect in the future in order to monitor the effect of the policy / decision?

Health and Social Care Trusts collect and record data on Children's Social Care Statistics including in relation to child protection.

Please note: - For the purposes of the annual progress report to the Equality Commission you may later be asked about the monitoring you have done in relation to this policy and whether that has identified any equality issues.

Part 5. Disability Duties

5.1 Does the policy/decision in any way promote positive attitudes towards disabled people and/or encourage their participation in public life?

No

5.2 Is there an opportunity to better promote positive attitudes towards disabled people or encourage their participation in public life by making changes to the policy/decision or introducing additional measures?

No

Part 6. Human Rights

6.1 Please complete the table below to indicate whether the policy / decision affects anyone's Human Rights?

Article	Positive Impact	Negative Impact (human right interfered with or restricted)	Neutral Impact
Article 2 – Right to life	✓		
Article 3 – Right to freedom from torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	✓		
Article 4 – Right to freedom from slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour	✓		
Article 5 – Right to liberty and security of person			✓
Article 6 – Right to a fair and public trial within a reasonable time			✓
Article 7 – Right to freedom from retrospective criminal law and no punishment without law.	✓		
Article 8 – Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence.	✓		
Article 9 – Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion			✓
Article 10 – Right to freedom of expression			✓
Article 11 – Right to freedom of assembly and association			✓
Article 12 – Right to marry and found a family			✓
Article 14 – Prohibition of discrimination in the enjoyment of the convention rights	✓		
1 st protocol Article 1 – Right to a peaceful enjoyment of possessions and protection of property			✓

1 st protocol Article 2 – Right of access to education			✓
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6.2 If you have identified a likely negative impact who is affected and how?

None identified

6.3 At this stage we would recommend that you consult with your line manager to determine whether to seek legal advice and to refer to Human Rights Guidance to consider:

- whether there is a law which allows you to interfere with or restrict rights
- whether this interference or restriction is necessary and proportionate
- what action would be required to reduce the level of interference or restriction in order to comply with the Human Rights Act (1998).

Outline any actions which could be taken to promote or raise awareness of human rights or to ensure compliance with the legislation in relation to the policy/decision.

The policy document seeks to mitigate the impact of interference with human rights by providing guidance to practitioners so that information is only shared where it is necessary and that the sharing is proportionate. The guidance draws from relevant caselaw and legal advice has been sought.

The policy seeks to promote the rights of children under the ECHR, in particular a child’s right to life, right not to be subjected to torture or inhuman or degrading treatment and a child’s right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence. The policy also draws attention and seeks to promote compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and in particular Article 4 (protection of rights) and Article 19 (protection from all forms of violence).

This policy sits under *Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland* which stipulates that children and young people have a fundamental right to live in safety and be protected from harm. *Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People* sets out the duties and responsibilities of everyone who works with children and young people to ensure the welfare of children and young people is promoted and that they are adequately safeguarded. In particular *Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland* sets out the duty of statutory organisations working with children and young people to ensure their functions are discharged with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

Part 7 Approval and authorisation

	Name	Grade	Date
Screened completed by	<i>Shona Graham</i>	DP	3 November 16
Approved by ¹	<i>E Colgan</i>	G7	3 November 16
Updated by	<i>Shona Graham</i>	DP	13 May 2019
Updated version approved by	Alasdair MacInnes	G7	16 May 2019
Forwarded to E&HR Unit ²			

Notes:

¹ The Screening Template should be approved by a senior manager responsible for the policy this would normally be at least Grade 7.

² When the Equality and Human Rights Unit receive a copy of the final screening it will be placed on the Department's website and will be accessible to the public from that point on. In addition, consultees who elect to receive it, will be issued with a quarterly listing all screenings completed during each three month period.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO INFORM THE ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT TO THE
EQUALITY COMMISSION
(PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS NOT PART OF THE SCREENING TEMPLATE BUT MUST BE
COMPLETED AND RETURNED WITH THE SCREENING)**

1. Please provide details of any measures taken to enhance the level of engagement with individuals and representative groups. Please include any use of the Equality Commissions guidance on consulting with and involving children and young people.

Pre-consultation engagement was undertaken with the HSCB and PSNI and the SBNI Policy and Procedures Committee which includes representatives from across a number of sectors / organisations including:

- Health and Social Care;
- Police and Youth Justice Services;
- Education Services;
- NSPCC;

2. In developing this policy / decision were any changes made as a result of equality issues raised during :

- (a) pre-consultation / engagement;
- (b) formal consultation;
- (c) the screening process; and/or
- (d) monitoring / research findings.

If so, please provide a brief summary including how the issue was identified, what changes were made, and what will be the expected outcomes / impacts for those affected.

None at this initial screening stage

3. Does this policy / decision include any measure(s) to improve access to services including the provision of information in accessible formats? If so please provide a short summary.

None