



CONTACT US!

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SBNI

Safeguarding Board
for Northern Ireland



Strategic Plan 2018 - 2022 Summary for children & Young People Our Plan for Keeping You Safe

SBNI vision

ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE SEEN, HEARD AND PROTECTED
IN ORDER THAT THEY THRIVE, GROW UP IN SAFETY,
AND FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL



WHO ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO?

We are responsible for keeping children and young people safe from harm. Our members are different organisations that work to keep you safe. Our job is:

- To make sure that everyone understands how important it is to keep children and young people safe
- To make sure that all the organisations who work with the Safeguarding Board are doing the best job possible
- To report to the Government about what we do
- To look into cases where children have been badly hurt or have died
- To keep a check on information about child deaths.
- To give advice to all organisations
- To listen to the views and ideas of children and young people
- To hold discussions and find out what people think

WHAT IS ABUSE?

Being mistreated or abused
(Sometimes called 'Significant Harm') is:

- Physical Abuse** - When an adult deliberately hurts a child
- Emotional Abuse** - For example, a child is being unfairly blamed for everything, or told they are stupid and made to feel unhappy
- Sexual Abuse** - For example, a child has been forced to take part in sexual activities or in the taking of rude photos
- Sexual Exploitation** - This is a form of abuse in which young people (boys or girls) are tricked or exploited into taking part in sexual activity in return for something else. E.g. cigarettes, drugs, alcohol or money
- Domestic Violence** - When one adult in a family or relationship threatens, bullies or hurts another adult e.g. physically, emotionally, sexually or financially

OUR PLAN

Our plan will help guide the work we do over the next four years and it sets out:

- What we will do to keep children and young people safe from harm
- How we plan on doing this and who will help us
- How we will make sure we are doing what we have promised to do

We have looked at research which tells us that children who have been neglected or abused in childhood don't do as well in later-life health and well-being.

SBNI will work in a way that considers children's early life experiences and helps them to cope and recover better.

We will concentrate on three main issues:

- **Domestic and sexual violence** (This is when anyone is hurt on purpose by a partner or ex-partner or family member.)
- **Mental health** (This affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices.)
- **Neglect** (This is when a child is not being looked after properly, for example, not getting enough to eat or being left alone in dangerous situations.)

HOW WILL WE KNOW IF THE PLAN IS WORKING?

- We will keep reflecting on what we are doing and respond to any new safety concerns.
- We will report what's happening to the Department of Health and the Northern Ireland Assembly
- We will continue to ask and respond to what children, young people and their families say will help
- We will make sure everyone is working together to make a positive change in how we keep you safe in Northern Ireland

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AS WELL AS CONTINUING THE WORK OF THE LAST FOUR YEARS WE WILL CONCENTRATE ON FOUR MAIN AREAS OF WORK:

Show leadership in keeping children and young people safe

How?

- Make sure everyone knows about and uses guidance in how to protect children and young people (and make sure people are working in the same way)
- Make sure young people, families and their communities understand the issues around keeping children safe and know where to get help if they feel concerned.
- Make sure we talk to people about their views on keeping children and young people safe to help us improve what we do

Make sure that children and young people who are affected by domestic and sexual violence and abuse are heard

How?

- Work with organisations who help to stop domestic and sexual violence and abuse from happening
- Work to stop the sexual exploitation of children and young people
- Make sure parents/carers and people who work with children and young people affected by domestic and sexual violence know more about it, know how to recognise its happening and what to do to stop it

Make sure young people who are neglected or at risk of being neglected get better help

How?

- Work harder to prevent neglect happening in the first place
- Make everyone more aware of what neglect is
- Help people tell us what has worked to make things better for them
- Provide training in how to spot signs of neglect and what to do about it to help children, young people and their families who experience neglect

Hear from children and young people who are affected by mental health issues

How?

- Work with organisations to lower the number of young people affected by mental health issues
- Make people more aware of what poor mental health can do to young people
- Make sure people know how we can spot the signs of young people suffering with poor mental health and how we can seek help by providing training



What do you think?

Is there anything missing from our plan?

What else could we be doing to keep you safe?

Are we doing the right things to keep you safe from harm?



Have your say by sending your comments back by 5pm on 6 March 2018 to:
SBNI.info@hscni.net



You can also respond by writing to us at:
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