The UK Approach to Inter-Agency Collaboration

Daniel Laskey-Heard
International Programme Manager

dlaskey-heard@mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk
2 Questions

‘Can a child fully recover from sexual abuse and exploitation?’

‘We would say ‘yes’, but when should this recovery process start?’
Victoria Climbie died at 9 years old as a result of abuse

“Her suffering and death marked a gross failure of the system and were inexcusable...Tragically, it required no more than basic good practice being put into operation”
Keeping children safe is everybody’s responsibility.
• **Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements**
  (Framework for the three local safeguarding partners – Children’s Services, Police, Health)

• **Child Centred and co-ordinated approach**
  (Children’s Act 1989, 2004)

• **Legislative framework**
The Continuum of Needs

Continuum of Needs
(commonly known as The Windscreen)
Responding to online CSAE

**PURSUE**
Investigate and prosecution of CSAE offenders

**PREVENT**
Prevent people from engaging in CSAE crimes

**PROTECT**
Education/awareness raising and support to victims

**PREPARE**
Horizon scanning and anticipating future challenges
Multi agency model to protect children abused online

Discovery of harm - getting it right from the start

Initial strategy planning

The first meeting with child and family

Continuing Discovery - from equipment, child, medical

Supporting the whole family

Ongoing recovery needs of the child

Preparation for court

Identification of future support needs
Three modules to meet the needs of the differing roles held by professionals:

1. **THINK**: for first responders

2. **ACT**: for those staff responsible for investigation and ongoing intervention

3. **MANAGE**: for managers of staff involved in investigations and interventions
# Model National Response

## Enablers
- Cross sector, multi-disciplinary collaboration
- Willingness to prosecute, functioning justice system and rule of law
- Supportive reporting environment
- Awareness and supportive push by professionals, working with and for children
- Sufficient financial and human resources
- National legal and policy frameworks in accordance with the UNCRC and other international and regional standards
- Data and evidence on CSEA

## Capabilities
- **Public and Governance**
  - Leadership: An accountable National Governance and Oversight Committee
  - Research, Analysis, and Monitoring: National situational analysis of CSEA risk and response, measurement and indicators
  - Legislation: Comprehensive and effective legal framework to investigate offenders and ensure protection for victims
- **Criminal Justice**
  - Dedicated Law Enforcement: National, regional, and district officers, proactive and reactive investigations, victim-focused, international cooperation
  - Judiciary and Prosecutors: Trained, victim focused
  - Offender Management Process: Revised, risk assessment, parole, and reintegration
  - Access to image databases: National, regional, and district databases
- **Victim**
  - End-to-end support: Integrated services provided during investigation, prosecution, and after-care
  - Child Protection Workforce: Trained, coordinated, and accessible to promote victim support
  - Compensation, remedies, and complaints arrangements: Accessible procedures
  - Consenpromise: Victim reporting and support; referrals to services for ongoing assistance

## Outcomes
- **Leadership**
  - Highest level national commitment to CSEA prevention and response
  - Comprehensive understanding of CSEA and the highest levels of government and law enforcement Willingness to work with, and coordinate the efforts of, multiple stakeholders to ensure the enhanced protection of victims and an enhanced response to CSEA offending.
- **Policy and Governance**
  - Effective and successful CSEA investigations, convictions, and offender management
  - Enforce the knowledge that sexual abuse or child pornography and secure permanent CSEA offending
  - Appropriate support services for children and young people
  - Children and access to see through the system (Sexual exploitation)
  - They are as specialized services, and coordination, reparation, and resocialization services.

## Social
- **CSEA Hotline**: Public and industry reporting for CSEA offenders - effective and clear link to law enforcement and child protection systems
- **Education Programme**: For children/young people, parents/carers, teachers, practitioners, and representatives
- **Child Participation**: Children and young people have a voice in the development of policy and practice
- **Offender Support System**: Medical, psychological, self-help, awareness.

## Industry
- **CSEA Reporting**: Statutory protections that sector allows industry to identify and effectively report CSEA including the transmission of content, to law enforcement and other designated agencies
- **Innovative Solution Development**: Industry engagement to help address local CSEA issues
- **Corporate Social Responsibility**: Effective child-focused programme

## Media and Communications
- **Ethical and informed media reporting**: Enable awareness and accurate understanding of problem
- **Universal terminology**: Guidelines and application

## We PROTECT
- Children and young people are informed and empowered to protect themselves from CSEA. Parents, caregivers, teachers, and childcare professionals are better prepared to keep children safe from CSEA, including addressing taboos surrounding sexual violence.
- The public can proactively report CSEA offences. Industry has the power and willingness to block and remove online CSEA content and proactively address local CSEA issues.
- Potential future offenders are deterred. CSEA offending and reoffending is reduced.
2 Questions

‘Can a child fully recover from child sexual abuse and exploitation?’

‘We would say ‘yes’, but when should this recovery process start?’

Every contact leaves a trace...
Every person or professional in contact with a child victim leaves an impact on the child’s ability to recover