

NSPCC
NORTHERN IRELAND



NSPCC Northern Ireland

A year in review 2014/15

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR



When you think a child needs your help.

Help. Talk it over with us.

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EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR



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Foreword and Introduction



Welcome from Peter Wanless

Welcome to NSPCC Northern Ireland's Year in Review 2014/15. The review shows how the Society has played its part alongside partner agencies in Northern Ireland in tackling the abuse of children. The document also highlights very well the excellent integration of our national services such as ChildLine and Helpline which are available to all children and adults in Northern Ireland who need our support and are concerned about abuse. Northern Ireland has a reputation for innovation and learning and has played an important role in the development of services which are now delivered across the United Kingdom and Channel Islands. NSPCC in Northern Ireland has pioneered a number of successful initiatives including a regional Young Witness Service, the Department of Education Keeping Safe project and a new Sexual Abuse Consultation Service through which we are sharing our knowledge and expertise with professionals in partner agencies. One particularly important development has been the opening of the Helpline base in Belfast. This was made possible through collaboration with statutory colleagues in Health and Social Care, Police and Government.

Partnership is a vital element of protecting children and I am pleased to see in the review how well this is embedded in our work in Northern Ireland. This is evidenced through the NSPCC's involvement with the Safeguarding Board, Public Protection Arrangements and many inter-agency project teams and working groups. I am also delighted to see throughout the report examples of how young people have worked with us in partnership to influence and improve our services.

These are exciting times for the NSPCC as we set out our strategy and priorities for the next five years and I am confident that in Northern Ireland the NSPCC will continue to lead and influence in all matters concerning the safeguarding and protection of children. I commend the report to you and I offer my sincere thanks to the NSPCC's staff, volunteers and supporters in Northern Ireland for their tireless work, creativity and enthusiasm which has helped us to achieve so much.

Peter Wanless, NSPCC Chief Executive

As NSPCC Trustee for Northern Ireland, I am delighted to welcome this review, which sets out all of the Society's services and activities, both locally and nationally. It has been a hugely busy period for everyone, as we work towards the end of our current strategy.



Foreword by Brenda McLaughlin

Our biggest resource continues to be our staff, along with the many volunteers and dedicated donors who support the work of the NSPCC in Northern Ireland. That work, in partnership with other organisations and colleagues, has helped us to protect many children across Northern Ireland.

There are several notable highlights contained within the document and they help to demonstrate the extent and impact of our local services. I was particularly pleased that, in 2014, we were able to open a Helpline base in Belfast, which allowed us to work on a number of local initiatives, alongside Health and Social Care and other partners. During the year, we also saw important developments in policy and legislation as well as the continued development of innovative NI projects, such as the Young Witness Scheme and the Keeping Safe

project for primary schools, both of which lead the way in the UK. At a local level, we have consolidated our services and are beginning to see positive results from evaluations of their effectiveness. Our two ChildLine bases in Belfast and Foyle continue to make a significant contribution to the support which NSPCC offers to children and young people across the UK, while the NSPCC Schools Service in Northern Ireland, which provides a primary preventive approach to abuse, has had the highest uptake from schools in any region of the UK.

The protection of children requires a multi-disciplinary approach and no single organisation can succeed alone. One of the particular strengths of the NSPCC in Northern Ireland has been our ability to work in partnership with a range of other organisations and professional bodies. We continue to play a full part in all safeguarding and public protection arrangements in Northern Ireland, through our involvement in a wide range of committees and working groups.

I look forward to the incoming year, which will see the NSPCC finalising its new five year strategy, and to the continuing development and growth of our services to protect children.

Brenda McLaughlin, Northern Ireland Trustee

NSPCC Service Centres in Northern Ireland

The NSPCC service centres in Belfast, Craigavon and Foyle deliver pioneering services and essential help to support the most vulnerable children and families across each of the five Health and Social Care Trust areas. All of these services are subject to formal evaluation and are contributing to a continuing body of practice-based learning. We undertake research and evaluation of our services and interventions so we can learn more about the best ways to keep children safe.

Caring Dads - Safer Children offers an innovative intervention programme to reduce the risk to children living with fathers who were abusive to their partners and increase awareness and application of child-centred parenting.

Domestic Abuse Recovering Together (DART) helps children aged 7-14 to improve relationships with their mothers where this has been adversely affected as a result of domestic abuse and to recover from the trauma associated with living with domestic abuse.

Letting the Future In is a post-disclosure therapeutic service for children and young people aged 4-18 who have been sexually abused. We use a wide range of age appropriate approaches including behavioural, talk-based and play therapy to help the child explore, express and manage their feelings. The programme also includes support for parents and carers of children/ young people referred to the service.

Turn the Page is a therapeutic programme aimed at working with 5-17-year-old boys and girls who display sexually harmful behaviour towards other children. Turn the Page helps young people change their behaviours by identifying and managing their thoughts, emotions and actions. The service seeks to provide the best possible treatment to prevent sexual abuse before it happens.

Assessing the Risk, Protecting the Child is a good practice guide for the assessment of known or alleged adult perpetrators of sexual abuse, not in the criminal justice system, to help them understand and change their behaviour. We engage with the alleged perpetrator and their families. Most importantly we listen to the voice of the child to best understand their thoughts and wishes and effectively protect them from harm.

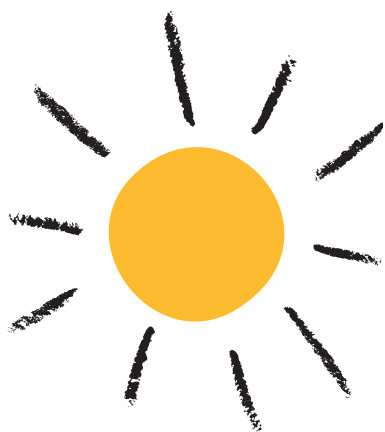
Women as Protectors is a new service to support women to help them keep children safe from risk of sexual harm. It is borne out of the understanding that a significant number of alleged or convicted sexual offenders will either return to their families or move into a relationship where children are present. In such circumstances the partner plays a vital role in terms of child protection and the programme, through group work and individual mentoring, seeks to enhance the ability of these mothers and carers to protect their children whilst providing support at a time of confusing and difficulty.

Video Interaction Guidance involves filming interactions between children and their parents to highlight the positives from the parents and reflect upon effective parenting strategies. Practitioners work with families of children aged 2-14, for a period of 2-3 months using Video Interaction Guidance programme.

Face to Face aims to offer short-term, solution-focused therapeutic interventions to children and young people aged 5-18 years old who are living away from home or at risk of family breakdown and on the edge of care.

Simplifying Mental Illness plus Life Enhancement Skills: Family SMILES is a service for children (aged 8-14) whose parents live with mental health difficulties. The programme seeks to improve relationships between parents and their children and reduce levels of further abuse.

For more information, visit nspcc.org.uk/services



Craigavon Service Centre



This year the team in Craigavon has provided therapeutic services directly to **175 children and adults** across the Southern Health and Social Care Trust area and via outreach services in the Western Health and Social Care Trust.

Services include recovery work for children and young people who have been victims of sexual abuse and assessment and intervention to those who are exhibiting harmful sexual behaviour. They also aim to prevent potential future harm to children by working with men identified as posing a risk of sexual harm. All of the services delivered from Craigavon are subject to formal evaluation and contribute to a body of practice-based learning.

The team also makes significant contribution to children's welfare and safeguarding in the child protection and case planning processes, attending over **159** during the past year. These are all methods of knowledge transfer, providing management and practice staff the opportunity to deliver key learning about best practice methods and techniques and scale up key messages from our expanding portfolio of evidence based learning.

In June 2014, the Centre became part of a small pilot service to establish a Centre for Excellence in the area of sexual abuse to help make the greatest impact for children and families in the locality. This service provides expert advice and consultation, responding to enquiries from professionals on matters relating to sexual abuse in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust area. Elsewhere, staff have continued to share the learning from services and have delivered specialist packages of training to foster carers and Health and Social Care professionals in relation to recovery from sexual abuse and also harmful sexual behaviour.

Without this work these young people would go onto to sexually harm others and end up in prison or our psychiatric services. This programme gives them a sense of hope that they can make better choices about how they live their lives successfully without harming others.

An NSPCC practitioner who works with children who display harmful sexual behaviour

In the current economic environment NSPCC in NI are scoping out opportunities to be pragmatic and creative ways in which to promote learning from our evaluations. The Craigavon Service Centre staff, in partnership with colleagues in Foyle, have entered into collaboration with Nexus NI to assist them in adopting the Letting the Future In model of intervention with young people aged between 12 and 18 years in the Belfast area. We have also forged close links with colleagues in Youth Justice and the wider harmful sexual behavior practice within Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland.

Sexual abuse continues to be a challenging and complex field of work and we are presented with the ever growing problem of online abuse. We are currently responding to this phenomenon through our consultation service but the Craigavon Centre is reviewing how to better respond to this with a more targeted approach. Service Centre staff will be trained in the Protect and Respect model developed by the NSPCC in England in collaboration with other agencies to complement existing service delivery relating to child sexual exploitation within NI.

When we first met all our hope had gone, now we can see how much our daughter has grown in strength and confidence. I can now imagine that she will flourish and can be happy like any other child. The work you have done has brought our daughter back to us.

A parent of a child who was helped through NSPCC's Letting the Future In service



Foyle Service Centre



The Foyle Service Centre delivers specialist services for vulnerable children and families who have experienced sexual abuse, physical abuse in high risk families and for looked after children in the Western Health and Social Care Trust (WHSCT) area through our Face to Face service. This year practitioners delivered these therapeutic recovery and support services directly to **215** children and adults. Practitioners also attended approximately **150** child protection case conferences and case planning meetings to help plan and improve developmental outcomes for children within the Western Trust area.

We are excited to have a base in the Safe Hands Unit in Enniskillen and have developed a partnership with Women's Aid staff in the Fermanagh and Erne Family Centre to co-facilitate programmes of work to help reach more children and families in the locality.

Practitioners have completed several group work programmes across the Western Trust area in the last year. Two of these programmes were co-facilitated in partnership with Women's Aid in Omagh. In total, 74 women and children were assessed and availed of a therapeutic service which helped them recover from the impact of living with domestic abuse.

We have continued to work with fathers who have been domestically abusive in the context of their parenting. Through our practice learning we have developed a working partnership with the WHSCT in an effort to better coordinate the management of referrals between Caring Dads: Safer Children and the non-mandated Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme in the area (DVPP).

With our colleagues in Craigavon, we also supported NEXUS in their successful application for funding to the Big Lottery to scale up our therapeutic sexual abuse service (LTFI) in areas where the NSPCC service currently is unavailable. This continues to be a core service provided from the service centre in Foyle where 52 children availed of the service in the last year. We are currently in the process of developing the training programme for this scale up and hope to have this delivered by early Spring 2016.

This year we launched our Domestic Abuse Recovery and Support (DARS) toolkit to help tackle effects of domestic abuse on children. The toolkit was developed with our colleagues in Belfast in partnership with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Health (DHSSPS). It has allowed us to share our knowledge to support other agencies who work to prevent child abuse NI, and to date we have delivered training on the toolkit to several agencies across the WHSCT and NHSCT.

Staff in Foyle are supported in their career progression and social work development by availing of ongoing training opportunities including Assessed Year in Employment, Initial Professional Development and post qualifying awards including practice teaching and the provision of student placements.

I learned how to identify the different types of abuse and how they impacted on me and my child. I suppose talking about the domestic abuse removed some of the shame I felt about it and helped my child to see other children have experienced it too.

Mum who attended NSPCC's Domestic Abuse Recovering Together programme

My work with CAHMS was complemented by Face to Face. Face to Face enabled me to manage my feelings much better....quicker and more positively.

Face to Face service user

Belfast Service Centre



The Belfast Service Centre continues to make an impact on the lives of vulnerable children, young people and families to prevent physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect. This year our practitioners have directly supported **239** individuals either on a one-to-one or group-work basis across all aspects of abuse.

There is ongoing high demand for Caring Dads-Safer Children, our group work programme for domestically abusive fathers. While practitioners have prioritised the direct delivery of the service, they have also been working with partner agencies to share the practice based learning and knowledge. This has included working with the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI) to develop the 'Promoting Positive Relationships Programme' to encourage non-court mandated men to address abusive behaviours. Elsewhere, we have developed training and a knowledge transfer Caring Dads programme in partnership with London Probation which has been delivered to local authorities in England and Wales.

This year we published the Domestic Abuse Recovery and Support (DARS) toolkit and training on the manual has been delivered to professionals across the South Eastern and Southern Trust areas. We also presented to student midwives and health visitors at Queens University Belfast on the toolkit.

Working for a service assessing men where there are allegations or concerns that they pose a sexual risk to children is challenging work. It's certainly not easy, but the work is so important. The NSPCC service works with the man, his partner and the children in the family to build a full picture and ensure that the child's voice is heard and partners know their role in keeping children safe. It's so important that we get this right.

A practitioner working on 'Assessing the Risk, Protecting the Child'

There has been high demand for the Family SMILES service over the past year and alongside the ongoing work provided by practitioners, we have established an outreach service to better support and meet the needs of the families who use this service. Practitioners also contributed to research carried out in this field by Queen's University Belfast.

Our staff understand the importance of knowledge exchange and have undertaken a number of presentations at conferences across the UK during the year under review including the Holyrood Domestic Abuse conference in Edinburgh and the Childcare Research Forum conference held in November 2014.

Talking to my VIG worker made me realise I was getting distracted with other stuff so the children's needs weren't getting met 100%..... Seeing things I was doing right made me realise things I needed to change..... I think VIG opened my eyes that you can't just expect to get respect from your children if you don't give a wee bit back..... now it feel it's like getting your wee boy back.

Feedback from a parent who undertook the VIG programme

Over the past year the Video Interaction Guidance (VIG) programme has supported parents to strengthen their relationship with their children to stop problems escalating. The age range for referral has increased to include children from the age of 2 -14 years old and we are delighted that work carried out by practitioners has formed the basis of a piece of postgraduate research and has been included in a new VIG textbook.

In recent months we have been developing 'Women as Protectors' a new group-work programme aimed at supporting women whose partner has been convicted of / accused of offences of a sexual nature against an individual or individuals outside of the family unit, to develop their understanding and awareness of abuse in order to enable the women to better protect their children. The programme also provides individual post group support facilitated by volunteers. The focus for practitioners to date has been on training, familiarisation of the model and the development of the service in the form of the recruitment and training of volunteers.

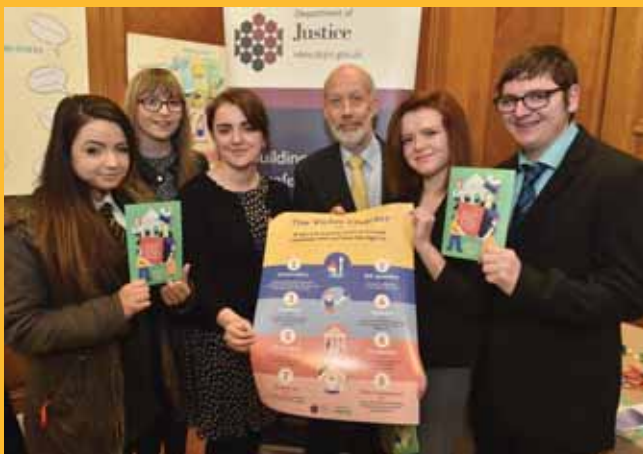


Young Witness Service

The NSPCC in Northern Ireland is proud to lead the way for the rest of the UK in specialising in the support and protection of children and their families within the Criminal Justice System. The Young Witness Service, funded largely by the Department of Justice (DOJ) provides young witnesses with free, confidential support and advice to reduce pressure and undue stress, so they can give their best evidence to the court and prevent any further trauma caused by their experience.

It has been an exciting year as local young people from the NSPCC's participation group had the opportunity to input into the content and design of the DOJ commissioned *The Victim Charter – A guide for young people by young people* which recognises the importance of the voices of children being heard and made central to any legislation. In January 2015 the group helped the Minister for Justice launch The Victims' Charter in Stormont.

The Young Witness Service is established as a key voice and source of information on issues relating to the treatment and experience of young witnesses. One element of our work is advocacy and this year we developed and delivered a bespoke training package for the Public Protection Service



(PPS) to enhance knowledge and understanding of child development. The team is also excited to have been invited by Master Wells to develop the role of a "next friend" service for the High Court.

Following a positive evaluation of our remote live link pilot in L'Derry we were delighted to launch two new remote off-site TV links in Lisburn in partnership with the NI Court Service and the PPS to help young and vulnerable witnesses to give their best evidence in a safe and secure environment with people to support them.



The guide will be invaluable in providing information and support to young victims of crime, in a format that young people can understand. The NSPCC participation group can rightly be very proud of this document and what they have achieved.



Minister of Justice
David Ford MLA

We have also been working closely with one of our Trustees to develop an all-Ireland cross border workshop/conference on Young Witness support within the EU Directive on standards relating to the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. We are hoping to bring together the relevant ministers and agencies to start a meaningful dialogue on the creation of cross- border initiatives.



Participation



Participation and engagement with children and young people is central to our work at the NSPCC. We are constantly developing new ways to ensure that our unique engagement with children and young people gives them a platform to have their voices heard so that they can influence decisions that affect their generation. We do this because we think that the consistent, child-centred and ethical involvement of children and young people can help us to create more effective services, activities and governance, which contribute to our overall aim of ending cruelty to children.

One of the big celebrations from the year in review was the launch of The Victim Charter – A guide for young people by young people. We were delighted that the participation group had the opportunity to input into the Charters content and design, which rightly recognises the importance of the voices of children being heard and made central to legislation. In January 2014, our young people formally launched the Charter at Stormont and presented to the Minister of Justice and stakeholders about their involvement in developing the young people’s guide. Well done to the whole group for the amazing work you put in!

Elsewhere the participation groups have been busy working with NSPCC colleagues in England in the development of the UK wide Flaw in the Law Campaign. They have also shared their knowledge and experience with Baroness Newlove, Victims’ Commissioner for England and Wales.

The Guide will be invaluable in providing information and support to young victims of crime, in a format that young people can understand. The NSPCC participation group can rightly be very proud of this document and what they have achieved.

Minister of Justice
David Ford MLA

Huge thanks to the participation groups across Belfast, Craigavon and Foyle service centres who consulted with the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) on their strategic plan, and helped test resources for the SBNI’s Child Sexual Exploitation campaign.

Thank you to the young people who worked with practitioners to develop an application to the Big Lottery for the scale up by NEXUS in partnership with the NSPCC of the LTFI service and have worked with internal NSPCC staff in England to develop a local campaign in Foyle and who to inform the strategic direction of the NSPCC’s Participation Unit. The NSPCC Schools Service has also been busy developing and testing Share Aware resources with young people in local communities.

You can’t just hand a nine-year-old or someone with a learning disability a 50 page document on what they can and can’t say in court, so it was really important to get the information across and actually reach the young people without them getting confused.

Naoimh, Participation
group member

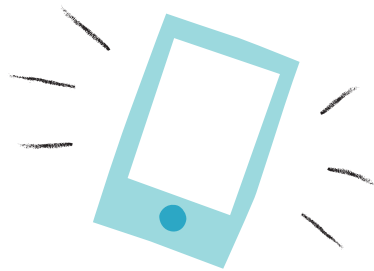
For me, participation marked the end of one journey and the beginning of another. Participation has been a fantastic experience. From designing and painting our own “Our journey” mural and booklet for younger children, to taking part in questionnaires and conversing with other charities there really is something to please everyone involved. As part of my experience with participation I was also offered the chance to visit the Barclays branch in Glasgow where we learnt how to write our CV’s. It has been such a pleasure to remain a focal part of the charity that helped me through such a dark time in my life and still means so much to me. It has made such a difference connecting with others who have been through the same experiences as myself and knowing that we are improving the service for others coming in behind us, makes the experience all the more worthwhile. Participation really has turned one of the most negative experiences of my life into a positive experience and has given me so many opportunities that I wouldn’t have received otherwise.

Bethany, aged 18 is a participation member

ChildLine is the UK's free, 24-hour helpline for children and young people, whatever their worry, whenever they need help. Young people can call free on 0800 1111, have a 1-2-1 chat online or send an email to our trained counsellors or they can visit our website www.childline.org.uk which provides advice and support and a space for peer support on the vibrant message boards.

A child contacts ChildLine every 25 seconds

This year ChildLine carried out almost **300,000** in-depth counselling sessions with children and young people. **29,763** of these counselling sessions were handled by our 170 trained volunteers in our Belfast and Foyle bases. The most common issues were family relationships, low self-esteem/unhappiness, abuse, bullying and online bullying and self-harm.



The ChildLine website received over 3.2 million visits this year - an increase of 36% since 2012/13.

During 2014/15, 71% of counselling sessions took place via 1-2-1 chat or email. To meet this ongoing demand online, ChildLine in Belfast is working hard to recruit and train more volunteers to respond exclusively to online contacts.

ChildLine made **3,714** referrals to external agencies, where it was deemed that a child or young person was in immediate danger, or when they asked to be referred. Of this total, 70 referrals were made to agencies in Northern Ireland - **87%** of which were to the PSNI.

Four of the top ten issues young people contacted ChildLine about relate to mental health. These are low self-esteem/unhappiness, self-harm, suicidal feelings and mental health/depressive disorders. This accounts for almost one third of total concerns.

Our ChildLine base in Foyle continues to offer a service to some of the most vulnerable children and young people who need someone to talk to late at night. Foyle operates the service with 48 active volunteers and continues to offer services over late evenings and weekends - the crucial times young people want to contact us.

In 2014/15 there was a 124% increase in the number of counselling sessions where young people talked about problems accessing services.

We are as always grateful for the support across Northern Ireland for the ChildLine service both financially and in the time offered in volunteering to support children and young people who need us the most.

I'm finding it really difficult to stay at home. My step-dad is always hitting me and I've had enough. Sometimes he comes right up to my face shouting and swearing and it really scares me. I told my mum but she just said that I should behave myself. I have my exams coming up and I can't study here at all. I feel trapped and am on edge all the time.

Anonymous caller aged 14*

I feel really depressed about my weight. All my friends are slim and pretty and I don't fit in because I'm a lot bigger than them. Some days I feel so stressed out and angry that I end up cutting myself. It feels good and helps me to relax. I haven't told anyone about what I do because they will just think I'm weird, but I think I'm becoming addicted to cutting.

Anonymous caller to the Foyle Base

*All names and potentially identifying details have been changed to protect the identity of the child or young person. Snapshots are created from real ChildLine contacts but are not necessarily direct quotes from the young person.

NSPCC Helpline

The NSPCC has provided a free 24/7 multi-channel helpline in Northern Ireland, as part of a UK wide service for over 25 years. Our helpline plays a crucial role in identifying children at risk by giving adults who are worried about a child a place that can contact to share their concerns, anonymously if they wish, by phone, text or online 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

We continue to work in partnership with statutory agencies to strengthen and support child protection enquiries through our 24 hour adult helpline. The establishment of a physical helpline base in Belfast since October 2014 has enabled us to respond to even more local calls from concerned adults. The Helpline manager is working closely with the Health and Social Care Board to develop bespoke NI wraparound services and to support children's social services.

The NSPCC runs dedicated helplines, in addition to our general helpline. The Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is available if there are concerns that a girl is at risk or potential risk of FGM and our Modern Slavery helpline is available if there are concerns that an adult or child is a victim of slavery.

He raped her numerous times and sexually abused her over three years whilst they were living together. Now she is concerned that he has done something to the children in his care.

A caller concerned about her cousin's children

The girl's underage and she's having sex with a 19 year old and I don't know what to do about it.

Anonymous woman contacted the NSPCC about her friend

She has two very young children, one in preschool and the other a little older. The children are often left to wander the streets, sometimes late at night. The children are nearly causing accidents and they often seem unaware of the cars.

A caller concerned about two young children

- This year our specially trained counsellors have responded to **986** contacts from people worried about a child in Northern Ireland.
- Of the total, **651** contacts (which involved **1015** children) were so serious that they needed to be referred to police or social services. There has been an increase of **21%** in the number of calls resulting in referrals, rather than lower-risk advice calls. This means that the contacts that the NSPCC were responding to related to more serious concerns (and/or that more people gave identifying details that allowed referrals to be made).
- Over half of the total number of referrals (**363**) involved children who were under 6 years old.
- **44%** of the referrals were about neglect, **23%** physical abuse, **12%** emotional abuse and **13%** sexual abuse.
- **71%** of all calls that resulted in a referral were from members of the public, followed by **14%** parent/carer and **10%** relatives.
- For **28%** of calls that resulted in a referral, the caller had waited over 6 months before getting in touch.
- **31%** of people calling about Advice² contacts had waited over 6 months before getting in touch.

² Advice contacts fall into three categories i) the person contacting the NSPCC is seeking guidance ii) the information provided does not need to be referred iii) there is insufficient information to make a referral.

NSPCC Schools Service

The NSPCC Schools Service is a pioneering preventative education programme.³ We speak directly to children and young people in schools helping them to understand abuse and give them the confidence and courage to speak out and seek help if they ever need it. The NSPCC believes that through the combined impact of reaching children directly, training volunteers and developing long lasting relationships in schools that this service has the potential to create societal change that will bring about a long-term reduction in child cruelty.

Since 2011, the NSPCC has made 1,023 visits to primary schools and 55,492 pupils have been reached in Northern Ireland. Last year alone our volunteers visited 401 schools and delivered workshops to 20,069 children across Northern Ireland. 82% of primary schools (including non-mainstream settings) have now received the service at least once.

The NSPCC schools service is available for pupils in primary schools across Northern Ireland. The programme is delivered in two stages via an assembly which is then followed up with an interactive classroom-based workshop. The sessions are specifically tailored to the age group and are delivered in a fun and interactive way that children can understand. Each school we work with will be offered the opportunity to join our campaign to fight for every childhood and help us raise the vital funds we need to ensure the NSPCC can provide this service for generations to come.

We know we cannot end abuse on our own and need to work with others to achieve our vision. Schools, and their communities of teachers, staff, parents and children, are a key partner for the NSPCC. All staff and volunteers



This year the former Schools Fundraising team also shared safeguarding messages to over 18,000 primary school children across 82 primary schools in NI.



It gave me more confidence to tell people if something is wrong and taught me more about abuse and neglect.



Child who attended a NSPCC Schools Service workshop



involved in delivering the programme have had appropriate safeguarding training which means they are aware of signs and symptoms of abuse and will take appropriate action if required. We work in partnership with the staff in schools to ensure we follow their safeguarding procedures and that teachers are present during the visit. We also actively engage with teachers and school staff to ensure they know where to go for safeguarding advice, help, support and training. By increasing awareness of our safeguarding training and resources from campaigns such as Share Aware and Pants, we can help schools to protect more children. We ask schools to help us reach out to their parents and carers ensuring they know where to go for help, advice and support whenever they need it.



It was extremely useful in raising awareness of the help available to children in need. The content was perfectly paced, clear and specific without being frightening. Presenters were enthusiastic, patient, positive and engaging.”

School Principal, NI



³ At the start of 2015 the 'NSPCC Schools Service' was formed as a national service from our 2 incredibly successful schools services – the volunteer led ChildLine Schools Service and the Schools Fundraising service.

NSPCC Education Advisers



The NSPCC recognises that those who work in education settings are in a unique position to promote and safeguard the welfare of children. Adopting a public health approach, the Education Advisers work strategically within Northern Ireland to influence the development of policy and practice in education settings which promotes children's safety and wellbeing. We do this by working in partnership with the Department of Education (NI) and other key statutory and voluntary agencies and fora including the Education and Training Inspectorate, Education and Library Boards, Regional Training Unit, Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA), Northern Ireland Anti Bullying Forum and the Safeguarding Board for NI.

We are currently working in partnership with the Department of Education on a five year preventative 'keeping safe' education project. The Keeping Safe programme is a whole-school education programme which aims to teach every child from P1-P7 age appropriate messages to keep them safe from bullying, neglect, physical, emotional, sexual, and domestic abuse.

A seconded primary teacher has been working with the project to develop a supporting suite of learning and teaching resources. These resources will assist school staff to incorporate the teaching of sensitive messages a through the formal curriculum (lessons, assemblies etc.) and the informal curriculum (daily interactions, language and actions modelled etc.). Homework tasks have also been developed to engage and involve parents.

The programme will build on and reinforce the work of the ChildLine Schools Service and other relevant initiatives such as the Pants campaign.

The programme will provide a sustainable package of training, development and ongoing support for school leaders, teaching and non-teaching staff to build their capacity to teach keeping safe messages and embed effective preventative 'keeping safe' education in all aspects of school life.

As parents and other adults in children's lives have a key role to play in keeping children safe from all kinds of abuse and bullying we are developing workshops and information for parents to develop their skills and confidence to talk to their children about these sensitive issues in a way that reinforces with what is being taught in school.

We will be using a **Randomised Control Trial** design to generate robust evidence of effectiveness. 80-90 primary schools throughout Northern Ireland will benefit from the pilot from 2016-2018. Data will be collected at three points to evaluate the programme's process recommended to schools and how effective the programme effectiveness is in building the knowledge and skills of children, parents, teachers and other school staff. Other data on its implementation will also be gathered to capture learning at school level to inform further refinement and development.

I am reassured that my children's school will be delivering the Keeping Safe Programme. Children really need to know key messages about keeping safe from abuse and bullying. I am looking forward to getting training and resources that will help me reinforce keeping safe messages at home.

The results of this exciting project will inform the development and roll-out of effective preventative education across all primary schools in Northern Ireland so that all children in Northern Ireland will eventually benefit from this work.

Adopting a public health approach, this project is being developed in consultation with statutory and voluntary partner agencies, schools, parents and children through their engagement in a Project Advisory Board, a number of Project Task Groups, the NSPCC participation Forum as well as consultation events in schools.

A number of knowledge transfer events including the Preventative 'Keeping Safe' Education Lunchtime Seminar Series have been organised to capture and share the early learning from the project across the system. For more information and to get involved with the Keeping Safe programme search "Keeping Safe education" on

www.nspcc.org.uk

Child Protection in Sport Unit



The Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) provides a range of services to support partners in the sports sector to keep children safe from harm. The Unit was founded in 2001 in response to a series of high profile cases of abuse of young athletes by those in positions of trust in the sports sector. Since then, the CPSU has gone from strength to strength and are now recognised as the source of expert safeguarding advice and a world leader by the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee.

CPSU has worked in partnership with Sport NI to ensure a consistent approach to safeguarding messages and standards of practice. This year, over **4,500** coaches and volunteers in NI attended sport specific training. This training will build awareness and help organisations to develop safeguarding policies and procedures to ensure that responsibilities for safeguarding are implemented in the sports sector. In addition, the CPSU (NI) has responded to **367** enquiries and advised appropriate action when concerns were raised, of the total, our senior consultant responded to **326** enquiries on the same day – a number of enquiries resulted in referral to the NSPCC Helpline and statutory services for action or investigation.



Helpline Manager David Burns, Jim Grattan Irish Football Association Safeguarding manager and Paul Stephenson CPSU (NI) officer promoting the NSPCC Helpline for Northern Ireland football programme

This year the CPSU has reviewed both the Safeguarding Children and Young People in Sport and the Designated Safeguarding Children Officer workshop and has facilitated a number of orientations for Sport NI tutors and sport specific tutors.

The CPSU in Northern Ireland has promoted the development of information and advice for sports clubs on the importance of caring for a young person mental health and well-being as well as physical health. As part of this campaign, a number of sports governing bodies have developed sport specific materials and guidance.

The CPSU has encouraged all sports clubs with youth members to tackle bullying and register with the NI Anti-bullying Forum who would provide the clubs with a free resources pack, including presentations, sport specific workshop activities and sports posters.

The CPSU has run a number of successful webinars over the last year looking at a variety of different issues including keeping children and young people safe online, Supporting LGBT young people in sport or empowering sport to tackle bullying.

For more information visit thecpsu.org.uk which features please visit the website <https://thecpsu.org.uk> which features a free resource library with video clips, practice briefings, template forms, policy statements and downloadable toolkits to help organisations to put the right safeguards in place to better protect children.

The CPSU provides the Irish FA with professional and practical support to help us ensure that those clubs and organisations providing football opportunities for children and young people, do so to the highest possible standards of care.

Gerry Crossan, Director of Corporate Services,
The Irish Football Association



Training and Consultancy

Our Professional Engagement - Training and Consultancy team helps organisations across all sectors in Northern Ireland to become safer places for children and young people. They deliver a package of learning, information, expert advice and support for specialist staff and mandatory safeguarding training for adult and professional audiences. Work also includes strengthening safeguarding services, systems, policies and practices through the provision of organisational safeguarding consultancy.

We provide a large number of individuals and organisations with training and resources to help them protect children more effectively. This year our consultant delivered 94 training sessions to 54 external organisations, reaching over 1,880 people across Northern Ireland. The training aims to help them ensure they have effective child protection procedures in place, that their staff are aware of the harm abuse does to children, their responsibility to safeguard children, and are confident in taking action to protect children.



Little Gems Nurseries have used NSPCC for child protection training for the last few years and the girls are always very impressed with the classes. They are always very informative and the girls have always thoroughly enjoyed the child protection, especially the learning they receive from the different stories and discussions. Many thanks for what you have already done and look forward to seeing you again.

Cathy Collins, Little Gems Nurseries



Our company arranged safeguarding training for all employees. Safeguarding is a highly held issue in our workplace therefore we only use the best training organisation to deliver to our staff. Irene delivered the course very well, the right pace and the interaction with employees was very good.

Kimberley Boyd, Electrical Training Trust



According to a recent analysis of post-course surveys from April to September 2015, **99.7%** of attendees indicated that they were either 'Satisfied' or 'Very Satisfied' with the training overall. Results also indicated that **99.4%** of those surveyed would recommend our services, while **96.3%** would reuse our services themselves

One area in which we've seen a particular growth in demand for our training and consultancy service has been in assisting foster carers to understand the complexities around sexual abuse. Elsewhere, the team was successful in winning a tender to deliver our services to the regional Childcare Partnership on 'Childcare Training - The Impact of Domestic Abuse', over a two-year course of ten sessions. This will help to reinforce the message of safeguarding and the importance of child protection policy to a substantial audience.

Our senior consultant is a member of The Education and Training Committee and Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) and is working with the Committee to develop a regional child protection training framework and strategy for member agencies who work with children and young people.

This year we were delighted to have recently expanded our team by introducing three new associate trainers and one independent trainer to enable us to increase our reach and capacity across NI.

For further information on Child Protection and Safeguarding Training and Consultancy, please contact Customer Services Officers on **0808 800 5000** or via email: organisationalsafeguarding@nspcc.org.uk



Child Trafficking Advice Centre



The Child Trafficking Advice Centre (CTAC) is a specialist UK-wide service providing free advice and support to professionals working with children or young people who may have been trafficked or are at risk of being trafficked into the UK. The team of experienced social workers and a police liaison officer work in partnership with the Home Office, UK Human Trafficking Centre and the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) to offer an appropriate response to children who have been victims of human trafficking. They are also designated as a First Responder for the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and have worked with the Home Office on the Review of the NRM to ensure a common child protection response from different agencies.

Between September 2007 and December 2014 CTAC dealt with 1,147 cases of child trafficking. The most frequent type of exploitation type in referrals is criminal activity, followed by sexual exploitation. 38% of children referred to CTAC originate from Asia, followed by Africa (30%) and Europe (26%)

Over the course of the year, the CTAC team reviewed and updated their Memorandum of Understanding with the Health and Social Care Board for Northern Ireland (HSCB) and the Police Service for Northern Ireland (PSNI). The team also delivered several training events to stakeholders to co-ordinate multi-agency responses, focused on protecting the child.

The girls had to have sex and the boys had to go to work. They had control over us. We had no choice.

NSPCC CTAC is significantly involved in supporting service development and improvement alongside key agencies for separated / trafficked children in NI. As well as supporting the work of the Regional Practice Network on Separated/ Trafficked Children through advice, information and guidance CTAC has provided tailored training on areas relating to age assessment, cultural awareness, trafficking indicators and exploring good practice on reunification. CTAC's approach to training has been inclusive of all key agencies across PSNI, HSC Trusts, Border Force and UKVI

They told me to how to put the lights on and off and how to mix the fluid, something that looked like water but had a colour to it. When people knocked the door we were told not to answer it and to be quiet and not to open the windows. Everything was very horrible. I feel very ashamed.

Sometimes we were on the lorry for a week or 10 days and we travelled far because the lorry stopped a lot. There were police checks in all of the different countries. Some of the others were not strong and some of them are dead. Some people are lucky and some people are unlucky.

CTAC work closely with the Northern Ireland policy and public affairs team and play a key role in tackling human trafficking. It is through these networks and the NSPCC's representation on the Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF) and the Regional Network for Separated and Trafficked Children that we have worked collaboratively to drive change on this very complex issue.

Through CTAC, the NSPCC has worked hard for many years to support children and young people who have been trafficked. This year, the Home Office approached us to provide a helpline service to support its Modern Slavery Campaign, using the current national helpline infrastructure already in place at the NSPCC. This means that anyone with concerns that a child or adult is a victim of slavery can contact the Modern Slavery Helpline on **0800 0121 700**

which has strengthened NI's multi agency approach to learning and development in this area of work. CTAC also brings a wealth of experience and knowledge in this area, an area that is relatively new to NI. Having ready access to such a resource whether for case specific advice or more general queries about processes etc CTAC is of major benefit to practitioners and agencies in NI.

Deirdre Coyle of Children and Family Services, Health and Social Care Board

Policy and Public Affairs



The Policy and Public Affairs team aims to improve the lives of children through influencing public policy using local evidence-based research and practice both in Northern Ireland and as part of a UK wide agenda. We have well-established relationships with the NI Assembly and government departments and with our colleagues in statutory and voluntary agencies. It is through these networks that we can drive change and influence legislation, policy and practice to ensure that children can be protected and abuse prevented.

It has been another busy year and we are pleased to note that there have been a number of positive developments which NSPCC NI has contributed to in partnership with other stakeholders which will better protect children across Northern Ireland.

Our Flaw in the Law campaign highlighted a gap in provisions that allowed adults to send sexually explicit texts to children. Following an announcement by the UK government of a provision in the Serious Crime Bill relating to England, the Minister for Justice moved quickly to close a similar gap here, through a provision in the Justice Bill.



Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is an emerging policy issue across the UK nations. It is abusive, illegal and has no medical basis. We helped develop the Multi-agency practice guidelines: Female genital mutilation (DFP, 2014) and also published a briefing paper to promote discuss with partner agencies and government departments in developing a strategic direction and consistency for tackling FGM within the UK nations.

The development of the Practice Network for trafficked and separated children is an example of excellent professional

collaboration where we have been able to maximise our collective practice through joint efforts. The NSPCC's CTAC service has continued to provide advice and guidance to NI in what is a complex area. The NSPCC secured membership of the Serious Organised Crime Taskforce where we have been able to assist agencies through the provision of the Modern Slavery helpline and policy input to this fora.

The team has continued to work closely with the Helpline in the development of the Belfast base and integration into other services. We continue to strengthen proposals which are in the pipeline to develop further add-on services and service audits.

The team has responded to a number of government consultations and over the course of the year we have published material and briefing papers which are available at: www.nspcc.org.uk/northernireland

Research is very important in enhancing our knowledge base on child protection and we work both on both locally-focused research as well as national projects with our NSPCC colleagues outside of NI. We also work with academic institutions and partner organisations.

In December, phase two of our collaborative research project with Barnardo's NI, QUB and NCB NI was published. **The report, Living with adversity: a qualitative study of families with multiple and complex needs** provides an insight into the views and experiences of high need families with multiple problems.

We have also been undertaking research exploring the ways in which Local Safeguarding Children Boards in England and Wales seek to co-ordinate and ensure effective practice and improvement. This is a theme of increasing interest both locally and nationally and the NSPCC sit on an SBNI Children's Outcomes Project Board focusing on this area of work.

To find out more about our research, visit nspcc.org.uk/research

The NSPCC places an importance on knowledge exchange and during the year we ran seminars for stakeholders on: Multiple Adversities, No One Listened, No One Heard, internet safety and on the benefits of data analysis.



Local Campaigning

We campaign in Northern Ireland to raise awareness of the child protection risks facing children and young people. Our local campaigns manager develops targeted insight and awareness-raising activities for a specified audience based on need and priorities within the localities. They also co-ordinate the testing and piloting of national work at a regional level, sharing learning from local and regional initiatives.

This year we have reached over 1,241 adults and children across NI to deliver safeguarding messages, awareness raising presentations, roadshows and focus groups to encourage everyone to take responsibility for child protection.

We have worked with partners, including schools and faith groups to enable community based responses to the safeguarding issues that continue to challenge our children and young people and their parents. The subject of internet safety continues to be a high priority and we are delighted that we have encouraged so many parents to be Share Aware and talk to their children about staying safe on social networks.

Our Underwear Rule PANTS campaign continues to be a popular topic for parents and community based family support services, new guidance has been developed for specific audiences with the support of agencies such as Fostering Network NI jointly developing guidance for Foster and Kinship carers and also guidance for pre-school and childcare settings developed with the support and input from the early years and childcare sector in Northern Ireland. These examples of “hands-on” practitioner and target audience feedback enable our resources to be as relevant and user friendly as possible.

North West Taxi Proprietors are delighted to partner with the NSPCC and local taxi firms to promote the NSPCC helpline to communities in the area. The helpline is a great resource for any adult so that we can help reach children and families who need support sooner, local taxi firms and their drivers provide an excellent way of promoting this service in our communities given the numbers of families they have contact with daily and their knowledge of local issues.

Eamonn O'Donnell , North West Taxi Proprietors

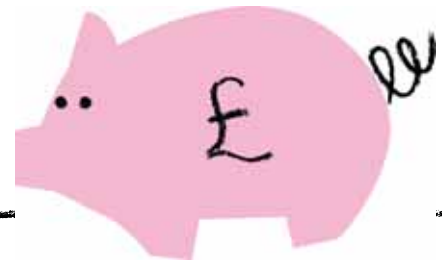
Locally we worked in partnership with North West Taxi Proprietors (NWTP) to promote the NSPCC helpline to taxi drivers and their clients in the Derry City area. The NSPCC is delighted to have the support of the firms in the city and NWTP to help reach families they provide services to and also to give information to the drivers who are often closer to communities than many other professions.

Elsewhere we have been focussing on early intervention by encouraging parents to seek help earlier aimed at those working in the housing sector with vulnerable families and young people. This campaign was delivered in partnership with First Housing Aid and Advice Services (FHAAAS) one of the leading and largest social housing providers in NI. Social housing providers respond to one of the most critical of needs for a family in terms of providing housing and support. We have worked with FHAAAS to develop a range of materials and briefings for their staff to encourage seeking help earlier if families have issues that are causing concern as well as signposting local services and the NSPCC Helpline if they need advice and support.

Visit [nspcc.org.uk/campaigns](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/campaigns) for further information on our campaigns.



Fundraising



The NSPCC depends on the commitment and generosity of local volunteers and supporters giving us their time, energy and donations to enable us to deliver all the life-changing services outlined in this review. Over 90% of our funds come from voluntary donations, so we rely on public support to help us continue our work to fight to make sure that children are free from abuse, where abuse does not go unchallenged, where children are empowered to seek out help and where every call for support can be answered.

Our supporters go the extra mile for children. They're motivated. They're daring. And most importantly, they're fighting for every childhood.

North Down Group decided to work with NSPCC NI in 2014 to coincide with our 25th anniversary and to raise £25,000 to help vulnerable children and young people throughout Northern Ireland. Due to the generosity of our staff, customers and suppliers we exceeded that target and raised an amazing £50,000. We hope to continue to work with the NSPCC so that together we can continue to provide much needed services and support for children across the province.

Ashley Megarry, Managing Director,
North Down Group

Can you help us Fight for Every Childhood?

Your support makes a real difference – and that difference impacts the children, young people and families in Northern Ireland who need our help the most.

There are so many ways you can work with us and we are here to help.

- Run a BBQ, coffee morning, pub quiz with family friends.
- Vote for us in your workplace or suggest a dress down day for the NSPCC.
- Take part in our fantastic events - you can walk, cycle, run or jump out of a plane!
- Leave a gift to us in your will.

Our local Fundraising Team can support and advise you to ensure your event is a big success. Call us today to find out how you can make a difference.



Would you like to join our fight for every childhood?

It's with the support of our amazing volunteers that we are able to help more children in Northern Ireland, learn more about our volunteering opportunities below.

Give your time and talents and volunteer at one of our **fundraising events**. Volunteering is fun and there are lots of ways you can get involved. If this sounds like something you'd enjoy then get in touch with our team to find out about all our upcoming events near you.

I started off with a few collection boxes and saw how small change could actually add up. I now have in excess of about 18 collection boxes throughout my businesses and have raised over £3,000 to date for the cause. I then thought what else could we do that might help and also get the message out there about what the NSPCC does. We have just launched our coffee campaign and are donating money to the ChildLine service for every hot drink we sell. Sometimes doing something so simple can be really rewarding. I know from experience no matter what you do any amount is never too small to try and help the life of a young person.

Andrew Davies from Mace, Titanic Quarter helps to fundraise for the NSPCC and also volunteers as a ChildLine counsellor

The **NSPCC Schools Service** is protecting a generation of children against abuse, one primary school at a time. As a volunteer, you'll visit local schools giving assemblies and classroom workshops to 9-11 year olds. You'll help them to understand abuse, and give them the confidence and courage to speak out and seek help if they ever need it.

I really enjoy volunteering with NSPCC School Service, it is most gratifying. I like to engage with the children, I listen to their wee stories which most want to tell, at the same time – it's good fun. I am happy that I contribute to something worthwhile and to something which has the potential to prevent children from being hurt or injured. I would certainly encourage anyone with even a few hours to spend to volunteer for the schools service. It's a great way to make new friends, to learn new skills and most importantly contribute to maybe making a big difference to a child's life.

Geraldine O'Connor from Omagh has volunteered with the service since September 2014

ChildLine helps children and young people 24 hours a day, every day of the year. We train our volunteers to develop the skills needed to offer comfort, support and practical advice to the many young people who call us for help. Just four hours out of your week can help thousands of children and young people.

Working with ChildLine over the past few years has been an incredibly rewarding experience. Speaking with young people both online and on the phone and knowing that our conversation has made a difference in their lives, no matter how small, is what keeps me coming back. I have developed strong listening and communication skills, which have increased my employability and look great on my CV. I have also made some great friends! Volunteering has given me more than I would have ever expected when I started out at 18, I would encourage anyone interested to find out more!

Annie Gifford has volunteered for ChildLine for over seven years

The **Young Witness Service** supports children across NI who have to give evidence in court. As a volunteer for the service, working with social workers and other trained staff, you will be provided with all the support and training you need to play your part.

I enjoy working as a volunteer for the NSPCC YWS as I think it is a service which really benefits young witnesses and their parents. The court experience is very intimidating for young people and anything that minimises that process has to be applauded.

The NSPCC staff are a great bunch of people to work with and have given me all their support in carrying out my role as a volunteer.

Young Witness Service volunteer Heather McBriar has worked with the service since 2009

Find out more about volunteering for us at
nspcc.org.uk

Key contacts for NSPCC services in Northern Ireland

Regional Office*

First Floor, Unit 7
Jennymount Business Park
North Derby Street
Belfast, BT15 3HN
Tel: 028 90351135
Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

Foyle service centre

1 Waterside Centre
Glenderrymott Road
L'Derry, BT47 6BG
Tel: 028 20441753
Fax: 028 20441751

ChildLine

If you are a child and need to talk, you can call ChildLine free at any time on 0800 1111 or visit us at www.ChildLine.org.uk where you can contact us via email or have a 1-2-1 chat online.

NSPCC's Child Trafficking Advice Centre (CTAC)

Information and advice for professionals on child trafficking.
Tel: 0808 800 5000

FGM Helpline

If you are worried a girl might be at risk of, or is a victim of FGM you can contact this free, anonymous 24/7 helpline.
Tel: 0800 028 3550
Email: fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk

Belfast service centre

Jennymount Business Park
North Derby Street
Belfast, Co Antrim, BT15 3HN
Tel: 028 20441650

Young Witness Service

17-21 Bishop Street
L'Derry, BT48 6PR
Tel: 028 71279555

NSPCC Helpline

Anyone with concerns about a child should contact the NSPCC immediately. We're here 24/7. It's free and you don't have to say who you are.
Tel: 0808 800 5000
Email: help@nspcc.org.uk
Text: 88858

Fundraising

NSPCC Belfast
Regional Office
Tel: 028 90351135
Email: northernirelandappeals@nspcc.org.uk

Modern Slavery Helpline

Anyone with concerns that a child or adult is a victim of slavery can contact this free, 24/7 helpline.
Tel: 0800 0121 700
Email: www.modernslavery.co.uk

Craigavon service centre

10 Carn Drive
Craigavon
County Armagh, BT63 5WJ
Tel: 028 20441690

Child Protection in Sport Unit

Tel: 028 20441587
E-mail: pstephenson@nspcc.org.uk
www.thecpsu.org.uk
Twitter @TheCPSU - <https://twitter.com/TheCPSU>

Child Sexual Exploitation Helpline

If you are worried that a child is at risk of sexual exploitation in Northern Ireland please contact our 24 hour helpline for confidential advice.
Tel: 0800 389 1701

Communications

For further media information please contact the regional communications team:
Tel: 028 20441572 / 028 20441564
Email: nicomms@nspcc.org.uk



* You can contact our regional office for information on any of the NSPCC services in Northern Ireland

HELP KEEP CHILDREN SAFE LEARN THE UNDERWEAR RULE

TALK



AND YOU'VE GOT
IT COVERED!



P RIVATES
ARE PRIVATE

A LWAYS REMEMBER YOUR
BODY BELONGS TO YOU

N O MEANS NO

T ALK ABOUT SECRETS
THAT UPSET YOU

S PEAK UP, SOMEONE
CAN HELP





Anyone with concerns about a child should contact the NSPCC immediately. We're here 24/7. It's free and you don't have to say who you are.

Call: 0808 800 5000

Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

Text*: 88858

Visit: www.nspcc.org.uk/helpline

*for Channel Islands 07786 200001. Standard network charges apply