**United Nations Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography**

**Questionnaire on assistance and rehabilitation programmes for child**

**victims of sale and exploitation, including sexual exploitation**

**Responses from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

**Provide information on the legal, policy, institutional and budgetary framework developed by your country to establish assistance and rehabilitation programmes for child victims of sale and exploitation, including sexual exploitation**

The United Kingdom (UK) is committed to protecting all children from abuse and neglect. Our child protection systems aim to identify children at risk of abuse or neglect early, and ensure they get the services and support needed to promote their welfare and protect them from harm based on an assessment of their individual needs.

In England there is a duty on local authorities and their partners (including schools and colleges, the police, health service providers and the youth justice system) to co-operate to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children and young people in their area. The Disclosure and Barring Scheme aims to prevent unsuitable individuals from working with children and young people.

**Provide examples of good practice and successful initiatives of assistance and rehabilitation programmes which facilitate the rehabilitation and reintegration of child victims of sale and exploitation, including sexual exploitation**

In January 2014 the Department for Education published [statutory guidance on children missing from home or care](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/307867/Statutory_Guidance_-_Missing_from_care__3_.pdf).  The guidance includes specific reference to unaccompanied minors from abroad, who may have been trafficked or exploited. Local authorities should assess the needs of these children as soon as they are identified. The assessment must seek to establish relevant details about the child’s background before entry to the UK to build an understanding of the reasons why s/he came to the country and contribute to an analysis of his/ her vulnerability to remaining under the influence of traffickers. The assessment should inform the placement arranged by the local authority to accommodate the child, which could be in foster care, a children’s home or in other in other suitable housing arrangements. This placement should aim to offer the child safe, stable care to minimise the possibility of their going missing or being further exploited.

**How do you ensure that the views and needs of children are duly taken into account in the design and provision of care and recovery services?**

The UK is implementing a comprehensive series of reforms based on the 2011 Munro review, which concluded that the child protection system had become too focused on compliance and regulation and had lost sight of what matters most - the views and experiences of the individual child. Key new measures include:  
a new inspection framework for services to safeguard children, which takes account of the feelings and experiences of children; improved accountability in the system by strengthening the role and responsibilities of Local Safeguarding Children’s Boards (LSCBs); clarifying the legal dutyon local authorities to ascertain the child’s wishes and feelings and to take account of them when planning the provision of services; issued new guidance on the role of Directors of Children’s Services and Lead Members on their duties and role in relation to vulnerable children and young people;

developing new professional statuses and assessments of competency for frontline social workers, supervisors and practice leaders to drive up quality of children and families social work; issued revised statutory guidance, [*Working Together To Safeguard Children,*](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2) published March 2015 which provides a clear framework for professionals to work together and take action to protect children from abuse and neglect  and also revised the [*What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused*](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-to-do-if-youre-worried-a-child-is-being-abused--2)for professionals published March 2015.

**How do you ensure access of child victims to support services?**

The UK is committed to protecting all children from abuse and neglect. Our child protection systems aim to identify children at risk of abuse or neglect early, and ensure they get the services and support needed to promote their welfare and protect them from harm based on an assessment of their individual needs**.**

**Provide information on prevention programmes developed by your country with a specific focus on children at risk or in vulnerable situations (eg children working and/or living on the street, children placed in institutions, unaccompanied migrant children).**

On 3 March 2015, the UK published a report “[Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/408604/2903652_RotherhamResponse_acc2.pdf)” which committed to a strong package of measures intended to tackle child sexual exploitation, many of the measures to be taken forward to improve the systems in place will also drive improvements in protecting children from other forms of abuse and neglect as well as ensuring they get the support they need when they need it.

11 May 2015