

2013 Knowledge Transfer Scheme

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Title of research project: Responding to child sexual exploitation: learning for policy and practice in Northern Ireland

Abstract: The Knowledge Transfer (KT) project is focused on disseminating learning from a primary study conducted in 2011 by Helen Beckett (Beckett, 2011) on child sexual exploitation (CSE) in Northern Ireland (NI) with reference to relevant learning from other key research, Inquiries and serious case reviews conducted elsewhere in the UK. The study findings highlighted a lack of awareness and understanding about CSE amongst professionals; lack of awareness of CSE amongst young people; difficulties for professionals in identification and assessment of CSE; and the need for greater inter-disciplinary working and sharing of learning in NI. To disseminate learning the Knowledge Transfer project – entitled 'responding to child sexual exploitation: learning for policy and practice in Northern Ireland' - involved seven inter-related but distinct strands:

1. An awareness raising conference for professionals;
2. Inter-disciplinary thematic workshops for professionals;
3. An awareness raising resource for young people, created by young people;
4. Professionals and young people working together to create recommended principles for working with young people affected by CSE;
5. Reviewing potential use of a CSE risk-assessment tool;
6. A web-based CSE knowledge hub for professionals; and
7. Academic articles.

The overall aim of these strands was to share learning from the primary research in an accessible form for different audiences, to raise awareness and understanding of the issue of CSE, thereby in the longer-term better protecting children and young people from this form of abuse.