


Call For Evidence; Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking) Bill

Personal details	
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Email address	
Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?	Yes
Organisation (<i>if applicable</i>)	Children and Young Peoples Directorate / Adult Safeguarding Southern Health and Social Care Trust

Do you have any comments:

The CYPS Directorate welcome the introduction of the Justice (Sexual Offences & Trafficking) Bill as an important step in shifting the culture to protect our service users from the misuse and potential over reliance on restrictive practices.

The Draft Policy is comprehensive, covers a wide range of settings and the structure enables clear navigation of the policy. It is important that the regional policy on the use of restrictive practices in health and social care settings makes relevant connections to related guidance being developed by the Department of Education.

Our feedback is summarised in the points below:

- We agree with the overall purpose of the Bill and welcome its introduction by way of protecting and supporting children and young people and vulnerable adults from Sexual Offence and Trafficking.
- We endorse the need to support the provisions arising from the Gillen Review, in relation to children and young people and vulnerable adults of serious sexual offence cases to exclude the public from all serious sexual offence hearings and to introduce anonymity for defendants' pre-charge. The Southern Health and Social Care Trust have piloted the ABE Cadre model to enable children and young people be supported in providing evidence to court for cases of child abuse.
- We welcome the inclusion of provisions to give effect to the outcome of a review of the law on child sexual exploitation and sexual offences against children to include live streamed images in the definition of exploitation for sexual purposes and to create a new offence of adults masquerading as children online
- The provisions to create a new offence of up-skirting and down blousing alongside a number of other sex offence adjustments to ensure the law operates as intended in these areas is a very welcomed inclusion in the legislation and in particular
- We welcome the adjustments to the modern slavery strategy from annual to 3 yearly and to improve statutory support available for potential victims of slavery and exploitation inclusive of those who do not meet the definition of a victim of human trafficking.

- In relation to extending the scope of the abuse of trust legislation. We are supportive of this in relation to non-statutory bodies also.
- The SHSCT fully support the proposed amendment to abolish 'rough sex defence' and 'revenge porn provisions to include a threat of publication' as these will support many of our victims of domestic and sexual violence.

