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November 2024

**Ref:** 2024.262

Dear Aoibhinn,

Thank you for your response following Invisible Traffick's briefing to the Committee on the 18th of September 2024. We appreciate your interest in our 'Junior Education Programme' that we run in Primary Schools and our 'Invisible to Visible Project' that we run in alternative education settings.

The 'Junior Education Programme' (JEP) is a 6 week programme that we deliver in KS2 classes in schools and junior youth centres, to children aged 8-12. We cover a broad range of important topics in order to safeguard and protect them from being exploited. We do this using a series of short films entitled 'Mission Not So Impossible' that we wrote and produced in conjunction with local young people, to deliver our programme in a fun and engaging manner. We explore the topics of human trafficking, modern day slavery, exploitation, bravery, trusted adults, identity, fairness and equality, online exploitation, child criminal exploitation, the UNCRC and labour exploitation. Throughout all of these lessons, we are teaching children about the importance of speaking up and asking for help when they need it and we encourage them to be aware of the choices that they are making and how they can affect themselves and others.

We are delivering essential education, that no other organisation is providing and our demand reflects the necessity of this. For the second consecutive year, our JEP facilitator is fully booked for sessions. This academic year, 2024/25, the JEP has 22 series' of programmes booked, 17 of these are in Primary Schools and 5 in Youth Centres in various locations across NI. This totals 132 sessions that will be delivered by our one JEP facilitator. We are at capacity and to meet the demand for JEP delivery, we have had to turn down any further bookings for this year and already have 11 programmes booked in for 2025/26, totalling 66 sessions in 7 Primary Schools and 1 youth centre.

The JEP is only currently partly funded but our need to deliver the programme far exceeds our capacity both in terms of staff on the programme and the finances required to deliver it.

Many thanks,  
Chloe Higginson

Junior Education Programme Co-Ordinator

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Dear Aoibhinn,

Chloe has detailed the junior education programme and the various points however I wanted to reiterate the Invisible To Visible project and the work we do. We provide 4 to 6 week bespoke sessions for young people in youth centres and alternative education spaces as I detailed in my evidence for committee. This project and the 3 staff working on it are funded by the Empowering Young People fund within The National Lottery Community Fund. We also engage with communities and parents providing them with the appropriate tools to help tackle potential exploitation their child(ren) might be facing. We work 1 to 1 with children at most risk of being exploited or who have faced exploitation. Finally we have a group of youth ambassadors who operate as an advisory board. We are not funded to go into formal education spaces as this is viewed by the lottery and others as a job of the state to fund such work. We do our bespoke awareness raising sessions in alternative education which covers what trafficking is, the different types, what it looks like in NI and how to stay safe from it.

Aside from that information I think my evidence covers it all. If you require more information don't hesitate to let me know.

Many thanks,  
Megan Phair  
Invisible to Visible Project Coordinator