



An Roinn Oideachais
agus Scileanna
Department of
Education and Skills

Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspections (CPSI)

Briefing for Association of Community and Comprehensive Schools

23 November 2018

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Overview of presentation

1. Setting the context for CPSI
2. Review of level one and level two checks
3. Information on levels of compliance with level one and level two checks
4. Review of the aims and features of CPSI model
5. Description of the pilot
6. Summarise the findings from pilot
7. Outline of what we have learnt from the pilot
8. Outline of the next steps in the development of CPSI

Context for CPSI model

- The protection and welfare of our children is of central importance
- Child protection is a shared responsibility
- Schools take their responsibilities in regard to child protection very seriously
- There are statutory obligations on schools - CPSI is about ensuring compliance with these
- There is also best practice in Child Protection – CPSI is about promoting best practice

The Inspectorate's role in monitoring compliance

- Compliance with child protection is checked on all school inspection models
- Where possible compliance is checked on the first in-school day
- Compliance with child protection is **not** checked during probationary visits and SSE visits
- Once an inspector has noted non-compliance the Inspectorate will continue to engage with the school until deficiencies are addressed



Monitoring compliance during inspection

Level One Monitoring

- Primary: CE, SEN, II.
- Post- Primary: SI, PE, II, FT
- Three compulsory checks

Level Two Monitoring

- WSE, WSE-MLL, DEIS, YR, HSU
- Eight compulsory checks

Level Three Monitoring

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspection Model (CPSI)
- Results in published report

Level One Monitoring – 3 Checks

CE, SEN, SI, PE, II, FT

1. The name of DLP and the Child Safeguarding Statement are prominently displayed near the main entrance

2. The Child Safeguarding Statement has been ratified by the board and includes an annual review and a risk assessment

3. All teachers visited have read the Child Safeguarding Statement and are aware of their responsibilities as a mandated person

Level Two Monitoring – 8 Checks

WSE, WSE-MLL, DEIS, YR, HSU

1.

- The name of the DLP and the Child Safeguarding Statement are prominently displayed near the main entrance to the school

2.

- The Child Safeguarding Statement has been ratified by the board and includes an annual review and a risk assessment

3.

- All teachers visited have read the Child Safeguarding Statement and are aware of their responsibilities as a mandated person

4.

- The Child Safeguarding Statement meets the requirements of the Child Protection Procedures 2017

5.

- The minutes of the three most recent board meetings contain a child protection oversight report

6.

- The board has provided information to all school personnel on the child protection procedures

7.

- School planning documents indicate that the school is making full provision for the relevant aspects of the curriculum (SPHE, Stay Safe, RSE, Well-being)

8.

- Child protection records are maintained in a secure location

Compliance with level 1 and level 2 checks

March – June 2018

- Over eight-five percent of schools were fully compliant with the level 1 checks
- Over eighty percent of schools were fully compliant with the level 2 checks

Non-compliance with level 1 checks March – June 2018

- The level 1 checks that most of the remaining schools were not compliant with were:
 - The name of the DLP and the child safeguarding statement are prominently displayed near the main door of the school / in the reception area
 - The school's child safeguarding statement has been ratified by the board and includes a risk assessment.

Non-compliance with level 2 checks March – June 2018

The level two checks that most of the remaining schools were not compliant involved:

- The provision of a Child Protection Oversight Report to board meetings
- School planning documents for SPHE, Stay Safe and RSE
- The display of the DLP
- The display of the Child Safeguarding Statement
- The board ratifying the Child Safeguarding Statement

Level Three Monitoring

Level Three Monitoring

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspection Model (CPSI)
- Currently in trial in 19 schools

CPSI model - Pilot

19 Schools

9 Primary schools – including 1 Gaelscoil

7 Post primary schools – including 1 Gaelcholáiste

1 Youthreach Centre

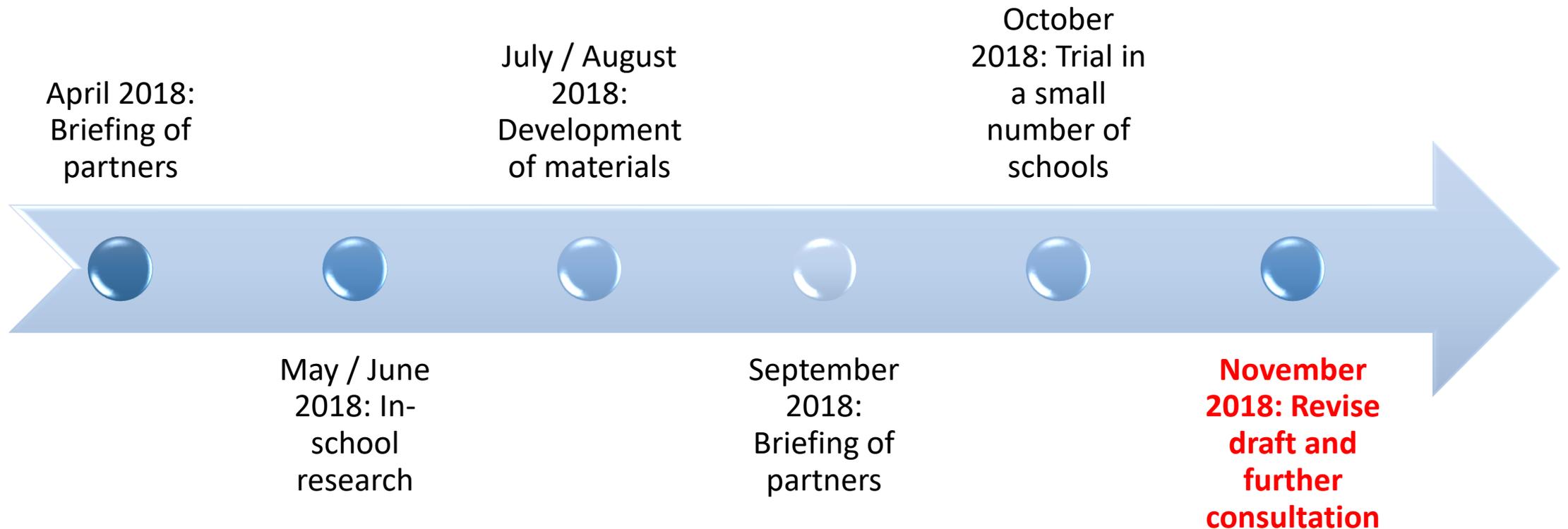
1 School at Special Care Unit

1 Special school

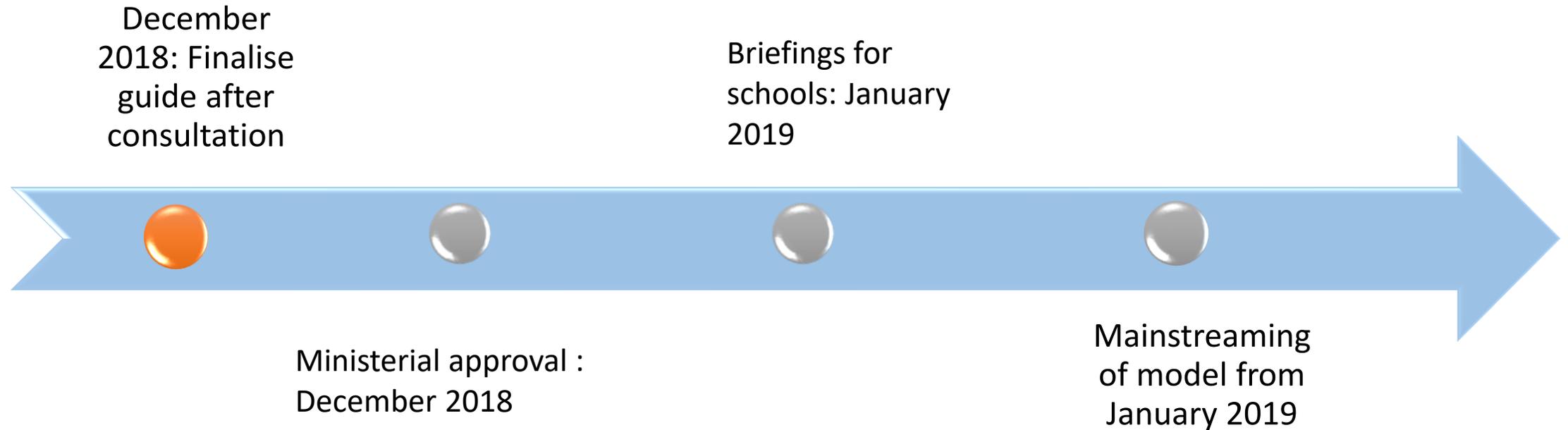
CPSI - Aims

1. Monitor the implementation of the Child Protection Procedures 2017 in a sample of schools
2. Report to the Parents, Learners and Database section and to the Child Protection Oversight Group of the Department on the extent to which the Child Protection Procedures 2017 are implemented in a sample of schools
3. Gather information to inform the development of child protection and safeguarding requirements by the Department and by other government departments and agencies involved in child protection

Timeline for development of CPSI model



Timeline for mainstreaming of CPSI model



CPSI Inspection – What happens?

- Engagement with learners
 - Meetings:
 - DLP / Deputy DLP
 - Chair person of board of management
 - Sample of school personnel
 - SPHE coordinator
 - School self-report form
- Review of documents:
 - Board of management minutes
 - Child safeguarding statement and risk assessment
 - Relevant school plans, monthly progress records (primary) and timetable data (post-primary)
 - Review of child protection records

CPSI model – The main checks

- The school has **communicated** the required aspects of the Child Protection Procedures to relevant stakeholders as required by the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017
- **A DLP and deputy DLP** appointed in line with the requirements of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*
- The board of management reports that it is aware of and discharges its responsibilities to provide **information** to all school personnel and to provide training to all or some members of staff, if required
- The board of management reports that it is aware of its responsibilities in relation to **vetting** of all school employees and report that they discharge these responsibilities
- **A Child Safeguarding Statement and risk assessment** have been prepared in line with the template and requirement of the Child Protection Procedures 2017

CPSI model – The main checks

- Correct **record keeping** procedures are in place for child protection matters
- The minutes of board meetings that were checked contained a child protection **oversight report** in line with the requirements of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017
- The **procedures to report allegations** of abuse were fully implemented in the records examined
- The procedures to report allegations of abuse **against school personnel** were fully implemented in records examined
- There is evidence of implementation of an appropriate Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE) and Stay Safe Programme (P) / SPHE and RSE (PP)

CPSI model – The main checks

- The main checks are based exclusively on the requirements of The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017.
- They reflect a range of aspects of a school's life:
 - Environment
 - Communication
 - Training provided to teachers and board members
 - Reporting requirements
 - Record keeping for child protection matters

CPSI model – Checks and Sub-Checks

- Ten main checks: each main contains a number of sub-checks:

Main Check	Sub-Checks
A Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and a Deputy DLP have been appointed in line with the requirements of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017	The minutes of the board of management meeting record the fact that a DLP and a Deputy DLP have been appointed
	The DLP and the DDLP are current members of the full-time teaching staff
	If the DLP is not the principal the school authority has put arrangements in place to ensure the DLP will keep the principal appropriately informed of child protection matters

CPSI model – Checks and Sub-Checks

Main Check	Sub-Check
Correct record keeping procedures were found in the child protection cases examined	An original file is available for all child protection concerns which contains a record of the concern, all correspondence relevant to the concern and the names of all relevant individuals
	All parties referenced in the files are assigned a unique identifier number
	All files relevant to child protection matters are maintained in a secure location
	The DDLP is aware of the location of the child protection files and can access them if required

CPSI trial – What have we learned **about schools** in the context of the 2017 Procedures?

- Our engagements with schools have been **very positive**
- Schools are taking their responsibilities under the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools **very seriously**
- Schools are diligent in their efforts in relation to **key aspects** of the procedures, particularly those relating to:
 - Appointing a DLP
 - Ensuring a Child Safeguarding Statement and risk assessment are in place
 - Planning for and implementation of an appropriate SPHE and Stay Safe Programme (P)/ SPHE and RSE (PP)

CPSI trial – What have we learned **about schools** in the context of the 2017 Procedures?

- The challenges of the 2017 Procedures from a school's perspective
- CPD in relation to the 2017 Procedures has been partially successful but has not managed to convey all the detail that principals and DLPs need
- The need for further support – January 2019 Inspectorate seminars
- There is scope to further improve compliance with some aspects of the procedures, for example:
 - The administrative and recording procedures for child protection files
 - The provision of the Child Safeguarding Statement to the patron and to parents
 - The details of the Child Protection Oversight Report

CPSI model – What have we learned about the inspection model?

1. Notice

- No notice presents practical difficulties for some schools
- We are considering a short notice period while reserving the right to conduct a CPSI unannounced

2. Clarity of inspection framework – we have:

- Refined the wording of a number of the overarching checks
- Brought greater clarity to a number of the sub-checks
- Plan to publish the CPSI Inspection framework in the *Guide to Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspections*

CPSI model – What have we learned about the inspection model?

3. A new compliance scale/continuum

- We have moved from a binary yes/no check re the overarching checks
- Now use the following re 9 of the 10 overarching checks:
 - *Fully compliant*
 - *Substantially compliant*
 - *Partially compliant*
 - *Not compliant*
- If there is less than full compliance we provide further detail including advice on the action(s) required for full compliance (Actions advised)

CPSI model – What have we learned about the inspection model?

4. A more refined approach to reporting on the overarching CPSI checks:

Aspect of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* checked

3. The board of management reports that it is aware of and discharges its responsibilities to provide information to all school personnel relevant to child protection and to ensure that available training is undertaken by all or some members of staff as required.

Substantially compliant

Additional details:

The **training** provided to school personnel and board members in respect of child protection is largely in line with the requirements of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*. However, not all members of school personnel who were interviewed in the course of the inspection were aware of the actions to take if they receive an allegation or have a suspicion that a child may have been abused or neglected, is being abused or neglected, or is at risk of abuse or neglect by the Designated Liaison Person (DLP).

Action advised:

- ***The board of management is advised to ensure that all school personnel are made aware of all aspects of their responsibilities in respect of child protection.***

CPSI model – What have we learned about the inspection model?

5. Curriculum check

- We are treating the Curriculum check differently:
 - An SPHE curriculum for all children? (Yes / No)
 - We use the Quality continuum for planning and implementation of SPHE / RSE: *Very good, Good, Satisfactory, Fair, Weak*
 - We highlight good practice/ advise on required improvements as appropriate

6. A more detailed introduction to the report:

- What a child protection and safeguarding inspection is
- The inspection procedures
- The scale used for Checks 1 to 9
- The quality continuum used for the Curriculum check

CPSI model – The next steps

Date	Action
November 2018	Complete return CPSI inspections in pilot schools, where agreed – using new report template (one new, clean report for the school)
	Gather feedback from inspectors and from pilot schools on their experiences
December 2018	Update Guide and circulate to partners before end November 2018
	Conclusion of Consultation Process – 18 December 2018
	Finalise Guide and seek Ministerial approval
January 2019	Series of presentations at Education Centres on CPSI model
	Mainstream and implementation

CPSI model – Regional Seminars

Venue	Date
Athlone Education Centre	Monday 21 st January
Blackrock Education Centre	Tuesday 22 nd January
Cork Education Centre	Tuesday 22 nd January
Galway Education Centre	Wednesday 23 rd January
Waterford Education Centre	Thursday 24 th January
Navan Education Centre	Monday 28 th January
Limerick Education Centre	Tuesday 29 th January
Donegal Education Centre	Wednesday 30 th January

Purpose of Regional Seminars

- At the seminars we will outline:
 - The aims of CPSI
 - The features of a CPSI – including notice and length of time
 - The main checks and sub-checks
 - The inspection activities
 - The report format
 - Opportunities for Factual Verification and School Response
 - The follow up process in the case of non-compliance
 - Share good practice and resources

Questions?

