

Witness Name: Albert Heaney, Deputy Director General
Statement No.: 1
Exhibits:
Date: October 2020

THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Investigation into institutional responses to the sexual exploitation of children by
organised network

Supplementary Witness Statement of Albert Heaney, Deputy Director General,
Health and Social Services, Welsh Government

1. I, Albert Heaney, will say as follows:-
2. I am Deputy Director General, Health and Social Services at Welsh Government Cathay's Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ make this witness statement. The statement is made in good faith, in line with the civil service values of openness and transparency. I am the Welsh Government Senior Civil Servant responsible for responding to the IICSA investigation into the Sexual Abuse of Children in Custodial Institutions.
3. In making this witness statement I set out the responsibilities Welsh Government has and does not have and responses to specific questions as they relate to those matters Welsh Government has responsibility for.
4. I attended the CSEN investigation public hearing via Zoom on 1 October 2020 and gave oral evidence on behalf of the Welsh Government.
5. During the hearing the Chair of the Inquiry asked me a question. This was:
6. "In regard to the training of professionals, and particularly social workers "Do you consider that social workers require different knowledge, skills, understanding of the means of effective intervention in child sexual exploitation as opposed to the more traditional kind of prequalifying training in child sexual abuse, despite, of course, there being some similarities? Is this now required in prequalifying social work?"

7. I agreed to provide an answer after hearing and with the assistance of Social Care Wales we say as follows:
8. In relation to social work qualifying training, we do not stipulate an actual curriculum for the social work qualifying programme. Learning outcomes are based on the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Social Work; the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education social work subject benchmark statements and the Code of Professional Practice for Social Care.
9. One of the Key Roles in the NOS relates to:

Assess needs, risks and circumstances
SW12 - Assess needs, risks and circumstances in partnership with those involved
SW13 - Investigate harm or abuse
10. Social work training in Wales is delivered through a partnership model where 50 per cent of the training is undertaken in practice. Our requirements for practice learning specify that a placement of not less than 80 days, is undertaken in a local social services authority which includes experience of statutory social services functions, including safeguarding. Students need to be able to demonstrate they understand the professional role in relation to safeguarding children and adults and they have the skills to contribute appropriately to safeguarding interventions.
11. As part of their continuing professional development, newly-qualified social workers must complete a Consolidation Programme within the first three-year registration period in which they are practising as a social worker. The learning outcomes require candidates to demonstrate their ability to work in increasingly complex practice situations and that they are able to exercise the professional social work role in safeguarding interventions.
12. Child Sexual Exploitation specifically, is one of the training modules provided to social workers by their employers once they are qualified or can be undertaken when they are students during their time on placement. This is something that is led by employers of social workers and is not regulated by Social Care Wales.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief of its truth.

Signed: Albert Heaney

Dated: 27 October 2020

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