



Barnardos
No child gets left behind

SEPARATED CHILDREN IN IRELAND
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Who are Separated Children

- “ Children under 18
- “ Outside their country of origin
- “ Separated from parents or previous legal/ customary primary care giver
- “ May have:
 - experienced war/ violence
 - lost parents
 - been trafficked
 - been smuggled




Statistics

- “ Between 2000 . 2007, 5369 separated children were referred to the HSE
- “ Between 2000 . 2009, 2774 separated children were placed in care
- “ 487 went missing from care
- “ Only 62 of these children have been accounted for



Issues

- “ Equity of care
 - Ensuring:
 - adequate support for separated children dispersed in care system
 - quality access to a social worker and a care plan
 - adequate training and information for foster families
 - inspection of all facilities
- “ Family Reunification
 - Provision of standardised and consistent follow up mechanisms for children reunited with family
- “ Aftercare for aged out minors
 - No aftercare support for children granted refugee status or leave to remain
 - Aged out minors moved to Direct Provision with no legal support (GAL)



Issues

- ~ Age Assessment
 - Need for panel of experts (social worker, GP, psychologist) to assist GNIB and HSE in identification
 - Independent legal support for children involved in disputed age assessments
- ~ Trafficked Children
 - No provision for specialised care for child victims of trafficking in NAP to Prevent and Combat Trafficking (referred to HSE as separated children)
 - Need for point of entry specialist multidisciplinary team to assist in identification of victims of trafficking
 - IRP Bill: Children not given right to apply for recovery or protection residence permit in their own right. Granting of permits dependent on cooperation with Garda investigations when applied to child trafficking cases must be based on best interests of the child above all other considerations
- ~ Missing Children
 - Need to include separated children specific risk assessment tools in the *Children Missing from Care: Joint Protocol between An Garda Siochana and the HSE*



Current Situation

- ~ Separated children currently supported by HSE Dublin South East Local Health Office
- ~ Hostel accommodation for separated children not currently inspected
- ~ Ryan Implementation Plan outlines mainstreaming of care provision for separated children
- ~ HSE Operational Plan to be implemented . phasing out of hostel accommodation by Dec 2010 (Dispersal/ staff training key issues for both residential and foster care)
- ~ National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Trafficking of Human Beings in Ireland published 2009
- ~ Immigration, Residence and Protection Bill still due to go before Oireachtas



Thank you

