**Department of Education Definition of a Vulnerable Child (Jan 21)**

The definition of Vulnerable Children as set out in the cross-departmental Vulnerable Children and Young People's Plan 2020 is: (https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-cross-departmental-covid-19-vulnerable-children-and-young-peoples-plan)

• A child who has an assigned social worker because he or she is a child in need, in need of protection (or on the child protection register) or is a looked after child.

• A child in need includes young carers, children with disabilities, and children living in families where there is domestic abuse, substance abuse, and / or mental health difficulties.

• A child who is receiving support from, or has been referred to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

• A child who has a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN), a child who is accessing EOTAS, or a child who normally accesses Education Nurture Units.

• A child who is ‘on-the-edge’ of receiving support from children’s social services.

• A child who is in need, including in need of protection, but whose need is not known to statutory services.

• A child who is not known to statutory or voluntary and community support services but who is vulnerable because their family is under increased pressure due to Covid-19 related circumstances.

• A young person who was previously a looked after child, whether or not they are receiving support from statutory services.

• A child who has been placed for adoption.

• Asylum seeking and refugee children and children whose parents have no recourse to public funds.