

In Need of Protection (Angel)	Recommendation Five	Reported Status: (not reported)
Report Sent: December 13, 2018	Public Body: Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living, Manitoba Families	
<p>Recommendation Five: The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living and Department of Families, in collaboration with the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, (1) review and reform the province’s treatment programs for children and youth and (2) create safe and secure facilities for youth in Manitoba who are sexually exploited and harmfully involved in substance misuse.</p> <p>DETAILS – This should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve community organizations; • Address the limitations, barriers and occupancy rate concerns of existing resources (e.g. Compass, YASU); • Include a harm reduction policy specific to children and youth; • Recognize that “secure facilities” do not need to be institutions, but can be secured via adequate staffing, geographic locations, and can further be holistic and culturally-based home-like settings; • Involve youth, experiential, and Indigenous stakeholders; • Address accessibility challenges related to addiction and mental health treatment services ; • Be informed by a scan of jurisdictions who successfully incorporate short and long-term safe and secure settings in their continuum of care models for youth who are sexually exploited; and • Be included in the Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Strategy. 		

Response from the Manitoba Government on June 27, 2019:

Summary of activities completed since report was released

The Manitoba mental health and addictions system strategy and design project is a whole-of-government approach to ensuring services are accessible to Manitobans who need them. This includes work related to the implementation of recommendations made in the Virgo report, as well as broader system design work to improve the integration and coordination of services. Part 1 of this recommendation closely aligns with the Virgo report, therefore it is anticipated it will be addressed through the implementation planning process. Please see the details provided in Recommendation #4 in the Circling Star response about the embedding AFM youth counsellors in nine community-based organizations to improve access.

Additionally, this recommendation aligns with a key finding from the Tracia’s Trust research report, Collaboration and Best Practices to End Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking in Manitoba, which also identifies the importance of specialized placements and resources to support exploited youth

including addressing factors such as addictions and mental health. As noted under Recommendation #2, the key findings were shared with Knowledge Keepers, seeking feedback and outlining a draft plan that will be reviewed by stakeholders to inform the next steps of the strategy. The Southern First Nations Network of Care advises the case management standards training is still being developed, with anticipated delivery beginning in Fall 2019 and then available quarterly and as requested. The transitional planning training remains in development, anticipated to be two days of training, and is planned to begin in Fall 2019 and then available quarterly and as requested.

Analysis of Manitoba Government's Response by the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth:	
<p>Activities Completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response identifies that Part 1 of this recommendation aligns with the Virgo report, and it is anticipated that this will be addressed through the implementation planning process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Refers to information provided in Circling Star Recommendation 4 regarding the decentralization of AFM youth counsellors to 9 community-based organization to improve access. • Response identifies that Part 2 of this recommendation aligns with findings from the Tracia's Trust research report, which also identifies the importance of specialized placements to support sexually exploited youth. Feedback is still being sought, with the expected result of a draft plan to inform the next steps of the strategy. 	<p>Level of Compliance</p> <p>This response indicates that the implementation of this recommendation and its details is in early stages.</p> <p>Analysis of Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As this response progresses, helpful information would include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Details surrounding the progress of reforming treatment programs, and an overall addictions and mental health strategy for children and youth in Manitoba. ○ Details on addictions treatment resources that are being developed for sexually exploited youth in Manitoba. • To be addressed in the short term*: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Status of implementation ○ Information indicating a timeline for implementation
<p>*On September 30, 2019, the Manitoba Advocate sent a letter to the members of the government's MACY-RAP committee and working group requesting additional information regarding the government's progress on recommendations made by the Advocate. The Advocate communicated to the government representatives short-term questions for information that could be provided quickly. Additionally, the Advocate sent long-term questions for the government to address in future progress reports. The questions are designed to seek clarification on activities, seek evidence or documentation to support the activities, or to determine how the government's responses are meeting the intent of the recommendations made by the Advocate. All of this information will be used by the Advocate to determine the levels of compliance with</p>	



implementation, in accordance with s.11(1)(d), s.30(2)(d), and s.30(4), of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act*.