Peterborough Police Service Board

Policy
Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Material
2026-LE-058

Contents

1.0 Authority
2.0 Definitions
3.0 Board Policy
4.0 Direction to the Chief
5.0 Report to the Board
6.0 Implementation

1.0 Authority

1.1 Subsection 37(1) of the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1,* ("CSPA") provides that a Board shall provide adequate and effective policing in the area for which it has policing responsibility as required by section 10 of the CSPA;

1.2 Subsection 38 (2) of the CSPA provides that a Police Service Board may establish policies respecting matters related to the police service or the provision of policing;

1.3 SO. Reg. 392/23: Adequacy and Effective Policing (General) prescribes standards for adequacy and effectiveness of police services;

1.4 The Board deems it appropriate that the Chief of Police maintains procedures on and processes for undertaking and managing investigations into child pornography and internet exploitation;

1.5 Section 163.1 of the *Criminal Code* defines *child pornography* and related offences;

1.6 Section 172.1 of the *Criminal Code* defines *child luring* and prohibits the use of computers to communicate with an underage person or a person whom the accused believes to be underage for the purpose of facilitating the commission, with respect to that person of the specified sexual offences;

NOW THEREFORE THE PETERBOROUGH POLICE SERVICE BOARD APPROVES AND ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING:

2.0 Definitions

In this Policy:

2.1 **"Act" or "CSPA"** means *Police Services Act,* R.S.O. 1990, c.P.15, as amended;

2.2 **"Board"** means the Peterborough Police Service Board;

2.3 **"Chief"** means the Chief of the Peterborough Police Service;

2.4 **"Member"** means a member of the Peterborough Police Service;

2.5 **"Ministry"** means the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services;

2.6 **"Provincial Strategy Coordinator"** means the OPP Staff Sergeant, or other officer, designated from time to time by the OPP, responsible for the liaison and co-ordination between various policing agencies participating in the implementation of the project;

2.7 **"Provincial Strategy"** means the Ministry of Community and Correctional Services Provincial Strategy to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation on the Internet. This is a unified team approach intended to support child victims of Internet exploitation. The Provincial Strategy will assist child victims of Internet sexual abuse and exploitation, and permit the justice system to build the capacity and sustainability to:

- Identify child victims through image analysis;
- Provide specialized child victim support;
- Identify and prosecute offenders which will assist in preventing children from being re-victimized;
- Educate via awareness campaigns to assist victims to self-identify and thereby prevent both victimization and re-victimization (self-identification); and
- Engage in partnerships with key stakeholders, which will establish and maintain community and justice system linkages ensuring the reporting and prosecution of offences with a link to victim support.

2.8 **"Service"** means the Peterborough Police Service.

3.0 Board Policy

3.1 The Board recognizes that matters involving child sexual abuse and exploitation material are serious in nature, and it is therefore the policy of this Board that investigations into such matters be conducted professionally and thoroughly, and in accordance with procedures established by the Chief as directed in this Policy.

4.0 Direction to the Chief

4.1 Procedures

4.1.1 The Chief shall develop and maintain procedures relating to investigations into child sexual abuse and exploitation material. These procedures shall:

a) require that investigations be undertaken in accordance with the Service's Criminal Investigation Management Plan; and

b) require compliance with the procedures set out in the Ministry's designated Ontario Major Case Management Manual.

4.1.2 The procedure referred to in Section 4.1.1 above shall require that the Provincial Strategy to Protect Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation on the Internet (Provincial Strategy) be immediately notified in all cases of suspected child sexual abuse and exploitation material and Internet child exploitation.

4.2 Training

4.2.1 The Chief shall ensure that Members involved in investigations into child sexual abuse and exploitation material offences have the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities.

4.2.2 The Chief shall ensure support is provided to manage the psychological well-being of Members to acknowledge risks associated with long-term effects from exposure to child sexual abuse and exploitation materials (Internet child exploitation) investigation related activities.

4.2.3 The Chief shall ensure that the Skills Development and Learning Plan is consistent with best practices for members performing this function.

5.0 Report to the Board

5.1 The Chief shall report to the Board on the Service's implementation of this Policy as follows:

5.1.1 In response to questions from the Board regarding Service procedures developed pursuant to the policy, either verbally at a meeting when the question is asked, or in writing at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting, as directed by the Board; and

5.1.2 Within thirty days of the Chief becoming aware of a breach of Service procedures developed pursuant to this policy that the Chief in his sole discretion determines to be a significant breach that is likely to result in liability for or reputational damage to the Board or the Service, the Chief shall:

a) report to the Board verbally regarding the matter at its next regularly scheduled meeting;

b) provide periodic verbal updates as directed by the Board at subsequent meetings pending completion of internal and external proceedings regarding the matter; and

c) after the conclusion of all internal and external proceedings regarding the matter, provide a written report to the Board explaining:

i) the breach;

ii) the circumstances surrounding the breach;

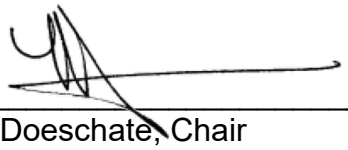
iii) the Chief's liability or reputational concerns; and

iv) the corrective measures taken, including amendments to the procedure to guard against future breaches.

6.0 Implementation

6.1 That the Board approves and adopts this Policy #2026-LE-058 Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Material which shall come into force on October 21, 2026.

6.2 That Policy #LE-036 Child Pornography (Internet Child Exploitation), enacted on October 20, 2014, is hereby repealed effective October 21, 2026.



Mary ten Doeschate, Chair
Peterborough Police Service Board

October 20, 2026
Date



Lisa Wilson, Executive Assistant
Peterborough Police Service Board

October 20, 2026
Date