‘VULNERABLE CHILDREN’

As defined by DENI

The term vulnerable encompasses those children who are in need of protection, or in need, as defined by the Children (NI) Order 1995.

Children and young people in need may include those:

* Receiving support from Health & Social Services including family support, child protection and looked after children services;
* On the Child Protection Register;
* With statements of special education needs;
* Accessing EOTAS;
* Accessing Education Nurture Units;
* With emerging and diagnosed mental health needs;
* Who are homeless;
* Who are young carers;
* Subject to paramilitary threat;
* Whose parents have mental health problems;
* Whose parents have alcohol and drug addictions;
* Affected by domestic violence.

Where possible all children, including those who are vulnerable, should stay at home; however, there may be some instances where continued access to education settings provides a safer option.  Schools in conjunction with parents and social services, where children have a social worker, should work closely together on determining the safest option for each child.  A risk-based approach should be adopted.