

Action Plan

Second National Strategy on
Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence

2016 - 2021



The National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence
An Oifig Náisiúnta um Fhoréigean Baile, Gnéasach agus Inscnebhunaithe a Chosc



AN ROINN DLÍ AGUS CIRT AGUS COMHIONANNAIS
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND EQUALITY



Proposed Actions for Second National Strategy on Domestic Sexual and Gender-based Violence 2016-2021

High Level Goals

1. Prevention - Awareness / Education / Training

Awareness raising

Action 1.100

Education and training

Actions 1.200 – 1.800

2. Provision of Services to Victims and Holding Perpetrators to Account

Provision of Services to Victims

Sexual violence

Action 2.100

Domestic violence

Actions 2.200 – 2.600

Domestic and sexual violence

Action 2.700 – 2.1800



Holding Perpetrators to Account

Sexual violence

Actions 2.1900 – 2.2700

Domestic violence

Action 2.2800 – 2.3300

Domestic and sexual violence

Action 2.3400 – 2.3900

3. Implementation / Monitoring / Data / Research

Implementation and monitoring

Actions 3.100 – 3.500

Data and research

Actions 3.600 - 3.1000

Appendix 1 Council of Europe Istanbul Convention – additional actions

Actions 1 & 2

Notes:

(IST) relates to the relevant Istanbul Convention Article.

(GI Report) relates to the Garda Síochána Inspectorate Report on Crime Investigation



High Level Goal 1

1. Prevention - Awareness / Education / Training

Awareness raising

ACTION 1.100

Develop and implement a coherent national awareness raising campaign to achieve attitudinal and societal change to support the prevention of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence

Tailor the national message for local delivery

Continue to work with specific audiences including persons who are high risk, marginalised or with specific needs and continue to work with professional bodies on awareness raising

Implementing bodies

Cosc (lead), Tusla, An Garda Síochána, Department of Education and Skills, relevant voluntary and community sector groups

Timescale

Commence quarter 1 2016 and then ongoing through the term of the Strategy

Education / Training

ACTION 1.200

Develop awareness / education programmes for primary schools in an age and diversity appropriate way in relation to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.

Implementing bodies

Department of Education and Skills (lead), primary schools in consultation with relevant stakeholders

Timescale

Quarter 3, 2016



ACTION 1.300

Develop awareness / education programmes for second level schools and Youthreach in an age and diversity appropriate way in relation to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.

Implementing bodies

Department of Education and Skills (lead), second level schools, and Youthreach in consultation with relevant stakeholders

Timescale

Quarter 3, 2016

ACTION 1.400

Develop education programmes for relevant professions and disciplines at third level

Implementing bodies

Department of Education and Skills, third level institutions, post-graduate research network (see action 3.1000)

Timescale

Timescale to be developed once the post-graduate research network is established.

ACTION 1.500

Develop and deliver education / training modules both initial training and developmental training, for continual delivery to specific target groups in the public sector (IST 15)

Implementing bodies


The following organisations will develop and deliver programmes for relevant staff under their own aegis:

An Garda Síochána, Court Services staff, Probation Service, Tusla and HSE in consultation with relevant stakeholders as appropriate

Timescale

An Garda Síochána will finalise the review of their Domestic Violence Intervention Policy by quarter 1 2016

This will inform the development of training, including joint inter-agency training, for An Garda Síochána personnel dealing with domestic violence and sexual assault by quarter 4 2017



Roll out training for An Garda Síochána starting quarter 1 2018 and ongoing throughout the term of the Strategy.

The Courts Service will provide training for staff who are involved in the administration of family law by quarter 4 2017

Probation Service relevant staff training, ongoing to the end of the Joint Probation Service / Irish Prison Service Women's Strategy, quarter 4 2016 and the Joint Irish Prison Service / Probation Service Strategy, quarter 4, 2017.

Develop a shared approach between Tusla and HSE – in collaboration with service provider organisations – towards commissioning of training of frontline professionals in each agency that assures a consistent, appropriate and culturally competent response to persons presenting to services. Training should also include a focus on establishing standards, addressing quality improvement and measuring outcomes. Initiate training by quarter 2 2016 and then ongoing through the term of the Strategy.

ACTION 1.600

- a. Develop strategic approaches to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence training within Tusla:
- b. Develop commissioning approaches (internal and external) with associated resources, for provision of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence training
- c. Assess existing academic and professional education provision in service provider organisations to assess gaps and work with academic and other partners on initiatives to address gaps.

Implementing bodies

Tusla (lead) with the domestic violence and sexual violence service providers funded by Tusla

Timescale

- a. Quarter 1 2016
- b. Quarter 1 2016
- c. Begin quarter 2, 2016 and then ongoing through the term of Strategy

ACTION 1.700

Liaise with the Judicial Studies Institute in relation to the provisions in the EU Victims Directive relevant to victims of domestic and sexual violence to raise awareness among the judiciary.



Implementing bodies

Cosc

Timescale

Quarter 2 2016 and ongoing throughout the lifetime of the Strategy

ACTION 1.800

Develop and deliver education / training modules, both initial training and developmental training – for continual delivery to legal practitioners (IST 15)

Implementing bodies

Law Society, Bar Council, King's Inns

Timescale

Bar Council new modules in Quarters 1 and 2 of 2016 and related new lectures in quarter 4, 2015 and 2016 and then ongoing through the term of the Strategy.

Law Society ongoing through the term of the Strategy, resources to be made available online for the public and practitioners.

King's Inns will update its Diploma in Legal Studies and Barrister-at-Law degree course by quarter 3, 2016



High Level Goal 2

2. Provision of Services to Victims and Holding Perpetrators to Account

Provision of Services to Victims

Sexual violence

ACTION 2.100

Develop appropriate mechanisms for commissioning of psychological support services in line with the SATU National Guidelines (3rd edition) for victims of sexual violence attending at SATUs.

Implementing bodies

HSE, Tusla, in partnership with non-governmental service provider organisations.

Timescale

Q 4, 2016 Onwards

Domestic violence

ACTION 2.200

Enact Domestic Violence Bill (IST 18.2, 52, 55(2), 56(1)(g) and 56(1)(i))

Implementing bodies

Department of Justice and Equality

Timescale

The general scheme of Domestic Violence Bill was published in July 2015 and was referred to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality for pre-legislative scrutiny.

Enact by quarter 1 2016



ACTION 2.300

a. Develop guidance for local authorities with regard to the policy and procedural aspects of their housing role which will ensure effectiveness and consistency in local authority responses. Guidelines will identify best-practice and the role that housing authorities can play in assisting victims of domestic violence, including:

- assessment for social housing supports; and
- provisions relating to existing home-owners.

b. Deliver participatory engagement sessions for housing authorities, through the forum of the National Lead Authority Network, to ensure that lead authorities are familiarised with the above guidelines and the role that housing authorities can play in assisting victims of domestic violence

Implementing bodies

Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (lead), housing authorities

Timescale

- a. Quarter 1, 2016
b. Quarter 2. 2016

ACTION 2.400

Review current approaches and outcomes in respect of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence questions used by all staff in different community and hospital contexts / environments and with specific target groups:

Child Protection and Welfare

Pregnant women,

Addiction services,

Accident and emergency services,

Mental health services,

Primary care services

Maternity services, and

Social inclusion services

And agree further actions and consistency of approaches as appropriate.

Implementing bodies

HSE

Timescale

Commencing in quarter 3, 2016, completion in quarter 1 2017



ACTION 2.500

Following every report of a Domestic Violence incident either the Investigating member or other member of An Garda Síochána appointed by the Divisional Inspector will

- a. personally call to the victim in the incident within seven days of the incident, in accordance with the Garda policy in order to:
- b. invite the victim to make a statement
- c. carry out a more in depth risk assessment if necessary, and
- d. provide information on victim services, Court orders and additional information as appropriate
- e. record this follow up call on PULSE and any actions arising from the call.

Implementing bodies

An Garda Síochána

Timescale

a, b, d and e Quarter 1, 2016

c. Quarter 4 2016

NOTE: see Action 2.900 in relation to c. above

ACTION 2.600

Review the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme for victims of domestic violence and decide whether victims of domestic violence will be included or to exercise a reservation in relation to article 30(2) of the Istanbul Convention. (IST 5, 30(2), 30(3), 78(2))

Implementing bodies

Department of Justice and Equality

Timescale


Quarter 2 2017

Domestic and sexual violence

ACTION 2.700

Implement the Victims Directive (IST 7(1), 7(2), 56(1)(b), 56(1)(c), 56(1)(d), 56(1)(g))

Develop protocols for referral of victims to and from support services including state sector services (IST 18)



Develop and disseminate a joint Irish Prison Service and Probation Service information leaflet for victims.

Implementing bodies

Department of Justice and Equality, An Garda Síochána, Courts Service, Irish Prison Service, Probation Service, Tusla, voluntary and community sector organisations

Timescale

Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Bill, 2015 enacted by Quarter 1, 2016

Irish Prison Service and Probation Service leaflet – Q4 2017

The Courts Service will extend the family support and referral service currently available in Dolphin House (the Dublin family law courts) to other court houses, subject to the availability of facilities and the co-operation of voluntary sector organisations ongoing throughout the term of the Strategy.

ACTION 2.800

An Garda Síochána will work closely with the Garda Inspectorate in respect of the implementation of recommendations which concern victim-centred policy and good investigative practices in domestic violence and sexual crime as contained in the Garda Inspectorate's Report on Crime Investigation dated October 2014.

This work will form the basis for additional actions by An Garda Síochána for inclusion in the second National Strategy on Domestic Violence, Sexual and Gender-based Violence 2015-2020.

Implementing bodies: An Garda Síochána

Timescale

Additional actions and timescales to be agreed by quarter 1 2016

ACTION 2.900

An Garda Síochána will develop and implement a Risk Assessment Matrix for all victims of domestic violence and sexual crime.
(IST 51 IST 5.2, GI Report 6.18, 10.5)

Implementing bodies

An Garda Síochána



Timescale

Quarter 4 2016

ACTION 2.1000

Improve confidence in how An Garda Síochána manages Domestic and Sexual Abuse within diverse and emerging communities, such as the Traveller and Roma communities by supporting inter-agency and community partnerships both locally and nationally.

Implementing bodies

An Garda Síochána (lead)

Timescale

Starting quarter 1 2016 and ongoing throughout the term of the Strategy

ACTION 2.1100

Develop appropriate, evidence based, targeted interventions in domestic, sexual and gender-based violence in communities of particular vulnerability, including migrants, Traveller and Roma women and people with substance misuse difficulties (see action 2.1000)

Implementing bodies

HSE and Tusla with commissioned service provider organisations

Timescale

Beginning in quarter 2, 2016 and then ongoing through the term of the Strategy.

ACTION 2.1200

Implement co-ordinated, integrated national helpline service provision responding to the issues of domestic violence and sexual violence:

- a. Tusla will undertake commissioning for two 24 hour helplines, one for domestic violence and one for sexual violence
- b. Tusla will work with service provider organisations to achieve demonstrably co-ordinated helpline service provision for domestic violence and sexual violence and to enhance access to services for those who require help or information (IST 24)



Implementing bodies

Tusla to commission in consultation with stakeholders,

Timescale

- a. Q3 2016
- b. Q4 2017

ACTION 2.1300

In relation to mutual legal assistance, amend the Criminal Law (Mutual Assistance) Act, 2008 to include reference to the Istanbul Convention in that Act.

When and if the Istanbul Convention is ratified by a country which is not a member of the Council of Europe, designate that country under the Istanbul Convention. (IST 62(3))

Implementing bodies

Department of Justice and Equality for amendment of 2008 Act, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for designation of a country.

Timescale

Amendment of the Criminal Law (Mutual Assistance) Act, 2008, timescale to be specified at a later date.

Designation of a country, if necessary after Ireland ratifies the Istanbul Convention.

ACTION 2.1400

The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission is committed to providing information to victims of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention on access to complaint mechanisms such as the European Court of Human Rights. (IST 21)

Implementing bodies


Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

Timescale

To commence on ratification of the Istanbul Convention

ACTION 2.1500

Implement structures and processes within Tusla to achieve greater co-ordination of services including:

- 
- a. Structures for national oversight
 - b. Implementation of consolidated national budget and single line of accountability for domestic, sexual and gender-based violence within Tusla.
 - c. Engagement with partners in service provider organisations to inform developments in governance and support for domestic violence and sexual violence service provision

Implementing bodies

Tusla

Timescale

- a. Quarter 1 2016 and then ongoing throughout the term of the Strategy
- b. Quarter 1, 2015
- c. Initial phase by quarter 4 2015 and then ongoing throughout the term of the Strategy

ACTION 2.1600

Tusla will establish effective commissioning approaches to achieve equitable access to services and positive outcomes

- a. Implement appropriate systems and processes for commissioning, including.
- b. Identify areas for enhanced domestic violence accommodation-based and outreach services and develop integrated models of community based service delivery
- c. Implement pilot outreach services for victims of sexual violence across Border and Midlands areas where there are access and resource issues, embedding successful pilot arrangements into sustainable services.

Implementing bodies

Tusla with commissioned service provider agencies

Timescale

- a. beginning quarter 1 2016,
with substantial implementation by quarter 1 2018
ongoing throughout the term of the Strategy
- b. beginning quarter 1 2016
ongoing throughout the term of the Strategy



ACTION 2.1700

Quality Assurance

Develop standards for domestic and sexual violence services to ensure that services to victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence are in line with international legislative and regulatory frameworks and based on best practice. This work will build on Quality Assurance and standards developments previously undertaken within the domestic, sexual and gender-based violence sector and be developed in line with the Tusla Quality Assurance Framework.

Implementing bodies

Tusla with commissioned service provider organisations

Timescale

Development of initial set of standards – quarter 1 2017

Phased implementation of standards with monitoring framework beginning in quarter 4 2018 and then ongoing throughout the term of the Strategy

ACTION 2.1800

Service user engagement

Tusla commissioning approaches will include the use of service user/victim/survivor engagement as part of planning and evaluation of service delivery.

- a. Include service user engagement mechanisms as part of commissioning processes for 2016
- b. Initiate project to establish knowledge basis for effective engagement with service users in domestic violence and sexual violence services
- c. Pilot/demonstration project(s) for service user engagement
- d. Further specific developments to be identified following evaluation of outcomes from activities in 2016
- e. Include a framework for robust and effective service user engagement mechanisms in commissioning for domestic violence and sexual violence services

Implementing bodies

Tusla

Timescale

- a. Quarter 1 2016
- b. Quarter 2 2016
- c. Quarter 4 2016
- d. Quarter 3 2017
- e. Quarter 4 2018



Holding Perpetrators to Account

Sexual violence

ACTION 2.1900

Develop and enact legislation to strengthen protections for victims of sexual violence

Implementing bodies

Department of Justice and Equality

Timescale

Publish Bill quarter 4, 2015.

ACTION 2.2000

Develop and enact legislation to provide additional safeguards in the management of convicted sex offenders.

Implementing bodies

Department of Justice and Equality

Timescale

Publish Bill quarter 2, 2016

ACTION 2.2100

Implement option for self-referring victim to sexual assault treatment units to have forensic examination and report, pending a decision to report or not to An Garda Síochána

Implementing bodies

Sexual Assault Treatment Units and HSE

Timescale

Quarter 2, 2016



ACTION 2.2200

Promote and support high quality data collection within sexual assault treatment units to ensure accurate collation of national key service activities to assist with service planning and delivery.

Implementing bodies

Sexual Assault Treatment Units and HSE

Timescale

Begin quarter 1, 2016, and then ongoing through the term of the Strategy.

ACTION 2.2300

Support revision and update of the sexual assault treatment unit's *Recent Rape / Sexual Assault: National Guidelines on Referral and Forensic Clinical Examination in Ireland* to ensure high quality care and optimal service provision in line with best practice.

Implementing bodies

Sexual Assault Treatment Units with relevant agencies

Timescale

The revised guideline to be published by quarter 2, 2018

ACTION 2.2400

Review and develop prison and community sexual violence perpetrator programmes

Implementing bodies

Department of Justice and Equality, Irish Prison Service, Probation Service

Timescale

Irish Prison Service and Probation Service in line with their joint Strategy, quarter 4, 2017



ACTION 2.2500

- a. The National SORAM Office will conduct regional workshops with Local Soram teams
- b. The National SORAM Office will develop a manual of best practice for Local SORAM teams

Implementing bodies

An Garda Síochána

Timescale

- a. Quarter 3 2015
- b. Quarter 4 2016

ACTION 2.2600

Develop therapeutic intervention programmes for voluntary participants in sexual violence programmes for non-convicted abusers

Implementing bodies

HSE, One in Four in collaboration with Tusla

Timescale

Commencing quarter 2, 2016 and then ongoing through the term of the Strategy.

ACTION 2.2700

Probation Service to establish a system for providing appropriate mediation and restorative justice services with safeguards in cases of sexual violence

Implementing bodies

Probation Service

Timescale

Pilot commenced in quarter 3 2015 to quarter 3, 2017

Review of pilot by quarter 2, 2018



Domestic violence

ACTION 2.2800

Extend access to interim barring orders – Domestic Violence Bill, (IST 52)

Implementing bodies

Department of Justice and Equality

Timescale

The general scheme of Domestic Violence Bill was published in July, 2015 and referred to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality for pre-legislative scrutiny

Enact quarter 1 2016

ACTION 2.2900

Establish a family law court system

Implementing bodies

Department of Justice and Equality, Courts Service

Timescale

It is intended to publish the General Scheme of a Family Courts Bill by quarter 1 2016

ACTION 2.3000

Establish a family court complex at Hammond Lane in the Dublin Metropolitan region which would include matters relating to domestic violence including voluntary sector support services, legal aid and other services.

Implementing bodies

Courts Service

Timescale

Currently being researched. Time frames will be provided following the research period.



ACTION 2.3100

Give judges legislative power to refer domestic violence perpetrators to programmes in the Domestic Violence Bill (IST 18(2))

Implementing bodies

Department of Justice and Equality (lead), Courts Service (administration of new legislation)

Timescale

The general scheme of Domestic Violence Bill was published in July, 2015 and referred to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality for pre-legislative scrutiny

Enact quarter 1 2016

ACTION 2.3200

Continue to develop domestic violence perpetrator programmes during the term of the Strategy through

- a. the introduction of risk assessment with a view to tailoring the approach to individual needs,
- b. the development of a national approach to programme content between providers
- c. introducing two new programmes in 2016 and a new programme each year thereafter and
- d. further develop support for partners of perpetrators participating in programmes

Implementing bodies

Cosc with domestic violence perpetrator programmes. Individual service providers will be involved in partner support. The Probation Service will liaise with existing providers in the delivery of perpetrator programmes.

Timescale

- a. Quarter 4, 2016
- b. Quarter 4, 2016
- c. Ongoing throughout the term of the Strategy
- d. Quarter 2, 2017



ACTION 2.3300

Supporting legislation will be required to enable An Garda Síochána wear and activate body mounted cameras when responding to potential domestic violence incidents to gather and use evidence as appropriate. If / when this legislation is enacted An Garda Síochána may then be in a position to wear body mounted cameras.

Implementing bodies

An Garda Síochána, Department of Justice and Equality

Timescale

Business case for legislation to be submitted quarter 4 2015

Quarter 2 2018 for An Garda Síochána (also dependent on enactment of legislation)

Domestic and sexual violence

ACTION 2.3400

An Garda Síochána will ensure consistent and professional pro-active responses to incidents of domestic and sexual abuse, including:

- a. Reviewing Garda Responses to domestic & sexual violence incidents to ensure they are appropriate, professional and consistent with best practice and policy.
- b. Making greater use of investigative skills and evidence gathering procedures to support victims and increase criminal prosecutions.
- c. Utilising proposed risk assessment processes (actions 2.500 and 2.900)
- d. Ensuring better supervision and awareness of responsibility to review, oversee and ensure incidents are managed and investigated promptly and effectively.
- e. Identifying recidivist offenders and managing repeat domestic abuse incidents (action 2.3600)
- f. Ensuring greater emphasis and promoting inter-agency co-operation.

Implementing bodies

An Garda Síochána

Timescale

a, b, d, e, f Quarter 3 2018

c Quarter 4 2016



ACTION 2.3500

An Garda Síochána will develop its capacity to analyse data from Pulse and will gather evidence of good practice from other jurisdictions to inform the development of future policies in the areas of domestic violence intervention and the investigation of sexual crime.

Implementing bodies

An Garda Síochána

Timescale

Starting quarter 2 2018 and ongoing throughout the term of the Strategy.

ACTION 2.3600

An Garda Síochána will focus on recidivists of domestic violence and sexual crime to prevent and detect crime through early intervention/ intelligence led operations, working with organisations supporting victims.

Garda resources can focus on recidivists through the intelligence function in matters not directly related to domestic violence or sexual crime but involving other suspected criminal activity. This can result in a significant reduction in the risk to victims of domestic violence and sexual crime as there is no dependence or legal responsibility placed on the victim to break the circle of violence. It also provides a window of opportunity for support agencies to work with and support victims.

Implementing bodies

An Garda Síochána

Timescale

Beginning quarter 4 2017 and ongoing throughout the term of the Strategy.

ACTION 2.3700

An Garda Síochána will promote perpetrator programmes for domestic and sexual violence and will where necessary encourage perpetrators to engage with such programmes.

Implementing bodies

An Garda Síochána

Timescale

Quarter 4 2017



ACTION 2.3800

Legislate for extraterritorial jurisdiction where an offence is committed by an Irish national or a person who is habitually resident in Ireland over

- Offences in the Non Fatal Offences Against the Person Act, 1997
- Sexual offences
- The new offence of forced marriage (see 2.3900 below)

Female genital mutilation offences have extraterritorial application.

Legislate for extraterritorial jurisdiction over the offences above where the offence is committed against an Irish national or a person who is habitually resident in Ireland

Opt out of article 44.3 of the Istanbul Convention in relation to the abolition of the principle of dual criminality.

Ensure that administrative arrangements cover EU and non-EU citizens reporting crimes to An Garda Síochána which were perpetrated in another country by an Irish national or a person habitually resident in Ireland, to ensure that they are not required to report the crime in the country in which it occurred.

(IST 44)

Implementing bodies

Department of Justice and Equality, Department of Social Protection, Department of Health, An Garda Síochána

Timescale

Quarter 4, 2017

ACTION 2.3900

Create a specific offence of forced marriage.

Create a new offence in relation to the intentional conduct of luring an adult or a child to the territory of a Party or State other than the one she or he resides in with the purpose of forcing this adult or child to enter into a marriage.

(IST 37(2))

Any new offence of luring a person abroad for a forced marriage would need to be indictable (IST 37 and 58).

Implementing bodies

Department of Justice and Equality

Timescale

Quarter 4, 2017



High Level Goal 3

3. Implementation / Monitoring / Data / Research

Implementation / monitoring

ACTION 3.100

Monitor implementation of the Strategy on a six monthly basis

Implementing bodies

Cosc

Timescale

Beginning for quarter 3 2016 and then every second and fourth quarter throughout the term of the Strategy.

ACTION 3.200

The Strategy is to be a living document, with actions being added as opportunities arise and circumstances require, and actions being terminated on foot of monitoring returns.

Implementing bodies

Any state or voluntary sector body, which is a member of the monitoring structure can propose in writing the modification or termination of an existing action or the addition of a new action to the Strategy.

Timescale

Ongoing throughout the term of the Strategy



ACTION 3.300

An annual report on the monitoring exercise to be placed in the Oireachtas library, after being noted by Government. (IST 70)

Implementing bodies

Cosc

Timescale

Beginning quarter 2, 2017 for the full year of 2016 and then every quarter 2 until the quarter 2 after the end of the Strategy.

ACTION 3.400

Establish a monitoring committee of key stakeholders for the Strategy.

Implementing bodies

Cosc

Timescale

Quarter 1, 2016

ACTION 3.500

Establish an Interdepartmental Strategy Oversight Group. The oversight group will report to the Cabinet Committee on Social Policy and Public Service Reform as required.

(IST 7.3)

Implementing bodies

Cosc

Timescale

Quarter 1, 2016



Data and research

(Victims Directive article 28)

ACTION 3.600

Establish a bottom line “gold standard” of data collection and analysis by all agencies working in the area(s) of domestic and sexual violence whereby all datasets are disaggregated by:

- Age of victim and perpetrator
- Sex of victim and perpetrator
- Relationship between victim and perpetrator
- Ethnicity of victim and perpetrator
- Any disabilities of victim and perpetrator

Implementing bodies

Cosc led with An Garda Síochána, Courts Service, Irish Prison Service, Probation Service, Legal Aid Board, Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal, Sexual Assault Treatment Units, Tusla with possible later extension to the Department of Social Protection.

Timescale

Timescale for compliance by different organisations to be agreed by quarter 3, 2016.

ACTION 3.700

Implement the findings of the Expert Group on Crime Statistics in relation to the compilation of crime statistics by the CSO, relevant to domestic violence and sexual violence, when the Group completes its work

Implementing bodies

Depending on the recommendations of the Expert Group

Timescale

In line with the recommendations of the Expert Group



ACTION 3.800

- a. Implement a set of key performance indicators and collection of basic standard dataset from funded domestic violence and sexual violence services
- b. Implement project to develop knowledge management systems for funded sexual violence and domestic violence services
- c. Development of outcome-focused key performance indicators

Implementing bodies

Tusla (lead) with voluntary sector organisations

Timescale

- a. Quarter 4 2015
- b. Phase 1 beginning quarter 1 2016 will inform further developments
- c. Quarter 1 2017

ACTION 3.900

CSO will produce recorded crime statistics where a Modus Operandi of Domestic Violence has been indicated

Implementing bodies

CSO (lead), An Garda Síochána

Timescale

The CSO will produce initial statistics by the end of Quarter 1, 2016. These statistics will subsequently be issued on a quarterly basis.

ACTION 3.1000

Facilitate relevant third level institutes to establish a postgraduate research network on domestic violence and sexual violence

Implementing bodies

Cosc with interested third level institutions

Timescale

Establish network by quarter 1, 2016

Workplan ongoing for the duration of the Strategy



Appendix 1 Council of Europe Istanbul Convention – additional actions

ACTION 1

Provide support for child witnesses of domestic and sexual violence (IST 18, 26)

- a. Roll-out of the Meitheal, Tusla service delivery model for children and families in 2015 will provide a framework for greater attention and responsiveness to child welfare concerns, including children who experience domestic violence in the home. Ongoing developments of Meitheal in 2016 may provide further opportunities for enhanced responses in future years.
- b. Legislating to put elements of Children First on a statutory basis, including mandated reporting for specific individuals: lead responsibility for DCYA; and Implementation of Children First guidance and legislation: lead responsibility for Tusla (with significant responsibilities on departments, sectors, organisations and individuals providing services for children to implement the guidance and legislation, and assist Tusla in this regard).
- c. Tusla will be looking at evidence base for effective supports for children who experience domestic violence, to inform commissioning of services.
- d. Promote and support collaborative efforts between HSE and Tusla in relation to ensuring relevant HSE services including CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services), Disability Services and other therapeutic services, are aware of the impact on children of witnessing domestic or sexual violence and are equipped to respond differently.

Implementing bodies

- a and c Tusla
- b Department of Children and Youth Affairs/Tusla
- d HSE (lead) with Tusla

Timescale

- a. Commencing by quarter 4 2015, further developments by quarter 4 2016
- b. Legislation to be enacted by quarter 4, 2015, implementation to follow.
- c. Complete by quarter 4 2016 to inform commissioning by quarter 2 2017
- d. Commenced with completion by quarter 2, 2018



ACTION 2

Examine the potential, under the Irish legal framework, for the removal of the common law defence of reasonable chastisement which may be availed of in proceedings under the Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person Act 1997 and under section 246 of the Children Act 2001 (IST 35).

Implementing bodies

Department of Children and Youth Affairs (lead), with the Department of Justice and Equality

Timescale

Quarter 2, 2016
