



COSC

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

Strategy Statement 2010-2014

November, 2010

What is Cosc?

Cosc is the National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence. Cosc is an Irish word and means “to stop” or “to prevent”. Cosc was established in June 2007 with the key responsibility to ensure the delivery of a well co-ordinated "whole of Government" response to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence. The work of Cosc covers issues relating to domestic and sexual violence against women and men, including older people in the community.

The office is an executive office of the Department of Justice and Law Reform. It is situated within the Department, but has been given a remit to address domestic, sexual and gender-based violence from a cross-government perspective rather than solely from that of the justice sector. Cosc's role covers co-ordination across the justice, health, housing, education, family support and community sectors. Cosc's role to co-ordinate the actions across the 'whole of government', includes close interaction with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) supported by Government funds.

The current primary function of Cosc is to drive the implementation of the National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence 2010-2014.

Cosc has been given specific tasks as follows:

- Working with Government Departments, agencies and NGOs in the sector to ensure the delivery of a well co-ordinated service to support victims of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.
- Developing and delivering awareness raising strategies to ensure that victims are aware of the availability of services in their locality and that society is made aware of the extent and impact of behaviours and crimes of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.
- Developing strategies, standards for service delivery and training programmes to address the issue of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence in line with best international practice.
- Putting in place strategically based positive actions which work with perpetrators of domestic violence.
- Providing leadership and support to the National Steering Committee on Violence Against Women (NSC) and its sub-committees.
- Continuing to implement the recommendations of the 1997 Task Force Report on Violence against Women.
- Working to establish a body of research to inform future policy directions for domestic, sexual and gender-based violence
- Representing Ireland at international fora which have a remit in relation to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.
- Proposing legislative/policy change.

Mission

We work to improve the delivery of a well co-ordinated effective response to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence in Ireland.

We do this by facilitating action for the prevention of these crimes, the protection of

What are Cosc's Values?

The following values inform all of Cosc's activities.

Co-operation

We realise that in order to make progress co-operation with and between our stakeholders is critically important. Working in close co-operation with those organisations is key to successfully carrying out Cosc's functions.

Trust

We seek to develop the high level of trust we share with the organisations with which we interact.

Learning

We recognise the experience of the organisations with which we interact. We respect that experience and work to build on it.

Fairness

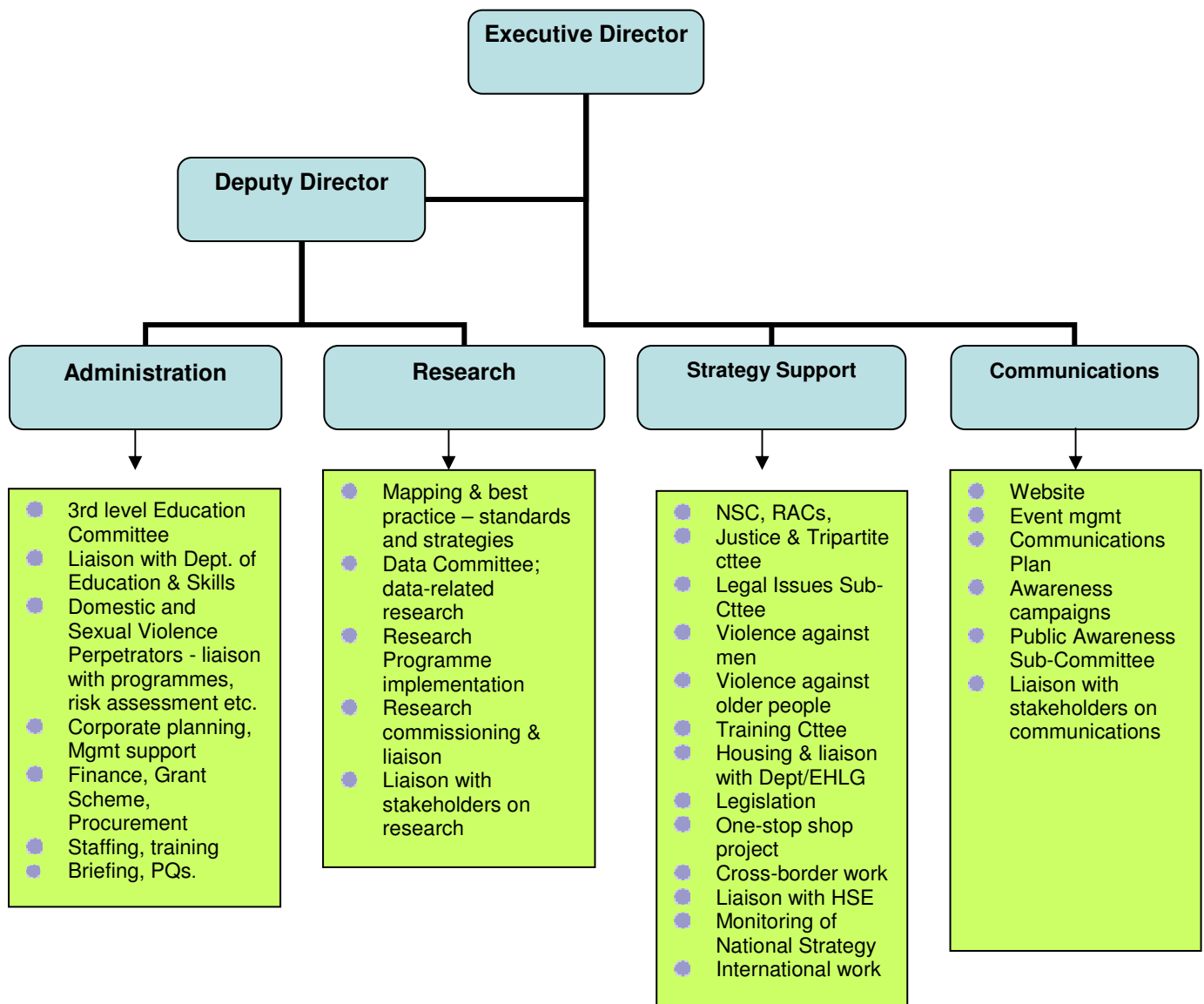
We endeavour to be fair in all our actions.

Service

We respond to all queries and correspondence in the shortest possible timeframe.

How does Cosc do its work?

Cosc's functions are supported by the following structure:



The Executive Director reports to the Secretary General of the Department of Justice and Law Reform, and to the Minister for Justice and Law Reform.

Cosc carries out its functions principally through interaction with interested and relevant organisations either on a one-to-one basis or through a small number of committees. The office strives to ensure a partnership approach and to work with stakeholders in a simple structure which minimises the number of committees.

Cosc links with the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in relation to domestic and sexual violence involving children. Cosc also links with the Office for Older People in relation to domestic and sexual violence involving older people.

Cosc's Strategic Priorities 2010-2014

Strategic Priority 1: Implementation of the National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence 2010-2014

Actions

- Monitor, drive and review the implementation of the National Strategy.
- Facilitate resolution of barriers to implementation of the National Strategy.

Strategic Priority 2: Enhance co-ordination of policies and services on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.

Actions

- Strengthen, facilitate and support the structures for interagency collaboration work.
- Lead and drive effective follow-up work to enhance co-ordination in order to ensure effective preventative and response actions.
- Ensure that domestic, sexual and gender-based violence is acknowledged in Government Strategies.
- Facilitate and encourage the sharing of information on policies, procedures and guidelines etc.
- Represent Ireland at international fora (EU, Council of Europe etc.) for exchange of information and enhancement of policies.

Strategic Priority 3: Provide a foundation for effective strategies to address domestic, sexual and gender-based violence based on sound empirical evidence.

Actions

- Work with stakeholders to identify research projects to support the development of evidence-based policies and strategies.
- Develop and implement an annual Co-ordinated Research Programme.
- Monitor and review implementation of the programme.
- Lead and drive the collation and analysis of high level data to assist the identification of trends in the incidence and prevalence of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence to inform policy and practice development.
- Develop relationships with research units in other organisations to ensure maximum co-ordination on research and policy development.

- Propose legislative and policy change on the basis of robust legal submissions.

Strategic Priority 4: Development and implementation of strategically-based actions which work with perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence.

Actions

- Strengthen Domestic Violence Perpetration programmes to ensure greater effectiveness.
- Fund domestic violence perpetrator intervention programmes and monitor the governance of the programmes on an ongoing basis.
- Facilitate the development and implementation of risk management arrangements for high-risk domestic violence perpetrators.
- Support and encourage the delivery of National Strategy actions to manage risks posed by sexual and domestic violence perpetrators.
- Support and encourage the delivery of National Strategy actions to deal with sexual violence perpetrators.

Strategic Priority 5: Increase awareness of the nature and extent of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence, as well as of the services available to those experiencing this violence.

Actions:

- Develop an annual Cosc communications plan.
- Monitor, implement and review the plan.
- Support and encourage effective and collaborative awareness raising campaigns.
- Support awareness-raising activities of NGOs and evaluate the effectiveness of the Cosc Grant Scheme.

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