

National Strategy on Domestic Sexual and Gender-based Violence 2010-2014

3rd Report to Strategy Oversight Committee of Progress in Implementation of Strategy

June 2011

Overall Strategic Objective:

The development of a strong framework for sustainable intervention to prevent and effectively respond to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence

Note:

The Lead bodies were requested to complete **Column 6** - "Progress to date" for the period up to end Q1 (April) 2011 and to give particular attention to activities that were scheduled for completion in 2010.

Respondents were also asked to report on progress towards achieving targets for the second and third quarters of 2011 and, if significant, progress on Activities scheduled for completion in the last quarter of 2011.

Reasons for delays in achieving targets and remedial action planned to achieve completion was also requested.

While specific reasons for delays in achieving the target indicators have not been provided by respondents, Cosc has been made aware that staff resource issues, such as restrictions in T&S spending, non-replacement of staff, reorganisation and the change of Government have contributed to the delay in achieving some targets. It is notable however that all actions continue to make progress.

High-Level Goal 1:

To promote a culture of prevention and recognition through increased understanding of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence

Key objectives

- 1 To increase understanding, recognition and practical information on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence throughout society in Ireland
- 2 To increase understanding and recognition of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence in State-sector organisations
- 3 To raise awareness among young people of domestic, sexual and gender-based abuse.

	Action	Activities	Lead body and Implementation structure	Progress indicator	Progress to Date
1	Promote and develop an understanding and recognition of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence among the general public and specific audiences	<p>1.1 Undertake a range of activities including engaging national, local and journal media in delivering articles to the general public, and to specific audiences (including professionals, vulnerable or high-risk groups, older people, etc.),</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to challenge myths • to confront offending behaviour • to increase understanding, recognition, and • to provide practical information on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence and services available 	Cosc (with NSC, RAC and NGO participation)	<p>1.1 (a) Targeted Annual Information Programme 2010-2014 developed by Q2 2010 and by Q1 each year thereafter</p> <p>1.1 (b) Annual Programmes implemented by end of programme year</p>	<p>1.1 (a) The Information Programme 2010-2014 is in place and the 2011 programme is targeting the general public, Traveller and Migrant communities and Justice professionals in 2011.</p> <p>1.1 (b) Implementation of Information Programme 2011 is on-going. NGOs representing Traveller and Migrant communities have been co-opted to the Public Awareness Sub-Committee (PASC) of the NSC. Cosc are in contact with Justice professional groups to advance the information programme. There have been a range of activities in the media and several articles on the National Strategy have been published. Also presentations on the National Strategy and domestic and sexual violence have been given at seminars and conferences nationally. A Calendar of Events has been developed on the Cosc website and the "Your silence feeds the violence" poster campaign is continuing.</p> <p>Assessment of 82 applications received under the Cosc Awareness Raising Grant Scheme 2011 relating to Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence resulted in offers of grants to 62 successful applicants. An additional 3 applicants are still being considered. Payments of grants in the region of €300,000 is expected to be completed in the coming month.</p>

	Action	Activities	Lead body and Implementation structure	Progress indicator	Progress to Date
		<p>1.2 Develop guidance on practical steps to increase personal safety for those most at risk from domestic, sexual and gender-based violence</p> <p>1.3 Agree in partnership with the NGO networks and Cosc a national awareness training pack for all community groups and organisations that receive funding from the HSE</p>	<p>Cosc (with NSC, RAC and NGO participation)</p> <p>HSE</p>	<p>1.2 (a) Guidance and dissemination plan developed by Q4 2010</p> <p>1.2 (b) Implement plan from Q1 2011-2014</p> <p>1.3 Number of groups trained by LHO by Q4 2010</p>	<p>Cosc are working in partnership with the Irish Countrywomen's Association to promote and develop an understanding of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.</p> <p>1.2 (a) Guiding principles for Public awareness raising activities relating to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence have been developed by the PASC and agreed by the NSC. The guiding principles were incorporated into the guidance manual of the Cosc Awareness Raising Grant Scheme 2011 and were disseminated to relevant organisations and groups. A copy of the guiding principles is available to download from the Cosc website. A dissemination plan to target the General Public, Traveller and Migrant communities is expected to be completed in the coming weeks.</p> <p>1.2(b) The dissemination plan to target the General Public, Traveller and Migrant communities is expected to be implemented in the coming weeks.</p> <p>1.3 The National Trainers Network in the HSE, in conjunction with key HSE DV&SV and Hospital sector staff have scoped the work in relation to the development of a National Training Pack and have met twice in Q2 to advance the work. One National Training Pack will be provided for HSE and funded services.</p>
2	Promote and develop understanding and recognition of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence across the State sector	<p>2.1 Agree and deliver a suite of national training packs for all front-line staff in different health care settings, from agreed existing materials</p> <p>2.2 (a) Conduct an analysis of training needs for all relevant justice sector organisations including identification of areas suitable for cross-sectoral training</p> <p>2.2 (b) In the light of the training needs analysis, develop and implement training programmes</p>	<p>HSE</p> <p>Cosc (Lead) - training committee and or service-led committees involving An Garda Síochána, Probation Service, Courts Service, Legal Aid Board, IYJS</p>	<p>2.1 Number of front-line staff trained by each LHO by Q1 2011</p> <p>2.2 (a) Justice sector training needs identified by Q1 2011</p> <p>2.2. (b) Identification or development of suitable training programmes by Q2 2011</p> <p>2.2 (c) Implementation of training programmes by Q4 2011</p>	<p>2.1 See 1.3 above.</p> <p>2.2(a) The Justice Sector Training Committee met on three occasions in 2010. A report of the conclusions is to be finalised by end Q2 2011. The extended involvement of Cosc in the development of the Council of Europe Convention has delayed the completion of this activity.</p> <p>2.2(b) Identification of suitable training programmes will follow in Q3 2011.</p>

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		<p>2.3 Work with third-level institutions to include understanding and recognition of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence in curricula including social services and legal studies curricula</p>	<p>Cosc (lead) with NSC and NGO participation, HSE, OOP, Institutions concerned</p>	<p>2.2 (d) Number of justice sector staff trained each year</p> <p>2.3 (a) Develop pilots in some institutions by end Q2 2011 2.3 (b) Implement pilots from end Q4 2011 to Q1 2012 2.3 (c) Review pilots by end Q3 2012 2.3 (d) Extend to other institutions from end Q4 2012</p>	<p>2.2 (d) It has been noted by the committee that the Gardaí already have available to them extensive training at recruit level. Additional training is provided as required in professional development training and training resources in relation to Garda policy and legislative changes are available on an ongoing basis. The expertise of the DVSAIU is also available at all times to members of the Garda Síochána.</p> <p>Training on the use of sex offender risk assessment instruments, Risk Matrix 2000 and Stable & Acute 2007, is jointly delivered on a cross agency basis to personnel from both the Probation Service and An Garda Síochána. The training involves a high level of cross jurisdictional communication, liaison and integration. To date 233 members of An Garda Síochána have been trained in RM 2000 and 41 in stable and acute 2007. In excess of 150 Probation Officers have been trained to assess risk posed by sex offender perpetrators nationally, both in a prison and community setting.</p> <p>Training in domestic violence awareness and the Probation Service policy and procedures in responding to domestic violence has been delivered to 132 Probation Officers and will continue as part of the Service training schedule.</p> <p>As part of the Multi Agency Group on Homeless Sex Offenders, a one day training programme on working with sex offender perpetrators has been developed aimed at personnel working in the housing/homeless sector in Dublin. The training programme has been initiated and will target approximately 250 personnel from both statutory and voluntary organisations over the coming months. The Justice sector (Probation Service, Prison Service and An Garda Síochána) have supported the design and delivery of the training. The impact of the training will be fully evaluated and may form a template for use in other regions.</p> <p>2.3 Work is on-going between Cosc, the Higher Education Authority, the HSE and third-level institutions to develop pilot materials. Cosc is assembling materials from Ireland and abroad to inform the process.</p>

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		2.4 Continue to promote issues relevant to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence in training on student care among school professionals	D/E&S	2.4 Number of school professionals trained	No information available.
3	Embed domestic, sexual and gender-based violence content in second- and third-level educational institution action on healthy relationships	<p>3.1 Develop and implement sustainable second-level educational programmes, applying learning from Cosc research on schools programmes and from the experience of programmes provided in this area</p> <p>3.2 Develop and implement programme for young people attending Youthreach and similar education programmes</p> <p>3.3 Work with third-level institutions and student media to increase understanding and practical information on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence</p>	<p>D/E&S(Lead) Education committee, Curriculum support services, Cosc</p> <p>As above</p> <p>Cosc (Lead) with NSC and other NGO participation, Third-level institutions, Student health services</p>	<p>3.1 (a) Develop enhanced programme content by Q2 2011</p> <p>3.1 (b) Number of schools/teachers who have availed of training in enhanced programme each year</p> <p>3.2 (a) Develop content for delivery in Youthreach and similar programmes by Q2 2011</p> <p>3.2 (b) Number of schools/teachers who have availed of training in enhanced programme each year</p> <p>3.3 (a) Practical guidance for third-level colleges on risk of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence and services available by Q4 2010</p> <p>3.3 (b) Number of colleges involved each year</p>	<p>3.1 & 3.2 Final read-throughs have taken place of the draft survey report of awareness raising programmes in post-primary schools. The text of the report is expected to be finalised by end Q2 2011. Once finalised the report will be submitted to the Minister for approval to publish. When cleared by the Minister the report will be circulated to the National Steering Committee on Violence against Women, the Domestic Violence Perpetrator Intervention Programmes and AMEN. The report will be used to inform further work in relation to activities 3.1 and 3.2.</p> <p>3.3 (a) Guiding principles for Public awareness raising activities relating to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence have been developed by the PASC and agreed by the NSC (see section 1.2 (a)).</p> <p>3.3 (b) The Union of Students of Ireland piloted a campaign in 3 colleges in April/May 2011 to increase understanding and provide practical information on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence to third level students. Following evaluation and review it is expected that the campaign will be rolled out to other colleges.</p>

High-Level Goal 2:

To deliver an effective and consistent service to those affected by domestic and sexual violence

Key Objectives

- 4 To increase confidence in service provision for those affected by DV and SV
- 5 To promote high standards in service provision
- 6 To strengthen intra- and inter-organisational co-ordination to improve service effectiveness and consistency
- 7 To improve protection and support for victims
- 8 To address offending behaviour by perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence

	Action	Activities	Lead body and Implementation structure	Progress indicator	Progress to Date
4	Ensure information on services is available to victims in user-friendly formats	<p>4.1 Promote effective dissemination to victims of accessible and consistent information on domestic, and sexual violence by State organisations</p> <p>4.2 Continue to encourage and support effective dissemination of information on domestic and sexual violence services provided by non-State organisations</p>	<p>Cosc (Lead) and all relevant State services</p> <p>Cosc (Lead) and all relevant NGO services</p>	<p>4.1 Accessible and consistent information effectively disseminated by State organisations</p> <p>4.2 (a) Effective and strategic support provided to NGOs to deliver service information to victims</p> <p>4.2 (b) Improved service awareness levels among victims</p>	<p>4.1 Cosc has liaised with relevant State organisations in relation to review findings by PASC following an evaluation of the websites of a number of relevant state organisations in terms of accessibility and consistency. Further reviews will be completed and followed up. Other ways to review information provided to victims by State organisations are being examined.</p> <p>4.2 Assessment of 82 applications received under the Cosc Awareness Raising Grant Scheme 2011 relating to Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence resulted in offers of grants to 62 successful applicants. An additional 3 applicants are still being considered. Payments of grants in the region of €300,000 is expected to be completed in the coming month. Improvements to the 2011 scheme were implemented following an evaluation of the 2010 scheme.</p>
5	Ensure reasonable opportunity is provided for disclosure of domestic and sexual violence	<p>5.1 Agree and implement an assessment form with domestic violence questions for routine use for all staff in different health care contexts/environments with specific target groups</p> <p>5.2 Identify and promote best practice to</p>	<p>HSE</p> <p>Cosc (Lead)</p>	<p>5.1 (a) Assessment form agreed by Q1 2010</p> <p>5.1 (b) Number of staff who received assessment forms at training by LHO by Q4 2010</p> <p>5.1 (c) Number of screening forms completed</p> <p>5.2 (a) Proposals for</p>	<p>5.1 This work is now assimilated into the HSE Training Working Group, who will develop routine questions for different health care settings.</p>

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		encourage disclosure of domestic and sexual violence in relevant sectors including justice, housing, and education sectors	Justice and Tripartite Committee, local authorities, D/EHLG, D/E&S	non-health sector disclosure (including suitable pilot) developed by Q4 2011 5.2 (b) Pilot implemented by Q2 2012 5.2 (c) Pilots reviewed (including number of forms completed) by Q2 2013 5.2 (d) Action taken in light of review by Q4 2013	
6	Promote clear, high-quality standards in service delivery for victims and perpetrators of domestic, and sexual violence	<p>6.1 Publish a new edition of the <i>Victims Charter and Guide to the Criminal Justice System</i>, outlining the commitments to victims generally, and victims of sexual, domestic and gender based violence in particular, made by the eight State criminal justice agencies.</p> <p>6.2 Identify best practice models for service delivery for victims and perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence</p> <p>6.3 Encourage improvements to service delivery based on consideration of suitable best practice models</p> <p>6.4 Identify and promote suitable state service responses in relation to domestic and sexual violence for vulnerable or high risk groups (including Travellers, people with a disability, older people, migrants, and young</p>	<p>Victims of Crime Office (Lead), Cosc and all relevant bodies</p> <p>Cosc (Lead) and all relevant bodies</p> <p>Cosc (Lead)</p> <p>Cosc (Lead) OOP</p>	<p>6.1 <i>Victims Charter</i> published by Q1 2010</p> <p>6.2 Information on best practice models identified and circulated to service providers by Q3 2010 and regularly thereafter</p> <p>6.3 At least 2 best practice models considered annually</p> <p>6.4 Development of intervention responses for the most vulnerable groups by Q4 2011</p>	<p>6.1 The <i>Victims Charter and Guide to the Criminal Justice System</i> was published by the Minister for Justice and Law Reform in July 2010. It is available on the Victims of Crime Office website in eight languages.</p> <p>6.2 & 6.3 Following completion of an initial project framework paper, there has been a change of direction in relation to how to proceed with the project. Essentially information is needed on the means of identifying best practice in the first place. A literature review to help inform that process is currently under way. International academic and practice-based material has been sourced with a view to identifying indicators of "best practice" or good practice. This work will inform the preparation of an initial general paper on good practice. Once this work has been completed work will commence on the identification of a subject area for a model of good practice followed by the drafting of the good practice model.</p> <p>6.4 The report on <i>Domestic and Sexual Violence Services in Ireland: Service Provision and Co-ordination</i> (previously referred to as the Mapping of Services Report) has been published on the Cosc website. It has also been issued to the National Steering Committee on Violence against Women, the Domestic Violence Perpetrator</p>

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		<p>people)</p> <p>6.5 Work in partnership with the national NGO networks to develop standardisation within specialist domestic violence services</p> <p>6.6 Implement the recommendations on standardisation of sexual assault services as set out in the National Review of SATUs</p> <p>6.7 Ensure that the <i>Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children</i> are being adhered to by all specialist domestic violence services</p> <p>6.8 Develop and disseminate guidelines on working with children in domestic violence situations</p> <p>6.9 Ensure the assessment form for children at risk will contain key questions about domestic violence</p>	<p>HSE (Lead)</p> <p>HSE (Lead)</p> <p>HSE</p> <p>HSE</p> <p>HSE</p>	<p>6.5 Number of standards in place in all HSE-funded services by Q4 2010</p> <p>6.6 SATU review report implemented by Q4 2010(funding dependencies)</p> <p>6.7 Child protection policies in place in all HSE-funded services, based on requirements of <i>Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children and Duty to Care</i> Q3 2010</p> <p>6.8 Best practice guidelines outlined, disseminated and covered in service level agreements Q4 2010</p> <p>6.9 Number of children identified at risk re domestic violence are followed up</p>	<p>Intervention Programmes and AMEN.</p> <p>6.5 A Commissioning Plan has been outlined for the development work on standards within specialist D.V. service.</p> <p>6.6 Most of the recommendations are now fully implemented. All six SATUs are operational. All units now moving towards provision of STI prophylaxis at time of initial attendance at unit and on-site STI screening at review visit. All units developing pathways for patients who do not wish report an incident to An Garda Síochána but require a health check and supportive care. The second edition of the Interagency Guidelines for the investigation and taking of forensic samples has been published and a 2nd cohort of Clinical Nurse Specialists (SAFE) is training in the RCSI with linked clinical placements.</p> <p>6.7 An audit has been carried out by the specialist networks (SAFE Ireland and RCNI) of all HSE funded DV/SV services to examine how many of their members have child protection policies in place in line with Children First requirements. This information is to be examined by the HSE Standards Working Group.</p> <p>6.8, 6.9 & 6.10 A Child Care Manager was drafted as Development Officer from the North West in late 2010. He has been asked to address above in conjunction with a Social Work Team Leader in Dublin Mid Leinster, who has produced a guide for Social Workers, <i>Practice Document on Domestic Violence: a guide to working with children and families</i>. The work by Barnardos Northern Ireland on risk assessment for children will also be considered as part of this work.</p> <p>A Working Group has now been convened to address the issue. A Workshop will present the findings of this Working Group to key HSE DV & SV staff at end June 2011. The workshop will also assimilate the learning from the Social Work Team in Dublin, and the Differential</p>

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		6.10 Ensure the assessment form for children at risk regarding domestic violence contains questions regarding children's welfare	HSE	6.10 As above	Response Model Pilot.
7	Promote inter-agency co-ordination through multi-agency projects	<p>7.1 Promote and further develop practices and protocols on inter-agency referrals and co-operation based on best practice</p> <p>7.2 Provide guidance on data protection implications of information sharing across services</p>	<p>Cosc (Lead) Justice and Tripartite Committees, HSE, Garda Síochána, Courts Service, Probation Service</p> <p>ODPC and Cosc</p> <p>D/JE</p>	<p>7.1 (a) Assess extent to which specific referral protocols required by end Q4 2010</p> <p>7.1 (b) Agree protocols in 3 key areas by end Q4 2011</p> <p>7.1 (c) Agree further protocols required by end Q4 2012</p> <p>7.1 (d) Implement by end 2014</p> <p>7.2 (a) Guidance developed and disseminated by Q4 2010</p> <p>7.2 (b) Provide for any necessary legislative change</p>	<p>7.1 The Probation Service has developed protocols with the Garda Síochána in relation to liaising in domestic violence cases. In addition, the Probation Service, Prison Service, FAS and Business in the Community are working together to ensure sex offenders have access to relevant training and employment opportunities as part of risk management arrangements.</p> <p>As part of the work of the Multi Agency Group on Homeless Sex Offenders a policy template has been prepared by the voluntary housing/homeless sector in Dublin. This template will support more effective management of, and communication pertaining to, convicted sex offenders.</p> <p>7.2(a) Legal advice in relation to sharing data was sought by Cosc on the request from the Strategy Oversight Committee. The advice was subsequently received and circulated to relevant state Departments, agencies and offices for observations and discussion. A proposed meeting with the Office of the Data Commissioner originally scheduled for January 2011 was postponed pending the receipt and consideration of the legal advice and discussions.</p>
8	Improve collaboration and information sharing in relation to service provision	<p>8.1 Promote opportunities for networking, sharing information and best practice across State agencies</p> <p>8.2 Regular liaison between Cosc and the HSE Assistant National Director for Children and Families Social Services and the HSE Assistant National Director for Older</p>	<p>Cosc (Lead)</p> <p>Cosc and HSE</p>	<p>8.1 (a) Effective meetings of NSC and related committees (ongoing)</p> <p>8.1 (b) Conduct annual reviews of collaboration activity at regional/national level.</p> <p>8.2 Progress made on HSE-related domestic and sexual violence actions</p>	<p>8.1 (a) All scheduled meetings of the NSC and its sub-committees have taken place and agreed actions have been followed up.</p> <p>8.1(b) RACs requested to review collaboration activities in their specific regions.</p> <p>8.2 Liaison meetings and communications between Cosc and the Office of the Assistant National Director, Children & Families Social Services and with HSE Elder Abuse Steering Group have taken place. In addition liaison between Cosc and the recently appointed National</p>

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		<p>Person's Services regarding progress on all HSE-related action on domestic and sexual violence</p> <p>8.3 Support Regional Advisory Committees to improve collaboration and the implementation of national policies on domestic and sexual violence</p> <p>8.4 Explore areas of work to identify those suitable for cross-border co-operation to address domestic and sexual violence</p>	<p>HSE</p> <p>Cosc (Lead) with advice from NSC, RAC and NGOs; D/FA, HSE, Garda, Courts Service, Probation Service</p>	<p>8.3 Effective meetings of RAC and related committees (ongoing)</p> <p>8.4 (a) Areas of work to identified by Q3 2010</p> <p>8.4.(b) Consider setting up projects to take forward suitable areas of work by Q1 2011</p>	<p>Director for Children and Family Services has also been initiated. Meeting has also been held with the Office for Older People, Cosc, and the Chair of the HSE Elder Abuse Steering Group.</p> <p>8.3 The Designated Officers in DV & SV within the HSE continue to provide support to the RACs. Cosc & the HSE have held discussions on how to enhance support to the RACs.</p> <p>8.4 Liaison meetings between Cosc and its Northern Ireland counterparts took place in November, 2010 and on 1st June, 2011. Several areas for mutual development and cooperation were discussed, including the identification of areas of work suitable for cross-border co-operation. However, it was agreed that no areas of work were presently suitable for development of mutual projects. A further liaison meeting will take place towards the end of 2011. However, through the Public Protection Advisory Group, a committee under the Intergovernmental Agreement, the Probation Service and An Garda Síochána are committed to, and are well advanced in, the delivery of an all island approach to risk assessment of sexual perpetrators. As part of this development a three year research proposal, to analysis data from completed assessments, has been approved and will go to tender shortly.</p>
9	Ensure reasonable accessibility to counselling services for victims of domestic and sexual violence	<p>9.1 Review the availability of counselling services as part of its work on standardisation and improved data collection within HSE-funded services for victims of domestic and sexual violence</p> <p>9.2 Develop proposals for improvement</p>	HSE (Lead) with HSE-funded services for victims of domestic and sexual violence	<p>9.1 Review completed by Q1 2011</p> <p>9.2 Proposals for improvement developed and implemented by services and the HSE by Q2 2011</p>	9.1 This work is dependent on the work on standardisation. (see 6.5 above)
10	Ensure effectiveness and consistency in	10.1 Develop policy guidance for local authorities on their housing remit in relation to domestic violence, setting out a clear understanding of domestic violence and the	D/EHLG (Lead) through Cross-Departmental Team on	10.1 (a) Policy guidance to be developed through the Cross-	10.1 (a) and (b) A working group has been established by the Dept of Environment, Community and Local Government, with representatives from D/ECLG, DSP, Cosc, HSE, HASCA and CCMA, and has met on a number of occasions in 2011.

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	housing responses	<p>importance of housing as a homelessness preventative and responsive action. The guidance would also cover the range of accommodation options to be considered and implemented by local authorities covering preventative, emergency and long-term accommodation solutions with related housing supports, as necessary, to help persons maintain their new housing tenancies.</p> <p>10.2 In the context of minimising the extent of victim homelessness arising from domestic violence, evaluate approaches and experiences of initiatives such as safe rooms, security support, etc., and consider role in Irish context</p>	<p>Homelessness, in consultation with the National Homeless Consultative Committee, as appropriate; Cosc, Local authorities, HSE</p> <p>As above</p>	<p>Departmental Team on Homelessness with Cosc, in consultation with the National Homeless Consultative Committee, as appropriate. This guidance will be supported by research on relevant aspects, experience, and best practice internationally.</p> <p>10.1 (b) Policy Guidance developed by Q4 2010, to address matters relating to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assessment of housing need and consistent application of 'homelessness' 2. Housing allocation policies 3. Nature and extent of provision of emergency accommodation <p>10.2 Evaluation completed by Q4 2011 with consequential programme of action developed</p>	<p>New Social Housing Assessment Regulations and Housing Allocation Regulations, accompanied by detailed guidance, came into operation in March and May 2011, which set out the manner in which housing authorities' determination of eligibility and need and their housing allocations are governed. In this context work is now underway on the development of specific policy guidelines for local authorities on their housing remit in relation to victims of domestic violence.</p> <p>10.2 Evaluation of approaches and experiences In the context of minimising the extent of victim homelessness arising from domestic violence is also getting underway.</p>
11	Examine a one-stop-shop option for greater	11.1 Develop proposals for multi-agency one-stop shop for victims of domestic and sexual violence	Cosc (Lead), HSE, Garda Síochána, FSA, D/CRGA	11.1 Proposals developed by Q4 2010	11.1 A committee representing support services and state agencies has been established by Cosc. The discussion paper developed in Q1 has been updated. The committee was convened in April 2011. Three pre-Pilots have been identified and Cosc are to support these through

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	accessibility to services for victims of domestic and sexual violence	<p>11.2 Implement pilot of one-stop shop</p> <p>11.3 Review pilot and implement outcome of review</p>		<p>11.2 Pilot implemented by Q3 2011</p> <p>11.3 (a) Pilot reviewed by Q3 2012</p> <p>11.3 (b) Proposals revised and implemented by Q3 2013</p>	strategic advice and any other assistance relevant and possible. Cosc has also undertaken a search for information from European colleagues on such projects in place abroad. Committee drafting core principles to apply to OSS models.
12	Minimise attrition in domestic and sexual violence cases, where appropriate	<p>12.1 Develop a greater understanding of the extent and nature of attrition in domestic and sexual violence cases</p> <p>12.2 Develop proposals to minimise attrition in domestic and sexual violence cases, where appropriate, including an examination of the feasibility of pre-trial hearings in sexual violence cases</p>	<p>Cosc (Lead) Justice Committee, Garda Síochána, Courts Service, DJE</p> <p>As above</p>	<p>12.1 Justice Committee to consider attrition research and to make proposals to Cosc by Q4 2010</p> <p>12.2 Proposals considered and implemented on a phased basis if necessary</p>	12.1 & 12.2 Justice Committee convened in July 2010 and met several times to consider research on the issue of attrition. Discussion papers were developed and discussed. The Committee produced a report in February 2011 and forwarded their conclusions to the relevant sources for consideration and progression.
13	Use vetting arrangements to provide greater protection for victims of domestic and sexual violence	<p>13.1 Improve legislative provisions on vetting</p> <p>13.2 Strengthen vetting arrangements for those who may come into contact with potential victims of domestic and sexual violence</p>	DJE, D/H&C, OMCYA	<p>13.1 Vetting legislation improved and brought into operation by Q4 2011</p> <p>13.2 Legislation effectively enforced (ongoing)</p>	13.1 Government approval is to be sought by the Minister for Justice and Equality in the coming months for drafting of a National Vetting Bureau Bill which will place existing vetting procedures on a statutory basis and which will also make provision for the use of "soft" information
14	Strengthen measures to manage the risks posed by sexual and domestic violence perpetrators	14.1 Provide for pre-sentence risk assessments for the courts in relation to convicted sexual violence perpetrators	DJE Management of Sex Offenders Group, Prison Service, Garda Síochána	14.1 Policy formulated in light of finalised Report of Management of Sex Offenders Group by Q4 2010	<p>14.1 Cosc is continuing to monitor progress of, and contribute to, the work of the working group on the integrated management of high risk offenders.</p> <p>A document summarising the views received in response to the consultative process on the Discussion Document on the Management of Sex Offenders was published on the D/J&E website in October 2010. Where appropriate, the Document provides a response by D/J&E and an update on what action has been taken. The work of the group is ongoing and takes into account the submissions received and the feedback from the Discussion Forum</p> <p>It is noted that the Probation Service already provides comprehensive</p>

	Action	Activities	Lead body and Implementation structure	Progress indicator	Progress to Date
		<p>14.2 Further develop current risk management arrangements for convicted sexual violence perpetrators</p> <p>14.3 Explore the feasibility of multi-agency risk management arrangements for unconvicted sexual violence perpetrators</p> <p>14.4 Develop and implement risk management arrangements for high-risk domestic violence perpetrators</p>	<p>As above</p> <p>Cosc (to facilitate)</p> <p>Cosc (to facilitate) Justice Committee</p>	<p>14.2 Implementation (including bringing into operation of legislation) by Q4 2011</p> <p>14.3 Feasibility of multi-agency approach explored by Q2 2013</p> <p>14.4 Domestic violence perpetrator risk management model developed and implemented by Q4 2013</p>	<p>risk assessment reports in such cases where requested to do so by the Courts.</p> <p>14.2 & 14.3 In anticipation of proposed legislation, the Probation Service and An Garda Síochána are developing and piloting a model of sex offender management. Under the acronym of S.O.R.A.M. (Sex Offender Risk Assessment Management), this model is being jointly piloted in five areas (Louth, Mayo, Tipperary, Dublin North and Cork City).</p> <p>14.4 The Probation Service has trained 44 Probation Officers in the use of the Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA) in the assessment of perpetrators of domestic violence. The SARA is a checklist of risk factors that have been clinically and empirically identified as those most predictive of spousal assault which estimate if an offender is at low, moderate or high risk of further similar offending.</p>
15	Strengthen measures to deal with sexual violence perpetrators	<p>15.1 Monitor and review implementation of new prison treatment programme for convicted sexual violence perpetrators</p> <p>15.2 Integrate custodial and community intervention programmes for convicted sexual violence perpetrators</p> <p>15.3 Develop best practice actions for dealing with sexual violence perpetrators in the community and outside the criminal</p>	<p>D/JE, Prison Service</p> <p>D/JE, HSE, Probation Service, Garda Síochána, Prison Service</p> <p>Cosc (to facilitate), Garda Síochána,</p>	<p>15.1 Sexual Violence programmes reviewed by end 2013</p> <p>15.2 Review operation of community programme provision by end 2012. Implement review outcome by end 2013</p> <p>15.3 Identify best practice suitable for implementation by</p>	<p>15.1 Cosc is continuing to monitor progress on the implementation of the new prison treatment programme for convicted sexual violence perpetrators through the working group on the integrated management of high risk offenders. It is noted that the Probation Service works closely with the Prison Service regarding the motivation for and provision of prison and community perpetrator interventions. The Probation Service is additionally working closely with the HSE regarding developments linked to the Ferns 5 Report recommendation for community based regionalised adult and adolescent perpetrators programmes.</p>

	Action	Activities	Lead body and Implementation structure	Progress indicator	Progress to Date
		justice system	HSE	end 2013	
16	Strengthen measures to deal with domestic violence perpetrators	16.1 Strengthen Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programmes to ensure their greater effectiveness	Cosc (Lead) with Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme Committee	16.1 (a) Plan (including mechanisms for co-ordination with victim support services and capture of victim feedback) developed by Q3 2010 16.1 (b) Plan implemented from Q2 2011 16.1 (c) Increased co-operation and co-ordination with victim support services	16.1 Further meetings of the Perpetrator Programmes Committee took place on 3 February and 5 May. The committee advises Cosc on the development and implementation of policy and practice in relation to domestic violence perpetrator intervention programmes. A continuing focus of Cosc is reviewing data collection practices by a selection of domestic violence perpetrator programmes. This will facilitate the examination of the efficiency and, to a limited extent, the effectiveness of these programmes. A Cosc-designed programme reporting template is now being used by Perpetrator Programmes. A Perpetrator Programmes Plan was finalised by the end of Q4 2010 deadline in the National Strategy. It is now being implemented. A continuing focus is linking by the Perpetrator Programmes with victim support services.
17	Update the law on sexual offences	17.1 Review and improve legislative provisions on sexual offences	D/JE with Cosc	17.1 (a) Sexual offences legislation brought into operation by Q4 2011. 17.1 (b) New legislation effectively enforced (ongoing)	17.1 The Government's immediate priority is to bring forward legislation to enhance the protection of children and other vulnerable persons from sexual exploitation and abuse. D/JE has undertaken a wide-ranging examination of the law on sexual offences which included an evaluation of the Sex Offenders Act 2001, public consultation on the management of convicted sex offenders, and a review of the law on incest. It is expected that legislative proposals will be brought to Government in the coming months. When this priority work is more advanced, consideration can then be given to consolidating sexual offences legislation. NSC approved recommendations on consent, including capacity to consent, have been forwarded to the Criminal Law Reform Division for consideration of inclusion in amending sexual offences legislation.
18	Update the law on domestic violence to give further protection to victims	18.1 Improve legislative provisions protecting victims of domestic violence	D/JE with Cosc	18.1 (a) New domestic violence provisions brought into operation by Q4 2010 18.1 (b) New legislation effectively enforced (ongoing)	18.1 <u>General amendments to the Domestic Violence Act 1996</u> The Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill published on 30/8 provides for amendments to the Domestic Violence Act 1996. An amendment to the Act will allow a person to apply for a safety order against a person with whom he or she had a child in common even if the couple concerned never lived together. Technical amendments will also ensure that opposite-sex and same-sex cohabiting couples have equal access to safety orders or barring orders. Residency requirements for an applicant for a Safety Order to be removed. Second stage of the Bill commenced before the fall of the last Dáil. The Bill is to be considered by the Government on 21 June.

	Action	Activities	Lead body and Implementation structure	Progress indicator	Progress to Date
					<p><u>Amendment of s.10 of the Domestic Violence Act 1996 to provide for a presumption of service by post for orders made under the Act</u> A proposal has been made by Cosc to the Civil Law Reform Division of the Dept. with a view to the change being made as a Committee Stage amendment to the Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill. Advice has been sought by that division from the AG's Office on the provision.</p> <p><u>Amendments to s.17 of the Domestic Violence Act 1996 to provide for the anonymity of parties to proceedings for breaches of orders made under the Act</u> Proposed amendments by Cosc are included in a Criminal Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill which is still with the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel in the Attorney General's Office.</p>

High-Level Goal 3:

To ensure greater effectiveness of policy and service planning

Key Objectives

- 9 To improve the effectiveness of policy planning through improved data capture and data co-ordination
- 10 To ensure that policy development and service provision planning are evidence-based and take account of the experience of victims
- 11 To ensure greater co-ordination between relevant organisations
- 12 To provide a solid foundation for future actions on domestic and sexual violence

	Action	Activities	Lead body and Implementation structure	Progress indicator	Progress to Date
19	Improve data on domestic and sexual violence	19.1 Work with all relevant organisations to develop and improve domestic and sexual violence data (including data collected for administrative and research/policy purposes)	Cosc (Lead) data committee, HSE, Garda Síochána, Probation Service, Courts Service, CSO, OOP	<p>19.1 (a) Data plan developed by Q4 2010</p> <p>19.1 (b) Data plan implemented by Q2 2011</p>	<p>19.1 As referred to in section 8.4 through the Public Protection Advisory Group, a committee under the Intergovernmental agreement, the Probation Service and An Garda Síochána are committed to the delivery of an all island approach to risk assessment of sexual perpetrators. As part of this development a three year research proposal, to analysis data from completed assessments, has been approved and will go to tender shortly.</p> <p>The Probation Service has appointed a representative to the Cosc Data Committee.</p> <p>The Service has introduced the use of the Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA) in the assessment of perpetrators of domestic violence in the community and in prisons. The SARA is a checklist of risk factors that have been clinically and empirically identified as those most predictive of spousal assault which estimate if an offender is at low, moderate or high risk of further similar offending.</p> <p>The Service is putting in place mechanisms to track the number of cases in which SARA has been used and the outcomes in terms of levels of risk.</p> <p><u>Data Committee</u> Further meetings of the Data Committee took place on 3rd February and 12th May, 2011. In March a Data Plan was finalised and circulated to committee members.</p>

	Action	Activities	Lead body and Implementation structure	Progress indicator	Progress to Date
					<p>In order to facilitate the work of the Data Committee, Cosc finalised and circulated a summary table based on Dr M Lyon's Data System Analysis Project Report.</p> <p>Two further meetings of the committee are scheduled to take place this year.</p> <p><u>Prevalence data</u> Separately Cosc is seeking to make progress domestic and sexual violence prevalence data.</p> <p><u>EUFRA</u> Cosc continued to engage with the European Union Fundamental Rights Association in relation to their proposed violence against women survey</p>
20	Ensure improved impact evaluation	<p>20.1 Develop an evaluation framework for assessing cross-organisational strategic impact to ensure maximum system effectiveness</p> <p>20.2 Encourage consultation with representative groups in the development of policy and services</p>	<p>Cosc (Lead), HSE, Garda Síochána, Probation Service, Courts Service, OOP and Independent external organisation</p> <p>Cosc (Lead) with NSC and NGO participation</p>	<p>20.1 Effective arrangements to monitor and review organisational response in place in all key State organisations by Q4 2012</p> <p>20.2 Consultation held with representative groups on development of policy and services – ongoing</p>	<p>20.1 A Project Background Paper has been prepared. The purpose of the paper was to outline some general ideas in relation to the implementation of Action 20. The next step is to test, on a trial basis; the thinking in the paper on a manageable area of activity under the National Strategy in order to see what lessons can be learned from the test. A document on outcome evaluation in relation to the National Strategy has also been prepared and is being considered.</p> <p>20.2 Regular meetings of NSC held and bilateral meetings held with NGO groups representing immigrants, women working in prostitution, support services for women, male victims of domestic violence, etc. Presentations made to all RACs and to other stakeholders by Cosc Executive Director and discussions held with RAC Chairs and members.</p>
21	Promote the design of planned research to ground policy development and service	21.1 Encourage the development of a co-ordinated research programme	Cosc (Lead), HSE, OOP	<p>21.1 (a) Co-ordinated research programme planned and implemented each year</p> <p>21.1 (b) Research</p>	<p>21.1 The research programme for 2011 was finalised. It was disseminated and this included its publication on the Cosc web-site.</p> <p>As regards co-ordination in relation to the programme, a request for information from stakeholders on their current plans for research work was included in the Cosc e-zine in December, 2010 and the RAC chairs were asked to include the provision of this information on their</p>

	Action	Activities	Lead body and Implementation structure	Progress indicator	Progress to Date
	planning			disseminated and policy implications followed up – ongoing basis	meeting agendas. No information has yet been received by Cosc.

High-Level Goal 4: To ensure efficient and effective implementation of the National Strategy

Key Objectives

13 To ensure that all actions within this strategy are monitored and progressed in a timely and comprehensive manner

14 To ensure that due account is taken from the lessons learned of the implementation from this strategy

	Action	Activities	Lead body and Implementation structure	Progress indicator	Progress to Date
22	Monitor progress in the implementation of this strategy	<p>22.1 Collate bi-annual reports on strategy progress</p> <p>22.2 Liaise on draft progress reports</p> <p>22.3 Submit progress report, including material derived from liaison process, to Oversight Committee</p>	Cosc (Lead) to collaborate with Govt Depts, State agencies and NSC and report to Oversight Committee	<p>22.1 Bi-annual reports collated on time</p> <p>22.2 Liaison takes place bi-annually on draft progress reports</p> <p>22.3 (a) Reports, including material derived from liaison process, submitted to Oversight Committee on time</p> <p>22.3 (b) Strategy Progress report submitted to Government on time</p>	<p>22.1 Reports for Strategy Oversight Committee (SOC) collated and disseminated in June and December 2010 and in May/June 2011.</p> <p>22.2 Draft reports issued to NSC in June and December 2010 and in June 2011 prior to Strategy Oversight Committee meetings. Drafts also issued to RACs for comments prior to June meeting of SOC in both 2010 and 2011. Delays in reports being received precluded collective RAC comments to be included in the December 2010 and June 2011 report to the SOC. However, individual RAC member's comments were considered where received.</p> <p>22.3 Reports submitted to Strategy Oversight Committee on 9 June 2010 and 9 December 2010. Report to be submitted to Secretary General's Group and to the Government in 2011.</p> <p>Revised timing of updates agreed by the SOC, to allow draft report to issue in good time to RAC's and for their comments to be included in final report prior to meeting of SOC</p>

23	Ensure effectiveness of strategy implementation	23.1 Review effectiveness of strategy to prepare for future work	Cosc (Lead)	<p>23.1 (a) Conduct comprehensive first review of progress by end Q2 2012 and second review by end Q2 2014</p> <p>23.1 (b) Prepare review reports for Oversight Committee by end Q3 2012 and by end Q3 2014</p>	23.1 A note on the way forward for reviewing the effectiveness of the National Strategy has been prepared for consideration by the Strategy Oversight Committee at its meeting on 27 June, 2011.
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