Action Plan

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

2016 - 2021

Annual Report

December 2016

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

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

Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence 2016-2021

The Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence was launched by the Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality, Ms Frances Fitzgerald T.D., on 20th January 2016.

Domestic, sexual and gender-based violence occurs in all social classes, all ethnic groups and cultures and among men and women of every educational background. The violence is often hidden and can have devastating physical, emotional and financial consequences for victims, their families and society as a whole.

The strategy is a whole of Government approach to these complex problems. Building on the previous national strategy, which concluded in 2014, the strategy contains a range of actions to be implemented by State, voluntary and community sector organisations aimed at preventing and responding to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence. The strategy also contains the actions required to enable Ireland ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention).

In order to ensure the successful delivery of the strategy, appropriate monitoring structures have been established. Those structures consist of a monitoring committee comprised of key stakeholders (Non-Governmental Organisations and State bodies) and an interdepartmental strategy oversight committee of high level officials to ensure actions are delivered on time and to address any problems that may arise in implementation.

The attached report contains a summary of progress made in implementing the strategy's actions up to end of December 2016, and a detailed report of progress made by implementing bodies under each action. This report fulfils one of the strategy's actions which provides for an annual report on implementation to be placed in the Oireachtas Library.

Key achievements of the strategy to date:

- A national awareness raising campaign aimed at changing attitudes to support the prevention of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence
- A system for Victim-Offender Mediation for victims of sexual violence has been established by the Probation Service.
- Domestic violence perpetrator programmes are continuing to be developed.
- The establishment of a data committee of key State actors to work towards a "gold standard" of data collection.
- The establishment of a Postgraduate Research Network on domestic and sexual violence.

- Publication of the Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Bill

There are overview tables on actions which are at end of December 2016 were on target (coded green), less than six months behind target (coded orange) and six months or more behind target (coded red). Items not yet started are coded blue. The banner heading of each action is colour coded to indicate the status of that action.

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

Scorecard of Activities

Status	June 2016	December 2016	
Green - activities broadly on target	37	30	
Blue – activities fully completed	4	7	
Orange - activities progressing but delayed less than 6 months	10	8	
Red - activities delayed by 6 months or more	0	8	
Black – activities not yet scheduled to start	8	11**	
Totals	59	64*	

*Five new actions were added to the action plan between June and December 2016
**Including three actions incorrectly classified as on target in June 2016

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

Actions 2.700 – 2.1800

Holding Perpetrators to Account

Sexual violence

Actions 2.1900 – 2.2700

Domestic violence

Actions 2.2800 – 2.3300

Domestic and sexual violence

Actions 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

(DSGBV) relates to Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence

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 (AGS), 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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Funding of €950,000 has been made available in 2016 and in 2017 for a national awareness campaign as part of the Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence to commence in 2016 and continue to 2021, subject to the necessary funds being available and to ongoing evaluation of the campaign. At least €50,000 per annum is to be allocated for the localisation of the campaign message and, in addition, the Dormant Accounts Fund has awarded funding of €200,000 for this aspect of the campaign in 2016 and 2017.

- Following an etenders process for the creative advertising services and media buying services for the campaign: TBWA\Dublin were appointed the creative agency and PHD were appointed the media agency in September 2016.

- The Tánaiste launched the national awareness campaign *What would you do?* (if you witnessed domestic violence) as part of the Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender based Violence 2016-2021 on 16/11/16.

- The first three years of the campaign is dedicated to domestic violence and the final 3 years will focus on sexual violence.

- In advance of the launch the Tánaiste chaired a meeting with the NGOs and state organisations working in the domestic and sexual violence sectors on 7/11/16 to discuss the campaign and present the creatives.

- *'What would you do?'* is a high impact media campaign to reach a national audience which features TV ads, cinema, radio, outdoor, social and digital advertising. The campaign presents situations where bystanders become witnesses to domestic violence and are conflicted by what they should do. The call to action directs people to search the campaign website whatwouldyoudo.ie for information and advice on domestic violence and how they can help.

- The first burst of the campaign advertising commenced on 16/11/16 and continued with different forms of media up to the 31/12/16.

- The TV ads are being hosted on the Departments YouTube channel where they have received over 310,075 views (30/1/17). TV3 have also posted the TV ads/posters and the social experiment on their facebook page where they have had over 2,468,000 views (6/1/17).

- Cosc through our media agency initiated several media partnerships with TV3, Newstalk and the journal.ie to promote the campaign.

- Cosc has developed an 'always on' partnership with Media Central¸ a hub of 7 regional radio stations, who are tasked with delivering the message of the national campaign on a local level in 2016 and 2017.

- The call to action for the campaign directs people to the campaign website whatwouldyoudo.ie which went live on 15/11/16. Total website users as of 2/1/17 was 133,489.

- Cosc established an advisory group to advise on the campaign which is comprised of state organisations, NGOs and campaign experts. It convened for its first meeting on 4/10/16. (Cosc Communications)

Cosc Campaign promoted within An Garda Síochána (AGS). Information placed on Garda Portal, Mannequin Challenge, reference in internal Garda presentations (AGS)

Is the action on target?

Yes (Cosc Communications)

Yes (An Garda Síochána)

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

- Research on the awareness of and attitudes towards domestic violence and on the impact evaluation of the campaign and on the campaign website will be undertaken in early 2017.

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

The Department of Education and Skills (DES) supports the personal development, health and well-being of young people and helps them create and maintain supportive relationships through the prescription of a programme in Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) which must be delivered in all schools, primary and post-primary, as part of the curriculum. It is in the context of the SPHE curriculum that the Department is progressing these actions.

Educating young people about their safety and protection is a spiral and developmental process, throughout primary school, from Junior infants to 6th class. In Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE), through the strand unit *Myself and my Family* children are enabled to understand the family and the experience of family as a community to which the child belongs. Through work in this strand, families and different aspects of family life are discussed. Topics which the children explore include the following:

- the kinds of things that families can do together and how they care for, love and support each other
- the different roles within families, understanding that these roles may vary and recognising that each individual makes a contribution to family life
- the behaviour that promotes harmony in families and becoming aware of the types of changes that could affect family life including, violence.

Exploration of these topics enables teachers to present the family in a positive manner; as loving, caring, supportive and harmonious unit. Work undertaken in SPHE is complimented across the curriculum and much of the material that pupils explore for example in English, Irish, Drama and History, will feature positive depictions of families including through stories, poetry, audio-visual materials and visual displays.

The compulsory **Stay Safe programme** is taught in primary schools from Junior Infants to 6th class. It has potential to explore domestic violence. The programme aims to:

- reduce vulnerability to child abuse and bullying through the provision of a personal safety education programme for children at primary school level
- develop personal safety skills and to enhance pupils' self-protective skills through lessons on safe and unsafe situations, bullying, inappropriate touch, secrets, telling and stranger danger
- give children the skills necessary to enable them to recognise and resist abuse/victimisation and teaches them that they should always tell (an

adult that can help) about any situation which they find unsafe, upsetting, threatening, dangerous or abusive.

The methodologies espoused in Stay Safe and SPHE include talk and discussion, whole class discussions and small group discussions. Ideally, where pupil-teacher relationships are strong and mutually respectful, pupils who are experiencing difficulties with domestic violence or whose experiences are contrary to the positive depictions which they hear about at school, will disclose these difficulties and confide in a teacher.

In practice, some schools address this issue with small groups of pupils or individual pupils who are identified as experiencing difficulties. Support may be offered by teachers or by counsellors or therapists who are paid by the board of management. Practice in this regard varies and is contingent on the school's context, priorities and available resources.

Disclosures made by children are treated sensitively by teachers and schools; the SPHE curriculum includes the following statement: *'the privacy of the child, the family and the teacher should be respected at all times'.*

Notwithstanding this, certain disclosures may lead to further enquiry and reporting by the school.

The Professional Development Service for Teachers Wellbeing team have a full programme of support for teachers at primary and post primary level including addressing issues such as gender based and identity based bullying. Professional Development Service for Teachers are currently rolling out Relationships and Sexuality Education workshops for primary teachers andRelationships and Sexuality Education Teacher's manuals along with other resources are available on their website.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

All second level schools must timetable Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE) as part of the Junior Cycle core curriculum (Circular M11/03).While SPHE is not compulsory in senior cycle, the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment has provided a Senior Cycle SPHE Curriculum Framework. It is in the context of the SPHE and RSE curriculum that the Department is progressing these actions.

The **Post-Primary SPHE Senior Cycle Personal Safety Resource Pack** produced by the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST), supports teachers in educating young people about abuse, informing them about the child protection policy/procedures in their school, and helping them to protect themselves from harm in other situations, including in the home environment. The programme incorporates a number of specific aims in relation to domestic violence including that young people will understand:

- conflict and the link between anger and violence and they will explore ways of negotiating and managing conflict in a non-violent manner
- that domestic violence is a process, and is rarely a once off event and is likely to be persistent and frequent with the intention of instilling fear in the victim
- that it occurs in all social classes and is equally prevalent in rural and urban Ireland and that in the majority of cases of violence against women, the attacker is not a stranger but is known to the victim and is likely to have had an intimate relationship with the woman
- that no matter who you are and whether you are male or female, young or old, if you are subject to domestic violence or violence of any kind, contact the Gardai for immediate help and advice

- that domestic violence often involves women and to a lesser (known) extent men being subjected to multiple forms of abuse including physical abuse, emotional abuse, financial abuse and sexual abuse.

The Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) has made available a rich repository of resources to support teachers with all aspects of the implementation of SPHE in a whole school context. The PDST has developed, piloted and finalised two Personal Safety Handbooks; one for use in junior cycle, the other for use in senior cycle. The lessons are intended to support teachers in educating young people about abuse; informing them of the school's child protection policy/procedures and helping them to protect themselves from harm in other situations.

Continuing Professional Development has been rolled out to support the lesson plans and they are available on the PDST website (www.pdst.ie)

The PDST Wellbeing team have a full programme of support for teachers at primary and post primary level including addressing issues such as gender based and identity based bullying

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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.

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Further meetings held with NUIG (Dept. of Psychology) regarding the roll-out of their "Smart Consent" workshops. Discussion of the evaluation of the workshops delivered at Trinity College Dublin with 700 first year students with the analysis of same currently underway. Also discussed the randomised control trial of workshops delivered in Cork and NUIG the results of which are due in April, 2017.

Further meetings with UCC (Law) on the roll-out of their obligatory module (currently for law students, but planned for all first year students 2017/2018) on sexual abusive behaviour and misconduct – a bystander approach.

Meeting of RESPECT network of academics, researching sexual and domestic violence, to discuss pillars of work, i.e. prevalence, policy and prevention of sexual abuse at 3rd level institutes, as well as the responsibilities of network members. The group now has an official name and logo, a website has been launched, Twitter and Facebook accounts have been created.

Cosc attended a meeting with members of RESPECT and the National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCI) to explore possible collaboration on the NWCI *Ending Sexual Harassment and Violence in Third Level Education* (ESHTE) project funded by the European Commission. At that meeting it was agreed that the group would explore the existing proposal and prepare a direction setting document for collaboration ahead.

Dundalk Institute of Technology have launched the second roll-out of their *Understanding and Responding to Domestic Violence Certificate Course* and Cosc have agreed to explore the evaluation of same.

Exploratory meeting between Cosc and representatives from the HEA (Policy and Strategic Planning) scheduled for March 1st. (Cosc)

Following the establishment of the postgraduate research network on domestic and sexual violence by COSC will need to liaise with the HEA who will be happy to extend their support. (D/ES)

Is the action on target?

Yes (Cosc)

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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.

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

An Garda Síochána policy is reviewed, to be released soon.

Training provided to trainers in Templemore assigned to Probationer Garda Training.

Additional training on policy to be developed in conjunction with Templemore, and for Divisional Protective Services Units (DPSUs.)(AGS)

The relevant Probation Service staff across all community based teams were identified and trained in the assessment and supervision of perpetrators of domestic violence. (Prisons and Probation Policy)

The Courts Service has always provided training for staff involved in the administration of family law. Training has focused necessarily on Court rules and procedures, and knowledge of the relevant family law legislation, with an emphasis on ensuring accuracy. In addition, there has been an emphasis on impartiality and confidentiality.

Courts Service have developed interactive training manuals for District and Circuit family courts, which are available electronically on every staff member's desktop. In every county outside of Dublin, the Circuit Court office has been combined with the local District Court office and there is now a common staff pool for both court jurisdictions. The Circuit Court manual is augmented by a two-day training course, which includes a module on domestic violence orders. Training has been made available to all relevant staff.

A new training course dealing specifically with domestic violence proceedings in the District Court is still in development. Meanwhile instructors delivering the Circuit Court training course also cover domestic violence proceedings in the District Court as questions arise. The planned course will include input from the non-governmental sector, including guidance on the needs of vulnerable witnesses, members of minority groups and people with disabilities. The Courts Service has not yet decided how best to incorporate such input. To ensure that we fulfil our obligation under the Second National Strategy, the Courts Service will continue to prioritise delivery of training that focuses on legislation and procedures. (The Courts Service)

Tusla and HSE have liaised nationally on alignment of approaches and will continue to progress this action in 2017.

HSE staff continue to attend Tusla-provided DSGBV awareness and response training. (Tusla)

Is the action on target?

No (AGS)

Yes (HSE)

Yes (Prisons &Probation Policy)

Yes (The Courts Service)

Partially (Tusla)

If not, why?

Delays with reviews of policy (AGS)

Further consideration of Tusla training developments around DSGBV (as per Action 1.600)and opportunities for collaboration with HSE around aligned approaches. (Tusla)

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Nearing completion Q1 2017 (AGS)

N/A (AGS)

Ongoing contact between Tusla and key HSE stakeholders is planned in 2017 so further developments should be in train by Q4 2017. (Tusla)

Any other information

Tender for development of a training programme awarded by HSE National Social Inclusion Office to Sonas; work being progressed. (HSE).

Additionally, in January 2016 the Courts Service provided training on their obligations under the Victims Directive to 74 key staff at five venues. The training was delivered with the assistance of Victims Support at Court (V-SAC).

The Courts Service has recently established new offices to strengthen supports to front-line staff and managers in all its offices, and to help deliver a more consistent service across all offices and jurisdictions. (The Courts Service).

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

a&b Review of current Tusla DSGBV Awareness and Response Training completed in Q4 2016.

Internal consideration of findings.

Tusla will be rolling out programme of DSGBV training for staff and partner organisations in 2017.

Is the action on target?

c is delayed due to the range of demands around commissioning developments and the need to phase various activities. This will be progressed by Q4 2017.

If not, why?

There are a range of strategic developments within Tusla, related to its reform programme and legislative requirements arising from Children First. DSGBV training developments are being considered in the context of a wider Tusla workforce learning and development programme, from which requirements for commissioning of training will be identified.

Tusla will engage with service provider organisations to progress this during 2017.

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

ACTION 1.700

Liaise with the Committee for Judicial Studies 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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Awaiting invite from the President of the District Court to address judges.

An article on the Second National Strategy was forwarded to the President of the District Court for the intranet for judges (March 2016).

Judicial representatives from the District and Circuit Court are members of the Working Group on Victims under the Criminal Justice Strategic Programme which is tasked with the implementation of administrative arrangements arising from the Victims Directive which is relevant to all victims of crime including victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Actions as previously identified still in hand. Proposals to engage in a European Commission funded project with six other European countries well advanced and first meeting held in January in The Hague. Further details to follow in due course as to the details of the project. (Law Society)

King's Inns took steps to ensure that the curricula of relevant subject areas on both the Diploma in Legal Studies course and the Barrister-at-Law degree course were updated to include information on the Convention at appropriate points in each course. Relevant areas of the curricula were identified in advance of the academic year 2016-2017. Reference to and discussion of the Convention has been included at appropriate and relevant junctures in course materials and classroom sessions from the academic year 2016-2017. (Kings Inn)

Is the action on target?

Yes (Law Society)

Yes (Kings Inns)

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

King's Inns would be grateful if Cosc could keep the institution informed of any proposed legislation or other developments relevant to the Convention.

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Initial broad discussions have commenced. The development is dependent on funding. (HSE)

Tusla has engaged with national HSE structures around SATU and has indicated it will support developments as needed. (Tusla)

Is the action on target?

Yes (Tusla)

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

The Domestic Violence Bill 2017 was published on 3 February 2017.

Is the action on target?

No

If not, why?

The Domestic Violence Bill was approved for drafting and assigned within the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel (OPC). Early queries were raised and addressed late in 2015. A first draft of the Bill with extensive queries was received from the OPC in January 2016. Some of these queries raised policy and resource issues which had to be resolved. The Department worked intensively with the OPC throughout 2016 to finalise the draft Bill which now also includes some additional provisions such as the removal of the exemption for underage marriage and the creation of a new offence of forced marriage.

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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 Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (lead), housing authorities

Timescale

a. Quarter 1, 2016

b. Quarter 2. 2016

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

This policy and procedural guidance for local authorities in relation to assisting victims of domestic violence with emergency and long-term accommodation needs has now issued (January 2017). The guidance sets out a summary of best practice for local authorities in relation to their housing remit to ensure an effective and consistent housing response for victims of domestic violence.

An initial participatory engagement session was held in September 2016 with members of the National Lead Authority Network; a further engagement is scheduled for Q1 2017.

Is the action on target?

No

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Slow progress here, but will form part of overall mapping exercise in Q2,2017 (HSE)

Is the action on target?

No

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

ACTION 2.500

Following every report of a Domestic Violence incident either the Investigating member or other member of An Garda Síochana 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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

a, b, d, e included in Draft Domestic Abuse intervention policy

c. Preliminary Risk Assessment near complete (in policy) Draft of Part 2 Risk Assessment near completion

Part 3 – in depth, requires consultation to be developed properly in conjunction with researchers (universities) – will require 1 year extension. (See 2.900) (AGS)

Is the action on target?

Yes

c. No

If not, why?

c. Complex process to develop Risk Assessment tool for Ireland

Proposed remedial action and timescale

c.Q4 2017 Risk Assessment Implementation Team meetings being held, preliminary Risk Assessment tool being developed which will inform wider Risk Assessment tool. Will consult with other researchers for this purpose.

Any other information

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

The scope and terms of reference for the review of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme are currently being considered.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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.

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

An Garda Síochána are implementing the necessary sections of the EU Victims Directive (PULSE release 6.8) and will comply with legislation once commenced. (AGS)

The Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Bill 2016 was published on 29 December 2016. (Criminal Law Reform)

The Probation Service and the Irish Prison Service will continue to liaise and collaborate further in responding jointly to victims' needs and concerns. (Prisons and Probation Policy)

In Dundalk, Ennis and Kilkenny, physical space is made available to a local support and referral service on days that court is sitting. The service provides direct support and advice and occasionally court accompaniment. Attempts at similar initiatives in some other venues were unsuccessful due to either lack of suitable accommodation and/or the inability of the local service provider to sustain the initiative. Recently a similar referral service has been set up in Sligo in partnership with Domestic Violence Advocacy Service.

In other venues, e.g. Carlow, where there is a lack of suitable physical space for interviewing domestic violence applicants, the local domestic violence support service assists in the preparation of paperwork. Applicants often report feeling more at ease making their application through a domestic violence support service than directly to a court clerk.

Four new courthouses are being built in key regional centres: Drogheda, Letterkenny, Limerick and Wexford, while substantial refurbishment and extension works are being made to existing courthouses in Cork, Mullingar and Waterford. All will include accommodation for victim support services as standard, and new interest is expected in on-site support and referral in those venues, particularly in Wexford and Limerick, where such links have been explored previously. (The Courts Service)

Is the action on target?

Yes (AGS)

No (Criminal Law Reform)

Yes (Prisons &Probation Policy)

No timescale has been specified in the National Strategy. (The Courts Service)

If not, why?

On the basis of legal advice and consultation with stakeholders, it has been necessary to supplement the proposals in the General Scheme of the Bill extensively and as a result significant additional time has been required for drafting. (Criminal Law Reform)

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

The Domestic Violence Bill includes a provision mandating the Courts to directly refer domestic violence applicants to support services and allows those services to accompany applicants in Court (see Action 2.3100). (The Courts Service)

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 2016-2021.

Implementing bodies: An Garda Síochána

Timescale

Additional actions and timescales to be agreed by quarter 1 2016

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Complete – see actions 2.810-2.850 below. (AGS)

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

ACTION 2.810

The Establishment of Divisional Protective Services Units (DPSUs)
(Garda Inspectorate Recommendation 6.18)
It is intended to have a Divisional Protective Services Unit established in all 28 Garda Divisions mirroring those responsibilities held nationally by the Garda National Protective Services Bureau. Phase 1 implementation was due to commence by 1 November 2016 in three nominated Garda divisions. Phase 2 implementation is due to commence by Q3, 2017

Implementing bodies: An Garda Síochána

Timescale

Quarter 4 2017

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Work ongoing on preparation of first 3 DPSUs (AGS)

Is the action on target?

No

If not, why?

Additional preparation time required

The Establishment of Divisional Protective Services Units (DPSUs)
(Garda Inspectorate Recommendation 6.18)
It is intended to have a Divisional Protective Services Unit established in all 28 Garda Divisions mirroring those responsibilities held nationally by the Garda National Protective Services Bureau. Phase 1 implementation is due to commence by 1 November 2016 in three nominated Garda divisions. Phase 2 implementation is due to commence by Q3, 2017

Proposed remedial action and timescale

3 sites identified and being prepared for implementation by Q. 1 2017

Any other information

ACTION 2.820

Engage the Garda Síochána Analytical Service (GSAS) to analyse Domestic Related Homicides
(Garda Inspectorate Recommendation 6.18)
Analytical work will also be conducted on all other crimes to be investigated by the DPSUs to inform management engaged in implementation of these units.

Implementing bodies: An Garda Síochána

Timescale

Quarter 1 2017

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Garda Síochána Analytical Sservice engaged, 10 year review of Domestic Homicides initiated – extensive work identified. To review timescales for completion. (AGS)

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

ACTION 2.830

Develop a Bespoke Training Package for Divisional Protective Services Units
(Garda Inspectorate Recommendation 6.18)
To ensure that members of DPSUs are appropriately trained to investigate all business functions/disciplines within their remit.

Implementing bodies: An Garda Síochána

Timescale

Quarter 3 2017

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Not yet begun (AGS)

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

ACTION 2.840

Update the Garda Website with respect to Domestic Abuse, Sexual Crime and Sex Offender Management as part of a media/education strategy on Protective Services matters including Domestic Abuse and Sexual Crime.

(Garda Inspectorate Recommendation 6.18)

Implementing bodies: An Garda Síochána

Timescale

Quarter 2 2017

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Meetings held with Garda Press Office with a view to updating and improving the Garda Website information on Domestic abuse, sexual crime and sex offender management. (AGS)

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

ACTION 2.850

Implement a Formal Review Process for Undetected Sexual Offences (Garda Inspectorate Recommendation 6.17)

Implementing bodies: An Garda Síochána

Timescale

Quarter 3 2017

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

To be developed. (AGS)

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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 Siochána

Timescale

Quarter 4 2016

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Preliminary Risk Assessment near complete (in policy) Draft of Part 2 Risk Assessment near completion

Part 3 – in depth, requires consultation to be developed properly in conjunction with researchers (universities) – will require 1 year extension. (see 2.500 c) (AGS)

Is the action on target?

No (AGS)

If not, why?

Additional preparation time required

The Establishment of Divisional Protective Services Units (DPSUs)
(Garda Inspectorate Recommendation 6.18)
It is intended to have a Divisional Protective Services Unit established in all 28 Garda Divisions mirroring those responsibilities held nationally by the Garda National Protective Services Bureau. Phase 1 implementation is due to commence by 1 November 2016 in three nominated Garda divisions. Phase 2 implementation is due to commence by Q3, 2017

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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 andongoing throughout the term of the Strategy

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

This is included in the draft Domestic Abuse Intervention Policy

Ongoing work of Garda Racial, Intercultural & Diversity Office (GRIDO)

Talk to Islamic Cultural Centre by a member of An Garda Síochána 25.10.2016

Meeting to be held with Pavee Point 23.02.2017 (AGS)

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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.

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Specific interventions dependent on funding; broad actions are incorporated into a range of overall approaches to vulnerable communities; targeted programme underway for provision of support to refugees(HSE)

Tusla's work on projects around the identified minority groups is continuing and the DSGBV Services team have begun to engage with community representatives and HSE and other structures nationally and in local areas to identify needs.

The Terms of Reference for a number of area based needs assessment projects being undertaken in 2017, include a focus on the needs of minority and vulnerable population groups. (Tusla)

Is the action on target?

Broadly, yes (HSE)

Yes (Tusla)

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

A section in respect of this action will be included in the forthcoming HSE National Intercultural Health Strategy and is expected to be referenced too in the new National Drugs Strategy (HSE)

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Project on national helpline commissioning initiated in Q4

Consultation with key stakeholders undertaken in Q3 & Q4, with initial draft statement of requirements developed as a basis for further engagement with providers. (Tusla)

Is the action on target?

No (Tusla)

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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.

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Is the action on target?

Yes, action not yet scheduled to start.

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Is the action on target?

Yes, action not yet scheduled to start.

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Is the action on target?

Yes (Tusla)

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

ACTION 2.1600

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

Implement appropriate systems and processes for commissioning, including:

a. Identify areas for enhanced domestic violence accommodation-based and outreach services and develop integrated models of community based service delivery

b. 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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Draft national DSGBV Services Commissioning Statement completed for 2017.

A series of area-based commissioning projects have been established to identify and analyse needs and responses for future service developments. (Tusla)

Is the action on target?

Yes (Tusla)

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Tusla Quality Assurance Framework has been published.

Consultation on draft standards will be undertaken with key stakeholders in Q2 and Q3 2017, with completion of initial set of standards by Q4 2017. (Tusla)

Is the action on target?

As identified in previous monitoring report, initiation of this work was delayed due to recruitment delays. This was addressed in Q4 2016. (Tusla)

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

This is a priority Action for Tusla in 2017. A work programme to progress this has been set out to develop draft standards in 2017 and consider implementation in 2018.

Any other information

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

a & b, initial actions completed

c Service user engagement process established by Tusla in Q3 – ongoing; service user engagement actions included in Tusla DSGBV Services work programme for 2017. (Tusla)

Is the action on target?

Yes (Tusla)

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

Holding Perpetrators to Account

Sexual violence

ACTION 2.1900

Develop and enact legislation to strengthen protections for victims of sexual violence (IST 36)

Implementing bodies

Department of Justice and Equality

Timescale

Publish Bill quarter 4, 2015.

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Bill 2015 includes a number of amendments to the Criminal Evidence Act 1992 to offer additional protections to victims of sexual violence including protection against cross-examination by an accused and the regulation of the disclosure of counselling records in trials for sexual offences. Provision is also included which will introduce harassment orders whereby a court can impose an order prohibiting a convicted sex offender from contacting or approaching his or her victim for a specified period of time. The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Bill was enacted in February 2017.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Drafting of Bill delayed due to legal and operational issues – these have since been resolved.

Is the action on target?

No

If not, why?

During drafting of Bill, legal and operational issues arose which required additional consultation and advices.

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Government approval of revised General Scheme to be sought in mid 2017.

Any other information

ACTION 2.2100

Implement option for self-referring victim to sexual assault treatment units (SATUs) 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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Is the action on target?

Complete

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

Introduced nationally (in all 6 SATUs) in 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 theStrategy.

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Is the action on target?

Yes (SATU)

Yes, ongoing (HSE)

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

Database developed and tested throughout 2016. Launched to commence data collection January 2017. (SATU)

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

The Probation Service continue to lead on sex offender treatment programme in the community, 2 in Dublin and 1 in Cork. The Probation Service and the Irish Prison Service's psychology service continue to deliver on the Building Better Lives (BBL) group programme in prison. (Prisons and Probation Policy)

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

(a) Complete – further workshops to be carried out in 2017

(b) Complete – Manual of Practice launched 10.11.2016 (AGS)

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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.

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Ongoing funding support provided by the HSE National Social Inclusion Office towards this programme (HSE)

One in Four is charged with the provision of therapeutic programmes for non-convicted sex offenders together with the HSE and Tusla.

In 2016, One in Four received a grant of €66, 500 from the HSE National Social Inclusion Office for the provision of services to non-convicted sex offenders. Treatment was provided to 35 non-convicted adult offenders during 2016.

A meeting was held with Fred McBride, CEO of Tusla regarding the sex offender treatment programme. However, Tusla are focusing on adolescent offenders and we are therefore not engaged with them. (One in Four)

Is the action on target?

Yes (HSE)

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

A system for Victim – Offender Mediation for victims of sexual violence has been established. The Probation Service's National Victims' Services Team co-ordinates and oversees the delivery of this pilot through a core group of

Probation Service staff who have participated in mediation skills training and dedicated training on sexual trauma. (Prisons and Probation Policy)

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

The Domestic Violence Bill 2017 was published on 3 February 2017.

Is the action on target?

No

If not, why?

The Domestic Violence Bill was approved for drafting and assigned within the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel (OPC). Early queries were raised and addressed late in 2015. A first draft of the Bill with extensive queries was received from the OPC in January 2016. Some of these queries raised policy and resource issues which had to be resolved. The Department worked intensively with the OPC throughout 2016 to finalise the draft Bill which now

also includes some additional provisions such as the removal of the exemption for underage marriage and the creation of a new offence of forced marriage.

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

The Department is working on a General Scheme of a Family Court Bill and will be engaging in further consultation with relevant stakeholders in relation to the operational aspects of a new family court structure. The General Scheme will be published in 2017 following its approval by Government and will be subject to the usual pre-legislative scrutiny by the relevant Oireachtas Committee.

The Family Court Bill will aim to streamline family law court processes, clarify jurisdictional issues and provide for a set of guiding principles to help ensure that the Family Court will operate in a user-friendly and efficient manner. The intention is to establish a dedicated Family Court within the existing court structures. The Family Court Bill will also support the proposals in the forthcoming Mediation Bill by encouraging greater use of alternative dispute resolution to assist in more timely resolution of family law cases.

Is the action on target?

No

If not, why?

Due to the complexity of the proposal it is necessary to engage further with stakeholders in relation to the operational aspects of how the new Family Court will best operate on the ground.

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Following further consultation with stakeholders it is intended to publish the General Scheme in mid 2017 once it has been approved by Government.

Any other information

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.

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Plans have been drawn up and are currently subject to minor revision as consultation with external users is ongoing. (The Courts Service)

Is the action on target?

Yes, the courts complex is due to be completed in quarter 4 2020, and due to open in January 2021. (The Courts Service)

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

A proposed rezoning of the site by Dublin City Council, which would have severely impacted on the potential capacity of the family courts complex, has been voted down by the Council. (The Courts Service)

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

The Domestic Violence Bill 2017 was published on 3 February 2017. (Civil Law)

A Domestic Violence Bill 2017 has been initiated. (The Courts Service)

Is the action on target?

No (Civil Law)

No (The Courts Service)

If not, why?

The Domestic Violence Bill was approved for drafting and assigned within the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel (OPC). Early queries were raised and addressed late in 2015. A first draft of the Bill with extensive queries was received from the OPC in January 2016. Some of these queries raised policy and resource issues which had to be resolved. The Department worked intensively with the OPC throughout 2016 to finalise the draft Bill which now also includes some additional provisions such as the removal of the exemption for underage marriage and the creation of a new offence of forced marriage. (Civil Law)

See above (The Courts Service)

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Dependent on theDepartment of Justice and Equality, and on the legislative process. (The Courts Service)

Any other information

The Courts Service has met with MEND and MOVE Ireland to discuss a pilot perpetrator programme in DublinCity. (The Courts Service)

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

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

- a uniform Spousal Assault Risk Assessment system being implemented in programmes for entrants to 2017 programmes
- programme facilitators and suitable trainers trained in December 2015
- further training held by trained trainers in April 2016 for extra facilitators
- training for new facilitators to be confirmed for Spring/Summer 2017

b. the development of a national approach to programme content between providers

- a seminar held on 29 February 2016 on the subject of developing programmes with invited international expert speakers and representatives from the sector

- a working group established to support the introduction of a national programme.
- a new national intervention programme called Choices was selected by the working group on 10 June, 2016
- meeting held with the national programme provider to discuss implementation of the roll-out of the programme and training on 18 July 2016
- training for Facilitators on the new programme commenced in Autumn 2016, and two cohorts of training were completed at end of 2016.
- two further cohorts of training are planned for 2017 and it is anticipated that the Choices Programme will be rolled out nationally to all programmes in September, 2017 by the three main service providers involved (Probation Service and the MOVE and MEND organisations)

c. introducing two new programmes in 2016 and a new programme each year thereafter

- the introduction of a new perpetrator programme was established in new locations in 2016 in Blanchardstown, West Dublin and in Sligo.

d. further develop support for partners of perpetrators participating in programmes (Cosc)

Work on the delivery of a group programme for partners and ex-partners in augmenting the direct work being done with perpetrators will be further progressed in 2017/2018 (Cosc)

The Probation Service continues to participate on the Cosc Steering Group to develop a national programme for domestic violence perpetrators. The selected programme is due for national roll out from September 2107 following training of all facilitators across the service providers.

Probation Service also participates in the MOVE Ireland steering groups nation-wide. Currently being reviewed is the role of the steering group and the expansion of Probation Service representation into other areas including Sligo, Navan, Blanchardstown and Kerry.

Both the NEDVIP programme and SEDVIP programme are supported by the Probation Service. (Prisons and Probation Policy)

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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)

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Is the action on target?

Yes – business case submitted

AGS will utilise legislation once enacted and commenced. (AGS)

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

a, b, d, e, f included in draft Domestic Abuse Intervention Policy.

d also included in PULSE release 6.8

c. Preliminary Risk Assessment near complete (in policy) Draft of Part 2 Risk Assessment near completion

Part 3 – in depth, requires consultation to be developed properly in conjunction with researchers (universities) – will require 1 year extension. (see 2.500 c, 2.900) (AGS)

Is the action on target?

No

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Q4 2017 for completed risk assessment

Any other information

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 andongoing throughout the term of the Strategy.

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

To initiate development of process early 2018 (AGS)

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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.

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

This is an ongoing process for An Garda Síochána.

The intelligence unit of Garda National Protective Services Bureau will liaise with the Domestic Abuse Unit of the Garda National Protective Services Bureau in this regard. The Garda Síochána Analysis Service will also inform the process. (AGS)

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Arrangements will be made byGarda National Protective Services Bureau to meet agencies providing perpetrator programmes. (AGS)

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

AGS will utilise legislation once commenced. (AGS)

Re: Non-Fatal & Sexual Offences: Heads being drafted. (Criminal Law Reform)

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

The Domestic Violence Bill 2017 was published on 3 February 2017. It includes a new indictable offence of luring a person abroad for a forced marriage. Work on other extraterritorial offences is ongoing.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

It is likely that the Domestic Violence Bill 2017 will be enacted before 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.

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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.

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Is the action on target?

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

ACTION 3.400

Establish a monitoring committee of key stakeholders for the Strategy.

Implementing bodies

Cosc

Timescale

Quarter 1, 2016

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Completed

Is the action on target?

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Completed

Is the action on target?

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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.

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

There has been considerable on-going liaising and sharing of information, on a bilateral basis, between Cosc and members of the Cosc-led data committee on matters relating to data. (Cosc)

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal will continue to work with Cosc concerning the developing of relevant data from the data captured from information provided in the course of processing criminal injuries compensation claims, subject to data protection and other legal obligations, and subject to the limited data and limited number of cases of sexual violence before the Tribunal.(CICT)

Most elements are recorded on PULSE; some details were added in PULSE release 6.8.An Garda Síochána are represented on the Data Committee of Cosc. (AGS)

Preliminary meetings have been held between Probation Service and Cosc to examine the requirements for establishing a "gold standard" of data collection. The Probation Service is committed to participating in the Cosc Data Committee and is awaiting further engagement to promote a common approach in compiling the required data.

The Irish Prison Service will provide the necessary data when requested to assist with the COSC data collection and analysis standard. (Prisons and Probation Policy)

The Courts Service has sought advice from the Data Protection Commissioner on theirresponsibilities under data protection legislation in circumstances where the Courts Service does not have a purpose for the data it is proposed we collect. In the meantime they are examining the capability of their existing systems for collecting and reporting the proposed gold standard data. (The Courts Service)

Tusla is participating in the Cosc-led Data Committee.

Specific actions to address requirements re disaggregation of data are included as part of Tusla's data project for 2017, including liaising with representative

organisations and other service providers to support appropriate collection of data on ethnicity. (Tusla)

Is the action on target?

No

If not, why?

The advice received from the Data Protection Commissioner is that in order for a data controller to collect and retain data it must have a purpose for the data. The Courts Service does not have a specific purpose for some of the gold standard data. (The Courts Service)

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Cosc is currently finalising a template for dissemination to Data Committee members for completion (w/ ending 3rd March) on work being undertaken by agencies on the "gold standard", timelines for compliance and reminding them of their need to present this material at the next meeting of the Monitoring Committee. (Cosc)

Any other information

Cosc has also initiated a NGO Data Working Group, devised the terms of reference and invited nominations for representations on the Group from key stakeholder organisations. It is currently envisaged that the inaugural meeting of the Working Group will happen in late March, 2017 where the terms of reference, objectives, outcomes, roles and schedule of work will be agreed. (Cosc)

SATU collect relevant information on victim, but aside from gender of perpetrator and number of perpetrators are not appropriately positioned to collect other perpetrator metrics. Accurate disability data can be difficult to collate, but all SATU attendees are afforded the opportunity to disclose disabilities in course of attendance. (SATU)

Cosc has recommended changes to the way statistics relating to criminal prosecutions for domestic and sexual violence are reported annually by the Courts Service. The Courts Service is moving to comply with the recommendations. The process is slow as it is dependent on local managers reporting from 35 offices nationwide. (The Courts Service)

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Is the action on target?

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

The Expert Group is expected to report shortly.

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Initial standard dataset established in 2016 on service data from funded DSGBV organisations in Q4.

Tusla Information Project has actions for 2017 to engage with service provider organisations to refine data quality going forward.

Tusla engaged with service provider organisations re information systems – this work is ongoing. (Tusla)

Is the action on target?

Yes (Tusla)

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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.

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

The CSO has received PULSE data from AGS, including fields in relation to criminal offences where a Modus Operandi of Domestic Violence has been indicated. (CSO)

Statistical information is supplied to the CSO by An Garda Síochána Analysis Service. Domestic Violence statistics are not published on the CSO website.

Is the action on target?

No (CSO)

No (AGS)

If not, why?

The data was due for release in early 2016 but the CSO are still assessing the quality of the data as it relates to criminal offences where a Modus Operandi of Domestic Violence has been indicated. This assessment, which is still on-going, will determine if and when the data can be released. (CSO)

Figures not published. (AGS)

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Once the CSO has assessed the quality of the data they will, if necessary, discuss any issues with AGS. As any release of data will depend on the quality of the data, it is difficult to propose a timetable at this moment. (CSO)

AGS supplying data to CSO. No information regarding estimated implementation date is available. (AGS)

Any other information

ACTION 3.1000

Facilitate relevant third level institutes to establish a postgraduate research network (PRN) 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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Seminar on progressing a project on the impact of domestic violence on children and the response of An Garda Síochána hosted at TCD.

PRN Research Briefing Paper #1 currently under review and will be presented to Cosc for discussion with a view to dissemination to relevant stakeholdersin March/April 2017.

PRN inaugural conference scheduled for April 10th and 11th at Queen's University, Belfast to be followed by the first PRN webinar on conference proceedings and second research briefing. (Cosc)

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

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 (DCYA)/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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

b. Legislating to put elements of Children First on a statutory basis (DCYA)

Children First legislation:
The Children First Act 2015 was signed into law on 19 November 2015. Different sections of the Act will be commenced on a phased basis.

Sections 1 to 5 inclusive (general provisions) and Section 28 (abolition of defence of reasonable chastisement in relation to corporal punishment) of the Act were commenced in December 2015.

Sections 20-26, Part 4 of the Act, 2015, which relates to the Children First Interdepartmental Group (CF IDG) were commenced on 1 May 2016.

Commitment by Minister that remaining provisions will be commenced by end 2017.

Children First Interdepartmental Implementation Group [CF IDIG]:
Statutory CF IDIG established, under provisions of Children First Act 2015. Membership of the Group includes all Government Departments, Tusla, the HSE and An Garda Síochána. Preparations across Departments, Sectors and Agencies are underway for full commencement of Children First by end 2017, with particular reference to preparations for mandated persons and those providers of relevant services that are in receipt of public funding.

Information and Training resources to support full commencement of Children First legislation:
DCYA is revising the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children [2011] to reflect the new statutory obligations under the Children First Act, 2015.

DCYA is working with Tusla to ensure that the following resources will also be available to assist mandated persons and providers of relevant services:

1) Tusla universal e-training module [approx. 2 hours long] which will cover recognising and reporting child abuse, up to and including responsibilities of mandated reporters;
2) Tusla guidance for developing a Child Safeguarding Statement;
3) Tusla guide for Mandated Reporters [including revised Standard Report Form]; and
4) Tusla Protocol for Mandated Assisting.

It is expected that all resources (e-training and guidance documents) will be available universally by September, 2017. (DCYA)

Commenced...actions in respect of "Hidden Harm" approach are underway...in collaboration with TUSLA....with a series of associated actions in this regard included in the HSE National Operational plan 2017 (HSE)

a. Roll out of Meitheal and Prevention, Partnership and Family Support continues.
b. Responses to child witnesses of domestic violence are being further addressed in the context of Child Safeguarding developments as part of Children First implementation.
c. Initial mapping of responses to children who experience domestic violence completed (Tusla)

Is the action on target?

Yes (DCYA)

Yes (HSE)

Yes (Tusla)

If not, why?

N/A

Proposed remedial action and timescale

N/A

Any other information

No

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

Monitoring Report

December, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

The Children First Act, 2015 (Section 28) includes a provision to abolish the common law defence of reasonable chastisement in relation to corporal punishment. This is fundamentally a human rights issue, giving children nothing more than the same unqualified protection under the law of assault that is available to all other citizens. This section of the Act was commenced on 10 December 2015.

Is the action on target?

Completed

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

Ends