

National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence 2010-2014 *Executive Summary*



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



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND LAW REFORM
AN ROINN DLÍ AGUS CIRI, COMHIONANNAIS AGUS ATHCHÓIRITHE DLÍ

Executive summary

Domestic and sexual violence are not identical... They share the sinister element of being hidden crimes, frequently perpetrated by persons in a position of supposed trust or complicated by close relationships.

Introduction

This strategy is a statement of Government priority actions to address domestic, sexual and gender-based violence in Ireland in the five-year period from early 2010 to the end of 2014. The Government is concerned at the consistent prevalence and the high level of non-disclosure or non-reporting of incidences of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence. The strategy sets out a plan for 'whole-of-government' action for a more effective system to prevent these types of violence. Six government departments, their agencies and up to 100 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are involved in work relevant to the prevention and alleviation of abuse. The strategy aims to provide a strong framework for sustainable intervention to prevent and effectively respond to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.

The strategy focuses on action to address domestic, sexual and gender-based violence perpetrated against adult men and women, including older people. It presents evidence to help understand the complexities of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence and to inform the development of responses. It has been drafted by Cosc – the National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence – in consultation with a broad range of stakeholders in government and non-governmental organisations.

Three different dimensions of abuse characterise domestic violence: physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Behaviours that commonly occur in situations of domestic violence include various forms of physical violence such as kicking, punching, slapping, smothering or choking, biting, throwing, and threatening with an object. The use of isolation can be a key device, for example where the abuser restricts communication between the victim-survivor and those who are close to the person. Domestic violence

often includes the use and abuse of children, as well as economic abuse. Controlling and intimidating behaviour, including threats and blaming the victim, are common forms of emotional abuse. Older people can experience abuse by carers and those in a position of trust.

Sexual violence refers to assaults that have an explicit sexual content and includes a variety of forms including rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment. These forms of sexual violence can be perpetrated by family members, current and former sexual partners, other relatives and friends, acquaintances (including colleagues and clients), those in a variety of authority positions, and strangers. The many possible combinations of location and relationships mean that sexual violence can be in private or public locations, and in terms of rape, for example, can include many forms – marital rape, familial/incestuuous rape, acquaintance/date rape, stranger rape, gang rape, custodial rape, and rape as a war crime.

Domestic and sexual violence are not identical. Domestic violence may include physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Sexual violence often occurs in the domestic context but may also be committed against a stranger. However, while they are not identical, the similarities invite parallel, and often identical, preventative and responsive action. They share the sinister element of being hidden crimes, frequently perpetrated by persons in a position of supposed trust or complicated by close relationships. Implementing action to tackle these crimes must take due account of the circumstances where the perpetrator is known, or is a stranger to the victim. The strategy focuses on domestic and sexual violence, recognising that they are forms of gender-based violence, but takes account of the similarities and differences between these forms of abuse.

Strategy vision

The National Strategy vision is that:

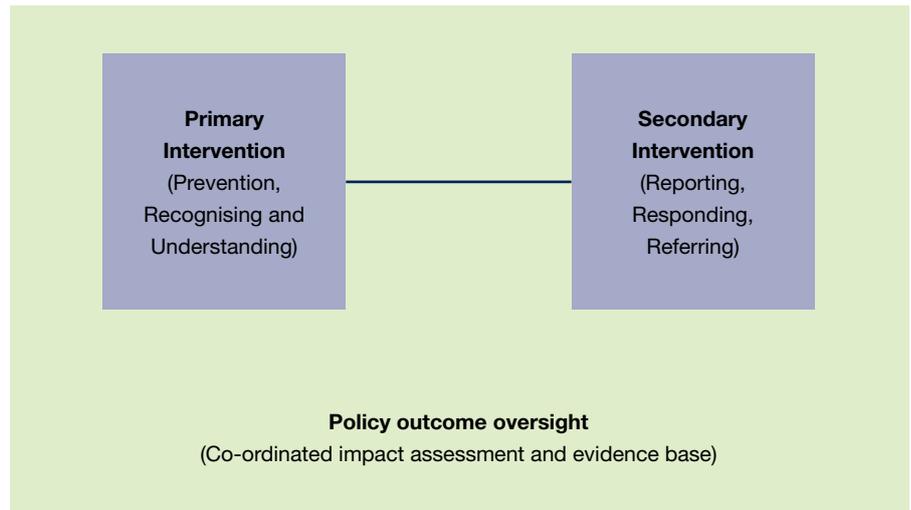
By the end of 2014 in Ireland, there will be:

- » *Clearer societal acknowledgment of the unacceptability of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence*
- » *Greater recognition and a broader understanding of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence*
- » *Greater confidence in high-quality and consistent services*
- » *Increased safety for victims*
- » *Increased accountability of the perpetrator*
- » *Structured and improved planning and monitoring to ensure continued effectiveness.*

Through the development of this framework and the commitment of government departments and State bodies, working in partnership with all relevant services, this strategy will deliver a strong foundation for an improved system of prevention and response – Safer lives at home and in our community.

Strategy model

The model chosen for this strategy focuses on primary and secondary intervention while placing an emphasis on co-ordinated impact assessment and the generation of evidence on which policy and service planning is firmly based. It is not enough that one action in the strategy is progressed. It is not enough that one organisation or one sector is making advancements. The key difference is that activity is planned and undertaken with a conscious regard to impact and outcome. With a reasonable level of evaluation and monitoring and a systematic approach to data, it will be possible to assess the overall impact of the strategy and of our national approach to these problems.



Using this model, the strategy is constructed to achieve the overall objective: the development of a strong framework for sustainable intervention to prevent and effectively respond to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.

High-Level Goals

The four High-Level Goals of the strategy are:

- 1** To promote a culture of prevention and recognition through increased understanding of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence
- 2** To deliver an effective and consistent service to those affected
- 3** To ensure greater effectiveness of policy and service planning
- 4** To ensure efficient and effective implementation of the strategy.

The High-Level Goals cascade down into detailed 'on the ground' activity through objectives, actions and activities.

Primary interventions

High-Level Goal One deals with the actions to be taken under primary interventions.

Secondary interventions arise once an incident has occurred and there is a direct role for services to deal with a report, to respond, or to refer on for needs to be met by a more specialised service.

Primary interventions are those that aim to prevent a problem from occurring or, when it has taken place, to prevent its recurrence. In the context of domestic and sexual violence, primary interventions are those used to raise awareness, increase understanding and recognition, educate people about the dynamics of the problem and its impact, and equip people to better respond to the problem. In the long term, incidences of domestic and sexual violence will be reduced or prevented through raising awareness of the problem and changing attitudes.

The first action aims to increase recognition and understanding of domestic and sexual violence throughout society as a whole, within high-risk groups and within specific audiences such as health-care professionals, the justice system and other front-line staff. Primary interventions also involve developing and implementing training programmes to ensure that front-line staff and professionals provide an effective response. Further activity under this action is to be carried out through the inclusion of suitable material in the curricula of third-level courses such as medicine and social science, and through continuing promotion of issues relevant to domestic and sexual violence in training on student care among school professionals.

The final action under this objective is targeted at children and young people and aims to promote healthy relationships and develop among young people an intolerance of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence. The activities under this objective are aimed at both second- and third-level students as well as young people involved in youth programmes outside of the school context such as Youthreach and similar programmes. The Department of Education and Science will lead work with curriculum support services and Cosc to strengthen the emphasis on awareness of issues of

domestic and sexual violence. Practical information and guidance material will be developed for third-level institutions and student unions in order to inform students of the risks of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence, and to provide them with practical information on how and where to get help.

Secondary interventions

High-Level Goal Two deals with secondary interventions. Secondary interventions arise once an incident has occurred and there is a direct role for services to deal with a report, to respond, or to refer on for needs to be met by a more specialised service. In the context of domestic and sexual violence, secondary interventions are mainly the services offered to victims. Secondary interventions therefore range from routine enquiry in hospital or GP settings which aim to facilitate disclosure, to direct service provision to victims, such as assistance with accommodation, counselling and medical attention, to relief provided through the civil and criminal justice process.

A basic first step in increasing confidence in service provision for those affected by domestic and sexual violence is making sure that information on services is available to victims in user-friendly formats. Action is also planned to improve opportunities for disclosure in the health and non-health sectors.

This section also includes action promoting high-quality standards in service delivery for victims and perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence; action strengthening intra- and inter-organisational co-ordination with a view to improved service effectiveness and consistency; and action supporting and enabling collaboration across State agencies and NGOs. Work at regional level will be further strengthened through support for

Management of risks posed by perpetrators is to be tackled through improvements to the vetting process, further developing policy and provision for pre-sentence risk assessments for sexual violence offenders, and further developing risk management arrangements for convicted sexual violence offenders.

the effective functioning of the Regional Advisory Committees which will play an important role in developing collaboration and in the implementation of this strategy at local level.

Specific actions are included to improve protection and support for victims of domestic and sexual violence through improvements to counselling, ensuring effectiveness and consistency in housing responses and the co-location of services in a one-stop-shop setting.

The strategy includes a specific action to minimise attrition levels in domestic violence and sexual violence cases, where appropriate. This will include examining recent research with a view to making proposals for implementation to improve the situation.

Management of risks posed by perpetrators is to be tackled through improvements

to the vetting process, further developing policy and provision for pre-sentence risk assessments for sexual violence offenders, and further developing risk management arrangements for convicted sexual violence offenders. Through the establishment of a Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme Committee, Cosc will develop and implement a plan to strengthen perpetrator programmes by improving intra- and inter-organisational co-operation, co-ordination and data collection.

The final actions in this area aim to address the accountability of offenders and strengthen the protection of victims through review and any necessary improvement of legislation on sexual and domestic violence.

Policy and service planning

The first and most fundamental action required is the development of a systematic approach to data capture and collation. The lack of consistent information about the number of people affected by domestic and sexual violence limits our ability to respond to the problem. Improving data on domestic and sexual violence will involve working with the relevant organisations to develop and improve data, including realising the statistical potential of data collected for administrative and research/policy purposes. With an improved approach to data, Ireland will be in a better position to evaluate effectiveness. The aim is to develop an evidence-based approach to assessing effectiveness of activity and impact.

Strategy implementation and review

In order to ensure the effective progress of the strategy a Strategy Oversight

Committee has been established and will meet twice yearly. In advance of these meetings a report will be prepared by Cosc on the implementation of the strategy actions. The Oversight Committee will report progress to the Secretaries General of government departments and to the Government.

A comprehensive review of the strategy will be carried out midway through the five-year duration of the strategy, and a report will be submitted to the Oversight Committee. A similar review will take place in 2014 to take full account of the experience of this strategy and to determine further action.

Headline indicators

The key headline indicators for this strategy are:

- » A reduction in the prevalence of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence
- » An increase in the level of disclosure and reporting, as a result of improved opportunities for disclosure and confidence in the response system
- » That people in the community and in service provider organisations are better informed about how to respond to disclosures of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.

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

Overall Strategic Objective:

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

Primary interventions

High-Level Goal 1:

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

Key Objectives

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

¹ Apart from Actions 6, 8, and 9, all HSE actions and indicators are directly taken from the current draft of the HSE policy on domestic violence and sexual violence.

Action	Activities	Indicative list of key bodies	Progress indicator	Implementation structure
1 Promote and develop an understanding and recognition of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence among the general public and specific audiences	1.1 Undertake a range of activities including engaging national, local and journal media in delivering articles to the general public, and to specific audiences (including professionals, vulnerable or high-risk groups, older people etc), » to challenge myths » to confront offending behaviour » to increase understanding and recognition, and » to provide practical information on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence and services available	Cosc (Lead)	1.1 (a) Targeted Annual Information Programme 2010-2014 developed by Q2 2010 and by Q1 each year thereafter 1.1 (b) Annual Programmes implemented by end of programme year	Cosc (with NSC, RAC and NGO participation)
	1.2 Develop guidance on practical steps to increase personal safety for those most at risk from domestic, sexual and gender-based violence	Cosc (Lead)	1.2 (a) Guidance and dissemination plan developed by Q4 2010 1.2 (b) Implement plan from Q1 2011 to 2014	Cosc (with NSC, RAC and NGO participation)
	1.3 Agree in partnership with the NGO networks and Cosc a national awareness training pack for all community groups and organisations that receive funding from the HSE ¹	HSE	1.3 Number of groups trained by LHO by Q4 2010	HSE

Action	Activities	Indicative list of key bodies	Progress indicator	Implementation structure
2 Promote and develop understanding and recognition of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence across the State sector	2.1 Agree and deliver a suite of national training packs for all front-line staff in different health-care settings, from agreed existing materials	HSE	2.1 Number of front-line staff trained by each LHO by Q1 2011	HSE
	2.2 (a) Conduct an analysis of training needs for all relevant justice sector organisations including identification of areas suitable for cross-sectoral training 2.2 (b) In the light of the training needs analysis, develop and implement training programmes	Cosc (Lead), Garda, Probation, Courts Service, Legal Aid Board, IYJS	2.2 (a) Justice sector training needs identified by Q1 2011 2.2 (b) Identification or development of suitable training programmes by Q2 2011 2.2 (c) Implementation of training programmes by Q4 2011 2.2 (d) Number of staff trained each year	Cosc-led training committee and/or service-led committees
	2.3 Work with third-level institutions to include understanding and recognition of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence in curricula including social services and legal studies curricula	Cosc, HSE, OOP, Institutions concerned	2.3 (a) Develop pilots in some institutions by end Q2 2011 2.3 (b) Implement pilots from end Q4 2011 to Q1 2012 2.3 (c) Review pilots by end Q3 2012 2.3 (d) Extend to other institutions from end Q4 2012	Cosc with NSC and NGO participation
	2.4 Continue to promote issues relevant to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence in training on student care among school professionals	DES	2.4 Number of school professionals trained	No specific structure needed

Action	Activities	Indicative list of key bodies	Progress indicator	Implementation structure
3 Embed domestic, sexual and gender-based violence content in second- and third-level educational institution action on healthy relationships	3.1 Develop and implement sustainable second-level educational programmes, applying learning from Cosc research on schools programmes and from the experience of programmes provided in this area	DES (Lead), Curriculum support services, Cosc	3.1 (a) Develop enhanced programme content by Q2 2011 3.1 (b) Number of schools/teachers who have availed of training in enhanced programme each year	Education committee
	3.2 Develop and implement programme for young people attending Youthreach and similar education programmes	As above	3.2 (a) Develop content for delivery in Youthreach and similar programmes by Q2 2011 3.2 (b) Number of schools/teachers who have availed of training in enhanced programme each year	As above
	3.3 Work with third-level institutions and student media to increase understanding and practical information on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence	Cosc (Lead), Third-level institutions, Student health services	3.3 (a) Practical guidance for third-level colleges on risk of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence and services available by Q4 2010 3.3 (b) Number of colleges involved each year	Cosc with NSC and other NGO participation

Secondary interventions

High-Level Goal 2:

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

Key Objectives

4 To increase confidence in service provision for those affected by DV and SV

5 To promote high standards in service provision

6 To strengthen intra- and inter-organisational co-ordination to improve service effectiveness and consistency

7 To improve protection and support for victims

8 To address offending behaviour by perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence

Action	Activities	Indicative list of key bodies	Progress indicator	Implementation structure
4 Ensure information on services is available to victims in user-friendly formats	<p>4.1 Promote effective dissemination to victims of accessible and consistent information on domestic and sexual violence provided by State organisations</p> <p>4.2 Continue to encourage and support effective dissemination of information on domestic and sexual violence services provided by non-State organisations</p>	<p>Cosc (Lead) and all relevant State services</p> <p>Cosc (Lead) and all relevant NGO services</p>	<p>4.1 Accessible and consistent information effectively disseminated by State organisations</p> <p>4.2 (a) Effective and strategic support provided to NGOs to deliver service information to victims</p> <p>4.2 (b) Improved service awareness levels among victims</p>	No specific structure needed. Cosc to drive
5 Ensure reasonable opportunity is provided for disclosure of domestic and sexual violence	<p>5.1 Agree and implement an assessment form with domestic violence questions for routine use for all staff in different health-care contexts/environments with specific target groups</p> <p>5.2 Identify and promote best practice to encourage disclosure of domestic and sexual violence in relevant sectors including justice, housing, and education sectors</p>	<p>HSE</p> <p>Cosc (Lead), local authorities, DEHLG, DES</p>	<p>5.1 (a) Assessment form agreed by Q1 2010</p> <p>5.1 (b) Number of staff who received assessment forms at training by LHO by Q4 2010</p> <p>5.1 (c) Number of screening forms completed</p> <p>5.2 (a) Proposals for non-health sector disclosure (including suitable pilot) developed by Q4 2011</p> <p>5.2 (b) Pilot implemented by Q2 2012</p> <p>5.2 (c) Pilots reviewed (including number of forms completed) by Q2 2013</p> <p>5.2 (d) Action taken in light of review by Q4 2013</p>	<p>HSE</p> <p>Justice and Tripartite Committees²</p>

² Cosc facilitates inter-agency co-ordination across the justice sector through the Justice Committee; and inter-agency co-ordination across State bodies responsible for justice, health and housing policy through a committee known as the Tripartite Committee.

Action	Activities	Indicative list of key bodies	Progress indicator	Implementation structure
6 Promote clear, high-quality standards in service delivery for victims and perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence	6.1 Publish a new edition of the <i>Victims Charter and Guide to the Criminal Justice System</i> , outlining the commitments to victims generally, and victims of sexual, domestic and gender-based violence in particular, made by the eight State criminal justice agencies	Victims of Crime Office (Lead) and all relevant bodies	6.1 <i>Victims Charter</i> published by Q1 2010	Victims of Crime Office, Cosc
	6.2 Identify best practice models for service delivery for victims and perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence	Cosc (Lead) and all relevant bodies	6.2 Information on best practice models identified and circulated to service providers by Q3 2010 and regularly thereafter	No specific structure. Cosc to drive
	6.3 Encourage improvements to service delivery based on consideration of suitable best practice models	Cosc (Lead)	6.3 At least 2 best practice models considered annually	
	6.4 Identify and promote suitable State service responses in relation to domestic and sexual violence for vulnerable or high-risk groups (including Travellers, people with a disability, older people, migrants, and young people)	Cosc (Lead), OOP	6.4 Development of intervention responses for the most vulnerable groups by Q4 2011	
	6.5 Work in partnership with the national NGO networks to develop standardisation within specialist domestic violence services	HSE (Lead)	6.5 Number of standards in place in all HSE-funded services by Q4 2010	HSE
	6.6 Implement the recommendations on standardisation of sexual assault services as set out in the National Review of SATUs	HSE (Lead)	6.6 SATU review report implemented by Q4 2010 (funding dependencies)	HSE
	6.7 Ensure that the requirements in <i>Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children</i> are being adhered to by all specialist domestic violence services	HSE	6.7 Child protection policies in place in all HSE-funded services, based on requirements of <i>Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children</i> and Duty to Care Q3 2010	HSE

Action	Activities	Indicative list of key bodies	Progress indicator	Implementation structure
6 Promote clear, high-quality standards in service delivery for victims and perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence (cont'd)	6.8 Develop and disseminate guidelines on working with children in domestic violence situations	HSE	6.8 Best practice guidelines outlined, disseminated and covered in service level agreements Q4 2010	HSE
	6.9 Ensure the assessment form for children at risk will contain key questions about domestic violence	HSE	6.9 Number of children identified at risk re domestic violence are followed up	HSE
	6.10 Ensure the assessment form for children at risk regarding domestic violence contains questions regarding children's welfare	HSE	6.10 As above	HSE
7 Promote inter-agency co-ordination through multi-agency projects	7.1 Promote and further develop practices and protocols on inter-agency referrals and co-operation based on best practice	Cosc (Lead), HSE, Garda, Courts Service, Probation	7.1 (a) Assess extent to which specific referral protocols required by end Q4 2010 7.1 (b) Agree protocols in 3 key areas by end Q4 2011 7.1 (c) Agree further protocols required by end Q4 2012 7.1 (d) Implement by end 2014	Justice and Tripartite Committees
	7.2 Provide guidance on data protection implications of information sharing across services	ODPC DJELR	7.2 (a) Guidance developed and disseminated by Q4 2010 7.2 (b) Provide for any necessary legislative change	ODPC DJELR

Action	Activities	Indicative list of key bodies	Progress indicator	Implementation structure
8 Improve collaboration and information sharing in relation to service provision	8.1 Promote opportunities for networking, sharing information and best practice across State agencies	Cosc (Lead)	8.1 (a) Effective meetings of NSC and related committees (ongoing) 8.1 (b) Conduct annual reviews of collaboration activity at regional/national level	No specific structure necessary
	8.2 Regular liaison between Cosc and the HSE Assistant National Director for Children and Families Social Services and the HSE Assistant National Director for Older Person's Services regarding progress on all HSE-related action on domestic and sexual violence	Cosc and HSE	8.2 Progress made on HSE-related domestic and sexual violence actions	No specific structure necessary
	8.3 Support Regional Advisory Committees to improve collaboration and the implementation of national policies on domestic and sexual violence	HSE	8.3 Effective meetings of RAC and related committees (ongoing)	No specific structure necessary
	8.4 Explore areas of work to identify those suitable for cross-border co-operation to address domestic and sexual violence	Cosc (Lead), DFA, HSE, Garda, Courts Service, Probation Service	8.4 (a) Areas of work to be identified by Q3 2010 8.4 (b) Consider setting up projects to take forward suitable areas of work by Q1 2011	Cosc (with advice from NSC, RAC and NGOs)
9 Ensure reasonable accessibility to counselling services for victims of domestic and sexual violence	9.1 Review the availability of counselling services as part of its work on standardisation and improved data collection within HSE-funded services for victims of domestic and sexual violence	HSE	9.1 Review completed by Q1 2011	HSE and HSE-funded services for victims of domestic and sexual violence
	9.2 Develop proposals for improvement		9.2 Proposals for improvement developed and implemented by services and the HSE by Q2 2011	

Action	Activities	Indicative list of key bodies	Progress indicator	Implementation structure
10 Ensure effectiveness and consistency in housing responses	10.1 Develop policy guidance for local authorities on their housing remit in relation to domestic violence, setting out a clear understanding of domestic violence and the importance of housing as a homelessness preventative and responsive action. The guidance would also cover the range of accommodation options to be considered and implemented by local authorities covering preventative, emergency and long-term accommodation solutions with related housing supports, as necessary, ³ to help persons maintain their new housing tenancies	DEHLG (Lead), Cosc, local authorities, HSE	10.1 (a) Policy guidance to be developed through the Cross-Departmental Team on Homelessness with Cosc, in consultation with the National Homeless Consultative Committee, as appropriate. This guidance will be supported by research on relevant aspects, experience, and best practice internationally 10.1 (b) Policy Guidance developed by Q4 2010, to address matters relating to: 1. Assessment of housing need and consistent application of 'homelessness' 2. Housing allocation policies 3. Nature and extent of provision of emergency accommodation	Cross-Departmental Team on Homelessness, in consultation with the National Homeless Consultative Committee, as appropriate
	10.2 In the context of minimising the extent of victim homelessness arising from domestic violence, evaluate approaches and experiences of initiatives such as safe rooms, security support, etc., and consider role in Irish context	DEHLG (Lead), Cosc, local authorities, HSE	10.2 Evaluation completed by Q4 2011 with consequential programme of action developed	Cross-Departmental Team on Homelessness, in consultation with the National Homeless Consultative Committee, as appropriate

³ Supports to help the successful transition from homelessness to living in mainstream housing, tapering off in line with this progression.

Action	Activities	Indicative list of key bodies	Progress indicator	Implementation structure
11 Examine a one-stop-shop option for greater accessibility to services for victims of domestic and sexual violence	<p>11.1 Develop proposals for multi-agency one-stop shop for victims of domestic and sexual violence</p> <p>11.2 Implement pilot of one-stop shop</p> <p>11.3 Review pilot and implement outcome of review</p>	Cosc (Lead), HSE, Garda, FSA, DCRGA	<p>11.1 Proposals developed by Q4 2010</p> <p>11.2 Pilot implemented by Q3 2011</p> <p>11.3 (a) Pilot reviewed by Q3 2012</p> <p>11.3 (b) Proposals revised and implemented by Q3 2013</p>	Implementation structure to be part of proposals for one-stop shop
12 Minimise attrition in domestic and sexual violence cases, where appropriate	<p>12.1 Develop a greater understanding of the extent and nature of attrition in domestic and sexual violence cases</p> <p>12.2 Develop proposals to minimise attrition in domestic and sexual violence cases, where appropriate, including an examination of the feasibility of pre-trial hearings in sexual violence cases</p>	<p>Cosc (Lead), Garda, Courts Service, DJELR</p> <p>Cosc (Lead), Garda, Courts Service, DJELR</p>	<p>12.1 Justice Committee to consider attrition research and to make proposals to Cosc by Q4 2010</p> <p>12.2 Proposals considered and implemented on a phased basis if necessary</p>	<p>Justice Committee</p> <p>Justice Committee</p>
13 Use vetting arrangements to provide greater protection for victims of domestic and sexual violence	<p>13.1 Improve legislative provisions on vetting</p> <p>13.2 Strengthen vetting arrangements for those who may come into contact with potential victims of domestic and sexual violence</p>	DHC, OMCYA, DJELR	<p>13.1 Vetting legislation improved and brought into operation by Q4 2011</p> <p>13.2 Legislation effectively enforced (ongoing)</p>	No specific structure necessary

Action	Activities	Indicative list of key bodies	Progress indicator	Implementation structure
14 Strengthen measures to manage the risks posed by sexual and domestic violence perpetrators	14.1 Provide for pre-sentence risk assessments for the courts in relation to convicted sexual violence perpetrators	DJELR, IPS, Garda	14.1 Policy formulated in light of finalised Report of Management of Sex Offenders Group by Q4 2010	Management of Sex Offenders Group
	14.2 Further develop current risk management arrangements for convicted sexual violence perpetrators	DJELR, IPS, Probation Service	14.2 Implementation (including bringing into operation of legislation) by Q4 2011	Management of Sex Offenders Group
	14.3 Explore the feasibility of multi-agency risk management arrangements for unconvicted sexual violence perpetrators	Cosc (to facilitate)	14.3 Feasibility of multi-agency approach explored by Q2 2013	
	14.4 Develop and implement risk management arrangements for high-risk domestic violence perpetrators	Cosc (to facilitate)	14.4 Domestic violence perpetrator risk management model developed and implemented by Q4 2013	Justice Committee
15 Strengthen measures to deal with sexual violence perpetrators	15.1 Monitor and review implementation of new prison treatment programme for convicted sexual violence perpetrators	DJELR, IPS	15.1 Sexual violence programmes reviewed by end 2013	IPS
	15.2 Integrate custodial and community intervention programmes for convicted sexual violence perpetrators	DJELR, HSE, Probation Service, Garda, IPS	15.2 Review operation of community programme provision by end 2012. Implement review outcome by end 2013	DJELR
	15.3 Develop best practice actions for dealing with sexual violence perpetrators in the community and outside the criminal justice system	Cosc (to facilitate), Garda, HSE	15.3 Identify best practice suitable for implementation by end 2013	

Action	Activities	Indicative list of key bodies	Progress indicator	Implementation structure
16 Strengthen measures to deal with domestic violence perpetrators	16.1 Strengthen Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programmes to ensure their greater effectiveness	Cosc (Lead)	16.1 (a) Plan (including mechanisms for co-ordination with victim support services and capture of victim feedback) developed by Q3 2010 16.1 (b) Plan implemented from Q2 2011 16.1 (c) Increased co-operation and co-ordination with victim support services	Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme Committee
17 Update the law on sexual offences	17.1 Review and improve legislative provisions on sexual offences	DJELR	17.1 (a) Sexual offences legislation brought into operation by Q4 2011 17.1 (b) New legislation effectively enforced (ongoing)	DJELR with Cosc
18 Update the law on domestic violence to give further protection to victims	18.1 Improve legislative provisions protecting victims of domestic violence	DJELR	18.1 (a) New domestic violence provisions brought into operation by Q4 2010 18.1 (b) New legislation effectively enforced (ongoing)	DJELR with Cosc

Policy planning

High-Level Goal 3:

To ensure greater effectiveness of policy and service planning

Key Objectives

9 To improve the effectiveness of policy planning through improved data capture and data co-ordination

10 To ensure that policy development and service provision planning are evidence-based and take account of the

experience of victims

11 To ensure greater co-ordination between relevant organisations

12 To provide a solid foundation for future actions on domestic and sexual violence

Action	Activities	Indicative list of key bodies	Progress indicator	Implementation structure
19 Improve data on domestic and sexual violence	19.1 Work with all relevant organisations to develop and improve domestic and sexual violence data (including data collected for administrative and research/policy purposes)	Cosc (Lead), HSE, Garda, Probation Service, Courts Service, CSO, OOP	19.1 (a) Data plan developed by Q4 2010 19.1 (b) Data plan implemented by Q2 2011	Cosc-led data committee
20 Ensure improved impact evaluation	20.1 Develop an evaluation framework for assessing cross-organisational strategic impact to ensure maximum system effectiveness	Cosc (Lead), HSE, Garda, Probation Service, Courts Service, OOP	20.1 Effective arrangements to monitor and review organisational response in place in all key State organisations by Q4 2012	Independent external organisation
	20.2 Encourage consultation with representative groups in the development of policy and services	Cosc (Lead)	20.2 Consultation held with representative groups on development of policy and services – ongoing	Cosc (with NSC and NGO participation)
21 Promote the design of planned research to ground policy development and service planning	21.1 Encourage the development of a co-ordinated research programme	Cosc (Lead), HSE, OOP	21.1 (a) Co-ordinated research programme planned and implemented each year 21.1 (b) Research disseminated and policy implications followed up – ongoing basis	No specific structure needed. Cosc to drive

Strategy implementation and review

High-Level Goal 4:

To ensure efficient and effective implementation of the National Strategy

Key Objectives

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

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

Action	Activities	Indicative list of key bodies	Progress indicator	Implementation structure
22 Monitor progress in the implementation of this strategy	<p>22.1 Collate bi-annual reports on strategy progress</p> <p>22.2 Liaise on draft progress reports</p> <p>22.3 Submit progress report, including material derived from liaison process, to Oversight Committee</p>	Cosc (Lead)	<p>22.1 Bi-annual reports collated on time</p> <p>22.2 Liaison takes place bi-annually on draft progress reports</p> <p>22.3 (a) Reports, including material derived from liaison process, submitted to Oversight Committee on time</p> <p>22.3 (b) Strategy Progress report submitted to Government on time</p>	Cosc and on to Oversight Committee
23 Ensure effectiveness of strategy implementation	<p>23.1 Review effectiveness of strategy to prepare for future work</p>	Cosc (Lead)	<p>23.1 (a) Conduct comprehensive first review of progress by end Q2 2012 and second review by end Q2 2014</p> <p>23.1 (b) Prepare review reports for Oversight Committee by end Q3 2012 and by end Q3 2014</p>	Cosc to drive. No specific structure needed

Glossary

DCRGA	Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
DEHLG	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
DES	Department of Education and Science
DFA	Department of Foreign Affairs
DHC	Department of Health and Children
DJELR	Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform
DV	Domestic Violence
FSA	Family Support Agency
GP	General Practitioner
HSE	Health Service Executive
IPS	Irish Prison Service
IYJS	Irish Youth Justice Service
LHO	Local Health Officer
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NSC	National Steering Committee
OMCYA	Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs
OOP	Office for Older People
Q 1/2/3/4	Quarter 1/2/3/4
RAC	Regional Advisory Committee
SATU	Sexual Assault Treatment Unit
SV	Sexual Violence



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