Action Plan

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

2016 - 2021

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

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

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

High Level Goals

1. Prevention - Awareness / Education / Training

Awareness raising

Action 1.100

Education and training

Actions 1.200 – 1.800

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

Provision of Services to Victims

Sexual violence

Action 2.100

Domestic violence

Actions 2.200 – 2.600

Domestic and sexual violence

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

High Level Goal 1

1. Prevention - Awareness / Education / Training

Awareness raising

ACTION 1.100

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

Tailor the national message for local delivery

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

Implementing bodies

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

Timescale

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

Monitoring Report

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Funding of €950,000 is available in 2016 for a national awareness campaign allied to 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. (Cosc – Communications)

Is the action on target?

Yes

The etenders process for the creative advertising services and media buying services for the campaign commenced in April 2016. The closing date for receipt of tenders was Friday 1 July 2016. (Cosc – Communications)

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

Cosc will establish an advisory group composed of state organisations, NGOs and campaign experts in Autumn 2016 to advise on the campaign. (Cosc Communications)

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

This action is addressed through the stay safe programme. CPD is being delivered on the Stay Safe programme through the PDST.

Stay Safe is mandatory and both the Stay Safe and Walk Tall programmes which are Wellbeing resources for primary schools have been revised recently. The revisions take into account modern day issues for students including gender based bullying and cyber bullying.

It is envisaged that 2 teachers from all primary schools will attend one day's CPD on the revised programmes before the end of 2016.

At primary level the CAPP programme (Stay Safe) is a school based approach to the prevention of child abuse run by the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST). The aim of the programme is to reduce vulnerability to child abuse and bullying through the provision of:

- a personal safety education programme for children at primary school level
- continuing professional development for teachers,
- training for Boards of Management
- information sessions for parents.

Stay Safe is mandatory for all primary schools.

The programme aims to 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.

SPHE is mandatory in all primary schools. It will also form part of the new mandatory 'Wellbeing' component of junior cycle. Along with P.E. and C.S.P.E. Schools are also encouraged to deliver the SPHE programme in senior cycle. (Dept of Education)

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

CPD for the Junior Cycle Personal Safety lessons started in November 2013. The PDST finished the 2 day CPD seminar in March 2016. The PDST aim to have these lessons up on the website next term.

There have been 15 CPD events throughout the country over the past two and a half years.

The PDST do not have a breakdown in numbers between post-primary schools and Youthreach centres. These seminars were open to all teachers registered with the teaching council from both sectors.

The PDST will CPD the senior cycle Personal Safety lessons in the next academic year 2016/17.

The Junior Cycle Personal Safety lessons and Senior Cycle Personal Safety resource pack are now on the SPHE and PDST website

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

See report on action 3.1000

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

Work will commence on establishing timescale following establishment of te post-graduate research network.

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

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.

The 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 combined office project has presented an unprecedented training challenge for the Courts Service. By necessity, the Courts Service have prioritised training in Circuit Family Court procedures because there are more ex-District Court staff than ex-Circuit Court staff. The Circuit Court manual is augmented by a two-day training course, which includes a one-hour module on domestic violence orders. The Courts Service have commenced to deliver the course to all relevant staff from June 2016.

A new training course dealing specifically with domestic violence proceedings in the District Court is in development, which will enhance and upgrade the existing training material. The 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 will consult with interested organisations during autumn 2016. (Courts Service)

Training programme currently being developed (HSE)

29 courses projected nationally (280 projected participants) for Tusla staff and partner organisations (Tusla)

The Probation Service provides ongoing training in domestic violence issues and awareness to dedicated staff e.g. Solas sa SAOL training to the Women's Strategy group of Probation Officers. Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA) training and awareness raising training on non index domestic violence/abuse offences are also provided to Probation staff. (Prisons and Probation Policy)

AGS has reviewed and Revised its policy on Domestic Abuse as part of a process of improving the response to Domestic Abuse. Training will be developed within the Garda College on release of the Revised Policy. (An Garda Síochána)

Is the action on target?

Yes (Courts Service)

Slightly behind schedule in terms of initiating training (HSE)

Yes (Tusla)

Yes (Prisons and Probation Policy)

Yes (An Garda Síochána)

If not, why?

Timescale was possibly a little ambitious in terms of initiating training, given a range of other competing priorities. However, positive progress is being made around development of a comprehensive training programme (HSE)

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Hope to initiate training in Q3 (HSE)

Any other information

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

Links have been forged with key agencies e.g. Rape Crisis Centre in respect of supporting/ delivering appropriate/ specialised training (HSE)

Training material has been provided by New York Police Dept and Police Service of Northern Ireland for evaluation. Detective Superintendent M Daly and Inspector Y Murphy have enrolled in the Dundalk Institute Course on dealing with Domestic Violence by professionals, due to start in September 16 with a view to evaluating it for AGS. (An Garda Síochána)

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

a & b Review of current training programme underway, to be completed in Q4 2016

Establishment of project group within Tusla to address responses following completion of review

c. Development of DSGBV training plan with Workforce Learning and Development – ongoing (Tusla)

Tusla is reviewing feasible timelines for implementing actions towards enhanced education and training around DSGBV with other partners and will submit updated action plan in Q1 2017

Is the action on target?

a & b are not on target

c will be informed by progress on a and b (Tusla)

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

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

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

Is the action on target?

Yes (Cosc)

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

King's Inns is taking 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 are updated to include information on the Convention at appropriate points in each course. Relevant areas of the curricula have been identified in advance of the new academic year. The changes will be in place for the academic year commencing in September / October 2016. (Kings Inns)

In relation to the actions agreed by the Law Society there is firstly a compulsory module on domestic violence for the students of the second professional course. In addition the Law Society are planning a lecture for colleagues on the recognition of the symptoms of domestic violence and the most appropriate way of dealing with clients who present with such symptoms. They are also updating their website to provide resources for colleagues as well as articles for their professional journals. (Law Library)

Is the action on target?

Yes (Kings Inns)

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

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. (Kings Inns)

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Not yet due for commencement (HSE and Tusla)

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

The Domestic Violence Bill is currently being drafted by the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel.

Is the action on target?

No

If not, why?

In the course of the drafting of the Bill, a number of policy and resource issues have emerged which have required careful consideration by the Department. A revised draft of the Bill has recently been received from the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel and is being examined in the Department.

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Subject to finalisation of the draft Bill by the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel and Government approval, it is expected that the Bill will be ready for publication in the 4th quarter of 2016.

Any other information

No

ACTION 2.300

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

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

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

Implementing bodies

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

Timescale

a. Quarter 1, 2016

b. Quarter 2. 2016

Monitoring Report

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Drafting of the procedural guidance for housing authorities is at an advanced stage but has not yet been published. The Government's Action Plan on Housing & Homelessness, which was published in July, reaffirms the commitment to having this guidance published during the second half of 2016, following which the participatory engagement sessions will be scheduled.

Is the action on target?

No – behind schedule

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

It is now planned to have this guidance in place by end 2016.

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Planning commenced around this action. (HSE)

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Parts a, b, d and e, are in place and are reinforced by the Revised Policy on Domestic Abuse. Point c, is work ongoing although the first part of the three part risk Assessment is already written into the Revised Policy. (An Garda Síochána)

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

The review has not yet commenced.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

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.

In other venues, e.g Carlow, where there is a lack of suitable physical space for interviewing domestic violence applicants, the local DV 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 we expect new interest in on-site support and referral in those venues, particularly in Wexford and Limerick, where such links have been explored previously. (Courts Service)

The Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Bill is being drafted on a priority basis and close contact has been maintained with the key stakeholders who will be responsible for implementing the new legislation. (Criminal Law Reform)

The Probation Service and the Irish Prison Service are in the process of drafting the joint information leaflet. (Prisons and Probation Policy)

Is the action on target?

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

While it has not been possible to publish the Bill to date substantial progress has been made with the drafting of the text. (Criminal Law Reform)

Yes (Prisons and Probation Policy)

A Garda Síochana leaflet is currently prepared and is to be updated for Braille users. Considerable work has already being done and Victim Support Offices are in place. (An Garda Síochána)

If not, why?

The drafting process has taken longer than anticipated and, in particular, a number of significant legal issues are involved. (Criminal Law Reform)

Proposed remedial action and timescale

The Government is committed to the early introduction of the Bill in the Oireachtas and this will be achieved as quickly as possible. (Criminal Law Reform)

Any other information

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Additional actions are now being discussed within Garda National Protective Services Bureau Senior Management following a meeting with Cosc (An Garda Síochána)

Is the action on target?

No

If not, why?

Due to misunderstanding that content of Revised Domestic Intervention Policy covered additional actions.

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Additional Actions will be added to the Strategy by end of Q3 2016

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Development of a 3 part Risk Assessment Tool is currently ongoing

Pt 1 – First Responders – written within Revised Domestic Abuse Policy. This will be actioned when policy 'goes live'

Part 2 – Dynamic Risk Assessment for Victim – under development

Part 3 -Detailed risk assessment for victim – under development.

Risk Assessment Implementation Group involving assistance from Trinity College Dublin is working on this. (An Garda Síochána)

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

ACTION 2.1000

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

Implementing bodies

An Garda Síochána (lead)

Timescale

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

Monitoring Report

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Revised Policy on Domestic Abuse and planned Divisional Protective Services Teams will improve confidence in victims regarding the management of Domestic and Sexual Abuse within all communities. Continued contact and development with partner agencies and NGOs including those representing Travellers and Roma through GNPSB will reinforce this action.(An Garda Síochána)

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Specific focus currently on addressing and supporting appropriate interventions for refugee women. Submissions made in respect of development of National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy.

Bids to support ongoing development and implementation of interventions have been submitted as part of the current Estimates process. (HSE)

Projects initiated within commissioning process to look at needs of Traveller, Roma and New Communities, also men experiencing domestic violence.

Tusla has contributed to the National Traveller and Roma Integration Strategy, on Gender Equality sections and accommodation as they pertain to DSGBV responses. (Tusla)

Is the action on target?

Yes (HSE)

Internal Tusla progress is on target. Tusla will engage with HSE and other relevant partners in Q3 to identify appropriate and joint responses. (Tusla)

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

a) Process for commissioning of Helplines from 2017 has been initiated, with initial draft statement of requirements for national helplines to be completed by end Q3.

Engagement with key stakeholders ongoing in Q2 & Q3 2016. (Tusla)

Is the action on target?

Yes (Tusla)

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Action not due to commence until ratification of the Istanbul Convention

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Action not due to commence until ratification of the Istanbul Convention

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

a & b substantially in place

A series of workshops and engagement mechanisms with service provider organisations have been undertaken in Q1&Q2, with further events planned in Q3&Q4 (Tusla)

Is the action on target?

Yes (Tusla)

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Is the action on target?

a & b Tusla DSGBV Services is a pilot site for Tusla Commissioning Project – a Commissioning Statement for DSGBV Services will be developed by end Q3

b. Additional provision of sexual violence outreach supports in Co. Monaghan and Co. Donegal in 2016.

Q3 – project to be initiated on needs assessment in Midlands (Tusla)

If not, why?

Yes (Tusla)

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Is the action on target?

Some initial work has been progressed. However recruitment delay of key staff resource has delayed full project initiation. Funding is in place - delay was due to recruitment timeline – the process is due to be completed before end Q3. (Tusla)

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

It is expected that this project can be initiated by Q4 2016 and a revised timeline will be identified at that stage. (Tusla)

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

a. Feedback on current practices on service user engagement

b. Initial literature review and project scoping undertaken in Q1&Q2
Analysis of current practices being undertaken as part of commissioning processes

Learning event focusing on service user engagement planned for Q4

c. Tusla DSGBV Services establishing pilot user engagement inititative in Q3.

d & e Ongoing – initial approaches will be completed in Q4 2016 for inclusion in 2017 service arrangement process. (Tusla)

Is the action on target?

Yes (Tusla)

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

Holding Perpetrators to Account

Sexual violence

ACTION 2.1900

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

Implementing bodies

Department of Justice and Equality

Timescale

Publish Bill quarter 4, 2015.

Monitoring Report

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Bill 2015 was published on 23 September 2015. Provisions of the Bill include amendments to the Criminal Evidence Act 1992 which will enhance protections for victims of sexual violence, particularly child victims, giving evidence during the trial process.

The Bill also introduces important provisions to safeguard victims of sexual offences from further victimisation by having their personal counselling or therapy records released as part of the trial process. Decisions on the disclosure of such records will be made at a separate pre-trail hearing and the Bill sets out a range of factors which the court must take into account in making its decision.

The Bill passed all stages in Seanad Éireann in January 2016 and is currently awaiting Second Stage the Dáil.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

Action 2.1900 refers to legislation to strengthen protections for victims of sexual violence and Criminal Law Reform's understanding is that the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Bill 2015 covers the relevant ground.

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

A new Sex Offenders (Amendment) Bill is currently under preparation. Consideration of the issues and consultation with relevant stakeholders is ongoing. Further legal advices have also been sought. (Criminal Law Reform)

Is the action on target?

No

If not, why?

A number of issues arising in the preparation of the legislation required to meet this target have required more detailed consideration and consultation than previously foreseen and this has delayed the publication of the Bill. (Criminal Law Reform)

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Publication of the legislation is anticipated before the end of the year. (Criminal Law Reform)

Any other information

ACTION 2.2100

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

Implementing bodies

Sexual Assault Treatment Units and HSE

Timescale

Quarter 2, 2016

Monitoring Report

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Freezers and monitoring systems installed in all 6 SATUs, option available for patients since 1st July 2016.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

ACTION 2.2200

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

Implementing bodies

Sexual Assault Treatment Units and HSE

Timescale

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

Monitoring Report

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Slow progress, but ongoing (HSE)

Is the action on target?

Yes (SATU)

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

Recording of ethnicity is being promoted as part of this action (HSE)

Funding received from Office of Chief Information Officer (HSE) and project commenced April 2016. (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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Not yet commenced (HSE) – completion date is Q2, 2018

Is the action on target?

Not applicable

If not, why?

Not applicable

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

The Probation Service to continue to lead on sex offender treatment programmes in the community, 2 in Dublin and 1 in Cork. Probation Officers and IPS psychology services deliver the Building Better Lives (BBL) group programme in Arbour Hill and the Midlands Prison. (Prisons and Probation Policy)

Is the action on target?

Yes (Prisons and Probation Policy)

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

8 Regional Workshops have already been conducted across the country in 2015. Further Workshops are being planned focussing on the new Manual of Practice which has just been completed. The Manual of Practice will be introduced to the SORAM Teams at the National SORAM Conference in November 2016. (An Garda Síochána)

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Programme is well underway, with regular updates provided by One in Four (HSE)

One in Four provides a two and a half year sex offender intervention programme to adults over the age of 18 who acknowledge sexually harmful behaviour. They work with 40 sex offenders each year. The majority of offenders attending this programme attend voluntarily and have not been convicted of an offence.

In 2016 One in Four received a grant of €80,000 from the HSE National Social Inclusion Office to support their work with non-convicted sex offenders. They submit a bi-monthly activity report to keep the HSE informed of our progress.

They have also met the CEO and COO of Tusla to discuss their programme. However, Tusla are focusing for the present on adolescent sex offenders.(One in Four)

Services for young people who have engaged in sexually harmful behaviour.

Tusla the Child and Family Agency is currently leading a national, multiagency process to implement the Recommendations of the **Report of the Ferns 5 National Steering Committee 2014.**

The Report has developed a children's service Framework which includes a set of policies and procedures as well as standards and includes the following components:

- The service will have as its first priority the safeguarding of children, and will be integrated with child protection and criminal justice agencies;
- Each Region should establish a team with links into each Area as a means of ensuring local access to services, and outward links to referring agencies, child protection services, the Gardai, Probation and Prison Services;
- A core and cluster model should be applied with dedicated staffing compliments (core) for the specialist centres and additional staffing compliments being provided for on a secondment basis (cluster) from other local services.
- A range of disciplines should be either employed by and/or accessible to the service. It is recommended that clinical psychology, social work, psychotherapy, and family therapy provide the foundation of clinical teams; with child and adolescent psychiatrists being accessible or directly involved where applicable on an ongoing basis.
- There should be a multiagency National Steering Committee.

The agencies involved in this process are Tusla, An Garda Síochána, the HSE, the Children's Hospital Group, the Probation Service and CARI.
Work is underway to implement the Recommendations of the Ferns 5 Report 2014 with recruitment of 4 regional Coordinators as well as scoping of new posts for the hub and spoke service model for consideration within the 2017 Service Planning process.
Discussions are underway with existing services with a view to incorporating these service into the new national service model.

Tusla is currently developing services for children and young people who engage in sexually harmful behavior and is doing this on a multiagency basis. One in Four is involved in services for adults and therefore is not involved in this process. (Tusla)

Is the action on target?

Yes (HSE)

The action is on target. However, there is very little coordination between One in Four and Tusla. (One in Four)

Yes (Tusla)

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Continue to liaise with Tusla (One in Four)

Any other information

No

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

June, 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/oversees the delivery of this pilot through a core group of Probation staff who have participated in mediation skills training and dedicated training on sexual trauma. (Prisons and Probation Policy)

Is the action on target?

Yes (Prisons and Probation Policy)

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

The Domestic Violence Bill is currently being drafted by the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel.

Is the action on target?

No

If not, why?

In the course of the drafting of the Bill, a number of policy and resource issues have emerged which have required careful consideration by the Department. A revised draft of the Bill has recently been received from the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel and is being examined in the Department.

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Subject to finalisation of the draft Bill by the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel and Government approval, it is expected that the Bill will be ready for publication in the 4th quarter of 2016.

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

The Department of Justice and Equality is finalising a concept paper on the development of a new Family Court. Further consultations will take place with the Courts Service and the judiciary prior to submission of the paper to Government in Autumn 2016. The General Scheme of a Family Courts Bill will be published in Quarter 4 2016. (Civil Law)

The General Scheme of a Family Courts Bill has not been published as anticipated in the Strategy. (Courts Service)

Is the action on target?

No

If not, why?

Due to the extent of reform which is proposed in this area, further consultation is required with the relevant stakeholders. (Civil Law)

The legislative programme was interrupted by the 2016 General Election and the subsequent delay in forming a Government. (Courts Service)

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Further consultation to take place during summer 2016 to finalise concept paper. (Civil Law)

Dependent on the Department of Justice and Equality and on the legislative process. (Courts Service)

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

The design of the Hammond Lane courts complex is at a reasonably advanced stage. The Courts Service will be consulting external users in Autumn 2016.

Is the action on target?

Yes, though still only at the design stage, progress is on target. The complex is due to be opened in 2020.

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

Dublin City Council recently voted an amendment to the Dublin City Development Plan which rezones part of the Hammond Lane site for development as a public park. If carried through, the development will impact severely on the potential capacity of the family courts complex and the range of ancillary services that could be accommodated.

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

The Domestic Violence Bill is currently being drafted by the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel. (Civil Law)

The general scheme was published in July 2015 but progress was interrupted by the General Election 2016 and the subsequent delay in forming a government. (Courts Service)

Is the action on target?

No

If not, why?

In the course of the drafting of the Bill, a number of policy and resource issues have emerged which have required careful consideration by the Department. A revised draft of the Bill has recently been received from the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel and is being examined in the Department. (Civil Law)

See above (Courts Service)

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Subject to finalisation of the draft Bill by the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel and Government approval, it is expected that the Bill will be ready for publication in the 4th quarter of 2016. (Civil Law)

Dependent on the Department of Justice and Equality and on the legislative process. (Courts Service)

Any other information

Separately, the Courts Service has met with the Men's Development Network, which is to prepare proposals for a court-mandated perpetrator program to run from the District Family Court in Dolphin House, Dublin. The Courts Service will also shortly meet with MOVE Ireland to consider the feasibility of programmes in other venues.

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

June, 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

    - 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 TBC for late 2016
    - SARA being implemented in programmes for entrants to 2016/17 programmes

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

    - seminar held on 29 February on the subject of developing programmes with invited international expert speakers and the sector
    - working group established to look at a new programme
    - established programmes analysed
    - new programme selected by the committee on 10 June
    - Meeting to be held with programme provider to discuss implementation of the roll-out of the programme and training on 18 July 2016
    - training on the new programme will commence in Autumn 2016

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

    - work at an advanced stage to have up to three new programmes in place in Dublin and Sligo by the end of 2016

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

- this work will commence on completion of the work on the national programme

(Cosc – Administration)

The Probation Service participates on the steering group to develop a national programme for domestic violence perpetrator programme. The Probation Service also participates in the MOVE Ireland steering groups nation-wide. Both the NEDVIP programme and SEDVIP programme are supported by the Probation Service. (Prisons and Probation Policy)

Is the action on target?

Yes (Cosc – Administration)

Yes (Prisons and Probation Policy)

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Business case for legislation has been made. (Cosc)

8 Garda Divisions have been issued with Domestic Abuse Forensic Kits including Digital Cameras for evaluation in gathering evidence at Domestic Abuse incidents. (An Garda Síochána)

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Pending legislation

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

These issues are covered within the Revised Domestic Abuse Intervention Policy and will be further actioned on the introduction of Divisional Protective Services Units (DPSUs). This process will involve a Phased Roll Out across the Service. Time frames have yet to be fully established.(An Garda Síochána)

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

ACTION 2.3500

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

Implementing bodies

An Garda Síochána

Timescale

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

Monitoring Report

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Ongoing as IT system is developed. Pulse 6.8 has been in place since 1st November 2015 and is measuring Domestic Abuse incidents in a more detailed way. (An Garda Síochána)

Is the action on target?

Yes, but it will take time for statistics to be of use.

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

This is an ongoing operational development based on the revised Domestic Abuse Intervention Policy and improved intelligence function across the organisation. (An Garda Síochána)

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

This is an ongoing process and will fall within policy including Revised Domestic Abuse Intervention Policy (An Garda Síochána)

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

(In respect of sexual offense)

Extra-territorial jurisdiction for sexual offences in circumstances where the offender is an Irish national or ordinarily resident in Ireland is provided for under the Sexual Offences (Jurisdiction) Act 1996. The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Bill 2015 will extend this jurisdiction to the new offences provided for in that Bill.

The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Bill 2015 was published on 23 September 2015. The Bill passed all stages in Senad Éireann in January 2016 and is currently awaiting Second Stage the Dáil. (Criminal Law Reform)

Action 2.3800 is coupled with Action 2.3900 which is the responsibility of the Department of Justice and Equality.

The last Government agreed to amend existing legislation so as to prohibit marriage of persons under the age of 18.

Preparation work is being done on the necessary amendments to existing legislation.
This requires amendment of the Family Law Act 1995(DJE) and the Civil Registration Act 2004(DSP).

The general election and subsequent period of Government formation meant that this hasn't progressed as quickly as originally foreseen.

The legislative changes are short and the Government's intention is to consider this item for inclusion in the next appropriate legislative vehicle in the coming months. (Department of Social Protection)

Ongoing (An Garda Síochána)

Is the action on target?

(In respect of sexual offence) Yes (Criminal Law Reform)

Yes (An Garda Síochána)

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

The Anti Human Trafficking Unit in the Department has responsibility for policy on forced marriage and is currently examining the issue with a view to drafting legislation to introduce a criminal offence of forced marriage. It is expected that such legislation will be in place by the target deadline included in Action Plan of Q4 2017. (AHTU – Justice)

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

Not applicable – action on target

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Monitoring Committee established (May 2016)

Request for updates on actions have been requested from stakeholders following the first meeting of Monitoring Committee in June 2016 (Cosc)

Is the action on target?

Yes (Cosc)

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Progress report outlines new developments under actions already included.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Action not yet scheduled for commencement

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

ACTION 3.400

Establish a monitoring committee of key stakeholders for the Strategy.

Implementing bodies

Cosc

Timescale

Quarter 1, 2016

Monitoring Report

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Membership of Monitoring Committee agreed and members informed (May 2016)

First meeting of Monitoring Committee was held in June 2016 (Cosc)

Is the action on target?

Yes (Cosc)

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Nominations received for Strategy Oversight Group

First meeting to be held in September 2016 (Cosc)

Is the action on target?

Yes (Cosc)

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

- Data Committee membership expanded to include representatives from Sexual Assault Treatment Units; Dept. Of Social Protection; Legal Aid Board and consulted with Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal. Exploring feasibility of rep. From Garda Analysis Unit.

- Data Committee met 7th April 2016

- Members agreed "gold standard" approach

- Timeline template prepared and disseminated to Committee members

- Some Members have returned the timeline template complete along with additional information, i.e. Tusla, Sexual Assault Treatment Units

- An Garda Síochána have provided confirmation of data on 'Age' and 'Gender' already being inputted on PULSE as well as details of upgrades to PULSE relating to capturing data on 'domestic violence as a motivating factor for offences' and 'the relationship between victim and perpetrator'.

- Cosc have met bilaterally with the Probation Service on data and have agreed to explore specific 'types of offences' and 'categories of relationship between victim and perpetrator'. The latter will be informed by further dialogue with An Garda Síochána and CSO.

- Further engagement with the Prison Service, Dept. of Social Protection and Legal Aid to follow.

- Date for next meeting of Data Committee to be agreed at which, it is anticipated, completed timeline templates will be signed off upon and associated actions agreed. (Cosc)

The Courts Service has sought advice from the Data Protection Commissioner on their responsibilities under data protection legislation in circumstances where the Courts Service does not have a purpose for the data it is proposed they collect. In the meantime they are examining the capability

of their existing systems for collecting and reporting the proposed gold standard data. (Courts Service)

From perspective of information on victims the SATUs are on course with collecting this information. They collect only outline information on perpetrators (e.g. gender and number).They remain challenged in terms of collecting robust information on disabilities, particularly in terms of categorising less overtly obvious, often 'hidden' disabilities e.g. Autism Spectrum, Sensory Processing Disorder. (SATU)

Tusla is participating in the Cosc-led Data Committee.

Ethnicity data will be collected using census question format in 2015 and 2016 (Tusla)

This action is in relation to data and research and states that it may be extended to the Department of Social Protection. The Department will engage in this matter when required. (Department of Social Protection)

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 will participate in the Cosc Data Committee in relation to this action. (Prisons and Probation Policy)

Timescale to be agreed (An Garda Síochána)

Is the action on target?

Yes (Courts Service)

Yes (Tusla)

Yes (Prisons and Probation Policy)

Awaits (An Garda Síochána)

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

The Courts Service will invite Cosc to recommend changes to the way statistics relating to criminal prosecutions for domestic and sexual violence are reported annually. (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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Work with the Expert Group on Crime Statistics is ongoing.

The group is currently preparing its final report.

When available, Cosc will explore the report's findings with relevant stakeholders with a view to the implementation of said findings relevant to domestic and sexual violence.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

a & b Project initiated to develop standard data-set for DV and SV Services – initial focus on 2015 data.

Tusla is completing process to achieve a standard dataset from across all funded DSGBV services –initial analysis of this to be undertaken Q3, 2016.

c. Ongoing through 2016 & 2017 (Tusla)

Is the action on target?

Yes (Tusla)

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

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

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

No progress has been made as we are still awaiting the data from An Garda Síochána. (CSO)

Is the action on target?

No

If not, why?

We do not have the required data from An Garda Síochána. (CSO)

Proposed remedial action and timescale

An Garda Síochána are aware of the issue and their IT department is attempting to resolve it. Once the data is received then there should be little delay in producing the required output. (CSO)

Any other information

As this is not a standard CSO publication the data can only be issued to users upon request (in excel tables for example). (CSO)

ACTION 3.1000

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

Implementing bodies

Cosc with interested third level institutions

Timescale

Establish network by quarter 1, 2016

Workplan ongoing for the duration of the Strategy

Monitoring Report

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

- PRN established and met March 2016
- Seminar and 2nd meeting in June 2016 where the terms of reference were agreed and the development of a workplan discussed.
- PRN Secretariat established
- 1st research briefing paper under development – Draft to be disseminated to PRN for consideration by end July.
- Draft workplan to be disseminated by end of July.
- Next seminar and meeting of PRN planned to take place early autumn at Queen's University Belfast - main area of discussion to be 3rd level programme and content development incorporating the progress made by the North/South Research Consortium on Sexual Violence.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Not applicable – action on target

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Not applicable – action on target

Any other information

No

Appendix 1 Council of Europe Istanbul Convention – additional actions

ACTION 1

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

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

Implementing bodies

a and c Tusla

b Department of Children and Youth Affairs/Tusla

d HSE (lead) with Tusla

Timescale

a. Commencing by quarter 4 2015, further developments by quarter 4 2016
b. Legislation to be enacted by quarter 4, 2015, implementation to follow.
c. Complete by quarter 4 2016 to inform commissioning by quarter 2 2017
d. Commenced with completion by quarter 2, 2018 *Proactive efforts underway in respect of "Hidden Harm" ; ongoing liaison with TUSLA in this regard (HSE)*

Monitoring Report

June, 2016

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

(DCYA - b. Legislation to be enacted by quarter 4, 2015, implementation to follow).

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. Preparations are underway to seek nominations from all Government Departments and other named bodies to the statutory CF IDG.

The Minister intends to commence the remaining provisions of the Act as soon as possible, (currently projected as 1 January, 2017) including the introduction of mandated reporting and assisting, and the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements by relevant services.

It is intended that the new legislation will operate in tandem with the existing Children First: National Guidance for the protection and Welfare of Children (2011).

Revision of the Guidance has almost been completed to take account of new legislative obligations so as to provide, in one place, a comprehensive reference resource for individuals and organisations. This will provide clarity and ensure consistency between the proposed legislation and the existing non-statutory obligations which will continue to operate administratively for all sections of society. (DCYA)

a. Meitheal and Prevention, Partnership and Family Support mechanisms continue to roll-out. DSGBV Service commissioned to engage with Tusla-led structures to support children and families in 2016

c. Initial analysis of current responses to and needs of children who experience/witness domestic violence will be completed in Q3, with identification of effective current approaches.

d. Not yet commenced (Tusla)

Is the action on target?

Yes (DCYA)

Yes (Tusla)

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

Work is ongoing in regard to the implementation of provisions of the Act. (DCYA)

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

June, 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?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

Action Complete