

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

Final Review and Proposals for New Strategy

Introduction

- ✓ Please complete the questions below which relate to your area of work or experience.
- ✓ Be specific in your answers referring to particular actions under the National Strategy and to data, evaluations and reviews where possible.
- ✓ A key section of the questionnaire asks you to say what you can do under the next strategy. Actions need to be feasible, do-able and ambitious. Any wish lists under this heading should be labelled as such.
- ✓ The questions are purposefully open-ended. Please be as specific and as comprehensive as possible in your answers.
- ✓ Please remember specific developments or actions in relation to vulnerable or high risk groups, including Travellers, people with a disability, older people, migrants, young people, pregnant women and those involved with substance abuse.
- ✓ Do not expect to fill in each and every subheading; the subheadings are meant to prompt your memory.
- ✓ It is better to spend time developing the comment than agonising over which subheading it should go under.
- ✓ Do not get lost with all the subheadings; there are basically five questions:
 - 1. What was good about the strategy?**
 - 2. What was not good?**
 - 3. Have you any evidence either way?**
 - 4. What do you want to do in the next strategy?**
 - 5. What should others do?**
- ✓ Your submission will be published on the Cosc website with the final review.

Name of your organisation: An Garda Síochána

Positive developments

As a result of actions under the current Strategy what, if any, positive developments have occurred in relation to domestic, sexual or gender-based violence under the following headings:

Overall there has been increased awareness raising amongst Statutory and non-statutory organisations. The coordinated work of these organisations has led to the submission of measured, balanced recommendations to the Law Reform Commission and to Government in relation to proposed changes or developments in legislation, which have been taken on board by the relevant sectors.

- 1.1 Victims' experience of state services
 - Reports have been received of increased positive experiences by victims of DV in their interaction with An Garda Síochána
- 1.2 Victims' experience of voluntary sector services
 - No Information
- 1.3 Accountability of perpetrators
 - The Strategy has had a positive effect on aiding the introduction of Risk Assessment and management of sex offenders, SORAM
- 1.4 Awareness and attitudes
 - The Strategy has improved contact with DV Inspectors, and awareness raising of matters highlighted at committee meetings,
 - There is enhanced contact with NGOs and improved responses through liaison with DVSAIU (D/Insp Declan Daly)
- 1.5 Policy making or service planning
 - The Cosc Strategy assisted in the development of An Garda Síochána revised policy on DV intervention.
- 1.6 Research or data collection
 - The Strategy ensured that a greater emphasis placed on improved recording on PULSE and that additional research carried out by Garda analysts, as a result of awareness raised.
- 1.7 Structures or processes to support the strategy (consultation, meetings, six monthly review reports etc.)
 - An Garda Síochána has appointed the Detective Inspector DVSAIU as National liaison between An Garda Síochána and the NGO Sector. Additionally, in each Garda Division an Inspector has been designated

with responsibility for overseeing DV incidents locally and with ensuring that local liaison with NGO's is maintained.

- The review and preparation required for Cosc Committee meetings has provided very useful information, which otherwise would not have been available to An Garda Siochana.
 - COSC Committees ensure that there is a focus by all members on the Actions contained within the National Strategy.
 - COSC Committees provides for excellent interaction with other Agencies involved in the provision of services to victims of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. This partnership allowed us to share information and design our service delivery to meet the needs of victims of DA & SV.
 - The different Agencies work very well together in achieving the Actions of the Strategy which has enhanced service delivery to victims of DA/SV. The Strategy was very effective in relation to the improving Inter-Agency Co-ordination, the identification and provision of training requirements which led to the delivery of joint-agency DV training involving Adapt and CPD personnel to frontline Gardaí.
- 1.8 **Outside the Strategy** what, if any, have been the positive developments in relation to domestic, sexual or gender-based violence, generally or under any of the categories above, in the period 2010-2014?
- *For An Garda Siochana the notable positive developments have been the Review of the DV policy, improved communication between An Garda Siochana (DV Inspectors) and NGO's*

Undesirable developments

As a result of actions or inaction under the current Strategy what, if any, undesirable developments have occurred in relation to domestic, sexual or gender-based violence under the following headings:

- 2.1 Victims' experience of state services
- *No information on any undesirable developments*
- 2.2 Victims' experience of voluntary sector services
- *No information*
- 2.3 Accountability of perpetrators
- *No information.*
- 2.4 Awareness and attitudes

- *No information*
- 2.5 Prevention
- *No information*
- 2.6 Policy making or service planning
- *The policy review was delayed as Cosc prompted more changes and further analysis, while a negative in one sense the overall document is more robust*
- 2.7 Research or data collection
- *No information*
- 2.8 Structures or processes to support the strategy (consultation, meetings, six monthly review reports etc.)
- *No Undesirable developments have been identified under this caption, An Garda Siochana have developed structures and processes to support the strategy, each Garda Division has a Domestic Violence Inspector appointed to oversee domestic violence incidents.*
 - *The DVSAIU, the National Unit monitor and review policy and Detective Inspector DVSAIU maintains a liaison role with the State and Non-state services.*
- 2.9 **Outside the Strategy** what undesirable developments, if any, have occurred in relation to domestic, sexual or gender-based violence, generally or under any of the categories above, in the period 2010-2014?
- *Only positive developments are evident, the work on reducing the attrition rates by all Organisations is very relevant and very positive.*

The Evidence

- 3.1 What actions did you take to evaluate or review the impact of any of the actions under the National Strategy? Please forward copies of any relevant publications or documents.
- *A Review of the Strategy and the actions affecting An Garda Siochana are undertaken regularly in order to evaluate the impact of actions relevant to An Garda Siochana. These reviews ensure that actions are progressed and monitored for positive or negative impact, which in turn inform Garda policy.*
- 3.2 Are you aware of evaluations or reviews by others of the impact of any actions under the Strategy? Please forward copies of any relevant publications or documents, or contact details of those who undertook the evaluation.
- *Not applicable.*

What can be done better in the future?

By you

What specific actions is your organisation proposing to undertake in the context of a new national strategy on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence, in the period 2015-2019, under any of the following categories.

4.1 State services for victims

Some of the specific actions An Garda Siochana propose to undertake in the context of a new national strategy include

- *Improve and upgrade Garda Policy in line with best practice.*
- *Ensure that there is adequate follow up of all DV/SV incidents,*
- *Ensure that all DV & SV cases are dealt with in a sensitive and compassionate manner.*

4.2 Voluntary sector services for victims

- *Continue and develop the interaction between An Garda Siochana and the voluntary sector.*

4.3 Accountability of perpetrators

- *Re-emphasise An Garda Siochana's pro-arrest policy, emphasise power of arrest and entry to affect same in Policy.*
- *Finalisation of DV Protocol between An Garda Siochana and Probation Office concerning high risk offenders*
- *Further develop and promote the SORAM model*

4.4 Awareness and attitudes

- *Increase contact with DV Inspectors and NGO Sector,*
- *Encourage more involvement and feedback from DV Inspectors*
- *Promote compassion and sensitivity when dealing with victims.*
- *Assist and promote awareness raising through victim support and community projects.*

4.5 Prevention

- *Ensure that there is a call back in respect of all DV incidents reported to An Garda Siochana.*
- *Finalise protocol with Probation service*

4.6 Policy making or service planning

- *Garda policy to be published,*
- *Follow up on policy implementation*

4.7 Research or data collection

- PULSE already records DV incidents
- 4.8 Structures or processes to support the strategy (consultation, meetings, six monthly review reports etc.)
- Such Structures and processes are already in place
5. What specific actions is your organisation proposing to undertake for victims generally which will also apply to victims of domestic, sexual or gender-based violence, in the period 2015-2019, under any of the above categories?
- EU Victims Directive
 - An Garda Síochána Victims Charter

By others

What other specific actions should be undertaken in the context of a new national strategy on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence, 2015-2019, under any of the following categories?

Who should undertake these actions?

Please also state, with your reasons, if you believe that there should be no further action by anyone under any heading.

- 6.1 State services for victims
- N/A
- 6.2 Voluntary sector services for victims
- Continue and Improve interaction with An Garda Síochána,
 - Encourage inter-agency working groups whereby joined up responses can be developed.
 - Feedback should be captured from victims of DA/SV & communicated to An Garda Síochána in order to ensure an improvement in service.
- 6.3 Accountability of perpetrators
- N/A
- 6.4 Awareness and attitudes
- 6.5 Prevention
- Increased publicity by all Agencies – Cosc, NGOs, Student bodies etc
- 6.6 Policy making or service planning
- Improvements in and consolidation of legislation – LRC
- 6.7 Research or data collection
- N/A

- 6.8 Structures or processes to support the strategy (consultation, meetings, six monthly review reports etc.)
- [N/A](#)
- 7.1 What specific actions should be undertaken for victims generally which will also apply to victims of domestic, sexual or gender-based violence, in the period 2015-19, under any of the above categories?
- [N/A](#)
- 7.2 Who should undertake the actions mentioned above?
- [NGO Organisations](#)

And finally

8. Please make additional comments, if any, here.