

Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy

Draft Year 4 Action Plan



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

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Department of
Justice

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STRAND ¹	PRIORITY ²	ACTION	LEAD	TARGET
Driving Change through Co-operation and Leadership	1, 2	1. Continue to maximise opportunities to disseminate information and promote delivery of initiatives under the Strategy's Communication Plan.	DoH & DoJ	Mar 2020
	1	2. Work collaboratively with key partners, providing for innovation, research and development, including through the PILGRIM project (supporting complainants through the criminal justice process) and research into the prevalence and effects of training for police officers around the subject of rape myths.	PSNI	Mar 2020
	1, 2	3. Convene two Stakeholder Assurance Group Workshops.	SAG	May & Nov 2019
	1, 2	4. (a) Consider widening the remit of all Local Partnerships to include sexual violence and abuse (including abuse outside family and intimate partner relationships). (b) Local Partnerships to continue to provide awareness of domestic and sexual violence and abuse, identify education and training needs of partners in their local area and identify three key actions to be taken forward collaboratively at a regional level.	LDSVPs, Nexus NI, DoH & DoJ	Jun 2019
			LDSVPs	Mar 2020
1, 2	5. Strengthen working relationships across and between PCSPs & Local Partnerships and co-ordinate resources where possible to ensure region wide learning.	PCSPs & LDSVPs	Mar 2020	

¹ Relates to the Strand in Strategy document

² Relates to priority number listed in Strategy document.

STRAND ¹	PRIORITY ²	ACTION	LEAD	TARGET
	1, 19, 20	6. Develop an action plan to progress the agreed recommendations of the Gillen report into the law and procedures in serious sexual offences in NI and initiate work on their implementation.	DoJ, DoH, DE, PPS & PSNI	Ongoing
	2	7. Undertake a review of the <i>Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy</i> to assess the progress made against the priorities and to inform future work.	DoH, DoJ, DE, DfC & DoF	Mar 2020
Prevention and Early Intervention	9, 11	8. SBNI to undertake a scoping exercise of support services available to children affected by domestic violence and a training needs analysis of staff working directly with those children.	SBNI	Mar 2020
	6	9. Review and update the DE iMatter programme materials to ensure it is reflective of contemporary issues affecting children and young people. This will include the subject area of “Healthy Relationships”.	DE	Mar 2020
	7	10. Following the conclusion of the pilot ‘Keeping Safe’ preventative education project, review and reassess current work programme in light of information arising from the evaluation of this pilot programme.	DE	Mar 2020
	12	11. Release a domestic abuse awareness campaign, in consultation with partners, and continue the collaborative ‘No Grey Zone’ sexual consent awareness campaign.	PSNI	Mar 2020
	5	12. Further progress work relating to how notification to schools of domestic abuse incidents could be achieved (including consideration of Operation Encompass in NI) and agree way forward in conjunction with stakeholders.	SBNI, DE, PSNI, DoH & DoJ	Mar 2020

STRAND ¹	PRIORITY ²	ACTION	LEAD	TARGET
Delivering Change through Responsive Services	10, 14	13. Work collaboratively with interested parties (including NICS) to promote the <i>Employer Guidance on how to develop a Workplace Policy on Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse</i> (published under the Strategy in Nov 2018).	DoH, DoJ & SAG	Mar 2020
	13	14. Continue to run a Crown Court Observers' study, to gather information on victims' and witnesses experience of the court system in sexual offence cases.	VSNI	Mar 2020
	12	15. Continue to review training provided to prosecutors and Counsel and take into account issues raised in criminal justice inspections into the criminal justice experience of victims of domestic and sexual violence and abuse.	PPS	From Apr 2019
	12	16. Pilot and evaluate the Identification and Referral to Improve Safety Programme ('IRIS') within selected GP Federation(s).	DoH	Mar 2020
	10, 15	17. Ensure continued provision of a 24 Hour Domestic and Sexual Violence Helpline service.	DfC, DoH & DoJ	Mar 2020
	10, 12	18. Complete year three of the Domestic Violence and Abuse multi-media campaign to raise awareness of the issue of domestic violence and abuse, and the availability of the Domestic Violence and Abuse Disclosure Scheme.	DoJ	Mar 2020
	12	19. Belfast Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnership to pilot an awareness raising session on 'Adult Child to Parent' violence, and subject to the evaluation, share with other partnerships to roll out.	LDSVPs	Mar 2020
	10, 14	20. Consider whether any new domestic violence and abuse initiatives could impact on homelessness levels and what steps may be taken to address this.	DoH, DoJ & DfC	Mar 2020

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	12, 15	21. Raise awareness, around domestic and sexual violence and associated services, amongst groups who may not identify, or be recognised within, the 'conventional public story' of domestic and sexual violence and abuse.	DoJ & DoH	Mar 2020
	15, 17	22. Finalise a model for a new streamlined Advocacy Support Service, for victims of domestic and sexual violence and abuse, for consideration of the model and its future funding by the Strategic Delivery Board.	DoJ, DoH & PSNI	June 2019
Support	15, 17	23. Complete the evaluation of the provision of support to victims of sexual violence and abuse, through Independent Sexual Violence Advisors.	VSNI	Apr 2019
		24. To further develop the Sanctuary Scheme in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). To ensure awareness of the scheme for all NIHE tenants and with the NIHE develop a robust referral process. The Department and NIHE are actively considering alternative models for the delivery and promotion of the Sanctuary Scheme to ensure that it is fully utilised to provide victims with the choice to remain safely in their homes or seek re-housing.	DfC	Mar 2020
	20	25. Introduce a new Domestic Abuse Offence and statutory aggravator.	DoJ	Subject to return of NI Assembly
Protection and Justice	20	26. In terms of the Domestic Violence and Abuse Disclosure Scheme evaluate it (ensuring feedback is sought from all agencies involved) and bring forward any necessary modifications, with PSNI continuing to work with partner agencies to ensure effective delivery.	PSNI & DoJ	Mar 2020

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	20	<p>27. Deliver a series of measures (including Chair recruitment, panel establishment and laying of commencement order) to secure introduction of a Domestic Homicide Review process.</p>	DoJ	Sep 2019
	20	<p>28. (a) Consider lessons learnt from the Pilot Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme in Londonderry magistrates' court and evaluate the domestic abuse behavioural programme in the Western Health and Social Care Trust area.</p>	DoJ & PBNI	Sep 2019
		<p>(b) Prepare an up-to-date report to review the evidence base on the effectiveness of behavioural change programmes, drawing on the outcomes of (a), and present to the Strategic Delivery Board.</p>	DoJ & DoH	Oct 2019
		<p>(c) To fund and oversee the continuation and monitoring of domestic abuse behavioural change programmes which will be delivered by PBNI across the five Health and Social Care Trust areas.</p>	DoJ	Mar 2020
	18	<p>29. Introduce Domestic Violence Protection Notices and Domestic Violence Protection Orders in Northern Ireland.</p>	DoJ	Subject to return of NI Assembly
19, 20	<p>30. Consider the responses received and refine policy options, on the need for the introduction of a specific offence of stalking following consultation closure on 21 February 2019.</p>	DoJ	From Mar 2019	

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	19	31. New multi-agency MARAC Operational Board ('MOB'), which will report to the Strategic Delivery Board on an annual basis, to (a) be established; and (b) implement actions arising from the MARAC Review.	DoJ, PSNI & DoH MOB	Apr 2019 Mar 2020
	19, 12	32. Progress work relating to the findings from academic research, including in relation to domestic and sexual violence training provision across criminal justice agencies.	DoJ	Mar 2020
	19, 12	33. Local Policing Team officers to be trained in domestic violence and abuse, in order to provide an insight into this area, as well as the measures that can be taken to assist victims.	PSNI	Ongoing
	18, 19, 20	34. An Independent Advisory Group will meet quarterly to inform the police response to domestic and sexual violence and abuse, including through collaborative working.	PSNI	Quarterly during 2019/20
	19, 3	35. Domestic violence and sexual violence modules, to be rotated in the NI Safe Community Survey in alternate years, with the associated data published and then considered by way of policy/service refinements.	DoJ	Ongoing
	19, 12	36. Participate on the National Regional Research Group, actively considering areas for development and research within the sexual crime arena.	PSNI	Ongoing
	19, 12	37. Develop a first responder DVD for the purposes of raising awareness and improving practice of frontline police officers.	PSNI	April 2019



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