

Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy

Year 5 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 & Leadership	(1) Government commitment, leadership and partnership working.	1. Ensure effective and regular engagement with the Northern Ireland Executive on cross cutting issues on domestic and sexual abuse.	DoH, DoJ	Mar 2021
	(1, 12, 14) Partnership working; raising awareness; and promoting a multi-agency response.	2. Ensure an effective response to covid-19 across government Departments and the statutory, voluntary and community sector.	DoH, DoJ, DE, DfC, SAG	Mar 2021
	(2) Improving strategic direction to promote change.	3. Review the <i>Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy</i> and incorporate findings into future action plans.	DoH, DoJ	Sep 2020
	(1, 4, 6, 19, 20) Working together to promote societal change in attitudes; improving skills/resources of teachers; improved capacity of justice system to protect victims and respond to harmful and violent behaviour.	4. Multi-agency working to finalise a phased Gillen Review Implementation Plan, prioritising recommendations that will have the greatest impact on complainants going through the criminal justice system, and those recommendations requiring action on education and awareness around consent.	DoJ, DE, DoH, PPS & PSNI	Ongoing
	(9, 11) Preventing domestic violence and abuse from occurring and supporting individuals through the consequences of such abuse.	5. Support the work of the SBNI Children's DV sub-group by making recommendations for the development of an action plan to address service gaps and improvements to support and keep children safe; and completing a training needs analysis of staff working directly with those children along with a training framework.	SBNI	Oct 2020
Prevention and Early Intervention	(6) Supporting teaching about healthy relationships.	6. 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" and take account of the Leonard Review into responding to and managing Child Sexual Exploitation within NI.	DE	Mar 2021
	(6) Supporting teaching about healthy relationships.	7. Review and reassess current work programme to ensure teachers have the necessary skills to teach about sensitive subjects, including child abuse as well as domestic and sexual abuse.	DE	Dec 2020

¹ Relates to the Strand in Strategy document

² Relates to priority number listed in Strategy document.

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	(5) Teachers being aware of pupils experiencing distress and responding appropriately.	8. Pilot a scheme to notify schools of domestic abuse incidents, based on the principles of Operation Encompass and consider legislative changes needed for any longer term implementation.	SBNI, DE, DoJ, PSNI, DoH	Dec 2020
	(4, 5, 6) Supporting an effective preventative curriculum and resources to support children.	9. Publish the Helping Hands evaluation and take full cognisance of the evaluation in supporting the case for funding in future years.	WAFNI, DE	Jun 2020
	(4, 5, 6) Supporting an effective preventative curriculum and resources to support children.	10. Develop additional educational resources to support the Relationships and Sexuality Education Hub during 2020/21.	DE	Mar 2021
	(8) Working to promote preventative safeguarding.	11. Develop and launch a code word for use in bars and other venues, to keep people safe from sexual assault.	PSNI	Nov 2020
	(9) Partnership working to prevent exploitation and abuse.	12. Implement the recommendations from the Leonard Review of SBNI member agency responses to child sexual exploitation in Northern Ireland.	DoH, DoJ, DE, SBNI	Ongoing
	(12, 14) Raising awareness and promoting a multi-agency response.	13. Continue to raise awareness of domestic and sexual violence and abuse across a range of local targeted groups including, where possible, hairdressers and beauticians.	Local DSVPs	Mar 2021
Delivering Change through Responsive Services & Support	(12, 14) Raising awareness and promoting a multi-agency response.	14. Scope options for the development of a regional D&SV Partnership website and/or App to enable early identification and signposting of victims in need of support and protection.	Local DSVPs	Dec 2020
	(12, 14) Raising awareness and promoting a multi-agency response.	15. Raise awareness amongst local councils and Policing and Community Safety Partnerships about the impact of domestic and sexual violence and abuse.	DoH, DoJ	Dec 2020
	(13) Commissioning services to support victims.	16. Introduce a scheme to provide free public transport, station to station, for those going to refuge or emergency accommodation as a result of domestic abuse.	DoJ, DfI, NIHE, Nexus NI, WAFNI	Jul 2020

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	(12, 14) Raising awareness and promoting a multi-agency response.	17. Relaunch of No Grey Zone (phase 2), a sexual consent awareness campaign, to widen the scope of the campaign.	PSNI	Nov 2020
	(12, 15) Recognising and responding to domestic and sexual abuse to support victims.	18. Update the 'Recognise, Respond and Refer' desk aid for HSC staff and use as a tool to communicate any future legislative changes particularly around coercive and controlling behaviour.	DoH, LDSVPs	Oct 2020
	(12, 15) Recognising and responding to domestic and sexual abuse to support victims.	19. Update Workplace Policies for HSC Trusts to cover both domestic and sexual abuse and consider development of a regional approach to keep staff safe in the workplace and hold persons of concern to account.	HSCTs, Chairs of LDSVPs	Dec 2020
	(12, 15) Recognising and responding to domestic and sexual abuse to support victims.	20. Update the NICS Workplace Policy to cover both domestic and sexual abuse and consider application for a ' <i>Workplace Charter Mark for Domestic Violence</i> '.	DoF (NICS HR), DoH, DoJ	Mar 2021
	(10, 13, 15, 17) Commissioning services to support victims.	21. Prepare for the implementation of a new streamlined singular advocacy support service in early 2021/22, for victims of domestic and sexual abuse (subject to available funding).	DoJ, PSNI	Mar 2021
	(10, 13, 15, 17) Commissioning services to support victims.	22. Complete and evaluate the Identification and Referral to Improve Safety ('IRIS') pilot in East Belfast and Newry/Down GP Federations and consider findings to inform wider advocacy support (Action 21 refers).	DoH	Mar 2021
	(10, 13, 15, 17) Commissioning services to support victims.	23. Pilot a Domestic Violence and Abuse Worker within a Southern HSC Trust Acute Emergency Department to enable victims to receive immediate advice/support and be signposted/referred to relevant services, as well as consider findings to inform wider advocacy support (Action 21 refers).	Southern DSVP	Mar 2021
	(10, 15, 17) Commissioning services to support victims.	24. Continue to fund and support the delivery of the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline and use data to inform strategic direction.	DfC, DoH, DoJ	Mar 2021

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	(17, 20) Recognising emotional and psychological needs of children who have suffered as a result of violence and abuse.	25. Amend definition of 'harm' in the Children Order (NI) 1995 to include <i>impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another</i> and place an explicit requirement on courts, police and authorities to consider the effect of domestic abuse on a child when making decisions that require harm or potential harm to be taken into account.	DoH	Bill to be introduced early Autumn 2020
	(14) Partnership networks to increase multi-agency recognition and response.	26. Consider the findings of the National Rural Crime Network 2019 Report 'Captive and Controlled – Domestic Abuse in Rural Areas.'	DoH, DoJ, DAERA	Dec 2020
	(3, 19) Establishing a baseline to improve support and services to victims.	27. Take forward actions to improve services to victims, having analysed the findings from the NI Safe Community Survey domestic and sexual violence modules (to be published around autumn 2020 and March 2021).	DoJ	Ongoing
	(12, 14) Raising awareness and promoting a multi-agency response.	28. Increase awareness and share learning on technology facilitated domestic abuse.	SAG	Nov 2020
	(16) Providing more security of tenure where it is appropriate for a victim and they choose to remain in their own home.	29. (a) Devise an action plan to address recommendations of the research project which considered the extension of the Sanctuary Scheme, to provide victims with the choice to remain safely in their homes or seek re-housing, to all Housing Executive tenants; and (b) Work with the Housing Executive and the NI Federation of Housing Associations to consider the extension of the Sanctuary Scheme to Housing Association tenants.	DfC	Mar 2021
	(12) Awareness raising and training.	30. Raise awareness, provide information and/or arrange training with a range of groups, including sporting organisations, Irish Travellers and supporting communities, subject to availability of funding.	DfC	Mar 2021
	(12) Awareness raising.	31. Develop guidelines to assist the media's reporting of domestic abuse responsibly and accurately.	S. Eastern DSVP	Dec 2020
	(12) Awareness raising.	32. Develop and publish guidance on support services, for those affected by domestic abuse during the COVID 19 pandemic.	DoH/DoJ	Jun 2020

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	(20) Aligning NI with GB and ROI in dealing with non-physical abusive behaviour.	33. Progress legislation to provide for a new Domestic Abuse Offence, statutory child and generic aggravators as well as automatic eligibility for consideration of special measures and prohibition on cross-examination by the accused for victims of domestic abuse.	DoJ	Subject to Assembly timings
	(12) Awareness raising and training.	34. Develop and progress an awareness raising/training implementation plan for the introduction of a new domestic abuse offence (Action 33 refers).	DoJ, DoH, DE, DfC, PSNI & PPS	Ongoing
Protection and Justice	(20) Improving practice to safeguard victims.	35. Introduce a Domestic Homicide Review process, including: a) Recruiting three independent Chairs, establishing multi-agency panels and providing necessary training; b) Finalising multi-agency guidance; c) Refining the DHR model, using an historic case(s).	DoJ	Jun 2020 Aug 2020 Dec 2020
	(20) Addressing harmful behaviour.	36. Continue to fund and deliver Domestic Abuse Behavioural Change Programmes across NI while evaluating the effectiveness of programmes delivered in 2019/20 and longitudinal data from 2018/19, to provide an evidence base to inform any future roll out.	DoJ, PBNI, DoH, LDSVPs, WAFNI	Mar 2021
	(20) Addressing harmful behaviour.	37. Consider the outcomes of the lessons learnt from the Londonderry court mandated perpetrator programme to inform next steps.	DoJ, PBNI, LDSVPs, WAFNI	Mar 2021
	(18) Providing protection, support and information to victims and potential victims.	38. Evaluate the Domestic Violence & Abuse Disclosure Scheme and bring forward any necessary modifications, with PSNI continuing to work with partner agencies to ensure effective delivery.	PSNI, DoJ	Jan 2021
	(18) Supporting victims engaging with the criminal justice process.	39. Introduce Domestic Violence Protection Notices and Domestic Violence Protection Orders in Northern Ireland.	DoJ	Subject to Assembly timings

STRAND ¹	PRIORITY ²	ACTION	LEAD	TARGET
	(19, 20) Improving capacity of justice system to intervene to address harmful behaviour.	40. Implement recommendations from the Stalking Consultation Report by continuing to raise the profile of stalking with criminal justice partners, by sharing best practice models and guidance in use in other jurisdictions. Develop legislation for the introduction of a specific offence of stalking and stalking protection orders.	DoJ	From Apr 2020 Subject to Assembly timings
	(19) Improving capacity of justice system to respond to emerging issues around harmful and violent behaviour.	41. MARAC Operational Board to: (a) Implement actions arising from the MARAC Review; and (b) Provide an end of year report to the Strategic Delivery Board, on outcomes, performance measures and impact of MARACS.	MOB Chaired by PSNI	Mar 2021 Aug 2020
	(18) Supporting victims engaging with the criminal justice process.	42. Pilot revised listing arrangements for domestic violence cases at Laganside Court, Belfast.	OLCJ, DOJ, PPS, PSNI	Dec 2021
	(12, 19) Awareness raising and improving capacity to respond to emerging issues around harmful and violent behaviour.	43. Findings from academic research to be considered in taking forward work under current and future action plans.	DoH, DoJ	Ongoing
	(14) Partnership networks promoting a multi-agency response.	44. Implement agreed recommendations from the Criminal Justice Northern Ireland inspection 'How the Criminal Justice System deals with CSE in Northern Ireland'.	DoJ, DoH DE, SBNI	Ongoing



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