# 2018 Annual Report

# Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence 2016-2021





#### **Foreward**

Domestic, sexual and gender-based violence occurs in all social classes, all ethnic groups and cultures and among people of every educational background. It can have devastating physical, emotional and financial consequences for victims as well as society as a whole. These are sadly often hidden crimes, frequently perpetrated by persons in a position of supposed trust or complicated by close relationships. The way forward is for State, community and voluntary services to work together to reduce its prevalence and effects, by educating the public, supporting the victims and dealing appropriately with the perpetrators.

My Department developed a National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence for the 6-year period 2016-2021. The actions in the Strategy were agreed with the relevant state organisations and non-governmental organisations. The strategy is a whole of Government response to domestic and sexual violence. The Department of Justice and Equality, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, the Department of Education & Skills, the Department of Health, the Courts Service, the HSE, the CSO, the Prisons and Probation Services, An Garda Síochána and Tusla are all implementing bodies of actions contained in the strategy. Contributions are also made by non-governmental bodies such as the National Women's Council of Ireland, the Bar of Ireland, the Law Society of Ireland, Akidwa and medical professionals in our Sexual Assault Treatment Units.

The bulk of the Strategy's actions are aimed at changing societal attitudes through awareness raising to help prevent domestic and sexual violence, improving services to victims and holding perpetrators to account. The community and voluntary sector, working in collaboration with the State agencies, are our vital partners role in monitoring implementation and ensuring the delivery of a successful strategy.

Inclusive monitoring structures have been put in place to progress the implementation of the strategy. A Monitoring Committee comprising relevant State and non-State representatives oversees and monitors progress. A Committee of senior officials from Government Departments and agencies has also been established to ensure a strong focus on delivery of the strategy's actions.

I am proud that we introduced the Domestic Violence Act 2018 which was signed into law on 8 May 2018. A key action in this strategy, this important legislation was commenced on 1 January 2019 and represents a significant improvement in legal protections available to victims of domestic violence. It enhances the measures available within the civil law system to support and protect victims including measures required to ratify the Istanbul Convention such as introducing a new criminal offence of forced marriage and a new criminal offence of coercive control.

A key commitment in the Programme for Partnership Government, ratification of the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence occurred on International Women's Day - 8 March 2019. The Convention came into force in Ireland on 01 July 2019.

The strategy's key task is to ensure the delivery of a well co-ordinated "whole of government" response to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence against all members of the community. The implementation of this strategy helps to improve the current system of prevention and response, and ensure safer lives at home and in our communities through effective co-operation and commitment by all bodies involved in the actions set out within this strategy.

This Government continues to be committed to doing everything possible to prevent domestic, sexual and gender-based violence and where such violence tragically occurs, to doing everything possible to support victims. We want to end the menace of this violence and make Ireland a safe place for all. In this regard, the Programme for Partnership Government commits to the full implementation of the Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence. The devastating effect on those who are abused cannot be overstated and we must work together to keep this critical issue firmly on the agenda.

The Strategy is a living document and has actions added on an ongoing basis, with 13 new actions having been added since its publication in 2016. Throughout 2018, 6 actions in the Strategy were fully completed; in particular, 2018 saw enactment of the Domestic Violence Act, and access to interim barring orders was extended; the Courts were given legislative power to refer domestic violence perpetrators to programmes; we created a specific offence of forced marriage; and our Sexual Assault Treatment Unit guidelines were updated.

In addition, two new actions were added to the Strategy; a review of Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) in schools and a review of the investigation and prosecutions of sexual offences aimed at improving supports to vulnerable witnesses during those processes. Of the 72 actions in the Strategy at the end of 2018, 18 were fully completed, 38 are broadly on target, 2 have yet to start and 14 are delayed.

I believe it is appropriate that we now take stock of where we are, where greater effort needs to be made to achieve our agreed objectives and what new and emerging needs and challenges should be addressed. Accordingly, my Department commissioned the University of Limerick to undertake an independent review of the progress made. Their report will be published shortly and will form the basis of a mid-term review. My Department will conduct the review in partnership with all our stakeholders and, in particular, with full consultation with and inclusion of voluntary and community organisations working with and providing services for victims of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence. The Cabinet Committee on Social Policy will also play a valuable role in ensuring steady progress continues on a cross-governmental basis.

Mr. Charles Flanagan Minister for Justice & Equality

# Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence 2016-2021

The Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence was launched by the Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality, Ms Frances Fitzgerald T.D., on 20th January 2016.

Domestic, sexual and gender-based violence is a heinous crime and occurs in all social classes, all ethnic groups and cultures and among men and women of every educational background. The violence is often hidden and can have devastating physical, emotional and financial consequences for victims, their families and society as a whole.

The strategy is a whole of Government approach to these complex problems. Building on the previous national strategy, which concluded in 2014, the strategy contains a range of actions to be implemented by State, voluntary and community sector organisations aimed at preventing and responding to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence. The strategy also contains the actions which are required to enable Ireland to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention).

In order to ensure the successful delivery of the strategy, appropriate monitoring structures have been established. Those structures consist of a monitoring committee comprised of key stakeholders (Non-Governmental Organisations and State bodies) and an interdepartmental strategy oversight committee of high level officials to ensure actions are delivered on time and to address any problems that may arise in implementation.

The attached report contains a summary of progress made in implementing the strategy's actions up to end of December 2018, and a detailed report of progress made by implementing bodies under each action. This report fulfils one of the strategy's actions which provides for an annual report on implementation to be placed in the Oireachtas Library.

Below is an overview table of the actions which at the end of December 2018 were completed (coded blue), were on target (coded green), less than six months behind target (coded orange) and six months or more behind target (coded red). Items not yet started are coded black. The banner heading of each action is colour coded to indicate the status of that action.

# Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Genderbased Violence

# **Scorecard of Activities**

Status	June 2018	December 2018
Green - activities broadly on target	36	38
Blue – activities fully completed	16	18
Orange - activities progressing but delayed less than 6 months	1	0
Red - activities delayed by 6 months or more	14	14
Black – activities not yet scheduled to start	3	2
Totals	70	72*

<sup>\*2</sup> actions added after June 2018 – 1.310 & 2.150

# 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 - 1.910

# 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

DA (Domestic Assault), DAIPU (Domestic Abuse Intervention Policy Unit), DKIT (Dundalk Institute of Technology), DPSB (Protective Services Bureau), DSGBV (Domestic, Sexual and gender-based Violence), FGM (Female Genital Mutilation), GNPSU (Garda National Protective Service Units), NCCA (National Council for Curriculum & Assessment), OGP (Office of Government Procurement), PAF (Performance Accountability Framework), PRN )Postgraduate Research Network), RA (Risk Assessment), RSE (Relationship and Sexuality Education)

### **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

#### COSC

Funding of €950,000 has been made available in 2016, 2017 and 2018 for a national awareness campaign as part of the Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence, which commenced in 2016 and will continue to 2021, subject to the necessary funds being available and to ongoing evaluation of the campaign subject to the availability of funding. 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 – 2017 and €300,000 in 2018 - 2019.

'What would you do'?, the domestic violence element of the campaign, is a high impact media campaign to reach a national audience, which features TV ads, short videos, cinema, radio, outdoor, social and digital advertising. The campaign presents situations where bystanders become witnesses to domestic violence and are conflicted by what they should do. The call to action directed people to search the campaign website whatwouldyoudo.ie for information and advice on domestic violence and how they can help. The campaign is shifting to a focus on sexual violence in 2019- 2021.

- Coyne Research undertook the third wave of research into the campaign in order to measure societal behaviour and attitudes to domestic violence and to measure the impact of the campaign in October 2018. In terms of evaluation of the campaign and measuring attitudes of domestic violence, results were in line with the previous bursts of research, the findings show high levels of awareness of the campaign and of the issues involved. This burst of research included additional questions on participants changes in understanding of/attitudes towards Domestic Violence in the last two years, which revealed 'very positive shifts in understanding metrics since 2 years ago.
- In August 2018 the campaign entered the final burst (27 August 21
   October 2018) of the domestic violence phase which marked the
   evolution of the campaign from an awareness raising objective to an
   educational one. This was realised in the development of a new suite of

campaign assets where the messaging reflects a more educational tone, in letting the public know that they can learn ways of helping people experiencing domestic violence by going to the campaign website http://whatwouldyoudo.ie. This new suite of assets included 4 new radio ads, a new voice over on the TV ads, and new messaging on digital and out of home advertising.

- Analysis of the campaign website's metrics indicate the move to an educational tone had a positive impact on the numbers visiting whatwouldyoudo.ie. 2018 total sessions, total page views and total users were all up; 15%, 17% and 15% respectively when compared to 2017. The total number of sessions on the campaign website whatwouldyoudo.ie from 1/7/18 to 31/12/18 was 31,932. Research shows an increased awareness of the website with 3 out of 5 likely to visit once aware of it.
- There were several initiatives to promote the campaign at a local level in 2018 including advertising in Cinemas, Credit Unions and pubs throughout the country.
  - The credit union element of the localisation of the campaign message continued up till the end of the year.
  - The TV ads, short videos using campaign imagery and #mydoorsopen videos are hosted on the Department's YouTube channel where they have received over 1,306,635 views up to 12/2/19.
  - The campaign advisory group met on 27 February, 2 July and 26 November 2018.
  - An independent media audit of the 2018 media plan is due to take place in March 2019.
  - Work on planning for the sexual violence campaign 2019-2021 is continuing. Benchmark sexual violence research was undertaken at the end of 2018.

#### **AGS**

#### Media Interviews

The Domestic Abuse Intervention & Policy Unit (DAIPU) Interviews:

- Newstalk 'Violence Against Women' interview 18.07.18 & podcast.
- TG4 Domestic Abuse Interview 'Tabu' aired 21.11.18.
- Clare FM radio interview 27.11.18.

#### Meetings

Meetings held with several agencies to develop awareness of AGS work and to show support towards them and the National Strategy:

- All NGOs Meeting 14.08.18.
- Mother's Union of Ireland 22.08.18 & 24.11.18.
- Pavee Point & Roma 28.11.18
- Simon Community 09.08.18.
- Presentation in DKIT to Fundamentals of Domestic Abuse Certificate Students 30.11.18.
- Presentation to Probation Service on Domestic Violence Act 2018 10.12.18.
- Joint Probation & Prison Service (Psychology Unit) 16.10.18.
- Women's Aid 14.06.18, 05.07.18, 12.09.18, 19.09.18, 04.10.18, 17.10.18, 19.10.18, 01.11.18 & 06.12.18.

#### Future Planned Meetings and Presentations:

- V-SAC Feb 2019
- DCU Lecture 26.02.19

Cosc Strategy reiterated on the internal Garda Portal and information submitted for inclusion on to Garda Website.

GNPSB providing input into Cosc Media Campaign on Domestic and Sexual Violence 2018 – 2019.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

# **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Complete but ongoing. Age appropriate awareness programmes for primary schools have been incorporated in to the curriculum.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

#### Proposed remedial action and timescale

#### Any other information

### **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Complete but ongoing. Awareness programmes for post primary schools have been incorporated into the curriculum.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

#### **ACTION 1.310**

Complete a review of Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) in schools which will cover both the content of the RSE curriculum and support materials, as well as the delivery of the curriculum to students.

#### Implementing bodies

National Council for Curriculum Assessment, in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

**Timescale** 

Quarter 2, 2019

Monitoring Report December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

In April 2018, a review of Relationships and Sexual Education (RSE) in schools was announced. This review is currently underway and covers both the content of RSE curriculum and support materials, as well as the delivery of the curriculum to students.

Included in the areas for particular consideration during the review are:

- Consent, what it means and its importance
- Developments in contraception
- Healthy, positive sexual expression and relationships
- Safe use of the internet
- Social media and its effects on relationships and self-esteem
- LGBTQ+ matters.

Given the scope of the request, the review will comprise of three inter-related dimensions:

- 1. Desk-top review of recently published research/studies in this area.
- 2. Consultations with key individuals and organisations who have responsibility for or who are working in this area.
- 3. Working directly with schools to examine the experience of RSE in schools and in classrooms.

A review of research was commissioned in June 2018 and a report was published in November. Studies have emerged over the last months that will also support the development of discussions and key questions in the review.

A number of consultative events are being planned. The first was held on 27 November at Collins Barracks, Dublin and involved approximately 60 groups and organisation who have expressed an interest in or who are known to have an interest in contributing to the review.

Approximately 20 primary and post primary schools, representing a range of school types and experiences will be directly involved. The outcome from this strand of the review will inform recommendations in relation to the reality of the experience of RSE in classrooms and the experience of parents, curriculum gaps, implementation barriers and enablers, and support needs. Furthermore, there will be an opportunity for any school to be involved, should they wish, to facilitate workshops locally.

The timelines for the three dimensions of the review are likely to intersect somewhat but will also contribute and add to the progression of the review. The NCCA intend to publish a draft report on the Review of RSE, which will be subject to further consultation from stakeholders. Final report is expected in Q2 2019.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

#### **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

The Minister of State for Higher Education, Mary Mitchell O'Connor, T.D, on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018, launched a research report on sexual consent among third level students carried out by the NUI Galway SMART Consent research team in collaboration with their partners at four colleges.

The report, 'Are Consent Workshops Sustainable and Feasible in Third Level Institutions?' includes surveys with over 3,500 students conducted at NUI Galway consent workshops and held at four colleges nationally. The new education and awareness campaign, Consent=OMFG (Ongoing, Mutual, Freely Given), includes four short interactive films on consent.

The report builds on a programme of research since 2013 that has explored the meaning of consent among college students, tested the effectiveness of the SMART Consent workshop, and surveyed students on sexual consent behaviours and attitudes (see <a href="https://www.nuigalway.ie/smartconsent">www.nuigalway.ie/smartconsent</a>)

The surveys included in the report shed light on important consent-related issues, including:

- Sexual harassment: In a survey of 632 students, 54% of first year women students report experiencing sexual hostility or crude gender harassment at some point since starting college, rising to 64% among Second Year women students, and 70% of women students in Third Year or a subsequent year. The comparable figures for men are: 25%, 37%, and 40%.
- Perceptions of sex education at school: In a survey of 2,150 students, 71% of women and 63% of men said they were dissatisfied with the sexual health education they received at school (14% of women and 17% of men were neutral on this question; 15% of women and 20% of men were satisfied with their sexual health education at school).
- More lesbian, gay and bisexual students felt that their sexual health education at school did not cover the topics they are most interested in (75%), compared with heterosexual students (66%).
- Perceptions of alcohol and capacity to give consent: In a survey, 753 students read 1 of 2 versions of a consent story where both characters were drinking: 20% considered the female character too drunk to give consent in the story where she consumed 14 standard drinks, while 33% considered the female character too drunk in the version where she consumed 28 standard drinks. 14% of the students considered the male character too drunk to give consent after 14 standard drinks, and 30% considered him too drunk after 28 standard drinks.

In the Minister's press release on the launch of the report, the Minister said 'All institutions have a duty of care to their students and I am delighted to see many of them integrate and support these empowerment and preventative initiatives, such as mandatory consent workshops. As Minister it falls to me to ensure that providing excellence in education depends also on providing a safe learning environment, free from sexual harassment, assault and the fear or threat of it. Therefore I welcome Dr. Pádraig MacNeela's report. It is a timely piece of research given that the National Council on Curriculum and Assessment is carrying out a major review of the relationships and sexuality curriculum."

Dr Siobhán O'Higgins said: "the SMART Consent workshop is strongly associated with students feeling knowledgeable and skilled about sexual

consent. The discussion and peer engagement strategies we use mean it is a workshop, not a class. We encourage students to find their own positive approach to consent, but also know that a full response to this issue involves action outside workshops too, to change the culture in college and society".

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

#### Any other information

On October 4th 2018, Minister Mitchell O'Connor convened a stakeholder workshop on consent and tackling sexual violence in Irish higher education institutions. Following the event, the Minister established an expert group to prepare a set of recommendations for Higher Education Institutions and for the sector as a whole. This group would be informed by best evidence and practices and be readily implementable by all institutions. The work of this group is ongoing.

#### **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

#### **HSE**

In line with the Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence, 2016-2021, the Health Service Executive developed and commissioned a national train the trainer programme.

To date, the DSGBV training programme has received accreditation from the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (N&MBI) and the Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW). Four Community Health Organisation areas have commenced delivery of the Programme; between Q4, 2017 and Q2, 2018 training has been delivered to 155 healthcare professionals.

HSE National Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Training Resource Manual-Recognising and Responding to Victims of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV) in Vulnerable or At-Risk Communities completed in partnership with Sonas.

Twenty-five HSE staff commenced a Second National Domestic Sexual and Gender Based Violence (DSGBV) Train the Trainer Programme and will complete the programme in Q1 2019.

DSGBV Training was delivered to 160 frontline HSE staff.

Chief Officers have been requested to consider the inclusion of training and awareness raising activities as an action in Quality Improvement Plans.

#### **Probation Service**

Probation staff have been identified and trained across all community based teams in the assessment and supervision of perpetrators of domestic violence and is ongoing.

#### **Courts Services**

The Courts Service provided training for all staff who are involved in the administration of family law by quarter 4 2017.

The Courts Service have provided training on the procedures involved in facilitating applications under the Domestic Violence Act and supplemented this with information seminars throughout the regions focussing on facilitating the implementation under the new act.

#### **AGS**

#### Training Delivered

- DAIPU Presentations to Probationer Gardaí at the Garda College: 26.07.18, 14.08.18, 04.10.18, 25.10.18, 26.11.18, 14.12.18
- Standing commitment by DAIPU to deliver presentation to all Phase I & III Probationers.
- GNPSB's other units also provide monthly training to probationers in Garda College in the areas of child abuse, sexual abuse and human trafficking.
- Children's First training on national roll out.
- DAIPU National Seminar with Domestic Abuse Inspectors & Sgts held on the 26.09.18 and 21.11.18 to 200 attendees.
- Presentation from the DAIPU to members of An Garda Síochána:

Laois/Offaly Division

24.07.18. 01.10.18.

DMR North

18.09.18 & 24.09.18

**DMR South** 

03.10.18, 09.10.18 & 10.10.18

Carlow/ Kilkenny

Division

25.10.18.

**DMR North Central** 

03.12.18, 04.12.18 &

10.12.18.

- Presentation by DAIPU to Probation Services on DV Act 2018 10.12.18.
- Refresher training provided by DAIPU to high risk victim risk assessors 20.09.18

Future Training & Presentations:

- CPD Train the Trainers by DAIPU 15.01.2019
- DAIPU National Seminar with Domestic Abuse Inspectors & Sgts already booked out by 220 attendees for the 23.01.19 & 27.01.19.
   DPSU advanced training in Feb 19.

#### Tusla

Garda National Protective Services Bureau meeting held with Tusla Eastern Region regarding joint training on 7.11.17.

Roll out of Diversity in Modern Ireland training for Tusla staff continued throughout 2018. Five courses were held with 57 participants.

Tusla has partnered with Pavee Point to implement. National co-ordination was established by end Q4, with recruitment of project workers underway and planning initiated for roll-out to four pilot sites in 2018. This project will be aligned with local Traveller Primary Healthcare projects supported by the HSE.

Tusla commissioned Safe Ireland to support work across the Domestic Violence services' sector to enhance services' capacity to respond to all service users in ways that take account human rights and equality, in line with the Public Service Directive. Safe Ireland had engaged specialist support to undertake this work by end 2018, with roll-out planned from Q1 2019.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

#### **ACTION 1.600**

a. Develop strategic approaches to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence training within Tusla:

- 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**

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

**Position at September 2019:** Actions 1.600 (a) and (b) are ongoing business for Tusla and in this context should be marked as complete. Following finalisation of the mid-term review of the Strategy, it is intended to remove Action 1.6 (c) as this action is not within Tusla's remit.

### **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

The following were on the agenda for Judicial Studies events in 2018: -

**Circuit Court Conference 2018** - Topic: "Recent developments in Family and Child Law to include: the use of a report of an expert appointed by the Court in regard to the welfare of children."

**National Court Conference 2018 -** Topic: "Anonymity for Victims, Witnesses and Accused".

**District Court Quarterly Training Session - September 2018** - Topic: Domestic Violence Act 2018 Dynamics and concepts - new and old

Family law conference in Vienna - Re: Anglo-Germanophone Conference - Vienna - 27 to 29 June 2018. Relevant Topics on the Agenda: Medical Treatment of minors and of vulnerable Adults Filiation (incl Surrogacy) Art 13 exceptions – return and best interest of the Child. Attendees: 2 High Court Judges and a Circuit Court Judge.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

#### Any other information

Upcoming events:

**Cross Border Conference March 2019 in Belfast** - Topic: Vulnerable witnesses.

**District Court conference March 2019** - Topic: The importance of practical case management techniques in family law & child protection case lists outside of Dublin Metropolitan District - Ascertain what special measures are necessary to protect the vulnerable.

Four Jurisdictions Family Law Conference, 1st & 2nd February 2019, Edinburgh, Scotland. Relevant Topics on the Agenda: Vulnerable Witnesses & Financial issues in family breakdown.

#### **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, The Bar of Ireland, King's Inns

#### **Timescale**

The Bar of Ireland, 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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

#### The Law Society

The Law Society's implementation of its functions under the strategy is ongoing, holding seminars for the profession and providing a module on the up to date legislation for the students. The Law Society continues to provide a Domestic Violence module to the students on an annual basis and the annual family law conference in November included a session on the new Domestic Violence Act 2018. There will also be updates in 2019 to include the new district court rules. In March the Law Society held a multi-disciplinary day seminar on all aspects of domestic gender and sexual abuse which was well attended by the profession.

#### The Bar of Ireland

As a partner in an EU funded Victims' Directive Training Grant, we held a number of seminars and conferences which subject matter is relevant to this

report and which were all recorded for webcast. The Council hosted a full day Victim's Conference in April 2018 which included a session on child abuse by Dr Geoffrey Shannon and Trauma Training by Maeve Lewis of One in Four. The Council hosted a panel discussion on cross-examination of victims in practice, including the use of intermediaries. This conference was very well attended and was recorded for webcast through a MOOC (Massive Open Online Content). Much of the content of the 2018 MOOC was relevant to these issues and the Council contributed both to organising and publicising the MOOC lectures.

In addition, the Council ran a seminar in July 2017 detailing the requirements under the Victims Directive, which was repeated for the members of the Irish Criminal Bar Association. In January 2016 the Council ran a three hour seminar on vulnerable witnesses. A report has been prepared by one of our Council members on GBV in Tanzania, which specifically addresses GBV issues arising in both jurisdictions and which recommends a joint approach by Irish and Tanzanian police, lawyers and the judiciary. The recommendations therein will inform the upcoming year of CPD events and the ongoing contact will increase awareness of the relevant issues at investigative, prosecutorial and judicial levels.

There was a seminar and workshop on Vulnerable Witnesses in September 2018.

The Bar of Ireland continues to review its CPD content and further seminars are planned in this area.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

#### **ACTION 1.900**

Prevent and combat sexual violence and harassment in higher education, and build a culture of zero tolerance in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) In Europe, through the EU funded Ending Sexual Harassment and Violence in Third Level Education Project (ESHTE).

(a) Establish National Advisory Committee

#### Appoint External Evaluator

- **(b)** Develop a baseline report on the prevalence of sexual harassment & violence and responses by HEIs and relevant agencies in partner countries
- (c) Launch Project Website
- (d) Hold Focus groups with HEI students and HEI staff to gather experience and needs for Toolkit Interim Evaluation Report
- (e) Pilot Tool Kit Training Modules
- (f) Develop Tool Kit
- **(g)** Campaign Materials completed Video, social media messaging, posters, postcards
- (h) It Stops Now Campus Campaign Project Conference (Ireland) Project Webinars
- (i) Project Seminars (Cyprus, Lithuania, Germany, UK)
  Project Report
  Final Evaluation Report

#### **Implementing Bodies**

National Women's Council of Ireland (project lead), in partnership with Irish Observatory on Violence Against Women, Union of Students in Ireland, Student Union partners, Cosc, An Garda Síochána, Higher Education Institution partners, EU partners

#### **Timescale**

The ESHTE Project will run from quarter 4 2016 quarter 1 2019, a period of 30 months

- (a) Quarter 1 2017
- (b) Quarter 2 2017
- (c) Quarter 3 2017
- (d) Quarter 4 2017
- (e) Quarter 1 2018
- (f) Quarter 2 2018
- (g) Quarter 3 2018
- (h) Quarter 4 2018

(i) Quarter 1 2019

Full Project Timeline and Project Partners are available from the National Women's Council of Ireland

# Monitoring Report December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

- (a)The ESHTE National Advisory Committee was established in Q2 2017 and has had five meetings to date. The membership of the group consists of staff and student representatives from nine third level institutes in Ireland, Union of Students of Ireland, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, Cork Sexual Violence Centre, Irish Student Health Association, Confederation of Student Services in Ireland, An Garda Siochana and COSC.
- (b) Reports completed in Q3 2017 and published on www.itstopsnow.org
- (c) It Stops Now website has been live since Q4 2017 and was formally launched in Q1 2018. Content is continuously being added www.itstopsnow.org.
- (d) Action completed in Q2 2018 and report circulated to ESHTE National Advisory Committee. Eight student focus groups and six staff focus groups in several third level institutes were facilitated by the Project Coordinator and Officer. Feedback informed the development of training modules, the awareness raising campaign and ESHTE toolkit.

<u>Interim Evaluation Report</u> - Completed by the external evaluator in Q4 2017 and submitted to the European Commission.

(e) First pilot training module delivered in Ireland on Sexual Violence and Harassment: Disclosures in Q4 2018 to staff from University College Cork, University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin and Dublin Institute of Technology. Second pilot training module to be delivered with University College in Q1 of 2019.

Pilot training modules delivered by ESHTE partners Rape Crisis Centre Scotland and Women's Issues Information Centre to Higher Education Institutes in Scotland and Lithuania in Q4 2018.

- (f) Currently in development, action to be delivered in Q4 2019.
- (g) The 'It Stops Now' Campaign Launched in Q4 2018. Campaign video has 40, 000 views on social media and is translated to Greek and Lithuanian. It

Stops Now Wall mural was displayed in University College Dublin in Q4 and will be put up in University College Cork and University of Limerick in Q1 2019.

Campaign stickers were distributed for events by Cork Sexual Violence Centre, An Garda Siochana Campus Watch, UL Student Union, University College Cork, University College Dublin, Athlone Institute of Technology, NUIG Feminist Society, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, The Liberties College, Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art Design and Technology, Dublin City University.

Campaign Posters will be rolled out in Q1 2019

(h) Project Conference (Ireland): To be delivered in Q1 of 2019. ESHTE European Conference will take place on the 7th March 2019. Project Webinars: First webinar on Online Sexual Violence and Harassment published in Q3 2018. Second Webinar on Bystander Initiatives to be published in Q3 2018. Third Webinar on the Legal Framework of Sexual Violence and Harassment was delivered in Q1 2019.

(i)Project Seminars (Cyprus, Lithuania, Scotland)

Project Report: Action to be delivered in Q1 2019.

Final Evaluation Report: Action to be delivered in Q1 2019.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

### **ACTION 1.910**

To raise awareness of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) within An Garda Siochana through the;

 Delivery of a training module twice a year to frontline personnel in An Garda Siochana on FGM  Development and dissemination of an Information Guide on FGM for all members of An Garda Siochana

### **Implementing Bodies**

An Garda Siochana and AkiDwA

#### **Timeframe**

**Quarter 4 2018** 

# Monitoring Report December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

#### **Akidwa**

Training on FGM was delivered to Gardai twice in 2018, with over 120 Gardai participating in both training.

#### **AGS**

The Garda Síochána Victims Office have had initial meetings with AkiDwa regarding the guidance document and future delivery of training. The Inspector who investigated the first active FGM case on the British Isles is advising the DAIPU on training & information guide.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

# **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 (3<sup>rd</sup> 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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Tusla continues to commission provision of psychological support services for SATU (Sexual Assault Treatment Unit) services as part of funding arrangements with sexual violence services.

Tusla supported production and dissemination of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the SATU National Guidelines in 2018.

Tusla contributed to the Department of Health review of psychological support services for SATU and waited to consider findings from this review before undertaking any further review activities to inform future commissioning of psychological support services for SATU.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

### **ACTION 2.150**

Complete a review of the investigation and prosecutions of sexual offences aimed at improving supports to vulnerable witnesses during those processes.

#### Implementing bodies

Department of Justice and Equality

#### **Timescale**

Quarter 4, 2018 or earliest date thereafter

Monitoring Report December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

In September 2018 the Minister for Justice & Equality announced a review of the protections for vulnerable witnesses in the investigation and prosecution of sexual offences. In April 2018 consultations were held with a number of non-governmental agencies who work in this area and invited submissions on what can be done to better protect vulnerable witnesses in sexual assault cases.

Following receipt of submissions an expert group was established to review protections for vulnerable witnesses in the investigation and prosecution of sexual offences. Noted expert Tom O'Malley BL, Senior Lecturer in Law at NUI Galway and member of the Law Reform Commission, was appointed to chair a working group with experts from across the criminal justice sector including An Garda Síochána, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Probation Service, the Courts Service and a representative of the Criminal Law Reform Division in the Department of Justice and Equality.

The Terms of Reference for the review include the following elements:

- Access to specialist training for An Garda Síochána, members of the judiciary and legal professionals dealing with sexual offences;
- Practical supports for victims through the reporting, investigation and trial processes;
- The provision of additional legal supports to witnesses during the court process;
- Examination of measures in place to protect vulnerable witnesses during evidence, including the use of measures such as pre-recorded evidence or video-link;
- The causes of delay in sexual offence trials, and the effect of delay upon vulnerable witnesses;
- The use of pre-trial hearings to determine evidential issues including conflicts of evidence and sexual experience evidence;
- Provision for restrictions on public attendance at, and media reporting on, trials of sexual offences.

The working group has held a number of meetings and has begun gathering information around the trial process. The review has received a number of submissions from victims' organisations and from victims themselves, as well as other stakeholders.

It is expected that the working group will provide a final report to the Minister during the first quarter of 2019.

Is the action on target?
Yes
If not, why?
Proposed remedial action and timescale
Domestic violence
<b>ACTION 2.200</b>
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
December, 2018
Outline the progress made in implementing the action.
The Domestic Violence Act 2018 was enacted on 8 May (and commenced on 1 January 2019).
Is the action on target?
Complete
If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

#### Any other information

### **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 Housing, Planning and Local Government (lead), housing authorities

#### **Timescale**

- a. Quarter 1, 2016
- b. Quarter 2, 2016

# Monitoring Report December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Policy and guidelines developed and implemented.

Is the action on target?

Complete

If not, why?

#### Proposed remedial action and timescale

#### 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**

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

**Position at September 2019:** The HSE will commission/tender a review of the 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 by Q4 2019. The timeline will be amended to Q4 2019.

#### **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 December, 2018

#### Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

a, b, d, e

Monitoring of 2017 Domestic Abuse Intervention Policy is being conducted at local District PAF (Performance and Accountability Framework) meetings to ensure call backs, request for statements, full details are recorded on PULSE, and that appropriate information is being provided.

e. Guidance on call backs issued to all members. Portal notice reiterating importance. An Infographic created by DAIPU on call backs circulated. The value of call backs stated by DAIPU at every internal presentation.

Divisional Domestic Abuse Inspectors & Operational Sgts have received guidance in Seminars by DAIPU on what PULSE issues & inaccuracies can occur.

c. Preliminary Risk Assessment Tool is currently being utilised by Phase 1 DPSUs Units.

Professor in Trinity College, is currently conducting an academic review of risk assessment tool and the AGS pilot tool, due to be completed by Q 1 2019. A process review will then be commenced which is hoped be completed by end of Q.2 2019.

DAIPU Seminars have commenced with Divisional and District Domestic Abuse Inspectors and Sergeants on a bi-monthly basis, to ensure that all aspects of the Domestic Abuse policy is being implemented and monitored and also to allow an opportunity for issues and challenges to be discussed with DAIPU.

## Position at September 2019

Part (c) relates specifically to the risk assessment tool currently under development. It will be incorporated into Action 2.900

## **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

An internal review has been undertaken in terms of the feasibility of including victims of domestic violence in the scheme but the scheme as currently established cannot accommodate such victims.

Is the action on target?

Completed

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

## **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

#### **AGS**

There is no provision for automatic referral of victims in the absence of the victim's explicit consent. However, the role of the Garda Victim Service Offices facilitates the enhanced delivery of victims' rights.

GNPSB Victims Office and the Prison Service are developing a Memorandum of Understanding. When finalised, a joint leaflet may be agreed. However, the current GNPSB Victim Information Leaflet already contains information for all victims.

## **Probation Service**

The Victims of Crime protocol signed between the Probation Service and Irish Prison Service (IPS) which aims to ensure the provision of a coordinated, effective and appropriate response to victims needs is working well and has been reviewed.

Victim Information leaflet has been developed by the Probation Service and the Irish Prison Service and will be accessible on agency websites.

The Probation Service also contributed to a victim information leaflet being prepared by An Garda Siochana.

#### **Courts Services**

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.

ADAPT are currently involved in replicating the Dolphin House service in **Limerick District Court.** 

**Ennis Courthouse** has a dedicated room for victims of Domestic Violence. This is controlled by a local women's refuge organisation called Clare Haven Services.

Victims can stay in that room on the day of court to avoid meeting with the other side. The PA system extends to that area so the person knows when their case is called.

**Letterkenny Courthouse** has a dedicated room for victims of Domestic Violence. This is controlled by a local women's refuge organisation called Domestic Violence Service.

Victims can stay in that room on the day of court to avoid meeting with the other side.

There is not a designated support and referral room in other Court buildings but there is a presence by support workers on Court days.

#### Tusla

Additional funding of €1.7m was allocated to services supporting victims of domestic violence and sexual violence, bringing total funding for services to €24.1m in 2018. Tusla has increased funding to Sexual Violence services to provide additional counselling hours and reduce waiting lists for victims of sexual violence.

Additional funding has been provided to increase the provision of emergency domestic violence accommodation for 2019.

To provide psychological protection to children exposed to domestic violence, roll-out of the TLC Kidz programme was expanded to over 10 further locations and national co-ordination of support programmes for children was initiated in Q4.

A research project on therapeutic responses to older children/young people who have experienced sexual violence was begun in Q3 and will be completed in Q2 2019.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

## **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Professor Stephanie Holt, Trinity College, is currently conducting academic review of risk assessment tool and the AGS pilot tool, due to be completed by Q 1 2019. A process review will then be commenced which is hoped be completed by end of Q.2 2019. It is hoped that finalisation of development of a risk assessment tool will be completed by end of Q.3 2019 and implementation of risk assessment tool to be completed by end of Q.4 on a phased roll out basis to commence in divisions where DPSU's are located.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

## **ACTION 2.810**

The Establishment of Divisional Protective Services Units (DPSUs) (Garda Inspectorate Recommendation 6.18)

It is intended to have a Divisional Protective Services Unit established in all 28 Garda Divisions mirroring those responsibilities held nationally by the Garda National Protective Services Bureau. Phase 1 implementation is due to commence by 1 November 2016 in three nominated Garda divisions. Phase 2 implementation is due to commence by Q3, 2017

Implementing bodies: An Garda Síochána

**Timescale** 

Quarter 4 2017

Monitoring Report December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

#### Phase I Rollout

The first 3 DPSUs commenced in Louth, DMR West & Cork City Divisions on 29th May 2017.

Assessment and evaluation by the Garda Síochána Research Unit has concluded & recommendations have been made regarding the remit of the DPSUs, further training needs and facility requirements.

### Phase II Rollout

1. The next phase of the DPSU rollout has commenced with DMR South Central, Carlow/Kilkenny, Galway, Waterford, Kerry & Limerick.

The Strategic Transformation Office (S.T.O.) are currently evaluating these resource requirements and are liaising with the relent enablers in An Garda Síochána

**Position at September 2019:** There are currently 10 DPSU's established. Rollout continuing in September, in which six further DPSU's, will be established in the following Divisions,

- Cork (West)
- > DMR South
- DMR East
- Wicklow
- Clare
- Tipperary

The balance of the Divisional Units will be established in separate roll outs in Quarter 3 and 4 of 2019.

## **ACTION 2.820**

Engage the Garda Síochána Analytical Service (GSAS) to analyse Domestic Related Homicides

(Garda Inspectorate Recommendation 6.18)

Analytical work will also be conducted on all other crimes to be investigated by the DPSUs to inform management engaged in implementation of these units.

Implementing bodies: An Garda Síochána

**Timescale** 

Quarter 1 2017

Monitoring Report December, 2018

### Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Garda Síochána Analysis Service (GSAS) examination of domestic relation homicides uncovered anomalies as to how homicides were recorded on Pulse. This has led to a review of wider data recording issues on PULSE which is still ongoing. Nonetheless, GSAS continue to provide support to GNPSB in the area of domestic homicides and other crimes.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

## **ACTION 2.830**

Develop a Bespoke Training Package for Divisional Protective Services Units (Garda Inspectorate Recommendation 6.18)

To ensure that members of DPSUs are appropriately trained to investigate all business functions/disciplines within their remit.

Implementing bodies: An Garda Síochána

**Timescale** 

**Quarter 3 2017** 

## Monitoring Report December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

DPSU modular training on Domestic Abuse and risk assessment has been provided for the initial 3 Divisional Units.

The assessment and evaluation by the Garda Síochána Research Unit led to recommendations regarding DPSUs' training needs.

Meetings held by GNPSB management to update the training model to address these recommendations.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

## **ACTION 2.840**

Update the Garda Website ref Domestic Abuse, Sexual Crime and Sex Offender Management.

(Garda Inspectorate Recommendation 6.18)

As part of a media/education strategy on Protective Services matters including Domestic Abuse and Sexual Crime

Implementing bodies: An Garda Síochána

**Timescale** 

Quarter 2 2017

## Monitoring Report December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Information has been now included on the new Garda website relating to sexual crime and sex offender management. The role of Gardaí and the services provided on reporting an incident are also included.

New information provided by DAIPU for the Garda internal Portal, regarding guidance document on the DV Act 2018; Q&A document on DV Act 2018; procedure on special sitting of District Court; guidance document on coercive control; actions to be taken on responding to DA incident; information to be provided to victim; call backs and details of local services; clarity also provided

on data collection on PULSE. Information regarding Domestic Abuse and the Domestic Violence Act 2018 are being prepared for upload.

2017 DA Intervention Policy being revised to reflect the DV Act 2018

An infographic was developed by GNPSB & Strategic Planning addressing victim call backs & added to Portal.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Q. 4 2018

Any other information

## **ACTION 2.850**

Implement a Formal Review Process for Undetected Sexual Offences (Garda Inspectorate Recommendation 6.17)

Implementing bodies: An Garda Síochána

**Timescale** 

Quarter 3 2017

## Monitoring Report December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

There are now dedicated resources available to monitor and review undetected sexual crimes. While there are still some capacity issues and certainly all undetected cases will not at current capacity be examined. There is a dedicated unit to monitor such cases. A formal policy is currently being drafted around this area.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

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 Síochána

#### **Timescale**

Quarter 4 2016

## **Monitoring Report**

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Position at September 2019:

<u>Tier I</u>

Tier I of Risk Assessment is outlined in the 2017 DA Intervention Policy.

Tier II

Tier II preliminary risk assessment tool is currently being utilised by the 3 initial operating DPSUs on a trial basis

Tier III

It is hoped that an appropriate Risk Assessment Tool will be finalised during Quarter 3 2019, with the evaluation period to commence during Quarter 4 2019 on a phased roll out basis to commence in divisions where DPSU's are located. Following on from this work it is expected that full implementation will commence in Quarter 1, 2020. It is intended to amend the timeline to Q1 2020 in the context of the mid-term review of the strategy.

## **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 guarter 1 2016 and ongoing throughout the term of the Strategy

## Monitoring Report December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

On the 28.11.18 the DAIPU presented at the National Traveller Health Network meeting highlighting the role of Gardaí in responding to domestic abuse incidents and obligations on us to make Tulsa referrals for all incidents of domestic abuse.

In addition, Pavee Point are developing domestic abuse support workers in four pilot areas (Galway, Cork, Dublin and Wicklow), and a liaison member will be appointed with assistance from GNPSB. It is felt that this will assist in overcoming cultural barriers that may exist.

DAIPU National Seminars held for Domestic Abuse Inspectors and Sergeants and training provided to Phase I & Phase III Probationers continually raises the dynamics of responding to domestic abuse in diverse and emerging communities.

#### Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

## **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

#### HSE

The HSE DSGBV train the trainer programme has been developed in partnership with Sonas to recognise and respond to victims of DSGBV in vulnerable or at risk communities.

The purpose of the train-the-trainer programme is to:

- deliver a culturally appropriate, learning programme for HSE staff and partner service-provider organisations;
- establish standards, address quality improvement and measure outcomes; and
- identify appropriate interventions and provide practitioner guidance for identifying and responding to survivors of DSGBV in vulnerable or at-risk communities.

An accompanying resource manual will provide further practitioner guidance when published (HSE).

Resource training manual completed as referenced in Action 1.500.

HSE Second National Intercultural Health Strategy 2018-2023 completed – this references the DSGBV Action plan and outlines further relevant actions in relation to service users from diverse ethnic and cultural groups. An Implementation plan is expected to be finalised in Q2 2019.

#### Tusla

Implementation of actions arising from six Area-based Commissioning Projects undertaken in 2017 were progressed to look at local needs and inform future service development in those areas. The needs of people with additional vulnerabilities are actively included. Representatives from minority communities are included on the project advisory structures and are being engaged with as part of the needs analysis process.

Planning progressed for an integrated service approach in North Dublin (Fingal) involving both domestic violence and sexual violence service provider organisations which includes particular responses to communities and individuals with additional vulnerabilities. Service is due to be operational in Q2 2019.

Tusla is currently funding a Domestic Violence Awareness and Healthy Relationships project with the Enniscorthy Roma Community.

A pilot Community Development Domestic Violence project for Migrants in the Midlands began in Q4 with project manager in post.

Additional Domestic Violence supports in Roscommon for work with Syrian Refugees.

National Workshop on responding to ethnic minorities/new communities held in December 2018.

Additionally, as per Action 1.5

Tusla has partnered with Pavee Point to implement. National co-ordination was established by end Q4, with recruitment of project workers underway and planning initiated for roll-out to four pilot sites in 2018. This project will be aligned with local Traveller Primary Healthcare projects supported by the HSE.

Tusla commissioned Safe Ireland to support work across the Domestic Violence services' sector to enhance services' capacity to respond to all service users in ways that take account human rights and equality, in line with the Public Service Directive. Safe Ireland had engaged specialist support to undertake this work by end 2018, with roll-out planned from Q1 2019.

#### Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

## **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**

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

**Position at September 2019:** As two freephone national helplines are in place for domestic violence (Women's Aid) and sexual violence (Dublin Rape Crisis Centre) since 2017 this action is complete.

## **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Is the action on target?

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

## **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Is the action on target?

Not yet started

If not, why?

To commence on ratification of Istanbul Convention

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

## **ACTION 2.1500**

Implement structures and processes within Tusla to achieve greater coordination 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 December, 2018

## Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

- a. Oversight structures have been established.
- b. Consolidated national budget and single line accountability has been established.
- c. Ongoing engagement mechanisms between Tusla and funded service provider organisations.

Funding for DSGBV services nationally was €23.8m in 2018 which includes €1.7m additional funding on 2017 amounts. Funding allowed substantial improvements in responses to children who witness/experience domestic violence, in addition to addressing waiting list pressures in sexual violence services and targeted developments in areas of under provision.

In Q4 2018 Tusla has engaged with Safe Ireland to further support Domestic Violence Service Providers around building enhanced knowledge and practice around human rights and equality in the context of Istanbul Convention and Public Sector Duty requirements.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale Any other information

## **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

- a. Additional support provided for outreach services at Esker House in the Midlands Area; planning for integrated services in North Dublin and Cork; partnership approach supported in Waterford to establish a community based outreach service with a reach to women and children who would not previously have accessed services, including those from rural areas.
- b. Needs analyses initiated for sexual violence services in Border and Midlands areas.

#### Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

## **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 - guarter 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**

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

**Position at September 2018:** Tusla acknowledge the delay in implementing this action. Work has been undertaken to map out a frame for quality standards and the development of more systematic oversight mechanisms for Service Level Agreements since 2017, will support the achievement of quality standards. Delay in this action has largely been a matter of resources to undertake development of standards. With the introduction of new staff in 2019, it is intended to amend timeline to Q1 2021 in the context of the midterm review of the strategy.

## **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 December, 2018

## Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

- Service user engagement mechanisms are included in all Tusla Areabased commissioning projects and include meetings/interviews/focus groups with service users; surveys and opportunities to submit views as part of the needs analysis processes. Service users from minority groups were specifically targeted to ensure their views and experiences were included. Service users are engaged in the advisory group for the Youth Therapeutic Research in Sexual Violence settings currently underway (see Action 1).
- Tusla developed Participation Strategy for young people with Agencywide roll-out and training. DSGBV team have participated in Participation training.

#### Is the action on target?

#### Mainly

 Include a framework for robust and effective service user engagement mechanisms in commissioning for domestic violence and sexual violence services.

Although significant activity has taken place around service user engagement, this action to develop a framework for engagement around DSGBV requires further development with clarity about specific actions and resources.

If not, why?

### Proposed remedial action and timescale

Outcomes required and project scoping to be undertaken in Q2 2019.

Any other information

## **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017 was enacted on 22 February 2017. The purpose of the Act is to enhance and update laws to combat the sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, including new offences relating to child sexual grooming and new and strengthened offences to tackle child pornography, criminalise the purchase of sexual services, introduces new

provisions regarding the giving of evidence by victims in sexual offence trials and introduces a new offence addressing public indecency.

The majority of the provisions of the Act were commenced in March 2017. The remaining sections of the Act were commenced in Spring 2018. Additional amendments to the Act will also be brought in the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) (Amendment) Bill 2018 to address the gender anomaly in sentencing for incest offences. The Bill also includes provisions for additional penalties for those convicted of repeat sexual offences.

Is the action on target?

Completed

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

## **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

#### Sex Offenders (Amendment) Bill 2017

The provisions outlined in the Sex Offenders (Amendment) Bill were originally included in the General Scheme to the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Bill 2015, which became the 2017 Act. Draft Heads were approved by Government

as Part 3 of the General Scheme of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Bill. Part 3 has now being drafted as a separate Sex Offenders (Amendment) Bill which was brought to Government in Q1 2018. (Criminal Law Reform)

## Is the action on target?

No

#### If not, why?

Sex Offenders Bill is currently with the OPC for drafting.

Position at September 2019: The Bill went for drafting in June 2018. While progress on the drafting continues to be made, the priority afforded to the Bill has been affected by other urgent Government legislative priorities over the period. This has included the Criminal Justice (Money Laundering & Terrorist Financing) (Amendment) Bill, the Gaming and Lotteries (Amendment) Bill (legislation dealing with gambling) and the European Parliament Elections (Amendment) Bill.

Various other urgent legislative commitments have arisen since the action plan was formulated in late 2015 and have taken priority over this legislation. In particular, amendments to the Private Members' Parole Bill, the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill (which provides for minimum sentences for sex offenders), and the review of protections for vulnerable witnesses in the investigation and prosecution of sexual offences which was announced following the Belfast rape trial.

The legislative components of the National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence 2016-2021 remain an important priority for Criminal Law Reform and it is intended to progress the Sex Offenders (Amendment) Bill to publication as soon as possible. It is intended to amend the timescale to Q 1 2020 in the context of the mid-term review of the strategy.

## **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 (SATU's) and HSE

#### **Timescale**

Quarter 2, 2016

## Monitoring Report December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Freezers installed in all 6 SATUs, option available for patients since 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016.

Is the action on target?

Complete

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

## Any other information

This care option has been chosen by patients attending all 6 SATUs. The smaller freezers were almost full to capacity in 3 SATUs and additional funding was sought and provided by Dept of Justice to replace these 3 smaller freezers with larger ones to ensure that each SATU can continue to offer the service.

A number of patients who have chosen this option have gone on to report the incident to An Garda Síochána within a year of storing the evidence. This means that forensic evidence that would have previously been unavailable due to delayed reporting is now available and can be used to contribute to judicial investigation.

## **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Funding received from Office of Chief Information Officer (HSE) and project commenced April 2016. Web-based secure database developed and tested throughout 2016. Data collection through this platform commenced quarter 1 2017. First key service activity report produced and disseminated May 2018.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

## **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 December, 2018

## Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

National Guidelines Development Group, with relevant collaborators updated. All sections of document and an additional section outlining care provision for those under the age of 14 years was also developed. Multiagency (HSE, Tusla

and An Garda Síochána) funding for formatting, printing, dissemination and training was obtained and Guidelines were launched in October 2018.

This current edition (4th edition) of the Guidelines was renamed Sexual Assault Response Team's 'Recent Rape / Sexual Assault: National Guidelines on Referral and Forensic Clinical Examination in Ireland' – to reflect the multiagency input.

Is the action on target?

Completed

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

## **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

#### **Probation Service**

Probation Service in partnership with NGO continues to lead on sex offender treatment programmes in the community, 2 x Dublin, 1 x Cork. Probation Service and IPS psychology service also delivering on Building Better Lives (BBL) group programmes within prisons.

#### Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

## **ACTION 2.2500**

- a. The National Sex Offender Risk Assessment Management (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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

- (a) 5 regional workshops were facilitated in the period from July Dec 2018.
- (b) SORAM office engaging now in more oversight of Local SORAM Teams.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

## Proposed remedial action and timescale

### Any other information

## **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

One in Four is currently providing a therapeutic intervention programme, the Phoenix Programme, to 47 sex offenders. We receive a grant of €80,000 per annum from the HSE National Social Inclusion Office to carry out this work. They liaise closely with Tusla child protection services and all the sex offenders must engage with a Tusla child protection social worker during the programme.

#### Tusla

Tusla continued to support the Phoenix (sex offender intervention) Programme which works with non-convicted sex offenders.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

### Proposed remedial action and timescale

## Any other information

## **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Victim Offender Mediation (VOM) for victims of sexual violence established and ongoing, with a small but increasing number of requests received to date particularly since the passing of the Victim's legislation.

The Probation Service has established a national dedicated Restorative Justice / Victim's Services Unit which co-ordinates and oversees the delivery of the VOM pilot through a core group of probation staff who have received mediation skills training and dedicated training on sexual trauma. Review of the pilot complete.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

### Any other information

## **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

The Domestic Violence Act 2018 was enacted on 8 May (and commenced on 1 January 2019).

Is the action on target?

Complete

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

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**

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

#### Position at September 2019

It is intended to publish proposals in 2019 for a new approach to handling family law cases in Ireland at District, Circuit and High Court levels. This will be done by legislation to create a new dedicated Family Court within the existing court structures. These courts will have new procedures aimed at less adversarial resolution of disputes and will have appropriate facilities and case management arrangements.

The Department of Justice and Equality is currently working on the General Scheme of a Family Court Bill, which will aim to streamline family law court processes, clarify jurisdictional issues and provide for a set of guiding principles to help ensure that the Family Court will operate in a user-friendly and efficient manner. Once the General Scheme has been approved by Government, it will be referred to the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel for drafting and to the relevant Oireachtas Committee for pre-legislative scrutiny.

A working group was established in 2017, comprising officials from the Department of Justice and Equality, the Courts Service and the Legal Aid Board, to examine the operational aspects relating to the Family Court and develop an overall architecture for the new family court structure. The Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Tusla also participated in the working group. Key issues that arose in consultations included family court venues and facilities, resources and capital investment in family courts and integration of relevant family and child services to provide the best possible family law outcomes.

In 2018, a three-person task force comprising senior officials from the Department of Justice and Equality, the Legal Aid Board and the Courts Service was formed to seek agreement on core questions of policy and costs. The work of this group is at an advanced stage. Issues being examined include court areas and locations, use of courthouses, provision of facilities and services, arrangements for management of resources, and oversight arrangements. It is proposed to amend the timescale to Q4 2019 in the context of the mid-term review of the strategy.

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**

Courts Complex due to be completed in quarter 4, 2020 and due to open in quarter 1 2021.

## Monitoring Report December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Courts Complex due to be completed in quarter 4, 2020 and due to open in quarter 1 2021.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

## **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

The Domestic Violence Act 2018 was enacted on 8 May (and commenced on 1 January 2019).

Is the action on target?

Complete

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

## **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

- a) the introduction of risk assessment with a view to tailoring the approach to individual needs
  - A uniform Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA) system has been implemented as a core feature of the Choices domestic violence intervention programme. This action has been completed.
  - b. the development of a national approach to programme content between providers
  - A national approach is being taken by the delivery of a uniform domestic violence intervention programme model entitled the Choices programme.
  - This programme is being rolled out across the State by three service providers, MOVE (Men Overcoming Violence) MEND (Men Ending Domestic Abuse) and NEDVIP (North East Domestic Violence Intervention Programme).
    - A working group, chaired by Cosc, is in place to oversee and support the national implementation of the Choices model.
    - As at end December 2018, the overall roll out of the Choices Programmes is now well advanced with the programme operational across all its current 18 site locations. This aspect of the action is complete.
- c. introducing two new programmes in 2016 and a new programme each year thereafter

- The introduction of new intervention programmes were established in new locations in 2016/2017 in Blanchardstown, West Dublin and in Sligo.
- A new programme was introduced in Co. Kildare during 2018.

## d. further develop support for partners of perpetrators participating in programmes (Cosc)

• A key feature of the Choices programme is that it also incorporates a separate partner support service that offers one to one support to the partners or expartners of the men on the group programme. A further feature that is in the process of being developed under Choices is the introduction of group work programmes with these partners.

Such a group programme is already being run by the NEDVIP organisation (in which the Probation Service plays a lead role) in the North East area in tandem with the Choices programme. This initiative is acting as the model for the development of group work with partners in the other programme areas.

## Is the action on target?

- a. Complete
- **b.** Complete
- c. Yes
- **d.** Work is in progress but at a slower pace than anticipated

#### Proposed remedial action and timescale

In relation to (d), Cosc in partnership with the programme providers and other stakeholders, is working to further progress this sub-action with a view to rolling out further partner group work programmes during 2019.

As the next phase of this work, it is intended that a new group work programme with partners will commence across the Choices programmes operating in the Dublin region during the first quarter of 2019. This will inform the further roll out of Choices partner support group work under this sub-action. It is intended to amend the timescale to Q4 2020.

## Any other information

Excellent co-operation is in place between the three service providers in delivering the programme nationally. Practice supervision training and support and clinical supervision is being provided on an ongoing basis to all facilitators delivering the Choices programme, all of whom have to undertake dedicated induction training on the programme.

## **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

The CCTV Management Strategy group is currently preparing a Project Brief in relation Body Worn Video (to include centralised storage/analytics) and a Procurement Support Request (PSR) for the consideration of the OGP, which is a preliminary report for the Office of Government Procurement. Advice in relation to our legal obligations/restrictions and any legislative changes is a key aspect and this matter is currently with the Department of Justice.

The Working Group have carried out research in this jurisdiction and with police forces in other jurisdictions, including a visit to the Police Service of Northern Ireland at Ardmore, Newry, Co Down on 23rd January 2019.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Lack of enabling legislation

Proposed remedial action and timescale

## Any other information

## **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:

- 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 December, 2018

## Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

- a, b, d, e, f Included in 2017 intervention Policy.
- a. Monitoring of 2017 Domestic Abuse Intervention Policy being conducted at local District Performance Accountability Framework meetings to ensure call backs, request for statements, full details are recorded on PULSE, and that appropriate information is being provided.
- b. There is currently high level engagement between GNPSB, the DPP's office and the Court Services to identify and address recurring issues.

GNPSB is in regular communication with Divisional Inspectors with responsibility for Domestic Abuse to assist in solving issues arising in investigations and prosecutions.

- c. Professor in Trinity College, is currently conducting academic review of risk assessment tool and the AGS pilot tool, due to be completed by Q 1 2019. A process review will then be commenced which is hoped be completed by end of Q.2 2019.
- d. Domestic abuse incidents are reviewed at District Management daily meetings. PULSE 7.2 has assisted greatly in the ongoing monitoring of DA incidents by supervisors & DA Inspectors.
- e. Under Operation DEVISE personnel at GNPSB liaise with local Garda Districts in the formation of safety plans for new partners of repeat Domestic Abuse Offenders, who have been released from prison having been previously convicted of a domestic homicide offence (see 2.3600 below)

Joint meeting with Probation Service held with proposed plan to address high risk DA offenders including case management, court mandated programmes and an index of offenders.

Joint meeting on the 16.10.18 between DAIPU, Probation & IPS Head of Psychology regarding the identification of high risk DV offenders & establishing a point of contact.

f. DPSUs have held multi agency meetings with various DA support services.

Multi-agency meetings were highlighted as extremely important in tackling DA and providing wrap around support for victims at the DAIPU Seminar to Divisional and District Domestic Abuse Inspectors and Sergeants held on the 26.09.18 & 21.11.18.

**Position at September 2019:** Part (c) relates specifically to the risk assessment tool currently under development. It will be incorporated into Action 2.900.

## **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Work is currently being carried out on PULSE data quality with the Garda Síochána Analysis Service (GSAS) & the Garda Information Services Centre (GISC). GNPSB are involved in area specific related meetings.

PULSE Release 7.3 has provided automatic inclusion "Motive" of Domestic Violence on non-crime domestic incidents.

DAIPU conducted training of GISC personnel in preparation of DV Act 2018 on 26.11.18. Further training planned for 2019 on all DV data issues.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

#### Any other information

## **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Information regarding age, sex and relationship is captured on PULSE.

There is capacity on PULSE to record; marital status, disability, religion, nationality and country of birth, but there is no provision to record ethnicity.

However, there is no legislation that obliges victims or offenders to provide Gardaí with details of their relationship, ethnicity or disability.

A Data Quality Group Committee is being held and the GNPSB are participating in the work of the group.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

## **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

There are regular meetings with the Probation Service regarding perpetrator programmes.

DPSU Louth have liaised with NEDVIP (North East Domestic Violence Intervention Programme).

Information on offender programmes has been circulated on the internal Garda Portal.

## Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

### Proposed remedial action and timescale

## Any other information

## **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**

**Current position:** The Criminal Law (Extraterritorial Jurisdiction) Bill was enacted on 5 March 2019.

## **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

The Domestic Violence Act 2018 was enacted on 8 May (and commenced on 1 January 2019) and contains a new offence of forced marriage.

Is the action on target?

Completed

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

## **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Monitoring committee meetings have been held at least twice yearly.

Is the action on target?			
Yes			
If not, why?			
Proposed remedial action and timescale			
Any other information			
<b>ACTION 3.200</b>			
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			
December, 2018			
Outline the progress made in implementing the action.			
2 new actions were added to the strategy since June 2018, actions 1.310 and 2.150.			
Is the action on target?			
Yes			
If not, why?			

## Proposed remedial action and timescale

## Any other information

## **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Annual report placed before the Oireachtas on 7 June 2018.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

## **ACTION 3.400**

Establish a monitoring committee of key stakeholders for the Strategy.

Implementing bodies

Cosc

**Timescale** 

Quarter 1, 2016

Monitoring Report December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Monitoring committee established.

Is the action on target?

Completed.

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

## **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Strategy Oversight Group established

Is the action on target?

Completed

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

### 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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

#### **SATU**

SATU collect relevant information on persons who attend the services, but aside from gender of perpetrator and number of perpetrators are not appropriately positioned to collect other perpetrator metrics. Accurate disability data can be difficult to collate, but all SATU attendees are afforded the opportunity to disclose disabilities in course of attendance.

#### **Probation Service**

The Probation Service is committed to participation on the COSC data collection committee with a view to achieving a 'gold standard' of data collection and analysis.

#### **Courts Services**

A proposal to develop a limited proof of concept based on the proposed CSOL 3.0 architecture was made to the Digital Services Liaison Committee last July.

#### **AGS**

Information regarding age, sex and relationship is captured on PULSE.

There is capacity on PULSE to record; marital status, disability, religion, nationality and country of birth, but there is no provision to record ethnicity.

However, there is no legislation that obliges victims or offenders to provide Gardaí with details of their relationship, ethnicity or disability.

A Data Quality Group Committee is being chaired by A/Commissioner McPartlin. GNPSB are participating in the work of the group.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

## **ACTION 3.601**

An Garda Síochána and the Central Statistics Office to establish a bottom line "gold standard" of data collection and analysis on work relating to the area(s) of domestic and sexual violence whereby all datasets are disaggregated by:

- A1. Age of victim
- A2. Age of perpetrator
- B1. Sex of victim

- B2 Sex of perpetrator
- C Relationship between victim and perpetrator

## Implementing bodies

An Garda Síochána and the Central Statistics Office

### **Timescale**

A1	COMPLETED
A2	COMPLETED
B1	COMPLETED
B2	COMPLETED
С	Not available at this time. Currently exploring relationship
	categories. Not a mandatory field on PULSE.

# Monitoring Report December, 2018

## Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

A Data Quality Group has been created and GNPSB are participating in the work of the group.

GISC provided training to personnel to increase the quality of data collection of domestic incidents. Review of sexual incidents is conducted at District level.

## Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?
Proposed remedial action and timescale
Any other information

## **ACTION 3.602**

The Courts Service to establish a bottom line "gold standard" of data collection and analysis on work relating to the area(s) of domestic and sexual violence whereby all datasets are disaggregated by:

- A1. Age of victim
- A2. Age of perpetrator
- B1. Sex of victim
- B2 Sex of perpetrator
- C Relationship between victim and perpetrator

## Implementing bodies

The Courts Service

#### **Timescale**

A1	Quarter 4, 2019
A2	Quarter 4, 2019
B1	Quarter 4, 2019
B2	Quarter 4, 2019
С	Quarter 4, 2019

# Monitoring Report December, 2018

## Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Scoping commenced in January 2018 and continued through May. An external service provider was engaged to assist with the scoping. A revised Business Case was presented to senior management in June. More detail was sought in respect of projected costs and savings, which has since been furnished.

A proposal to develop a limited proof of concept based on the proposed Courts Service Online (CSOL) 3.0 architecture was made to the Digital Services Liaison Committee last July.

It is highlighted (in the Business Case) the production of accurate statistical information as one of the key benefits of the proposed ICT solution. The delay in implementing the solution means the Courts Service cannot meet demands for data from other agencies, including Cosc and the CSO.

#### Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

## **ACTION 3.603**

Tusla to establish a bottom line "gold standard" of data collection and analysis on work relating to the area(s) of domestic and sexual violence whereby all datasets are disaggregated by:

- A1. Age of victim
- A2. Age of perpetrator
- B1. Sex of victim
- B2 Sex of perpetrator
- C Relationship between victim and perpetrator
- D1 Ethnicity of victim
- D2 Ethnicity of perpetrator
- E1 Any disabilities of victim
- E2 Any disabilities of perpetrator

## Implementing bodies

Tusla – Child and Family Agency

#### **Timescale**

A1	Q4 2017
A2	Q4 2018
B1	Q4 2017
B2	Q4 2017
С	Q4 2017
D1	Q4 2017
D2	Q4 2018
E1	Q4 2018
E2	Q4 2018

# Monitoring Report December, 2018

#### Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Tusla will be continuing work to support and resource data and information capacity within the DSGBV Services sector towards achieving 'Gold Standard' data requirements and establishing a strong evidence and information base for service provision.

In addition to supporting and enhancing the availability of high quality operational data from funded services, Tusla undertook or supported a number of pieces of service/programme evaluation in 2017 and will continue this in 2018, particularly around responses to children.

Data on sex, ethnicity and disability particularly are classified as sensitive personal data and a particular section of GDP applies. Tusla undertook a process to ensure compliance in Q2 2018.

Information regarding perpetrators obtained from victims attending services may not always be accurate or reliable and, given the context, seeking it may not always be appropriate. Tusla does not plan to implement this over the duration of the strategy. For reliability in reporting a clear definition of disability would be required, which strikes a balance between sensitivity and accuracy on the one hand and service responsiveness on the other.

Standardised collection of headline data from funded services on a quarterly basis was implemented in 2018, in addition to annual data submitted through a bespoke in-house Tusla mechanism.

- A1. Age of victim
  - Currently collected on an annual basis from funded DSGBV organisations as part of an anonymised dataset.

    Data collected by age bands
- A2. Age of perpetrator see note regarding perpetrator data
- B1. Sex of victim

  Currently collected on an annual basis from funded DSGBV organisations as part of an anonymised dataset.
- B2 Sex of perpetrator see note regarding perpetrator data
- C Relationship between victim and perpetrator some data collected from funded DSGBV services as part of anonymised data set for further development by Q4 2019.
- D1 Ethnicity of victim Currently collected on an annual basis from funded DSGBV organisations as part of an anonymised dataset, where data on ethnicity is available and the organisation has the capacity to collect this in a culturally appropriate manner. Tusla has engaged Safe Ireland in 2018 to support the capacity of funded domestic violence services around human rights and diversity with a view to enhancing both responses and capacity to gather data around diverse client groups.
- D2 Ethnicity of perpetrator— see note regarding perpetrator data
- E1 Any disabilities of victim not currently collected, will not be in place before Q4 2020

E2 Any disabilities of perpetrator— see note regarding perpetrator data

## Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

## **ACTION 3.604**

The Probation Service to establish a bottom line "gold standard" of data collection and analysis on work relating to the area(s) of domestic and sexual violence whereby all datasets are disaggregated by:

- A2. Age of perpetrator
- B2 Sex of perpetrator
- C Relationship between victim and perpetrator
- D2 Ethnicity of perpetrator
- E2 Any disabilities of perpetrator

## Implementing bodies

The Probation Service

#### **Timescale**

- A2 COMPLETED COMPLETED
- C Unavailable at this time. The categorisation of relationship types is currently being examined by An Garda Síochána and resulting

findings will inform the Probation Service.

D2 COMPLETED COMPLETED

# Monitoring Report December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Probation Service has completed the actions in respect to 4 of the 5 data-sets.

Data set C remains outstanding, awaiting further engagement with other criminal justice agencies in order to promote a common approach in compiling the full data required. The categorisation of 'relationship' types is currently being examined by AGS and resulting findings will inform the Probation Service.

Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?
Proposed remedial action and timescale
Any other information

## **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Following publication of the Expert Group on Crime Statistics report in July 2017, a High Level Liaison Group between An Garda Síochána and the CSO to monitor the quality of crime data for statistical purposes has been established. The Group is chaired alternately by AGS and the CSO at Assistant Commissioner/Assistant Director General level. This liaison group is the formal, high-level mechanism for consultation and communication between both organisations that will facilitate co-operation and ensure that both organisations can fulfil their respective statutory obligations for the production of crime statistics as set out in the Garda Síochána Act, 2005 and in accordance with

the procedures and requirements of the Statistics Act, 1993. The Liaison Group will, oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Group where relevant.

GNPSB are participating in the work of the group.

### Is the action on target?

Yes

If not, why?

## Proposed remedial action and timescale

## Any other information

## **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**

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

#### **Position at September 2019:**

Actions (a) and (b) are part of Tusla's operations.

Action (c) - development of outcome-focused key performance indicators:-Tusla has undertaken substantive work around data quality and work is progressing in relation to the identification of outcomes. It is important that consistent reliable measures are agreed with funded domestic sexual and gender based violence organisations. Over 2018 and 2019, Tusla has implemented a small number of key performance indicator's at the level of individual organisations. Initial measures and a comprehensive set of key performance indicator's will be developed in 2020 through a process of engagement with the domestic sexual and gender based violence services' sector. It is intended to amend the timeline to Q1 2021 in the context of the midterm review of the strategy.

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## **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**

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Statistical information is supplied to the CSO by GSAS. The CSO are not publishing domestic violence crime statistics until they have conducted a data quality report.

**Position at September 2019:** CSO will assess the timing of future quality reviews in Q2 2020, and this will inform future actions concerning the modus operandi indicator.

## **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 December, 2018

### Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

Support of scholarship programme for Dundalk I.T. on the Certificate in the Fundamentals of Understanding and Responding to Domestic Abuse. Currently exploring the possibility of assisting in the hosting of a conference on domestic violence at Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT) in Q3 2019.

Facilitation of 2 Post-graduate Research Network (PRN) events including the lecture presentation on improvements in data by Prof. Sylvia Walby (distinguished Professor of Sociology and UNESCO Chair in Gender Research, Director, Violence and Society UNESCO Centre, Lancaster University, UK) and invited visit to Áras An Uachtaráin with Prof. Walby for discussion on gender and violence with the President.

Presentation made to over 100 delegates at the St. Patrick's Mental Health Services Conference on DV and Mental Health - Strengthening Responses. Key note speaker was Prof. Evan Stark on Coercive Control.

Recruitment trawl for new members of PRN and RESPECT Network of senior academics continues.

PRN Webinar X 2 is currently being planned for Q2 2019.

Ongoing liaison with relevant work currently being undertaken by Trinity College Dublin (Social Work & Social Policy); University College Cork (School of Law); and National University of Ireland Galway (School of Psychology).

## Is the action on target?

Yes, ongoing.

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

# 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 guarter 4 2016 to inform commissioning by guarter 2 2017
- d. Commenced with completion by guarter 2, 2018

#### **Monitoring Report**

### December, 2018

## Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

#### DCYA - Part b

The Children First Act 2015 was signed into law on 19 November 2015. Different sections of the Act were 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.

The remaining provisions of the Act commenced on 11 December, 2018. The Minister launched the revised Children First Guidelines on Monday 2 October, 2017 and all preparations were finalised in advance of commencement on 11 December, 2017.

#### **HSE**

An action has been included in the recently published National Drugs Strategy "Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery" which provides further synergies to implementing the action in the DSGBV Strategy i.e. Strategic action to mitigate the risk and reduce the impact of parental substance misuse on babies and young children by;

- (a) Developing and adopting evidence-based family and parenting skills programmes for services engaging with high risk families impacted by problematic substance use.
- (b) Building awareness of the hidden harm of parental substance abuse with the aim of increasing responsiveness to affected children.
- (c) Developing protocols between addiction services, maternity services and children's health and social care services that will facilitate a coordinated response to the needs of the children affected by parental substance misuse.
- (d) Ensuring adult substance use services identify clients and have dependent children and contribute actively to meeting their needs either directly or through referral to or liaison with other appropriate services including those in the non-statutory section.

Launch of HSE and Tusla Hidden Harm Strategic Statement and Practice Guide scheduled for 25 January 2019.

#### Tusla

**b.** The remaining provisions of the Children First Act 2015 were fully commenced on Dec 11th 2017. These key sections primarily relate to the

- Introduction of mandatory reporting of child harm (CF Act S. 14) to Tusla. Schedule 2 of the Act identifies the classes of persons specified as mandated persons (incl. managers of domestic violence services, psychotherapists, addiction counsellors, social workers, medical practitioners etc).
- Obligations of 'relevant services' to undertake 'risk assessments' to keep children safe from harm and to prepare Child Safeguarding Statements (CSS) detailing policies and procedures in keeping children safe from harm whilst the child is availing of their services (CF Act S. 10 & 11).
- 3. Tusla is obliged to establish a non-compliance register for 'relevant services' who fail to produce CSS.
- 4. Tusla's wrote to its approximately 900 funded partners to advise them of their legal obligations and the service contracts have been updated to reflect CF Act compliance matters.
- The Children First Interdepartmental Group (CFIDG) was established on a statutory footing in late 2015 and Part 4 of the CF Act sets out its legal obligations in relation to the various Departments of the State.

#### c. Child Witnesses of Domestic Violence

- Over 10 specialist group programmes to support children affected by domestic violence were commissioned in 2018, with national coordination established on a pilot basis, with evaluation of outcomes from these also being planned.
- Tusla has increased funding to domestic violence service providers so that every service has capacity to respond to children. Dedicated support for children has been increased with a view to having childcare workers in all refuges.

Tusla is broadening this remit to include preventive approaches to sexual violence. To this end the DSGBV Programme is leading a collaborative extensive pilot with the support of EU Funding to examine the evidence for consent education for 15/16yr olds in schools and out of schools locations country wide. Entitled the Manuela Project it was initiated in Sept 2017 and is due to conclude in March 2020. Manuela programme roll-out continued. throughout 2018 following appointment of Project Staff in 2017 and Q3 2018.

Following training work commenced in October 2017 on the recruitment of schools to enable delivery of the Manuela Programme to young people.

The Manuela Programme was offered to schools and some other out of school sites

2017/2018 school year 20 different schools and 3 non school sites participated in the Project. There were 26 iterations of the Programme delivered by Project Workers with an average of 22 students/ Programme. 623 young people (aged 15/ 18yrs) completed the programme. In total 887 young people have so far completed the programme.

Additionally, there were two teacher training events for programme facilitators involving 50 teachers.

- Evaluation of Manuela Programme commenced in Q4 2018 following a competitive tender process.
- Tusla is piloting an integrated community-based approach in a Domestic Violence Outreach Project in Co. Waterford. The project was operational in Q4 2018 with evaluation in 2020.
- A national co-ordinating role has been established in Barnardos focusing on delivery, capacity building and developing evidence for family support programmes that can achieve positive outcomes for children in domestic violence situations. Roll-out and support for healing programmes such as TLC Kidz; Helping Hands and You and me, Mom are included in this initiative.
- Evaluation of TLC Kidz in Mid-West published in Q3was supported by Tusla.

Responses to children who have been sexually abused

Tusla is currently leading a multi-agency process to implement a national service model for sexual abuse services for children and their families. This process aims to incorporate all resources currently applied to sexual abuse services into a co-ordinated service providing standardised models of best practice with national and multi-agency oversight. It integrates and coordinates the six separate sexual abuse services which children may need to access. These services include medical/forensic examination: child protection: Garda investigation; assessment; therapy and court process. An Interdepartmental Group was established in January 2018 to progress the development of these centres. Membership is comprised of representatives of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, the Department of Justice and Equality, the Department of Health, An Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive and Tusla – the Child and Family Agency. The Terms of Reference of the Interdepartmental Group focus on producing for the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, the Minister for Health and the Minister for Justice and Equality an implementation plan for the development of child centred services, including dedicated child centres, to include recommendations on options for interagency working, identification of any legal provisions required and a cost estimate for the preferred model.

The Interdepartmental Group has established a Project Team to establish and deliver a cooperative, dedicated pilot child Centre in Galway. The pilot project will identify possible challenges that may arise in the subsequent and permanent establishment of 3 regional Centres (Cork, Galway and Dublin) as a national service for children and families.

The pilot Centre will aim to conform to the ten European Barnahus Quality Standards that are composed of underlying principles, specific activities and institutional arrangements that enable child-centred and effective, collaborative actions.

The Project Team is formed from representatives of the constituent agencies involved in the provision of sexual abuse services at Barnahus/Child Centres. These are Tusla, An Garda Síochána, HSE and the National Children's Hospital Group (Children's Hospitals in Dublin – St. Clare's Unit and St. Louise's Unit).

Having completed commissioning of research in Q3 with a multi-agency steering group established, a project on participative research into Best Practice models for therapeutic support (including counselling) to children and young people under 18yrs by Tusla funded sexual violence services was initiated in Q4. The goal is to understand current provision and to develop service capacity in meeting the ongoing therapeutic needs of young people who have been sexually abuse. Due to procurement and ethical approval timelines the project timeline was slightly delayed but engagement with stakeholders was well-underway in Q4 with initial results expected in Q2, 2019.

### Is the action on target?

Part b - Yes

Part d - No

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information

## **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 December, 2018

Outline the progress made in implementing the action.

#### **DCYA**

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?

Complete

If not, why?

Proposed remedial action and timescale

Any other information