

National Strategy on Domestic Sexual and Gender-based Violence
Implementation Progress Reporting Template

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

**4th Report to Strategy Oversight Committee of
Progress in Implementation of Strategy**

December 2011

Overall Strategic Objective:

The development of a strong framework for sustainable intervention to prevent and effectively respond to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence

Note:

Please complete Column 6 - "Progress to date" for the period up to end Q4 (December) 2011. Priority should be given to Activities due for completion in this period.

Activities that were scheduled for completion in 2010 should also be given particular attention

Progress towards achieving targets for the first and second quarters of 2012 year should also be reported.

Progress on Activities scheduled for completion in the third quarter of 2012 may also be reported if significant.

Reasons for delays in achieving targets and remedial action planned to achieve completion should also be set out.

Please keep progress note succinct and **contained within column 6 if possible**.

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	Action	Activities	Lead body and Implementation structure	Progress indicator	Progress to Date
		<p>violence</p> <p>1.3 Agree in partnership with the NGO networks and Cosc a national awareness training pack for all community groups and organisations that receive funding from the HSE</p>	<p>participation)</p> <p>HSE</p>	<p>2010</p> <p>1.2 (b) Implement plan from Q1 2011-2014</p> <p>1.3 Number of groups trained by LHO by Q4 2010</p>	<p>principles were incorporated in the guidance manual of the Cosc Awareness Raising Grant Scheme 2011 and were disseminated to relevant organisations and groups. A copy of the guiding principles is available to download from the Cosc website. PASC is developing guidance on practical steps to increase personal safety for those most at risk.</p> <p>1.2(b) The guidance and dissemination plan will be implemented annually and will target the at risk groups identified in the annual information programme.</p> <p>1.3 Content of training pack Agreed, Awaiting Sign off from National Training Specialist Children and Families Services Train the Trainers to commence in April 2012 Training programme to roll out in last quarter of 2012 to HSE staff</p>
2	Promote and develop understanding and recognition of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence across the State sector	<p>2.1 Agree and deliver a suite of national training packs for all front-line staff in different health care settings, from agreed existing materials</p> <p>2.2 (a) Conduct an analysis of training needs for all relevant justice sector organisations including identification of areas suitable for cross-sectoral training</p> <p>2.2 (b) In the light of the training needs analysis, develop and implement training programmes</p>	<p>HSE</p> <p>Cosc (Lead) - training committee and or service-led committees involving An Garda Síochána, Probation Service, Courts Service, Legal Aid Board, IYJS</p>	<p>2.1 Number of front-line staff trained by each LHO by Q1 2011</p> <p>2.2 (a) Justice sector training needs identified by Q1 2011</p> <p>2.2. (b) Identification or development of suitable training programmes by Q2 2011</p> <p>2.2 (c) Implementation of training programmes by Q4 2011</p> <p>2.2 (d) Number of justice sector staff trained each year</p>	<p>2.1 Content of training pack Agreed, Awaiting Sign off from National Training Specialist Children and Families Services Train the Trainers to commence in April 2012 Training programme to roll out in last quarter of 2012 to HSE staff</p> <p>2.2(a) The Justice Sector Training Committee met on four occasions since 2010. A report of the conclusions was finalised and discussed at the last meeting in December 2011. A final report is being prepared.</p>

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		<p>2.3 Work with third-level institutions to include understanding and recognition of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence in curricula including social services and legal studies curricula</p> <p>2.4 Continue to promote issues relevant to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence in training on student care among school professionals</p>	<p>Cosc (lead) with NSCVAV and NGO participation, HSE, OOP, Institutions concerned</p> <p>D/E&S</p>	<p>2.3 (a) Develop pilots in some institutions by end Q2 2011 2.3 (b) Implement pilots from end Q4 2011 to Q1 2012 2.3 (c) Review pilots by end Q3 2012 2.3 (d) Extend to other institutions from end Q4 2012</p> <p>2.4 Number of school professionals trained</p>	<p>2.3 Work has been completed on developing pilot materials. To inform this work Cosc liaised with the HSE and third-level institutions as well as studying materials from Ireland and abroad. When these materials are assembled Cosc will work with 3rd level institutions who do not yet have any DV and SV content in their courses to develop suitable curricula to pilot.</p> <p>The next steps are for Cosc:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to send request to schools of nursing and social sciences, etc., for details of domestic violence and sexual violence content in their curricula using the list compiled by the HSE for their similar request for information about elder abuse content; • on receipt of responses, to request copies of content; and • when content is received, to contact HSE management with a view to engaging with key HSE personnel to identify a suitable institution for a pilot. <p>2.4 The DES commissioned the development of content and resource materials on domestic and sexual violence for inclusion in second level RSE programmes as part of the personal safety strand of programmes. The content and resources are being developed initially for use in second level schools, and then adapted as deemed appropriate for Youthreach and other early school leaver programmes. The SPHE Support Service received training in this area from the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, and the development of content and resources is under way with the aim of completion by the end of 2011/12 school year.</p> <p>(Progress in advancing this area was delayed as the SPHE team had to prioritise training for schools in the new Child Protection Guidelines. However, these form an important part of the overall context for schools in responding to, and promoting awareness of domestic and sexual violence).</p>
3	Embed domestic, sexual and gender-based violence content in second- and	3.1 Develop and implement sustainable second-level educational programmes, applying learning from Cosc research on schools programmes and from the experience of programmes provided in this area	D/E&S(Lead) Education committee, Curriculum support services, Cosc	<p>3.1 (a) Develop enhanced programme content by Q2 2011 3.1 (b) Number of schools/teachers who have availed of training in enhanced</p>	<p>3.1 & 3.2 Work has been completed on finalising the text of the draft report of the survey of awareness raising programmes in post-primary schools. The report will be submitted to the Minister for approval to publish. The report will then be disseminated and will be used to inform further work in relation to activities 3.1 and 3.2.</p> <p>The DES commissioned the development of content and resource</p>

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	third-level educational institution action on healthy relationships	<p>3.2 Develop and implement programme for young people attending Youthreach and similar education programmes</p> <p>3.3 Work with third-level institutions and student media to increase understanding and practical information on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence</p>	<p>As above</p> <p>Cosc (Lead) with NSCVAW and other NGO participation, Third-level institutions, Student health services</p>	<p>programme each year</p> <p>3.2 (a) Develop content for delivery in Youthreach and similar programmes by Q2 2011 3.2 (b) Number of schools/teachers who have availed of training in enhanced programme each year</p> <p>3.3 (a) Practical guidance for third-level colleges on risk of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence and services available by Q4 2010 3.3 (b) Number of colleges involved each year</p>	<p>materials on domestic and sexual violence for inclusion in second level RSE programmes as part of the personal safety strand of programmes. The content and resources are being developed initially for use in second level schools, and then adapted as deemed appropriate for Youthreach and other early school leaver programmes. The SPHE Support Service received training in this area from the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, and the development of content and resources is under way with the aim of completion by the end of 2011/12 school year. (Progress in advancing this area was delayed as the SPHE team had to prioritise training for schools in the new Child Protection Guidelines. However, these form an important part of the overall context for schools in responding to, and promoting awareness of domestic and sexual violence).</p> <p>3.3 (a) Guiding principles for Public awareness raising activities relating to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence have been developed by the PASC and agreed by the NSCVAW (see section 1.2 (a)). PASC is developing guidance on the risk of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence for third level students.</p> <p>3.3 (b) In conjunction with Cosc the Union of Students of Ireland launched an art competition 'Speak out against Intimate Partner violence' in 20 third level colleges in November 2011 and distributed wristbands as part of their campaign to raise awareness of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence. Phase 1 of the campaign is to be evaluated and Phase 2 of the campaign will use the winning artwork to raise awareness in colleges.</p>

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High-Level Goal 2:

To deliver an effective and consistent service to those affected by domestic and sexual violence

Key Objectives

- 4 To increase confidence in service provision for those affected by DV and SV
- 5 To promote high standards in service provision
- 6 To strengthen intra- and inter-organisational co-ordination to improve service effectiveness and consistency
- 7 To improve protection and support for victims
- 8 To address offending behaviour by perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence

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4	Ensure information on services is available to victims in user-friendly formats	<p>4.1 Promote effective dissemination to victims of accessible and consistent information on domestic, and sexual violence by State organisations</p> <p>4.2 Continue to encourage and support effective dissemination of information on domestic and sexual violence services provided by non-State organisations</p>	<p>Cosc (Lead) and all relevant State services</p> <p>Cosc (Lead) and all relevant NGO services</p>	<p>4.1 Accessible and consistent information effectively disseminated by State organisations</p> <p>4.2 (a) Effective and strategic support provided to NGOs to deliver service information to victims</p> <p>4.2 (b) Improved service awareness levels among victims</p>	<p>4.1 Cosc has liaised with relevant State organisations in relation to review findings by PASC following an evaluation of the websites of a number of relevant state organisations in terms of accessibility and consistency. Further reviews will be completed and followed up. PASC advised on other ways to review information provided to victims by State organisations and a questionnaire is to issue to relevant state organisations about information provided by them to victims of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.</p> <p>4.2 82 applications were received under the Cosc Awareness Raising Grant Scheme 2011 which provides grant funding to local and national groups to raise awareness of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence and the services that are available to victims and grant funding of just under €300,000 was provided to 65 projects. Improvements to the 2011 scheme were implemented following an evaluation of the 2010 scheme. In addition other initiatives to raise awareness were supported.</p>
5	Ensure reasonable opportunity is provided for disclosure of domestic and sexual	5.1 Agree and implement an assessment form with domestic violence questions for routine use for all staff in different health care contexts/environments with specific target groups	HSE	<p>5.1 (a) Assessment form agreed by Q1 2010</p> <p>5.1 (b) Number of staff who received assessment forms at training by LHO by</p>	5.1 This work is now assimilated into the HSE Training Working Group, who will develop routine questions for different health care settings.

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	violence	<p>5.2 Identify and promote best practice to encourage disclosure of domestic and sexual violence in relevant sectors including justice, housing, and education sectors</p>	<p>Cosc (Lead) Justice and Tripartite Committee, local authorities, D/EHLG, D/E&S</p>	<p>Q4 2010 5.1 (c) Number of screening forms completed 5.2 (a) Proposals for non-health sector disclosure (including suitable pilot) developed by Q4 2011 5.2 (b) Pilot implemented by Q2 2012 5.2 (c) Pilots reviewed (including number of forms completed) by Q2 2013 5.2 (d) Action taken in light of review by Q4 2013</p>	
6	Promote clear, high-quality standards in service delivery for victims and perpetrators of domestic, and sexual violence	<p>6.1 Publish a new edition of the <i>Victims Charter and Guide to the Criminal Justice System</i>, outlining the commitments to victims generally, and victims of sexual, domestic and gender based violence in particular, made by the eight State criminal justice agencies.</p> <p>6.2 Identify best practice models for service delivery for victims and perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence</p> <p>6.3 Encourage improvements to service delivery based on consideration of suitable best practice models</p>	<p>Victims of Crime Office (Lead), Cosc and all relevant bodies</p> <p>Cosc (Lead) and all relevant bodies</p> <p>Cosc (Lead)</p>	<p>6.1 <i>Victims Charter</i> published by Q1 2010</p> <p>6.2 Information on best practice models identified and circulated to service providers by Q3 2010 and regularly thereafter</p> <p>6.3 At least 2 best practice models considered annually</p>	<p>6.1 Completed</p> <p>6.2 & 6.3 A draft General Best Practice Paper was prepared and a literature review helped to inform that process. The draft paper was circulated for views to the National Steering Committee on Violence Against Women, the National Steering Committee on Violence Against Men, and the Perpetrator Programmes Committee. The draft paper will be considered at the next meetings of those fora.</p>

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	Action	Activities	Lead body and Implementation structure	Progress indicator	Progress to Date
		<p>6.4 Identify and promote suitable state service responses in relation to domestic and sexual violence for vulnerable or high risk groups (including Travellers, people with a disability, older people, migrants, and young people)</p> <p>6.5 Work in partnership with the national NGO networks to develop standardisation within specialist domestic violence services</p> <p>6.6 Implement the recommendations on standardisation of sexual assault services as set out in the National Review of SATUs</p> <p>6.7 Ensure that the <i>Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children</i> are being adhered to by all specialist domestic violence services</p> <p>6.8 Develop and disseminate guidelines on working with children in domestic violence situations</p>	<p>Cosc (Lead) OOP</p> <p>HSE (Lead)</p> <p>HSE (Lead)</p> <p>HSE</p> <p>HSE</p>	<p>6.4 Development of intervention responses for the most vulnerable groups by Q4 2011</p> <p>6.5 Number of standards in place in all HSE-funded services by Q4 2010</p> <p>6.6 SATU review report implemented by Q4 2010(funding dependencies)</p> <p>6.7 Child protection policies in place in all HSE-funded services, based on requirements of <i>Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children and Duty to Care</i> Q3 2010</p> <p>6.8 Best practice guidelines outlined, disseminated and covered in service level agreements Q4 2010</p>	<p>6.4 Feedback was invited on the Service Provision and Co-ordination report. The feedback was examined and responses issued to the organisations concerned. Consequential amendments made to the report are contained in the version on the Cosc website.</p> <p>6.5 Commissioning plan outlined for 2012 procurement process in 2011 did not yield a result</p> <p>6.6 Almost all recommendations now implemented. Outstanding issues include: 1. Staffing shortages within certain units due to public sector recruitment embargo 2. Mechanism for administration of standardised payments for forensic examiners by An Garda Siochana (currently negotiations ongoing between HSE finance and An Garda Siochana) 3. National DNA database still outstanding 4 .Paediatric services remain fragmented – work ongoing in this regard.</p> <p>6.7 Contact made with Children First Information Officers with a view to setting up a group in 2012 to develop and implement a detailed plan for the roll out of Children First in all HSE funded DV and SV Services in 2012</p> <p>6.8 Best Practice Guideline outlined in National Practice Guide which will be available to HSE staff as part of the training programme</p>

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		<p>6.9 Ensure the assessment form for children at risk will contain key questions about domestic violence</p> <p>6.10 Ensure the assessment form for children at risk regarding domestic violence contains questions regarding children's welfare</p>	<p>HSE</p> <p>HSE</p>	<p>6.9 Number of children identified at risk re domestic violence are followed up</p> <p>6.10 As above</p>	<p>6.9 To be prioritised in 2012</p> <p>6.10 Staff who attend training will begin to use assessment form contained in National Practice Guide</p>
7	Promote inter-agency co-ordination through multi-agency projects	<p>7.1 Promote and further develop practices and protocols on inter-agency referrals and co-operation based on best practice</p> <p>7.2 Provide guidance on data protection implications of information sharing across services</p>	<p>Cosc (Lead) Justice and Tripartite Committees, HSE, Garda Síochána, Courts Service, Probation Service</p> <p>ODPC and Cosc</p> <p>DJELR</p>	<p>7.1 (a) Assess extent to which specific referral protocols required by end Q4 2010</p> <p>7.1 (b) Agree protocols in 3 key areas by end Q4 2011</p> <p>7.1 (c) Agree further protocols required by end Q4 2012</p> <p>7.1 (d) Implement by end 2014</p> <p>7.2 (a) Guidance developed and disseminated by Q4 2010</p> <p>7.2 (b) Provide for any necessary legislative change</p>	<p>7.1 The Probation Service and An Garda Síochána have jointly developed protocols in relation to liaising in domestic violence cases. The Probation Service and An Garda Síochána are also developing the Sex Offender Risk Assessment Management model (S.O.R.A.M.) in five pilot areas. In addition, the Probation Service, Prison Service, FAS and Business in the Community are working together to ensure sex offenders have access to relevant training and employment opportunities as part of risk management arrangements.</p> <p>As part of the work of the Multi Agency Group on Homeless Sex Offenders a policy template has been prepared by the voluntary housing/homeless sector in Dublin. This template will support more effective management of, and communication pertaining to, convicted sex offenders.</p> <p>Cosc has requested all relevant organisations to identify areas where I-A protocols are required for multi-agency work. No areas have been identified by organisations to date.</p> <p>7.2 Cosc is in continuing contact with ODPC.</p>
8	Improve collaboration and information	8.1 Promote opportunities for networking, sharing information and best practice across State agencies	Cosc (Lead)	8.1 (a) Effective meetings of NSCVAW and related committees (ongoing)	8.1 NSCVAW met quarterly in 2011 to collaborate on VAW issues. RACs met quarterly and linked with NSCVAW. A National Steering Committee on Violence Against Men has been established and its first meeting took place on 14 th December, 2011. The NSCVAM will

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	sharing in relation to service provision	<p>8.2 Regular liaison between Cosc and the HSE Assistant National Director for Children and Families Social Services and the HSE Assistant National Director for Older Person's Services regarding progress on all HSE-related action on domestic and sexual violence</p> <p>8.3 Support Regional Advisory Committees to improve collaboration and the implementation of national policies on domestic and sexual violence</p> <p>8.4 Explore areas of work to identify those suitable for cross-border co-operation to address domestic and sexual violence</p>	<p>Cosc and HSE</p> <p>HSE</p> <p>Cosc (Lead) with advice from NSCVAW, RAC and NGOs; D/FA, HSE, Garda, Courts Service, Probation Service</p>	<p>8.1 (b) Conduct annual reviews of collaboration activity at regional/national level.</p> <p>8.2 Progress made on HSE-related domestic and sexual violence actions</p> <p>8.3 Effective meetings of RAC and related committees (ongoing)</p> <p>8.4 (a) Areas of work to identified by Q3 2010 8.4.(b) Consider setting up projects to take forward suitable areas of work by Q1 2011</p>	<p>operate on a similar basis to the NSCVAW with a similar remit and a similar, National Strategy-based, annual indicative work plan. Meetings of the NSCVAM will also be held quarterly. State agencies will attend meetings as appropriate.</p> <p>8.2 Regular liaison in 2011</p> <p>8.3 The Procurement process to enhance RAC Coordination did not yield a result, RAC Coordination will be revisited in 2012</p> <p>8.4 Liaison meetings between Cosc and its Northern Ireland counterparts took place in November, 2010 and on 1st June, 2011. Several areas for mutual development and cooperation were discussed, including the identification of areas of work suitable for cross-border co-operation. However, it was agreed that no areas of work were presently suitable for development of mutual projects. Further liaison meetings will take place. However, through the Public Protection Advisory Group, a committee under the Intergovernmental Agreement, the Probation Service and An Garda Síochána are committed to, and are well advanced in, the delivery of an all island approach to risk assessment of sexual perpetrators. An Garda Síochána are also working with the Police Service of Northern Ireland on an Information Sharing Agreement on Domestic Violence and Safeguarding Children.</p>
9	Ensure reasonable accessibility to counselling services for	9.1 Review the availability of counselling services as part of its work on standardisation and improved data collection within HSE-funded services for victims of domestic and sexual violence	HSE (Lead) with HSE-funded services for victims of domestic and	9.1 Review completed by Q1 2011	9.1 This work is dependent on the work of standardisation, see 6.5 above

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	victims of domestic and sexual violence	9.2 Develop proposals for improvement	sexual violence	9.2 Proposals for improvement developed and implemented by services and the HSE by Q2 2011	
10	Ensure effectiveness and consistency in housing responses	10.1 Develop policy guidance for local authorities on their housing remit in relation to domestic violence, setting out a clear understanding of domestic violence and the importance of housing as a homelessness preventative and responsive action. The guidance would also cover the range of accommodation options to be considered and implemented by local authorities covering preventative, emergency and long-term accommodation solutions with related housing supports, as necessary, to help persons maintain their new housing tenancies.	D/EHLG (Lead) through Cross-Departmental Team on Homelessness, in consultation with the National Homeless Consultative Committee, as appropriate; Cosc, Local authorities, HSE	<p>10.1 (a) Policy guidance to be developed through the Cross-Departmental Team on Homelessness with Cosc, in consultation with the National Homeless Consultative Committee, as appropriate. This guidance will be supported by research on relevant aspects, experience, and best practice internationally.</p> <p>10.1 (b) Policy Guidance developed by Q4 2010, to address matters relating to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assessment of housing need and consistent application of 'homelessness' 2. Housing allocation policies 3. Nature and extent of provision of emergency 	<p>10.1 (a) and (b) A working group has been established by the Dept of Environment, Community and Local Government, with representatives from D/ECLG, Cosc, HSE, HASCA and CCMA. Following the transfer of the CWO service from HSE to DSP a representative from DSP joined the working group in 2011. Next meeting of the group is scheduled for 20/01/12.</p> <p>New Social Housing Assessment Regulations and Housing Allocation Regulations, accompanied by detailed guidance, came into operation in March and May 2011, which set out the manner in which housing authorities' determination of eligibility and need and their housing allocations are governed. In this context work is now underway on the development of specific policy guidelines for local authorities on their housing remit in relation to victims of domestic violence to be developed by end Q1 2012.</p> <p>A 2012 national and regional review of all domestic and sexual violence service providers, to be undertaken by the HSE, will inform this process on the nature and extent of provision of emergency refuge accommodation and will support the HSE in ensuring that resources are allocated according to need and to areas of high demand.</p>

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		<p>10.2 In the context of minimising the extent of victim homelessness arising from domestic violence, evaluate approaches and experiences of initiatives such as safe rooms, security support, etc., and consider role in Irish context</p>	As above	<p>accommodation</p> <p>10.2 Evaluation completed by Q4 2011 with consequential programme of action developed</p>	<p>10.2 Evaluation of approaches and experiences In the context of minimising the extent of victim homelessness arising from domestic violence is underway.</p>
11	Examine a one-stop-shop option for greater accessibility to services for victims of domestic and sexual violence	<p>11.1 Develop proposals for multi-agency one-stop shop for victims of domestic and sexual violence</p> <p>11.2 Implement pilot of one-stop shop</p> <p>11.3 Review pilot and implement outcome of review</p>	Cosc (Lead), HSE, Garda Síochána, FSA, D/CRGA	<p>11.1 Proposals developed by Q4 2010</p> <p>11.2 Pilot implemented by Q3 2011</p> <p>11.3 (a) Pilot reviewed by Q3 2012</p> <p>11.3 (b) Proposals revised and implemented by Q3 2013</p>	<p>11.1 A committee representing support services and state agencies has been established by Cosc. Three pre-Pilots have been identified and Cosc provides supports these through strategic advice and any other assistance relevant and possible. Cosc has also undertaken a search for information from European colleagues on such projects in place abroad. Committee has drafted core principles to apply to OSS models and issued a questionnaire on the operation of the pilots. This information is currently being evaluated.</p>
12	Minimise attrition in domestic and sexual violence cases, where appropriate	<p>12.1 Develop a greater understanding of the extent and nature of attrition in domestic and sexual violence cases</p> <p>12.2 Develop proposals to minimise attrition in domestic and sexual violence cases, where appropriate, including an examination of the feasibility of pre-trial hearings in sexual violence cases</p>	<p>Cosc (Lead) Justice Committee, Garda Síochána, Courts Service, DJELR</p> <p>As above</p>	<p>12.1 Justice Committee to consider attrition research and to make proposals to Cosc by Q4 2010</p> <p>12.2 Proposals considered and implemented on a phased basis if necessary</p>	<p>12.1 Completed.</p> <p>12.2 <u>Recommendation 1</u>: Notified to Justice Committee to be considered in conjunction with action 14.4 of the National Strategy <u>Recommendation 2</u>: Letters issued to key bodies <u>Recommendation 3</u>: SV booklet being drafted. DV booklet under consideration <u>Recommendation 4 & 5</u>: Notified to Commissioner An Garda Síochána. The importance of this recommendation will be reiterated throughout the Garda Organisation. <u>Recommendation 6 & 7</u>: Notified to Training Committee for action. <u>Recommendation 7, 8, 9 & 13</u>: Notified to Legal Issues Sub-Committee (LISC) for action. LISC Report approved by NSCVAW,</p>

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					forwarded by Cosc to Criminal Law Division, D/JE. Report is being examined and proposals will be made to the Minister in due course following consideration of the McDermott Group and the Legal Aid Task Force. <u>Recommendation 11</u> : To be considered in conjunction with mid-term review of National Strategy. <u>Recommendation 12</u> : Notified to Victims of Crime Office for action. Noted by the Commission for Support of Victims of Crime.
13	Use vetting arrangements to provide greater protection for victims of domestic and sexual violence	<p>13.1 Improve legislative provisions on vetting</p> <p>13.2 Strengthen vetting arrangements for those who may come into contact with potential victims of domestic and sexual violence</p>	D/H&C, OMCYA, DJELR	<p>13.1 Vetting legislation improved and brought into operation by Q4 2011</p> <p>13.2 Legislation effectively enforced (ongoing)</p>	<p>13.1 The Government published the scheme of the National Vetting Bureau Bill on 27th July, 2011 and the Bill is being drafted. The Bill has two main objectives. The first is to provide a statutory basis for the existing procedures where the Garda criminal records database is used to vet people applying for employment in the public service or those working with children or young adults. The second is to provide for the use of "soft information" in vetting, i.e., information other than a court determined criminal record, and disclosure of such information to prospective employers. It is hoped to publish the Bill in the near future.</p>
14	Strengthen measures to manage the risks posed by sexual and domestic violence perpetrators	<p>14.1 Provide for pre-sentence risk assessments for the courts in relation to convicted sexual violence perpetrators</p> <p>14.2 Further develop current risk management arrangements for convicted sexual violence perpetrators</p>	<p>DJELR Management of Sex Offenders Group, Probation Service, Garda Síochána</p> <p>As above</p>	<p>14.1 Policy formulated in light of finalised Report of Management of Sex Offenders Group by Q4 2010</p> <p>14.2 Implementation (including bringing into operation of legislation) by Q4 2011</p>	<p>14.1 This action will be considered further following the completion of action on 14.2</p> <p>14.2 The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Bill will include proposals to put post-release risk assessment arrangements for convicted sex offenders on a statutory footing. The Bill is at an advanced stage of preparation and the Minister hopes to bring his proposals to Government in the coming months.</p> <p>The Probation Service and An Garda Síochána are progressing the piloting of the Sex Offender Risk Assessment Management (S.O.R.A.M.) model in five pilot areas. It is proposed to role the model out nationally during 2012 in anticipation of legislation covering this area of work.</p> <p>In the first 6 months of this year (Jan - June 2011), 42 offenders who had been convicted of sexual offences were referred to the Probation Service for assessment reports (including risk assessment).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of reports completed is in excess of that number as, on occasion, more than one report may be

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		<p>14.3 Explore the feasibility of multi-agency risk management arrangements for unconvicted sexual violence perpetrators</p> <p>14.4 Develop and implement risk management arrangements for high-risk domestic violence perpetrators</p>	<p>Cosc (to facilitate)</p> <p>Cosc (to facilitate) Justice Committee</p>	<p>14.3 Feasibility of multi-agency approach explored by Q2 2013</p> <p>14.4 Domestic violence perpetrator risk management model developed and implemented by Q4 2013</p>	<p>completed on an individual offender.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The offences for which the offenders concerned were convicted were Sexual / Indecent Assault (28), Rape (4), Possession of Child Pornography (6) and Other (4). • The benefits to the court of obtaining these reports is that they provide information on the risk level that the offender presents in both medium (12 months) and the long term (up to 15 years). The reports also identify the risk factors which apply to the individual concerned and indicate appropriate conditions of supervision. <p>14.3 This action will be considered further following the completion of action on 14.2</p> <p>14.4 Probation Officers have completed the SARA in 45 cases up until October 2011 and we are awaiting figures for the last quarter of 2011.</p> <p>In 2012, Probation Officers who are supervising perpetrators of domestic violence will be provided with training in 'intervening effectively to reduce the risk or re-offending in a domestic violence context.'.</p>
15	Strengthen measures to deal with sexual violence perpetrators	15.1 Monitor and review implementation of new prison treatment programme for convicted sexual violence perpetrators	DJELR, Prison Service	15.1 Sexual Violence programmes reviewed by end 2013	<p>15.1 In relation to interventions for perpetrators of sexual violence, two recent studies have found that intervention programmes have resulted in reducing recidivism rates. The Collaborative Outcome Data Committee (Hanson et al, 2002) reported on a meta-analysis of 43 independent studies dating from 1980 to 2000. The study found that the general recidivism or re-offending rate for those who had participated in programmes was 32.3 per cent compared with 51.3 per cent for those in untreated control groups. In 2003 McGrath et al demonstrated a significantly lower rate of sexual re-offending in offenders who completed a prison-based programme (5.4 per cent) compared with offenders who did not attend a programme (30 per cent).</p> <p>Therefore interventions in prison have the potential to reduce the risk posed by sexual offenders. The treatment of sex offenders is centred in Arbour Hill where sex offenders undertake the Building Better Lives programme. The programme comprises group interventions in three modules and allows responsive and flexible delivery of rehabilitation</p>

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	Action	Activities	Lead body and Implementation structure	Progress indicator	Progress to Date
		<p>15.2 Integrate custodial and community intervention programmes for convicted sexual violence perpetrators</p> <p>15.3 Develop best practice actions for dealing with sexual violence perpetrators in</p>	<p>DJELR, HSE, Probation Service, Garda Síochána, Prison Service</p> <p>Cosc (to facilitate),</p>	<p>15.2 Review operation of community programme provision by end 2012. Implement review outcome by end 2013</p> <p>15.3 Identify best practice suitable for</p>	<p>services which take account of individual risk, needs and capacity.</p> <p>The BBL programme commenced in January 2009, replacing the Sex Offender Programme which was initiated in 1994 and concluded in 2008. The programme allows more responsive and flexible delivery of rehabilitation services to a greater number of offenders. The interventions take greater account of individual risk, needs and capacity, with priority given increasingly to higher risk offenders.</p> <p>The Building Better Lives programme is provided by a team of psychologists, including clinical and counselling psychologists, who have developed specific expertise in clinical practice including assessment and therapeutic work with men convicted of sexual offences. An Garda Síochána also input to the programme.</p> <p>In Arbour Hill and other prisons sex offenders also participate in other group programmes which while not specifically designed for sex offenders are aimed at addressing their needs, including stress management, anger management and cognitive skills training, as well as interventions by visiting psychiatrists. Not all sex offenders are suited to group programmes therefore other prison-based therapeutic interventions including one-to-one interventions are available.</p> <p>Since its inception in January 2009 to the end of September 2011, 215 offenders have been assessed by the Psychology Service for participation in the programme and 103 offenders have actually participated. Currently, 24 offenders are engaged in the BBL programme. This level of intervention will ensure that all sex offenders who are serving sentences of at least one year and who are willing and suitable to engage with the therapeutic services will be able to avail of interventions.</p> <p>15.2 It is noted that the Probation Service works closely with the Prison Service regarding the motivation for and provision of prison and community perpetrator interventions. The Probation Service is additionally working closely with the HSE regarding developments linked to the Ferns 5 Report recommendation for community based regionalised adult and adolescent perpetrators programmes.</p> <p>15.3 For action end 2012</p>

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	Action	Activities	Lead body and Implementation structure	Progress indicator	Progress to Date
		the community and outside the criminal justice system	Garda Síochána, HSE	implementation by end 2013	
16	Strengthen measures to deal with domestic violence perpetrators	16.1 Strengthen Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programmes to ensure their greater effectiveness	Cosc (Lead) with Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme Committee	<p>16.1 (a) Plan (including mechanisms for co-ordination with victim support services and capture of victim feedback) developed by Q3 2010</p> <p>16.1 (b) Plan implemented from Q2 2011</p> <p>16.1 (c) Increased co-operation and co-ordination with victim support services</p>	<p>16.1 16.1(a) completed. 16.1(b) being implemented.</p> <p>The Perpetrator Programmes Committee advises Cosc on the development and implementation of policy and practice in relation to domestic violence perpetrator programmes. In the period under review further meetings of the committee took place on 25th August and 3rd November, 2011 a further meeting is scheduled for 9th February, 2012.</p> <p>A continuing focus of the committee is linking by the domestic violence perpetrator programmes with victim support services. A priority focus is also reviewing data collection practices by a number of domestic violence perpetrator programmes. This will facilitate the examination of the efficiency and, to a limited extent, the effectiveness of these programmes. A Cosc-designed programme reporting template is now being used by perpetrator programmes.</p>
17	Update the law on sexual offences	17.1 Review and improve legislative provisions on sexual offences	DJELR with Cosc	<p>17.1 (a) Sexual offences legislation brought into operation by Q4 2011</p> <p>17.1 (b) New legislation effectively enforced (ongoing)</p>	<p>17.1 The Department of Justice and Equality has undertaken a wide-ranging examination of the law on sexual offences which included an evaluation of the Sex Offenders Act 2001, a public consultation on the management of convicted sex offenders, and a review of the law on incest. The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Bill will include proposals in relation to these matters. The Bill is at an advanced stage of preparation and the Minister hopes to bring his proposals to Government in the coming months.</p>
18	Update the law on domestic violence to give further protection to victims	18.1 Improve legislative provisions protecting victims of domestic violence	DJELR with Cosc	<p>18.1 (a) New domestic violence provisions brought into operation by Q4 2010</p> <p>18.1 (b) New legislation effectively enforced (ongoing)</p>	<p>18.1 <u>General amendments to the Domestic Violence Act 1996</u> Amendments to the Domestic Violence Act 1996 by the Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011 are in force. A person can now to apply for a safety order against a person with whom he or she had a child in common even if the couple concerned never lived together. Opposite-sex and same-sex cohabiting couples now have equal access to safety orders or barring orders. Residency requirements for an applicant for a safety order have also been removed.</p> <p><u>Amendment of s.10 of the Domestic Violence Act 1996 to provide for a presumption of service by post for orders made under the Act</u> This proposal was made by Cosc. It remains the position that formal advice is awaited from the Attorney General's Office on the provision.</p>

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	Action	Activities	Lead body and Implementation structure	Progress indicator	Progress to Date
					<p><u>Amendments to s.17 of the Domestic Violence Act 1996 to provide for the anonymity of parties to proceedings for breaches of orders made under the Act</u> Proposed amendments by Cosc are included in a Criminal Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill which is still with the Attorney General's Office.</p>

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**High-Level Goal 3:
To ensure greater effectiveness of policy and service planning**

Key Objectives

- 9 To improve the effectiveness of policy planning through improved data capture and data co-ordination
- 10 To ensure that policy development and service provision planning are evidence-based and take account of the experience of victims
- 11 To ensure greater co-ordination between relevant organisations
- 12 To provide a solid foundation for future actions on domestic and sexual violence

	Action	Activities	Lead body and Implementation structure	Progress indicator	Progress to Date
19	Improve data on domestic and sexual violence	19.1 Work with all relevant organisations to develop and improve domestic and sexual violence data (including data collected for administrative and research/policy purposes)	Cosc (Lead) data committee, HSE, Garda Síochána, Probation Service, Courts Service, CSO, OOP	19.1 (a) Data plan developed by Q4 2010 19.1 (b) Data plan implemented by Q2 2011	19.1(a) has been completed. 19.1(b) On 28 July and 10 November, 2011 as well as on 26 January 2012 there were further meetings of the Data Committee which is progressing work under this National Strategy Action. The current focus is on improvements in the short term on the collection of data by individual State agencies. Under consideration is data collected by the Garda Síochána, the Courts Service, the Probation Service, and the Health Service Executive. Progress is being made in relation to Garda and Courts data. A draft first progress report on the work of the Data Committee has been prepared.
20	Ensure improved impact evaluation	20.1 Develop an evaluation framework for assessing cross-organisational strategic impact to ensure maximum system effectiveness	Cosc (Lead), HSE, Garda Síochána, Probation Service, Courts Service, OOP and Independent external organisation	20.1 Effective arrangements to monitor and review organisational response in place in all key State organisations by Q4 2012	20.1 A Project Background Paper outlined some general ideas in relation to the implementation of Action 20. This was followed up by an impact evaluation approach document. The work under this action informed, and will continue to inform, work on the first review of the implementation of National Strategy under Action 23.

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	Action	Activities	Lead body and Implementation structure	Progress indicator	Progress to Date
		20.2 Encourage consultation with representative groups in the development of policy and services	Cosc (Lead) with NSCVAW and NGO participation	20.2 Consultation held with representative groups on development of policy and services – ongoing	20.2 In 2011 regular meetings of NSCVAW held and bilateral meetings held with NGO groups representing immigrants, women working in prostitution, support services for women, male victims of domestic violence, etc. Presentations made to all RACs and to other stakeholders by Cosc Executive Director and discussions held with RAC Chairs and members.
21	Promote the design of planned research to ground policy development and service planning	21.1 Encourage the development of a co-ordinated research programme	Cosc (Lead), HSE, OOP	21.1 (a) Co-ordinated research programme planned and implemented each year 21.1 (b) Research disseminated and policy implications followed up – ongoing basis	21.1 A draft research programme for 2012 has been prepared. It will be disseminated in due course and this will included its publication on the Cosc web-site. As regards co-ordination in relation to the programme, a request for information from stakeholders on their current plans for research work was included in the recent Cosc e-zine and the RAC chairs were asked to include the provision of this information on their meeting agendas.

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High-Level Goal 4: To ensure efficient and effective implementation of the National Strategy

Key Objectives

13 To ensure that all actions within this strategy are monitored and progressed in a timely and comprehensive manner

14 To ensure that due account is taken from the lessons learned of the implementation from this strategy

	Action	Activities	Lead body and Implementation structure	Progress indicator	Progress to Date
22	Monitor progress in the implementation of this strategy	<p>22.1 Collate bi-annual reports on strategy progress</p> <p>22.2 Liaise on draft progress reports</p> <p>22.3 Submit progress report, including material derived from liaison process, to Oversight Committee</p>	Cosc (Lead) to collaborate with Govt Depts, State agencies and NSCVAW and report to Oversight Committee	<p>22.1 Bi-annual reports collated on time</p> <p>22.2 Liaison takes place bi-annually on draft progress reports</p> <p>22.3 (a) Reports, including material derived from liaison process, submitted to Oversight Committee on time 22.3 (b) Strategy Progress report submitted to Government on time</p>	<p>22.1 Reports for Strategy Oversight Committee (SOC) collated and disseminated in June and December 2010 and in May/June 2011.</p> <p>22.2 Draft reports issued to NSCVAW in June and December 2010 and in June 2011 prior to Strategy Oversight Committee meetings. Drafts also issued to RACs for comments prior to June meeting of SOC in both 2010 and 2011. Delays in reports being received precluded collective RAC comments to be included in the December 2010 and June 2011 report to the SOC. However, individual RAC member's comments were considered where received.</p> <p>22.3 Reports submitted to Strategy Oversight Committee in June 2010, December 2010 and June 2011.</p> <p>Revised timing of updates agreed by the SOC, to allow draft report to issue in good time to RAC's and for their comments to be included in final report prior to meeting of SOC.</p>

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23	Ensure effectiveness of strategy implementation	23.1 Review effectiveness of strategy to prepare for future work	Cosc (Lead)	<p>23.1 (a) Conduct comprehensive first review of progress by end Q2 2012 and second review by end Q2 2014</p> <p>23.1 (b) Prepare review reports for Oversight Committee by end Q3 2012 and by end Q3 2014</p>	<p>23.1 A Request for Tenders for a review of the effectiveness of the implementation of the National Strategy was issued on 22/11. Tenders were received, assessed and a successful tenderer selected. A meeting took place with the successful tenderer on 21/12 and work on the project commenced in January 2012. It is anticipated that the work will take about 4 months.</p>
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