

Belfast Area Domestic & Sexual Violence Partnership Action Plan 20/21 – Due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic this action plan is subject to change.

STRAND ¹	Regional Year 5 Action point ²	BDSVP Action point	Responsibility	Timescale	Outcome
Driving Change through Co-operation and Leadership	<p>1. Ensure effective and regular engagement with the Northern Ireland Executive on cross cutting issues on domestic & sexual abuse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership regularly attends the All-Party Group on domestic & sexual violence and abuse Partnership to continue to contribute to Department of Justice communications plan, joint partnership newsletter and update social media and website. 	Co-ordinator/Chair	Ongoing	
	<p>2. Ensure an effective response to COVID-19 across government Departments and the statutory, voluntary and community sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership members will keep each other updated on steps taken to respond to COVID-19. Partnership to adapt working methods in light of COVID-19. 		Ongoing	

¹ Relates to the Strand in Strategy document

² Relates to the action point in the Year 5 action plan

	<p>3. Review the Stopping Domestic & Sexual Violence and Abuse strategy to incorporate findings into future action plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership happy to support any review and findings for future plans. 		Sept 2020	
	<p>4. Multi-agency working to finalise a phased Gillen Review Implementation Plan, prioritising recommendations that will have the greatest impact on complainants going through the criminal justice system and those recommendations requiring action on education and awareness around consent.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership will support and promote recommendations within the Gillen review. Promote and support the JustUS project 	<p>Partnership members</p> <p>Co-ordinator</p>	Ongoing	
	<p>5. Support the work of the SBNI Children’s DV sub-group by making recommendations for the development of an action plan to address service gaps and improvements to support and keep children safe and completing training needs analysis of staff working directly with those children along with a training framework.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair is a member of the SBNI DV Sub-group Partnership members to contribute to the training needs analysis exercise. 	<p>Chair</p> <p>Partnership members</p>	Ongoing	

Prevention and Early Intervention	<p>6. Review and update the DE iMatter programme materials to ensure it is reflective of contemporary issues affecting children and young people. This will include the subject area of “Healthy Relationships” and take account of the Leonard Review into responding to and managing CSE in NI</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership to carry out a scoping exercise across its members to identify current provision and gaps. • Partnership to highlight the work of the Mentors in Violence Prevention programme across schools in Scotland and the potential to incorporate it into Northern Ireland schools. 	Co-ordinator	Ongoing	
	<p>7. Review and reassess current work programme to ensure teachers have the necessary skills to teach about sensitive subjects including child abuse as well as domestic and sexual abuse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership to continue to enable teachers and representatives from schools to attend domestic violence awareness raising sessions. • Partnership to continue to send information and resources to the South Belfast Schools pastoral leads group and look for opportunities to engage pastoral leads groups across other parts of Belfast. • Partnership to consider holding a stand alone session looking at the impact of domestic violence on 	Co-ordinator/ Training and Development Working Group	Ongoing	

Delivering Change through responsive services and support	14. Scope options for the development of a regional D& SV Partnership website and/or App to enable early identification and signposting of victims in need of support and protection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership to be represented on a task and finish group looking at regional options. Partnership to look at funding options for future of existing app 	Co-ordinator and Chair	Ongoing	
	15. Raise awareness amongst local councils and PCSPs about the impact of domestic and sexual violence and abuse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representative from Belfast PCSP sits on the Partnership's Strategic Advisory Group. Partnership members sit on various district PCSPs and ensure domestic violence remains a priority area. Partnership contributes to various PCSP community safety events by providing an information stall ensuring domestic violence stays on their radar. Partnership successfully tendered to provide domestic violence awareness raising sessions across Belfast on behalf of the PCSP. As part of this tender information on support services within the 	Partnership members, Co-ordinator/Chair	Ongoing	

		Belfast area for all victims will be included.			
	16. Introduce a scheme to provide free public transport for those going to refuge or emergency accommodation as a result of domestic abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership to promote this scheme on social media and website. 	Co-ordinator	Ongoing	
	17. Relaunch of No Grey Zone, a sexual consent awareness campaign.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership to promote this scheme across social media and on website. 	Co-ordinator	Ongoing	
	18. Update the 'Recognise, Respond and Refer' desk aid for HSC staff and use as a tool to communicate any future legislative changes particularly around coercive and controlling behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership to review the desk aid and suggest amendments. 	Training and Development Working Group	Dec 2020	
	19. Update Workplace policies for HSC Trusts to cover both domestic & sexual abuse and consider development of a regional approach to keep staff safe in the workplace and hold persons of concern to account.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership to do an audit of members and ensure all members and new members have a domestic & sexual violence policy in place where possible. Partnership will share best practice and help organisations develop policies 	Support and Prevention Working Group	Ongoing	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership will look at existing policies to see whether stalking is sufficiently covered and if not will ensure stalking is incorporated. 			
	<p>21. Prepare for the implementation (in early 2021/22) of a new streamlined singular Advocacy Support Service, for victims of domestic and sexual violence and abuse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership to promote and support the introduction of advocacy service. Partnership to continue to promote the work of its member agencies including Victim Support and to promote their ISVA and CHISVA projects. 	Partnership members/Co-ordinator	Ongoing	
	<p>22. Complete and evaluate the Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS) Programme across East Belfast and Newry/Down GP Federations and consider findings to inform wider advocacy support (action 21 refers).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership will support and promote the IRIS programme in East Belfast and will build on their existing relationship with the GP Federation Support Unit. 	Support and Prevention Working Group	Ongoing	
	<p>24. Continue to fund and support the delivery of the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership will continue to support and promote the work of the 24hour Domestic & Sexual Abuse Helpline. 	Partnership members	Ongoing	

	<p>28. Increase awareness and share learning on technology facilitated domestic abuse</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership to continue to offer the TFDA session 1-2 times per year. 	Co-ordinator	Ongoing	
	<p>30. Raise awareness, provide information and/or arrange training with a range of groups including sporting organisations, Irish travellers and supporting communities subject to available funding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership to continue to advertise awareness raising sessions widely across Belfast and to engaged with specific organisations. 	Co-ordinator	Ongoing	
<p>Protection and Justice</p>	<p>33.Progress legislation to provide for a new Domestic Abuse Offence, statutory child and generic aggravators as well as automatic eligibility for consideration of special measures and prohibition on cross-examination by the accused for victims of domestic abuse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership will continue to support and promote the introduction of a new domestic abuse offence. Highlight and raise awareness of coercive control. Partnership will update existing leaflets and guidance documents such as legal remedies to take account of a change of legislation and highlight the new offence. 	<p>Partnership Members</p> <p>Training & Development Working Group</p> <p>Protection & Justice Working Group/ Co-ordinator</p>	Ongoing	
	<p>34.Develop and progress an awareness raising/training implementation plan for the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership to ensure information on the new offence is included within the 	Co-ordinator	On-going	

	introduction of a new domestic abuse offence.	existing domestic abuse awareness raising sessions.			
	<p>35. Introduce Domestic Homicide Review process into Northern Ireland, including:</p> <p>(a) Recruiting a three independent Chairs, and, establishing multi-agency panels, as well as providing necessary training for them</p> <p>(b) Finalising multi-agency guidance and toolkit on the conduct of DHRs;</p> <p>(c) Refining the DHR model, using an historic case(s).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership to continue to support the introduction of domestic homicide reviews. Partnership to review training materials to incorporate information on domestic homicide reviews. Partnership to explore the possibility of holding an event with Dr Jane Monckton Smith to discuss her domestic homicide timeline research. 	<p>All Members</p> <p>Training & Development Working Group</p> <p>Support & Prevention Working Group</p>	Dec 2020	
	<p>36. In relation to domestic abuse behavioural change programmes:</p> <p>Continue to fund and deliver programmes across Northern Ireland evaluate the effectiveness of the 2019/20 programmes, and longitudinal data from 2018/19 programmes, and consider the way forward; and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representatives from the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust are part of the Partnership and they will continue to identify suitable referrals for the programme. 		Mar 21	

	<p>37. Consider the outcomes of the lessons learnt from the Londonderry court mandated programme, to inform the way forward.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives from Belfast Health and Social Care Trust to share learning. 		Mar 21	
	<p>38.Evaluate the Domestic Violence and Abuse Disclosure Scheme and bring forward any necessary modifications, with PSNI continuing to work with partner agencies to ensure effective delivery.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership to continue to promote and raise awareness of the disclosure scheme at information stands, on leaflets and through social media. 	Co-ordinator	Ongoing	
	<p>39.Introduce Domestic Violence Protection Notices and Domestic Violence Protection Orders in Northern Ireland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership to support and promote DVPN and DVPOs. 	Partnership members	Ongoing	
	<p>40.Implement recommendations from the Stalking Consultation Report by continuing to raise the profile of stalking with criminal justice partners, by sharing best practice models and guidance in use in other jurisdictions. Develop legislation for the introduction of a specific offence of stalking and stalking protection orders to NI Assembly subject to the views of an incoming Justice Minister.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership contributed to Stalking consultations and Partnership members are part of the Stalking Reference Group. • Partnership continue to raise awareness of stalking and to support and promote any changes to the legislation. 	Support & Prevention Working group	Ongoing	

	<p>41.Multi-agency MARAC Operational Board ('MOB') to implement actions arising from the MARAC Review.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership Chair is a member of the MOB. Partnership MARAC Working Group has been re-established and will link into the MOB. 	<p>Chair</p> <p>MARAC Working group</p>		
<i>Areas of work for Partnership not directly related to a specific action point on the Year 5 Plan</i>					
Protection and Justice		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership to develop safety planning information cards for a range of scenarios and distribute widely. 	Cross Partnership Working Group on Safety Planning	Dec 2020	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership to continue to highlight the issue of non-fatal strangulation and promote the information leaflet. 	Co-ordinator Protection and Justice Working Group	Ongoing	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership to revise and update current financial abuse guidance document and to develop relationships with local banks. 	Protection and Justice Working Group	Dec 2020	
Driving Change through responsive services and support		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership to continue to promote and raise awareness of the issue of Adult Child to Parent Violence and to work with relevant agencies including NIASP. 	Protection and Justice Working Group	Ongoing	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership to keep informed on the research into adult child to parent violence and promote and contribute accordingly. 			
Driving Change through Co-operation and Leadership		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership to continue to review membership and ensure it is reflective of the wider Belfast society 	All Members	Ongoing	