



# **Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in NI**

**Year 6 Action Plan (2021 – 2022)**

**APRIL 2021**

# Action Plan

## STRAND 1: DRIVING CHANGE THROUGH CO-OPERATION AND LEADERSHIP

No	ACTION	LEAD	DELIVERY
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>			
1	Ensure effective and regular engagement with the NI Executive on cross cutting issues on domestic and sexual abuse, and continue to seek ways to raise the profile of the issue.	SDB	Mar 2022
2	Develop and implement enhanced governance structures to: (i) oversee implementation of the recommendations contained in the Strategy's Mid-Term Review; and (ii) forward plan collective priorities and develop clear future funding requirements.	SDB	Oct 2022
3	Continue to review governance arrangements and ensure alignment with the Gillen Review into the law and procedures in serious sexual offences; the Leonard Review of how agencies are responding to and managing child sexual exploitation; the CJINI report on how the criminal justice system deals with child sexual exploitation; and the NI Executive's Online Safety Strategy.	SDB	Mar 2022
4	Identify ways to strengthen the Local Partnerships to ensure a more joined up and consistent approach across NI with clear strategic direction and appropriate accountability mechanisms.	SDB, Local Partnerships	Oct 2022
5	Co-produce the development of a new cross-departmental Strategy/Framework approach for 2023 onwards with an OBA and clear mechanisms for evaluation of interventions, taking account of the wider strategic context, such as the Gillen Review and Gender Strategy.	DoH, DoJ, SAG	Mar 2022
<b>IMPROVING DATA</b>			
6	Develop a baseline data set to inform strategic direction and ensure effective targeting of action/resources. This should include data on hard to reach groups including LGBTQ+ and minority communities as well as an understanding of societal attitudes.	DoH, DoJ, SAG	Mar 2022
<b>COVID-19 RESPONSE</b>			
7	Continue to ensure an effective response to covid-19 and capture and share learning to challenge existing ways of working where appropriate.	SAG, SDB	Mar 2022

## STRAND 2: PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

No	ACTION	LEAD	DELIVERY
<b>RAISING AWARENESS IN SOCIETY</b>			
8	Scope and develop education and awareness raising campaigns on issues including consent, rape myths and the use of social media in serious sexual offences cases.	DoJ	Ongoing
9	Raise awareness of domestic and sexual abuse in wider society, including through campaigns such as 'Behind Closed Doors', 'Walking on Eggshells' and 'No Grey Zone'.	PSNI and DoJ	Mar 2022
10	Launch a multi-media awareness raising campaign on the new domestic abuse offence, and associated public facing materials, with a commitment from delivery partners to promote.	DoJ, SDB, SAG	Late 2021
<b>SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION</b>			
11	Bring forward regulations providing for information sharing with pre-schools, schools, colleges and training facilities, to enable the introduction of Operation Encompass.	DE, DoJ, DfE	Mar 2022
12	Establish a cross-departmental working group to focus on an Early Intervention Agenda and wider preventative work.	DE	Jun 2022
13	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.	DE	Mar 2022
14	Review and reassess current work programme to ensure teachers have the necessary skills to teach about sensitive subjects, including child abuse as well as domestic and sexual abuse.	DE	Mar 2022
<b>ADDRESSING HARMFUL BEHAVIOUR</b>			
15	Continue to fund and deliver: (i) early intervention Domestic Abuse Behavioural Change Programmes across NI while reviewing the effectiveness of longitudinal data in order to more robustly inform any wider roll out; and (ii) Behavioural Change Programmes as part of court mandated sentences and in prisons.	DoJ, DoH, PBNI	Mar 2022
16	Continue to develop effective management of those with a history of domestic abuse, including through ongoing engagement with statutory, voluntary and community sector partners with consideration of use of multi-agency arrangements.	PBNI PSNI DOJ	Ongoing

### STRAND 3: DELIVERING CHANGE THROUGH RESPONSIVE SERVICES

No	ACTION	LEAD	DELIVERY
<b>SUPPORTING FRONT LINE SERVICES</b>			
17	Develop online training materials on the new domestic abuse offence for key front line services.	DoJ, Multi-Agency T&F	Jun 2022
18	Develop and evaluate the Identification and Referral to Improve Safety ('IRIS') proof of concept with general practice.	DoH	Mar 2022
19	Promote the 'Ask for Ani' code word scheme with non-participating pharmacies and work with Home Office to evaluate the scheme to inform potential extension to other retailers/service providers.	DoH, DoJ	Mar 2022
<b>PROVISION OF SERVICES – CORE GOVERNMENT FUNDING</b>			
20	Provide funding to support emergency refuge provision, other accommodation-based services and floating support services.	DfC	Mar 2022
21	Provide funding for other core services including Advocacy, the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline, MARACs and the Rowan SARC.	DfC, DoH, DoJ, PSNI	Mar 2022
22	Implement actions arising from the MARAC Review; provide an end of year report to SDB on outcomes, performance measures and impact of MARACs; and liaise with SafeLives to provide an update on key MARAC statistics locally.	MOB, PSNI	Mar 2022

### STRAND 4: SUPPORT

No	ACTION	LEAD	DELIVERY
<b>OUTREACH AND ADVICE</b>			
23	Introduce a new Advocacy Support Service for victims of domestic and sexual abuse.	DoJ, PSNI	Sep 2021
24	Evaluate the Domestic Abuse Worker pilot in Craigavon Area Hospital.	SHSCT	Sep 2021
25	Enhance the support provided to child victims of sexual offences, including giving consideration to the advantages of a Barnahus-type model.	DoH, DoJ	Mar 2022
26	Raise awareness, provide information and/or arrange training with a range of groups, including sporting organisations, Irish Travellers and supporting communities, subject to availability of funding.	DfC	Mar 2022
27	Promote and raise awareness of the NICS Domestic and Sexual Abuse Policy and Guidance and deliver targeted training to support implementation.	DoF (NICS HR)	Mar 2022

28	Introduce pilot Sexual Offences Legal Advisors to provide general legal advice to victims of serious sexual offences as well as specific advice in relation to Article 8 rights and previous sexual history.	DoJ	Apr 2021
29	Bring forward legislative proposals to strengthen the law relating to Child Sexual Exploitation and implement Gillen Review recommendations relating to anonymity of complainants and suspects in certain sexual offence cases.	DoJ	Mar 2022
<b>HOUSING</b>			
30	Commission a research project to consider the extension of the Sanctuary Scheme to all Housing Association tenants, how the current scheme can be enhanced for Housing Executive Tenants and develop an action plan to address recommendations.	DfC	Mar 2022
31	Review evaluation of Homelessness Prevention Fund 2020/21, specifically any projects relevant to domestic abuse, and identify any projects which may benefit from further development.	DfC, NIHE	Mar 2022

## STRAND 5: PROTECTION AND JUSTICE

No	ACTION	LEAD	DELIVERY
<b>CIVIL JUSTICE</b>			
32	Preparatory work on developing legislation on Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Orders, subject to the outcome of consultation.	DoJ	Mar 2021
33	Conduct an economic appraisal of the options for implementation of the legal aid provisions in the Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings Act (Northern Ireland) 2021 and, subject to the outcome of that appraisal, prepare for the commencement of the relevant provisions, as appropriate.	DoJ	Late 2021
<b>CRIMINAL JUSTICE</b>			
34	Commencement of Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings Act (Northern Ireland) 2021, introduction of new domestic abuse offence and appointment of independent oversight mechanism.	DoJ, PSNI on offence introduction	Late 2021
35	Introduction of pilot domestic violence listing arrangements at Laganside Magistrate's Court.	DoJ	Nov 2021
36	Use mobile phone technology to prioritise and highlight emergency calls (even when there is a lack of phone service) from the highest risk domestic abuse victims, in order to provide an immediate police response.	PSNI	Jun 2021
37	Seek rape victims' views on their experience of engaging with PSNI, in order to better understand attrition and improve the criminal justice experience for future victims.	PSNI	Ongoing

## **Abbreviations**

DE	Department of Education
DfC	Department for Communities
DfE	Department for the Economy
DoF	Department of Finance
NICS HR	Northern Ireland Civil Service Human Resources
DoH	Department of Health
DoJ	Department of Justice
MARACs	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences
MOB	MARAC Operational Board
NIHE	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
PBNI	Probation Board Northern Ireland
PSNI	Police Service Northern Ireland
SAG	Stakeholder Assurance Group
SDB	Strategic Delivery Board
SHSCT	Southern Health and Social Care Trust