



Northern  
Ireland  
Office



Department of  
**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

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AN ROINN

Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí

MÁNNYSTRIE O

Poustie, Resydënter Heisin  
an Fowk Siccar



# Tackling Violence at Home

ACTION PLAN: APRIL 2008 TO MARCH 2009

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# Tackling Violence at Home

**ACTION PLAN:** APRIL 2008 TO MARCH 2009

## Foreword

We welcome the publication of this third Action Plan under *“Tackling Violence at Home – A Strategy for Addressing Domestic Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland”*.

The launch of the Strategy in October 2005 marked a milestone in the Government’s response to domestic violence by establishing an agreed multi-agency, cross-government strategy for addressing domestic violence in Northern Ireland. Some of the achievements since then include:

- establishment and funding of a free-phone 24-hour domestic violence helpline;
- guidelines issued to employers on the development of workplace policy on domestic violence;
- a series of media campaigns to encourage anyone affected by domestic violence to seek help;
- establishment in Northern Ireland of an Inter-Ministerial Group on Domestic and Sexual Violence.

However, much remains to be done. Initiatives in the 2008/09 Action Plan include:

- the regional roll out of the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference, which helps identify and protect high risk victims of domestic violence;
- the introduction of Domestic Homicide Reviews in Northern Ireland;
- the piloting of an integrated family court;
- a media campaign targeting perpetrators of domestic violence.
- the production of comprehensive guidance for health professionals on identifying and helping victims of domestic violence.

This year will see the first meeting of a local Inter-Ministerial Group on Domestic and Sexual Violence. The establishment of this Group means that for the first time locally-elected politicians can take the lead in ensuring that the Strategy delivers on its objectives and that the issue of domestic violence remains high on the agenda of every Government Department or agency concerned.

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We wish to acknowledge the important work that has been done in this area over many years by the voluntary and community sector. Indeed, it is clear that partnership and inter-agency working has been instrumental to the success of the strategy so far.

Victims of domestic violence and abuse need a sympathetic and practical response and families must be given better protection and support. We must continue to ensure that those who suffer domestic violence and abuse are given the help and support they need.

We are determined that perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse are held to account and that proper support and services are available to all victims. This third Action Plan contains a number of objectives that are crucial to making that happen and we will work to ensure that those objectives are achieved.



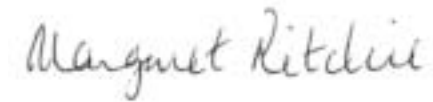
**Michael McGimpsey**  
**Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety**



**Paul Goggins**  
**Minister of State for Northern Ireland**



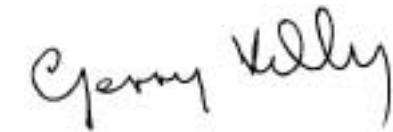
**Caitriona Ruane**  
**Minister for Education**



**Margaret Ritchie**  
**Minister for Social Development**



**Peter Robinson**  
**Minister of Finance and Personnel**



**Gerry Kelly**  
**Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister**



**Jeffrey Donaldson**  
**Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister**

## **Strand One: PREVENTION**

The themes listed below under Prevention are taken from the Tackling Violence at Home Strategy, and are about:

- preventing domestic violence happening in the first place, through changing public attitudes to it (particularly among young people)
- general public education and media campaigns
- identifying and tackling risk factors (e.g. during pregnancy)
- providing help for all victims of domestic violence as early as possible to prevent the abuse recurring
- providing advice and information to all victims on how to get access to support services and legal protection
- preventing offenders, wherever possible, from re-offending.

**Strand One: PREVENTION cont'd**

<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Action Summary</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Lead Department</b>	<b>Target date</b>
<b>Domestic Violence Workplace Policies</b>	All departments and agencies involved in domestic violence groups/partnerships to consider joining the Corporate Alliance Against Domestic Violence and use their networks to encourage other employers to do the same.	<b>Domestic Violence Unit (lead) Information Sub-Group</b>	<b>DHSSPS</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
	To make further contact with all employers who indicated in 2006 that they would introduce or consider a workplace policy to establish progress.	<b>Domestic Violence Unit Information Sub-Group (lead)</b>	<b>DHSSPS</b>	<b>September 2008</b>
	To develop other ways of getting more employers to introduce policies e.g. via umbrella organisations, trade unions, Local Domestic Violence Partnerships and Trust Chief Executives.	<b>Domestic Violence Unit (lead) Information Sub-Group</b>	<b>DHSSPS</b>	<b>2008/09</b>

**ACTION PLAN: APRIL 2008 TO MARCH 2009**

**Strand One: PREVENTION cont'd**

<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Action Summary</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Lead Department</b>	<b>Target date</b>
<b>Domestic Violence Workplace Policies</b>	To continue working with the Corporate Alliance Against Domestic Violence and to encourage more employers across all sectors in Northern Ireland to join.	<b>Domestic Violence Unit (lead) Information Sub-Group</b>	<b>DHSSPS</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>Resource Manual for health and social services professionals</b>	To develop a resource manual in consultation with Health and Social Care (HSC) professional bodies (to include routine enquiry type questions for use in HSC consultations e.g. A&E). Manual to take account of training needs and also include specific questions in relation to Child Protection.	<b>Domestic Violence Unit (lead) Regional Steering Group and its Sub-Groups Professional Groups</b>	<b>DHSSPS</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
<b>Media Campaign</b>	To develop a media strategy which focuses on different aspects of domestic violence.	<b>Domestic Violence Unit Community Safety Unit (joint leads) Information Sub-Group</b>	<b>DHSSPS/NIO</b>	<b>2008/09</b>

**Strand One: PREVENTION cont'd**

<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Action Summary</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Lead Department</b>	<b>Target date</b>
<b>Domestic Violence Website</b>	To develop an independent Domestic Violence Information Website.	<b>Domestic Violence Unit (lead) Information sub-group</b>	<b>DHSSPS</b>	<b>September 2008</b>
	To encourage partner agencies to put a link on their individual websites referring to the Domestic Violence Information Website.	<b>Domestic Violence Unit (lead) Regional Steering Group and its Subgroups</b>	<b>DHSSPS</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>Education in Schools</b>	Schools will be provided with guidance and staff given training to support the implementation of the revised curriculum, including specific guidance to support the new area of Personal Development.	<b>Partnership Management Board (PMB) Department of Education (joint leads)</b>	<b>DE</b>	<b>Phased implementation of revised curriculum from 2007/08 to 2009/10</b>
	To ensure that training for schools' designated teachers for child protection includes awareness of domestic violence and its impact on children.	<b>Department of Education Child Protection Support Service For Schools (CPSSS)</b>	<b>DE</b>	<b>2008/09</b>

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**Strand One: PREVENTION cont'd**

<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Action Summary</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Lead Department</b>	<b>Target date</b>
<b>Education in Schools (cont'd)</b>	To ensure that all schools recognise the impact on children of an abusive family setting in their child protection policy.	<b>Department of Education</b>	<b>DE</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
	To engage with teacher training colleges re the inclusion of awareness of domestic violence prevention and how to manage issues in the classroom in teacher training.	<b>Regional Steering Group</b>	<b>DHSSPS</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
	To develop a strategic approach to deliver the Helping Hands/No Fear package across Schools.	<b>Women's Aid Federation NI</b>	<b>DHSSPS</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
<b>Routine Enquiry for Pregnant Women</b>	To conduct a survey to ensure that all maternity units have introduced a routine enquiry as policy in compliance with DHSSPS Policy Circular No: HSS NMG 01/06 and to assess its impact.	<b>Domestic Violence Unit Nursing and Midwifery Group of DHSSPS</b>	<b>DHSSPS</b>	<b>September 2008</b>

## **Strand Two: PROTECTION AND JUSTICE**

The themes listed below under Protection and Justice are taken from the Tackling Violence at Home Strategy, and are about:

- ensuring the safety of all those affected by domestic violence and holding perpetrators accountable for their behaviour
- ensuring an effective police response to every reported incident of domestic violence
- engaging victims of domestic violence with the prosecution process
- ensuring that sentences are available that reflect the crime
- ensuring that victims are not deterred by the way they are treated at any stage of the justice process
- ensuring that the civil and criminal law offers the maximum protection to all victims to stop the violence recurring
- updating the law on domestic violence to give further protection to victims.

**Strand Two: PROTECTION AND JUSTICE cont'd**

<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Action Summary</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Lead Department</b>	<b>Target date</b>
<b>Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)</b>	To work to ensure mainstream funding for the roll out of MARAC across Northern Ireland to best protect and support high risk victims of domestic violence.	<b>Domestic Violence and Law Sub-Group Regional Steering Group</b>	<b>NIO</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
<b>One-Stop-Shop</b>	To consider the setting up of a pilot one-stop shop to improve rates of prosecution of domestic violence cases through improved victim safety, support and information.	<b>Community Safety Unit, NIO (lead) Domestic Violence and the Law Sub-Group Regional Steering Group</b>	<b>NIO</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
<b>Homicide Review</b>	To develop guidance on Domestic Violence Homicide Reviews for consultation and to establish Domestic Violence Homicide Reviews in Northern Ireland.	<b>Community Safety Unit, NIO (lead) Other criminal justice agencies and other statutory partners</b>	<b>NIO</b>	<b>2008/09</b>

**Strand Two: PROTECTION AND JUSTICE cont'd**

<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Action Summary</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Lead Department</b>	<b>Target date</b>
<b>Integrated Family Courts</b>	To consider proposals for an Integrated Family court pilot.	<b>Northern Ireland Court Service Domestic Violence and Law Sub-Group</b>	<b>NI Court Service</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
<b>Programmes for perpetrators</b>	To work to ensure availability of a full range of perpetrator programmes (both criminal court and non-court mandated) across Northern Ireland which are standardised, quality assured and with built-in support systems for victims.	<b>PBNI (joint lead – convicted perpetrators) HSC Trusts (joint lead) Other statutory partners Women’s Aid</b>	<b>NIO</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
<b>Raising Awareness</b>	To explore the need for and, if appropriate, develop a leaflet specifically for children on domestic violence and the law (to be linked in with other development on children’s services/support).	<b>Community Safety Unit, NIO (lead) Domestic Violence and Law Subgroup</b>	<b>NIO</b>	<b>December 2008</b>

**Strand Two: PROTECTION AND JUSTICE cont'd**

<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Action Summary</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Lead Department</b>	<b>Target date</b>
<b>Raising Awareness (cont'd)</b>	Judicial Studies Board to provide the judiciary with relevant information on domestic violence awareness as it becomes available.	<b>Judicial Studies Board</b>	<b>NI Court Service</b>	<b>On-going</b>
	Public Prosecution Service and NI Court Service to develop a system for recording special measures applications and capturing special measures data.	<b>Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland Court Service Causeway Programme</b>	<b>PPS/NI Court Service</b>	<b>30 September 2008</b>
	To provide 'special measures' training for all relevant staff in Public Prosecution Service and ensure prosecutors are kept up to date with relevant case law.	<b>Public Prosecution Service</b>	<b>NIO</b>	<b>On-going for all new staff</b>

**Strand Two: PROTECTION AND JUSTICE cont'd**

<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Action Summary</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Lead Department</b>	<b>Target date</b>
<b>Raising Awareness (cont'd)</b>	To provide training to prosecution and other relevant staff on the PPS Policy for Prosecuting Cases of Domestic Violence including policy/procedure to be adopted in cases where victims withdraw support for the prosecution.	<b>Public Prosecution Service</b>	<b>NIO</b>	<b>On-going for all new staff</b>
	To produce a leaflet explaining the Role of the Public Prosecution Service in prosecuting Cases of Domestic Violence.	<b>Public Prosecution Service</b>	<b>NIO</b>	<b>September 2008</b>
	To provide domestic violence awareness training on induction for all new staff within the Court Service.	<b>NI Court Service</b>	<b>NI Court Service</b>	<b>Ongoing for new staff</b>

**Strand Two: PROTECTION AND JUSTICE cont'd**

<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Action Summary</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Lead Department</b>	<b>Target date</b>
<b>Raising Awareness (cont'd)</b>	To liaise with the Law Society, Bar Council and Queen's University (including Institute of Professional Legal Studies) to raise awareness of domestic violence issues among law students and solicitors e.g. articles in the Writ.	<b>Civil Law Reform Division, Departmental Solicitor's Office (lead) Community Safety Unit, NIO</b>	<b>DFP/NIO</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>Access to Justice</b>	To work in partnership with other key organisations to ensure access to justice by domestic violence victims by identifying existing barriers to justice and working together to remove them e.g. financial, cultural etc.	<b>Regional Steering Group Domestic Violence and Law Sub-Group</b>	<b>NIO</b>	<b>October 2008</b>
<b>Improve the sharing of information</b>	To explore the feasibility of the creation of a computerised register of domestic violence civil orders.	<b>PSNI NI Court Service</b>	<b>NIO</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>

**Strand Two: PROTECTION AND JUSTICEcont'd**

<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Action Summary</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Lead Department</b>	<b>Target date</b>
<b>Improve the sharing of information (cont'd)</b>	To work with Criminal Justice Organisations to develop the Causeway IT System to facilitate progress of Domestic Violence cases and improve communication between the Criminal Justice Agencies.	<b>All Criminal Justice Agencies</b>	<b>NIO</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
<b>Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995</b>	To conduct research into the operation of private law aspects of the Children Order 1995 in Northern Ireland.	<b>Civil Law Reform Division, Departmental Solicitor's Office</b>	<b>DFP</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>Improving services for all victims</b>	To map the current provision of court welfare services to ensure standardisation and roll-out of guidelines to ensure consistency of approach in domestic violence cases.	<b>Domestic Violence and the Law Sub-Group (lead) HSS Trusts</b>	<b>NIO</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
	To evaluate the Probation Board for Northern Ireland Victim Information Scheme.	<b>PBNI</b>	<b>NIO</b>	<b>2008/09</b>

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**Strand Two: PROTECTION AND JUSTICE cont'd**

Key Action	Action Summary	Responsibility	Lead Department	Target date
<b>Improving services for all victims (cont'd)</b>	To provide the choice of supportive information to victims when their case results in any probation supervised sentence, through the PBNI Victim Information Scheme (Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2005) and to signpost victims to other relevant support organisations.	<b>PBNI</b>	<b>NIO</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
	To continue roll out of dedicated Community Liaison sections in the Public Prosecution Service to provide information to victims and witnesses at key milestones in the prosecution process.	<b>Public Prosecution Service</b>	<b>NIO</b>	<b>Roll-out to continue during 2008/09</b>
	To implement the Public Prosecution Service Victims and Witnesses policy by providing training to all relevant staff.	<b>Public Prosecution Service</b>	<b>NIO</b>	<b>2008/09</b>

**Strand Two: PROTECTION AND JUSTICE cont'd**

<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Action Summary</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Lead Department</b>	<b>Target date</b>
<b>Improving services for all victims (cont'd)</b>	To consider the recommendations of the Women's Aid Courtwatch research report on women's experiences of the family court in Northern Ireland.	<b>Domestic Violence and the Law Sub-Group NI Court Service Women's Aid Federation NI</b>	NIO	2008/09
<b>Improve evidence gathering</b>	To improve investigation and case management by Police and Prosecution Service by the delivery of joint PSNI/PPS training on Domestic Violence cases.	<b>PSNI (joint lead) Public Prosecution Service (joint lead) Domestic Violence and the Law Sub-Group</b>	NIO	2008/09
<b>Anonymous registration for vulnerable voters</b>	Legislation allowing persons to register to vote anonymously if their safety would be at risk (e.g. from abusive ex-partners) should their name and address be accessible on the full electoral register.	<b>Northern Ireland Office, Electoral Unit</b>	NIO	<b>Legislation passed by December 2008 Implementation by summer 2009</b>

## **Strand Three: SUPPORT**

The themes listed below under Support are taken from the Tackling Violence at Home Strategy, and are about :

- increasing the range of accommodation options, with better help to support victims to stay in their own homes if appropriate, outreach and resettlement services, plus better advice and information
- helping victims who have ended or left a violent relationship to rebuild their lives
- providing support to children and young people affected by domestic violence
- providing information to anyone affected by domestic violence, through the Domestic Violence Helpline service and also via specific agencies, about the range of support services available
- making sure that child contact arrangements in domestic violence cases ensure, as far as is possible, the safety of children and their adult carers.

**Strand Three: SUPPORT cont'd**

<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Action Summary</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Lead Department</b>	<b>Target date</b>
<b>Domestic Violence Helpline</b>	To implement the recommendations from the helpline evaluation.	<b>DHSSPS NIO NI Housing Executive (funders and joint leads) Women's Aid Federation NI (Helpline provider)</b>	<b>DHSSPS/NIO/DSD</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
	Develop a series of snapshot surveys on uptake of services from different client groups e.g. older people, same sex, male, Black Minority Ethnic.	<b>As above</b>	<b>DHSSPS</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
	Promote the helpline with different client groups (as above) through the outreach programme.	<b>As above</b>	<b>DHSSPS</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>

**ACTION PLAN: APRIL 2008 TO MARCH 2009**

**Strand Three: SUPPORT cont'd**

<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Action Summary</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Lead Department</b>	<b>Target date</b>
<b>Housing</b>	To develop a process to ensure that the most appropriate type of accommodation is available to the service user and identify pathways, i.e.: homeless (NIHE), refuge (Women's Aid), MARAC.	<b>Northern Ireland Housing Executive Women's Aid Federation NI</b>	<b>DSD</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
	To evaluate the "Sanctuary Scheme" to provide security measures for women who wish to remain in their current home.	<b>Northern Ireland Housing Executive</b>	<b>DSD</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
<b>Support for children and young people affected by domestic violence</b>	Review the range of guidelines used at present by different agencies working with children affected by domestic violence and consider whether any additional Northern Ireland specific guidance should be developed.	<b>Children and Young People Sub-Group</b>	<b>DHSSPS</b>	<b>September 2008</b>

**Strand Three: SUPPORT cont'd**

<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Action Summary</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Lead Department</b>	<b>Target date</b>
<b>Support for children and young people affected by domestic violence (cont'd)</b>	To scope services available to children across Northern Ireland (via Local Domestic Violence Partnerships).	<b>Children and Young People Sub-Group LDVPs</b>	<b>DHSSPS</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
	To establish the effectiveness of current models of service delivery (NSPCC, Barnardo's, Women's Aid etc).	<b>Children and Young People Sub-Group Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts</b>	<b>DHSSPS</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
	To link any guidelines to other Children's Services Plans.	<b>Children and Young People Sub-Group Health and Social Services (HSS) Boards and relevant Trusts (lead)</b>	<b>DHSSPS</b>	<b>September 2008</b>

**Strand Three: SUPPORT cont'd**

<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Action Summary</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Lead Department</b>	<b>Target date</b>
<b>Support for children and young people affected by domestic violence (cont'd)</b>	To evaluate the effectiveness of the NSPCC pilot services, consider roll-out (and associated funding) of NSPCC pilots to address the needs of children and families impacted upon by domestic violence.	<b>Domestic Violence Unit NSPCC Women's Aid HSC Trusts</b>	<b>DHSSPS</b>	<b>June 2008</b>
	Continue roll-out of Barnardo's Risk Assessment Model.	<b>Barnardo's Domestic Violence Unit</b>	<b>DHSSPS</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
	To gather information on developments in relation to child contact services.	<b>Children and Young People Sub Group</b>	<b>DHSSPS</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
	Continued development and roll-out (and associated funding) of "You and Me, Mum" programme for mothers supporting children and young people who have lived with domestic violence.	<b>Women's Aid Federation NI Domestic Violence Unit HSC Trusts</b>	<b>DHSSPS</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>

**Strand Three: SUPPORT cont'd**

<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Action Summary</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Lead Department</b>	<b>Target date</b>
<b>Support for Adults</b>	To develop comprehensive guidance for practitioners working with vulnerable adults and link with any vulnerable adults strategy.	<b>Information Sub-Group</b>	<b>DHSSPS</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
<b>Ethnic and other minority groups</b>	To take account of the needs of minority ethnic groups in relation to access to information, services and public funding in light of research (particularly with regard to those victims of domestic violence who have limited or no recourse to public funds).	<b>Regional Steering Group and its Sub-Groups Local Domestic Violence Partnerships</b>	<b>DHSSPS/NIO</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
	To ensure that services provided satisfy the unique needs of ethnic minorities and other minority groups including section 75 groups.	<b>Regional Steering Group and its Sub-Groups Local Domestic Violence Partnerships</b>	<b>DHSSPS/NIO</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>

**ACTION PLAN: APRIL 2008 TO MARCH 2009**

**Strand Four: OTHER PRIORITIES**

<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Action Summary</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Lead Department</b>	<b>Target date</b>
<b>Inter-Ministerial Group on Domestic and Sexual Violence</b>	Provide support to Inter-Ministerial Group.	<b>Domestic Violence Unit Community Safety Unit (joint leads)</b>	<b>DHSSPS/NIO</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
	Provide information/recommendations to Inter-Ministerial Group.	<b>Regional Steering Group</b>	<b>DHSSPS/NIO</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>Training Strategy</b>	To co-ordinate the implementation of the Training Strategy, in conjunction with the Training Sub-Group, the Local Domestic Violence Partnerships and all relevant agencies/organisations.	<b>Training Coordinator Training Sub-Group LDVPs</b>	<b>DHSSPS</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>

## Strand Four: OTHER PRIORITIES cont'd

Key Action	Action Summary	Responsibility	Lead Department	Target date
<b>Data Collection</b>	To consider recommendations of the data research project and plan arrangements for implementation and information-sharing in consultation with the Regional Steering Group, its Sub-Groups, Local Domestic Violence Partnerships and all other relevant departments and agencies.	<b>Information Sub-Group NISRA</b>	<b>DHSSPS/NIO</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
	Gather information on the service needs of and services currently available to, male victims of domestic violence.	<b>Domestic Violence Unit Men's Advisory Project</b>	<b>DHSSPS</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>Good Practice Guidelines for Local Domestic Violence Partnerships</b>	To ensure compliance with guidance.	<b>Domestic Violence Unit Information Sub-Group LDVPs</b>	<b>DHSSPS</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
<b>Structures</b>	Hold annual away-day in June for RSG, Sub-Groups, LDVPs to consider & review membership etc.	<b>Domestic Violence Unit</b>	<b>DHSSPS</b>	<b>June 2008</b>

**Strand Four: OTHER PRIORITIES cont'd**

<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Action Summary</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Lead Department</b>	<b>Target date</b>
<b>Performance Indicators</b>	To develop the indicators outlined in Annex 5 of the Strategy to measure the success of the Strategy.	<b>Domestic Violence Unit</b>	<b>DHSSPS</b>	<b>September 2008</b>
	To consider a survey to access victims/service users' views on the services provided by a range of protection and support agencies.	<b>Information Sub-Group</b>	<b>DHSSPS</b>	<b>Dec 2008</b>
<b>Information Sharing</b>	To seek legislative change to allow for the sharing of personal information in the context of domestic violence for practitioners who work directly with victims or are involved in the assessment of risk.	<b>Northern Ireland Office Criminal Justice Law Branch</b>	<b>NIO</b>	<b>2008/09</b>

**Strand Four: OTHER PRIORITIES cont'd**

<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Action Summary</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Lead Department</b>	<b>Target date</b>
<b>Information Sharing (cont'd)</b>	To produce guidance for all relevant agencies on the sharing of personal information in the context of domestic violence.	<b>Domestic Violence and Law Sub-Group (lead) Regional Steering Group Other Sub Groups Local Domestic Violence Partnerships</b>	<b>NIO</b>	<b>2008/09 (To coincide with the introduction of the new legislation mentioned above)</b>
<b>Sharing Good Practice with other Countries</b>	To continue Inter-Governmental Co-operation through the "Raising the Standards" Group.	<b>Domestic Violence Unit Community Safety Unit (joint leads)</b>	<b>DHSSPS/NIO</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>

**ACTION PLAN: APRIL 2008 TO MARCH 2009**

**Strand Four: OTHER PRIORITIES cont'd**

<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Action Summary</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Lead Department</b>	<b>Target date</b>
<b>Annual Action Plans and Review of previous year's Action Plan</b>	To produce a regional Annual Action Plan to highlight specific action points and priorities.	<b>Domestic Violence Unit Community Safety Unit (joint leads)</b>	<b>DHSSPS/NIO</b>	<b>March 2008</b>
	To produce local Annual Action Plan to highlight specific action points and priorities.	<b>Each Local Domestic Violence Partnership</b>	<b>DHSSPS/NIO</b>	<b>June 2008</b>
	Hold 6 monthly meetings with Chairs of Local Domestic Violence Partnerships to review progress on action and development of local action plans.	<b>Domestic Violence Unit Community Safety Unit</b>	<b>DHSSPS/NIO</b>	<b>June/ December 2008</b>

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**[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)**

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