

# Probation Service response to Domestic Violence

Context, influences & developments.

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# The National Context ?



# Some Irish Data..

- ▶ In 2017 there were 15,833 disclosures of domestic violence against women noted during direct contacts with Irish Women's Aid services
- ▶ Since 1996, 218 have died violently in the Republic of Ireland . 63% were killed in their own homes
- ▶ 1in 5 women in Ireland who have been in a relationship have been abused by their current or former partner
- ▶ Ireland has the second highest number of women avoiding places or situations for fear of being assaulted out of all EU countries

*“The Probation Service is committed to working towards safer communities through offender rehabilitation”*

*“Our focus with Domestic violence perpetrators is on risk management and the safety of victims, present and future.”*

# Referrals for Domestic Violence offences (Breach of barring order / interim barring order / protection order / safety order.)

## Referrals for Domestic Violence Offence

Gender	Year		
	2013	2014	2015
Female	7	10	6
Male	76	118	103
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>109</b>

## Age and Gender of Referrals for Domestic Violence Offence during 2013 - 2015

Age_Cat	Gender		Total
	Female	Male	
18-19	2	24	26
20-24	.	54	54
25-29	5	44	49
30-39	7	98	105
40-49	4	49	53
50-59	5	19	24
60 pl	.	9	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>320</b>

# Probation Service DV strategy guided by...

- COSC /Second National strategy on Domestic Violence - 2016 -2021( Holding perpetrators to account, Raising awareness of Domestic Violence, victim safety)
- Legislation- Domestic Violence Act 1996, 2002, 2018 and the Istanbul Convention, (Council of Europe combating violence against women)
- Probation Service/Irish Prison Service/An Garda Siochana Joint strategy 2016/2018 - track record of interagency work across Justice sector and beyond.
- Probation Service Women's strategy 2014-2016, Restorative Justice strategy 2015-2017
- Children's First Guidelines - Child Protection



## About COSC :

National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual & Gender based Violence)

- Est. 2007 - ensure the delivery of “whole of government” response to domestic, sexual & gender based violence
- Situated within the Department of Justice
- A broad role - drives co-ordination across the justice, health, housing, education, family support and community sectors.
- Close interaction with Non Governmental Organisations - Womens Services.
- Probation on Implementation committee, perpetrator programme group, Gold Standard data collection group.
- Research, policy, funding, information



## 2<sup>nd</sup> National strategy on Domestic, Sexual & gender based violence (2016-2021)

### ***Aims:***

- ❖ Change societal attitudes to support a reduction in domestic & sexual violence
- ❖ Improve supports available to victims & survivors
- ❖ Hold perpetrators to account...

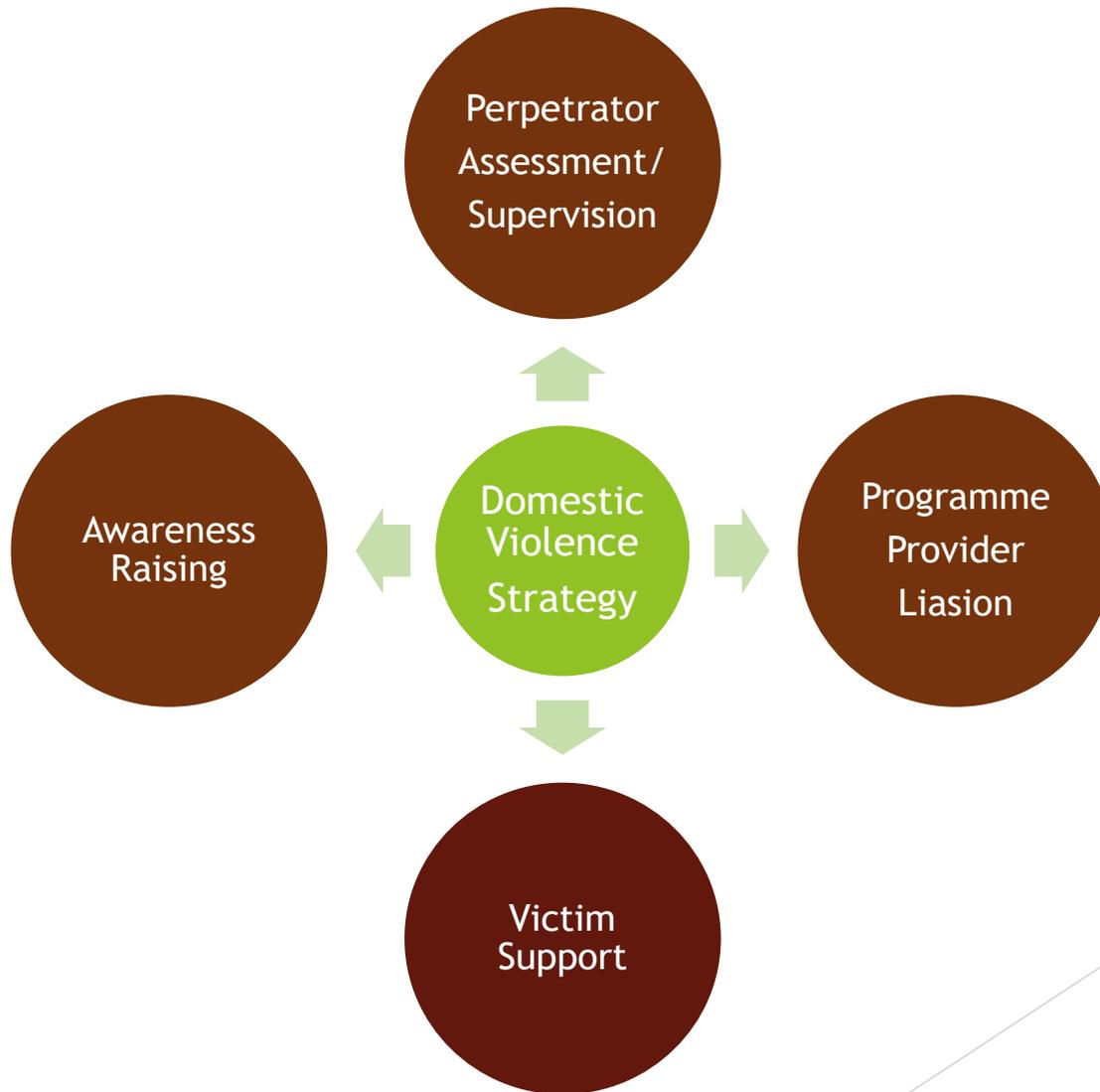
***“to create a safer Ireland”***

### ***Probation Service role :***

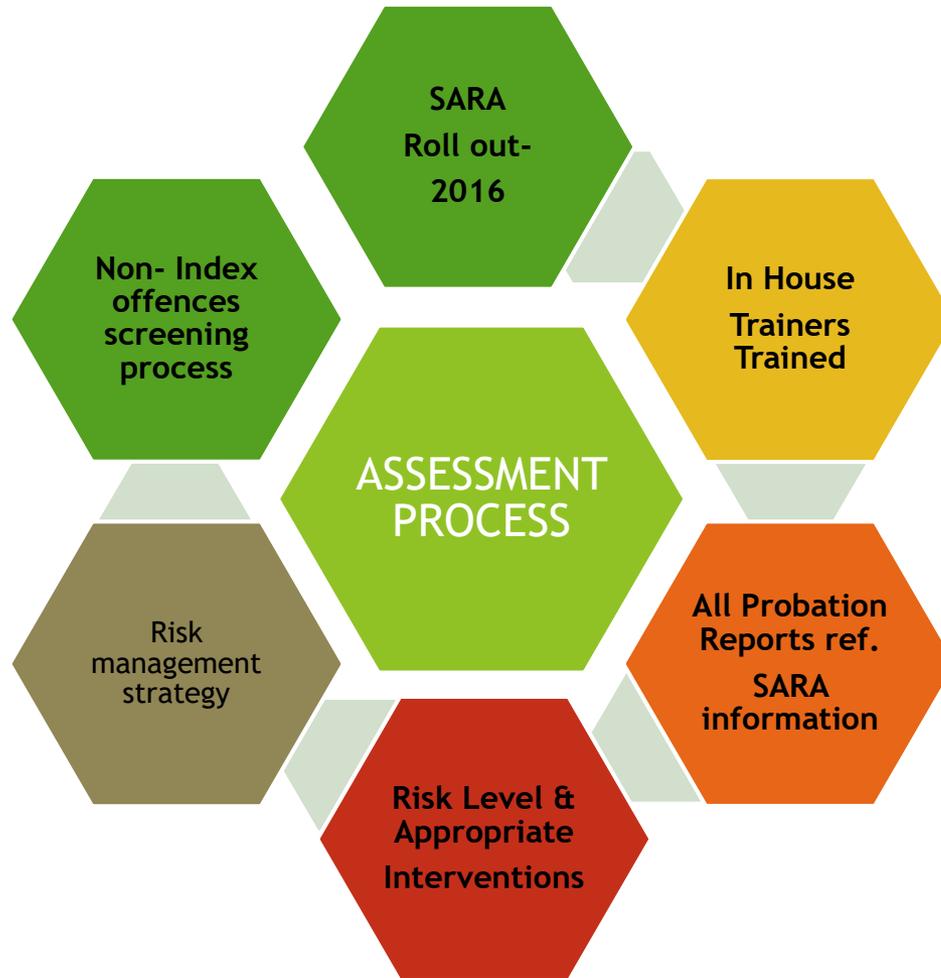
- ❖ Representation on Cosc committees
- ❖ Implementation of actions as identified in National action plan. ( i.e sex offender programmes, victim offender mediation, DV perpetrator programme development, some joint actions with IPS, Gardaí, Courts Service)
- ❖ Reporting / accountability;



# Probation Service Domestic Violence Strategy :



# 1. Assessment



# 1. Supervision



## 2: Liaison & Collaboration in the delivery of perpetrator programmes

Under Cosc umbrella- 18 programmes nationally

- ❖ **MOVE** Ireland Men Overcoming Violence
- ❖ **SEVIP** South East DV Intervention programme
- ❖ **NEDVIP** North East Intervention programme (Probation co-delivered, Court Mandated)



A common programme across all 3 providers- 'CHOICES'

rolling programme/reduced waiting lists, 5 modules with some 1:1 work pre-programme.

Common Risk Assessment Tool (SARA) = consistency re. assessment of referrals, a common language / understanding)

# 3: Supporting Victims of DV

- ❖ Awareness raising/training for Probation staff and Probation funded projects
- ❖ Increase collaboration with NGOs who specialise in working with victims of Domestic Violence
- ❖ Promote interagency approach ( statutory, CJS, )
- ❖ Develop information / support service for victims (Restorative Justice and Victim Services Unit)



# 4: Raise awareness of DV issues

- ▶ **Cosc Committee participation**
- ▶ **Staff training**
- ▶ **Probation DV working group**
- ▶ **Management of information / data gathering on SARAs, outcomes, completion of orders, geographical trends etc**
- ▶ **Practical steps.. Posters in office waiting areas, brochures, NGO input in training**
- ▶ **Restorative Justice and Victim Services Unit .**



# Any Questions ??



Thank you!  
Carmel Donnelly