

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
Total	83	128	109

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
Total	23	297	320

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



2nd 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...

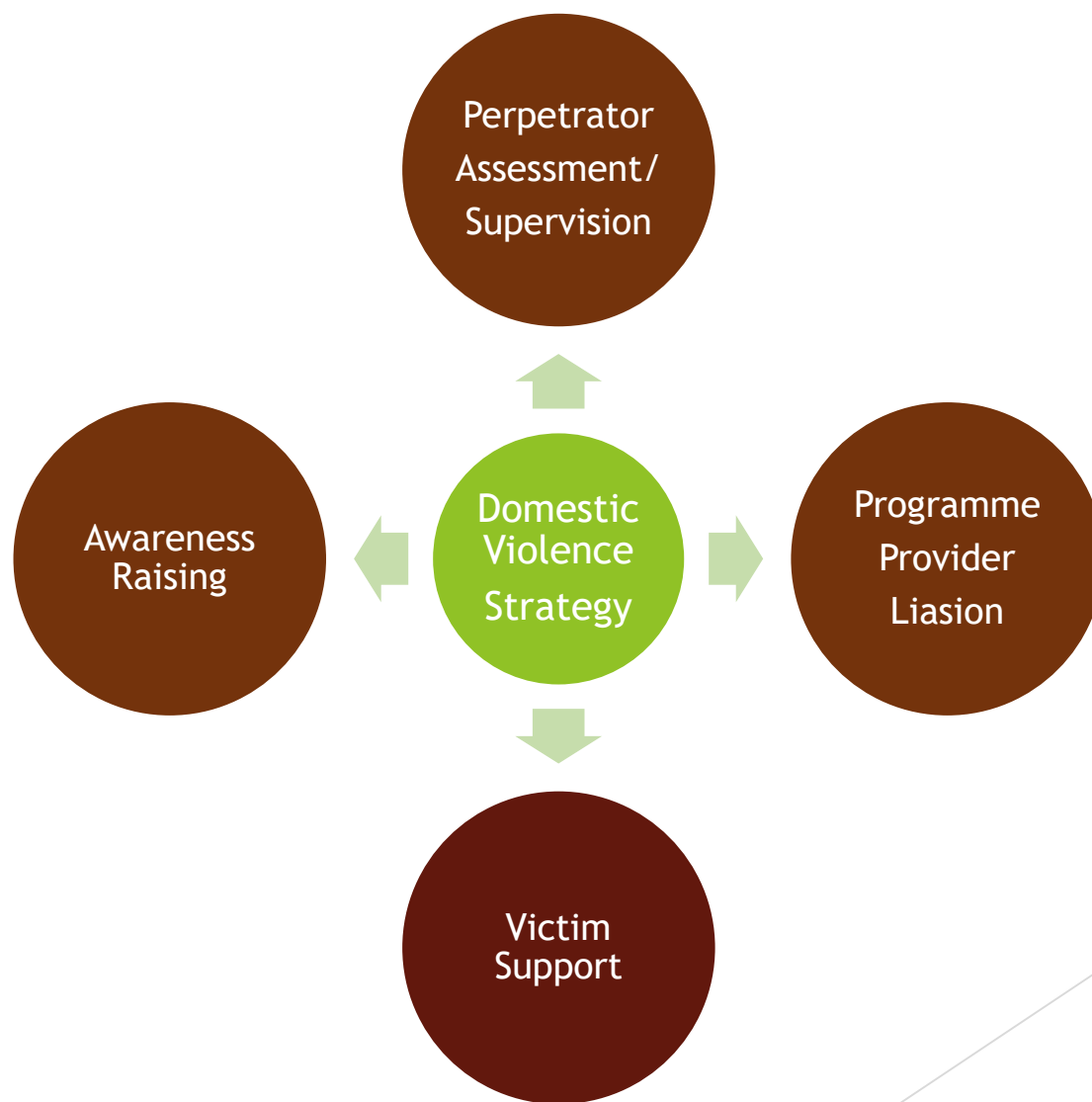
“to create a safer Ireland”

Probation Service role :

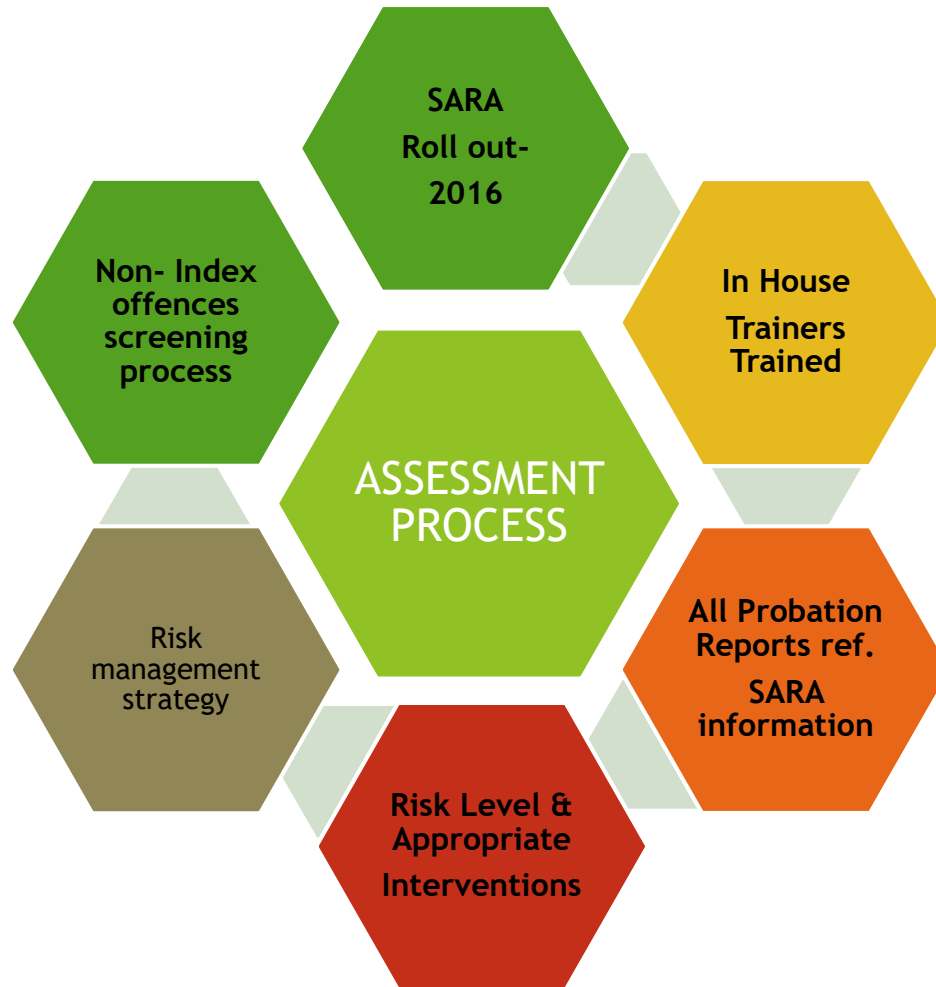
- ❖ Representation on Cosc committees
- ❖ Implementation of actions as identified in National action plan. (i.e sex offender programmes, victim offender mediation, DV perpetrator programme development, some joint actions with IPS, Gardaí, Courts Service)
- ❖ Reporting / accountability;



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