

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DELIVERY PLAN

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT
2008-09

CONTENTS

Ministerial Foreword	3
Executive Summary	4
Outcomes	7
Objective 1 – To increase the early identification of, and intervention with, victims of domestic violence by utilising all points of contact with front-line professionals	8
Objective 2 – To build capacity within the domestic violence sector to provide effective advice and support to victims of domestic violence	11
Objective 3 – To improve the criminal justice response to domestic violence	24
Objective 4 – To support victims through the criminal justice system and to manage perpetrators to reduce risk	32
National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan 2009-10	35

MINISTERIAL FOREWORD



Domestic violence is unacceptable in our society. Tackling domestic violence has been a key priority for this Government and we remain committed to improving our response. We published our first National Delivery Plan in 2005 and I am pleased to introduce this annual report which sets out the progress that has been made against our National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan for 2008-09.

There has been considerable activity across Government. The increase in the number of Specialist Domestic Violence Courts, Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences and Independent Domestic Violence Advisers shows that we are providing more services to reach more victims of domestic violence and their families.

There has also been a significant amount of work responding to the challenge of forced marriage. In particular there has been a steady increase in the number of cases that the Forced Marriage Unit dealt with compared to 2007-08 and in November 2008 the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 came into force.

A key event during the year was the publication in June 2008 of the Home Affairs Select Committee report on Domestic Violence, Forced Marriage and "Honour"-based violence. We published a Government response in July and an update in September. One criticism was the Government's focus on criminal justice and although this work continues we have revisited our objectives for 2009-10 to ensure we include both prevention activity and ongoing work in the family courts. For the first time we have also included the Delivery Plan as an annex in this report and you will find the Delivery Plan for 2009-10 at the end of this document.

Our commitment to tackling domestic violence and other forms of violence against women was reinforced by the launch in March 2009 of the widest ever Government consultation on tackling violence against women and girls. The consultation ended at the end of May and responses are being analysed and developed into a strategy to be published later this year. There will obviously be outcomes that will inform our future delivery plans.

Finally, thank you to all of you who work in this sector and ensure that victims of domestic violence and their families have access to advice, support and safety.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Alan Campbell Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Crime Reduction
Chair of the Inter-Ministerial Group on Domestic and Sexual Violence**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Domestic Violence accounts for 14% of all violent incidents. It has more repeat victims than any other crime: repeat victimisation accounts for 66% of all incidents of domestic violence and 21% of victims have been victimised three or more times.¹

Early identification and intervention

Raising awareness of domestic violence with a wide range of practitioners and providing appropriate training and tools is key to early identification and intervention. During this year routine enquiry about domestic violence when taking a social history in antenatal clinics, mental health services and 22 accident and emergency departments was rolled-out. A 'NHS Choices' video for health professionals on domestic violence was produced and a toolkit for children, young people and domestic violence finalised.

New materials were launched for schools and for young people to raise awareness of forced marriage. Research was commissioned to look at the prevalence of, and responses to, forced marriage affecting children and young people.

Work also began on developing guidance on sex and relationships education as part of the Personal, Social, Health Education and the Government invested in the expansion of parent support advisors to support families across a range of issues including domestic violence.

Work continued across Government to review, update and promote employee domestic violence policies.

Building capacity within the domestic violence sector

Supporting local areas to develop their response to violent crime, including domestic violence, continued with the publication of the Government's implementation guidance for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs). Local areas continued to promote the coordinated community response model to domestic violence and work began on a toolkit to support partnerships in its delivery.

Further progress was made in the development of service standards for the domestic and sexual violence sector. The draft national service standards were tested at regional roadshows – which provided further opportunity for consultation – while the Occupational Standards were approved. We continued to fund a matrix of national helplines which remain vital in providing a direct access to people experiencing domestic violence.

In 2007-08 the Supporting People Programme provided over £64.5m of housing related support services for women at risk of domestic violence. Three pieces of research have been commissioned to establish whether the accommodation options available are meeting the needs of victims and their families; they will report back in 2010.

The Forced Marriage Unit continued to provide advice and support with a 27% increase in the number of cases and an over 100% increase in the number of reluctant sponsor cases in 2008 compared to the same period for 2007. There continued to be a significant level of cross-Government activity including a series of honour-based violence roadshows in Summer 2008 and Spring 2009.

¹ Walker A., Flatley, J., Kershaw, C., Moon, D. (2009) Crime in England and Wales 2008/09. Home Office Statistical Bulletin 11/09. London: Home Office. Based on the face-to-face interviews.

Multi-agency statutory guidance for dealing with forced marriage was issued on 25 November to coincide with the implementation for the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007. Guidelines for practitioners to support the guidance were issued in July 2009. In November, the Government raised the minimum age someone can sponsor or be sponsored as a spouse from 18 to 21. The intention is to provide young people with the opportunity to develop maturity and life skills which may allow them to resist pressure to marry.

The Family Criminal Interface Committee was established to take an ad hoc 'overview role' to coordinate work and improve the interface between family and criminal jurisdictions in England and Wales. The Committee considered the findings of the early evaluation of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 and undertook to review how non-molestation orders are initially served and the practicalities of how they are dealt with by family and criminal justice agencies.

Improving the criminal justice response to domestic violence

Improving the criminal justice response to domestic violence can have a significant impact on achieving protection for victims and on bringing perpetrators to justice. The Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) programme continued to expand and by the end of March there were 122 SDVCs. A consultation during the year sought the views of Local Criminal Justice Boards (LCJBs) on the reassignment of some or all responsibility for the operation of SDVCs. This resulted in LCJBs taking on responsibility for performance management and governance with 2009-10 as a transition year to hand over these responsibilities. Accreditation of new SDVCs will remain centrally.

The Crown Prosecution Service met its target of 72% for successful prosecutions and the number of unsuccessful outcomes in domestic violence cases fell significantly, alongside a reduction in cases that have been discontinued.

A new training programme was developed and the domestic violence Policy and Guidance on Prosecuting Cases of Domestic Violence refreshed, accompanied by a new victim and witness leaflet. In December a report outlining performance across all violence against women strands, where data was available, was published.

A significant achievement for the Police was the development and adoption by ACPO of the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and Honour-Based Violence (DASH) risk assessment model. A Domestic Violence Enforcement Campaign was launched on 16 December in 10 force areas and a national TV campaign ran at the same time. The advert attracted 4.42 million viewers and the National Domestic Violence Helpline received an increase in calls of 31%.

Supporting victims through the criminal justice system and managing perpetrators

Providing specialist support to victims and enabling them access to a range of services can have a profound effect on their feelings of safety and engagement with the criminal justice system. Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) are trained specialists whose goal is the safety of victims. Their focus is to provide a service to victims who are at high risk of harm; addressing their safety needs and helping them to manage the risks that they face. Delivery of accredited training for IDVAs continues to be delivered by the

Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA).

A Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is a multi-agency meeting which has the safety of high risk victims of domestic violence as its focus. The number of MARACs increased during to over 200 by the end of March 2009.

Training for MARACs is provided by CAADA, which also collects data on their performance. During 2008-09, data was submitted to CAADA from 181 MARACs and from 1 April 2008 - 31 March 2009 over 24,000 cases had been brought to MARAC with over 34,000 children affected.

In relation to perpetrators of domestic abuse the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) piloted three projects of non-accredited interventions across eight Probation Areas. As part of a wider review of violence interventions, the Correctional Services Accreditation Panel (CSAP) were consulted on how best to identify suitable risk assessment instruments for domestic violence offenders. During the year work has continued on the development of a NOMS Domestic Abuse Strategy. The Strategy will provide a framework for prison and probation staff to work with domestic abuse perpetrators and victims.

OUTCOMES

The outcomes of the National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan are:

1. To reduce the number of domestic violence-related homicides.
2. To reduce the prevalence of domestic violence, particularly in high-incidence areas and/or communities.
3. To increase the rate of reporting for domestic violence, particularly in high incidence areas and/or communities.
4. To increase the rate of reported domestic violence offences that are brought to justice, particularly in high-incidence areas and/or communities, as well as in areas with high attrition rates.
5. To ensure that victims of domestic violence are adequately protected and supported nationwide.

Objective 1 – To increase the early identification of, and intervention with, victims of domestic violence by utilising all points of contact with front-line professionals

Rationale

- Victims are often likely to be in contact with statutory health and social welfare services – such as social services, general practitioners, accident and emergency departments, midwifery services, health visitors, etc – before they decide to go to the Police.
- Training practitioners in screening for domestic violence and in accessing referral routes and care pathways is essential for early identification and intervention.

Health and social care achievements

Routine enquiry about domestic violence when taking a social history is being rolled out to antenatal clinics, mental health services and is being piloted in 22 accident and emergency departments. This provides women with an opportunity to talk about domestic violence in a safe and confidential environment. Information about domestic violence is given, irrespective of the response, with the intent of raising awareness around support services.

Family Intervention Projects (FIPs) are being established nationally to work with high need families experiencing a range of problems including domestic violence. A National Seminar for the FIP teams took place in May 2008, where a health resource manual, including guidance on dealing with domestic violence, was launched for consultation. Training on domestic violence for all FIP teams started in spring 2009.

NHS Choices produced a video for health professionals on domestic violence, which is available on the NHS choices website (<http://www.nhs.uk/video/pages/medialibrary.aspx?Id=6261526b-fb9e-42fa-b918-aaef9c7db27e>)

Findings from the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) Parental Mental Health & Child Welfare Guidelines 3 year systematic review were launched at a national 'Keeping the Family in Mind' conference in June 2008. Five implementation sites were funded to implement recommendations on working with parents who have mental health problems in a whole family approach by September 2008. SCIE guidance on Parental Mental Health & Child Welfare was published in July 2009.

Health continues to contribute and participate in information sharing on domestic violence in health settings and MARACs.

'Improving Safety, Reducing Harm. Children, Young People and Domestic Violence: A Practical Toolkit for frontline practitioners' is due to be published in September 2009. The toolkit contains information about children and adolescents affected by interpersonal violence; an overview of Every Child Matters and the tiers of intervention; principles of commissioning services; practical examples for key standards and policies, demonstrating good practice in local areas; risk assessment and safety planning. There are also sections on schools and bullying, sexual violence and honour-based violence; plus sample forms and key fact sheets. A workshop for frontline practitioners will take

place on Tuesday 15 September.

Education, Children and Young People

In June 2008, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) launched new materials for schools and for young people to raise awareness of forced marriage. These were sent to all secondary schools, pupil referral units, local authorities and Local Safeguarding Children Boards, and are available to download from the Every Child Matters website. The former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills also sent them to colleges.

In November 2008, DCSF commissioned research to determine the prevalence of and responses to forced marriage affecting children and young people. This was published on 2 July, and informed the revision of the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) practice guidelines on handling cases of forced marriage.

In October 2008, the Schools Minister announced that Personal Social, Health Education (PSHE) would be a compulsory part of the curriculum from Key Stage 1 to 4 (ages 5 to 16). DCSF is working on a statutory PSHE curriculum and producing new guidance on Sex and Relationships education and preventing and responding to sexist, sexual and transphobic bullying.

Following the publication of the Macdonald review, there is now a full public consultation to invite views on the principle of whether PSHE education should be statutory, as well as on the changes to the legislation required to achieve that, and the programmes of study. The consultation was completed on 24 July 2009.

The Government is investing £102.5m over 2008-2011 to expand parent support advisors (PSAs) nationally. There are over 2,400 PSAs and similar professionals in and around schools supporting families across a range of issues, which can include domestic abuse.

Lord Laming's report *The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report* recognised the importance of effective multi-agency working and the framework for professionals set out in *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (2006). However, Lord Laming said that "there now needs to be a step change in the arrangements to protect children from harm. It is essential that action is now taken so that as far as humanly possible children at risk of harm are properly protected". Lord Laming made 58 recommendations, all of which were accepted by the Government.

The National Safeguarding Delivery Unit will develop guidance on referral and assessment systems for children affected by domestic violence, adult mental health problems, and drugs and alcohol misuse using current best practice. This will be shared with local authorities, health and police with an expectation that the assessment of risk and level of support given to such children will improve quickly and significantly in every Children's Trust.

Government as an employer

In September 2005, the Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) for Domestic Violence asked all member Departments to adopt and implement robust domestic violence policies based on Cabinet Office guidance, which would identify and protect staff and, if necessary, intervene with perpetrators. These policies are monitored by the IMG.

Many departments raised awareness of domestic violence by running specific campaigns.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Employee Domestic Violence Policy is recognised by the IMG as best practice across Government.

Throughout 2008-09 the CPS monitored the uptake of counselling services related to domestic violence, on a quarterly basis. They also raised awareness of the assistance that was available, by including the contact details for the counselling service on staff payslips.

In December 2008 the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) expanded its Staff Policy to cover former Home Office employees as well as former Department for Constitutional Affairs and Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS) employees. The Ministry is now working on a similar staff support package for victims of sexual assault.

Corporate Alliance Against Domestic Violence

The Corporate Alliance Against Domestic Violence was launched in 2005 with the aim of getting companies and organisations together to address the impact of domestic violence in the workplace. A business plan has been agreed and a funded project manager selected. Improving communication with members and business planning are key aims of the project manager's post. There is also an event planned in November 2009 for members.

Objective 2 – To build capacity within the domestic violence sector to provide effective advice and support to victims of domestic violence

Rationale

- Evidence indicates that support services can vary in effectiveness across the country.
- The development of accredited training for Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) has enabled the introduction of a consistent, independent, professional service for victims at the point of crisis. The service can also perform institutional advocacy to ensure agencies provide to victims the most effective service possible. But IDVAs are only one element of the domestic violence sector.
- An agreed set of standards across the spectrum of occupations and services within the domestic violence sector can create consistency in the service that is provided to victims of domestic violence.

Ensure that all local partnerships include Domestic Violence in their local crime and disorder strategy in order to reduce violent crime and address the needs of local communities

In December 2008 we published the Tackling Violence Action Plan Implementation Guidance. It sets out the Government's response to violence and recognises the key role local partnerships play in achieving our aim to reduce violence. We produced this guidance to support local partnerships in developing targeted responses to the violent crime challenges they face within their area, including those on domestic violence. It provides information on tools, processes and structures to help frontline practitioners deliver change. The guidance includes operational structures and plans local partnerships should consider putting in place to deliver reductions in serious violence in their local areas.

In 2008, we undertook to report on the progress made in delivering the 51 commitments in the Tackling Violence Action Plan (TVAP). We published the TVAP review and refresh document on 5 August 2009. We have made significant strides: the majority of the actions are on track, delivering ahead of schedule, or complete. In addition to the 51 actions in TVAP, there are 45 new actions in the review and refresh document, which retains a strong focus on domestic violence.

We have set up the Government Office (GO) violence network meetings. The quarterly meetings are attended by all GO leads for serious violence. The network drives delivery of the Public Service Agreements (PSA) at a local level by sharing best practice, strategic planning, assisting central policy development and identify solutions to problems and barriers. We will work with Crime Disorder and Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) to ensure that the commitments made in the TVAP are appropriately and effectively translated into action on the ground.

This activity is underpinned by the new PSA targets for 2008-11, and in particular PSA 23, Priority Action 1. Under the original terms of PSA 23, this indicator was to include only the most serious violence offences, measured at national level using Police recorded crime. In June 2009 this indicator was widened to include **all** Police recorded violence with injury (most serious violence makes up only a small proportion of all violence with injury).

Widening the indicator for PSA 23 (1) to include all police recorded violence with injury will enable direct comparison of data from 2008/09 with the baseline year. It will also mean that the indicator is more statistically stable, as movement of offences between different categories will have less impact within the wider overall 'all recorded violence with injury' category.

There will be no change to Local Area Agreements (LAAs) and NI32 and NI34 will remain unaffected.

Co-ordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence

The Co-ordinated Community Response Model makes it clear that no one agency can deal effectively and safely with the effects of domestic violence; the issue requires intensely close working between agencies to have a positive effect on the lives and the safety of families.

The model demonstrates the relationship between agencies and the levels of response needed to tackle domestic violence effectively at a local level. It helps local partnerships to identify the dynamics of domestic violence and how it plays out in a community and social context. It identifies the landscape that partnerships will need to construct in order to successfully intervene and prevent domestic violence cases from escalating to serious injury or homicide.

During 2008-09 we have been working with the Greater London Domestic Violence Project (GLDVP) to develop a toolkit to support partnerships in the delivery of the model. The toolkit will be available on the GLDVP and Home Office crime reduction websites in Summer 2009.

Development of National Service Standards for the Domestic Violence Sector

The ongoing development of national service standards has made some progress throughout this year. A series of regional roadshows were held jointly by the Home Office, Women's Aid and the Audit Commission early in 2009. The roadshows promoted the draft standards and provided a further opportunity for comment and contribution across the domestic and sexual violence sectors. There was also a useful meeting with the Audit Commission which provided a steer on the format they required if the standards were to be incorporated into existing commissioning mechanisms.

Related work on standards has already begun. During this year the Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) has been developing national service standards for Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs). The standards cover service provision, human resources, multi-agency work and governance and finance. CAADA provides tailored professional support throughout including bespoke on-site support visits, two blocks of two-day training, an ongoing query helpdesk and a dossier designed to build evidence against key criteria throughout the year. The programme was piloted during this year and four of the five pilot services received accreditation.

National Occupational Standards

During this year there was significant activity in relation to the development of national occupational standards for the domestic and sexual violence sectors. This project was led by the Sector Skills Councils (SSC). National Occupational Standards describe competent

performance in terms of outcomes. They allow a clear assessment of competence against nationally agreed standards of performance, across a range of workplace circumstances for all roles.

A number of working groups were held across the four UK countries consisting of representatives from organisations tackling sexual and domestic abuse. Utilising the knowledge and expertise of these representatives, National Occupational Standards have been developed for the functions carried out by those working within the tackling domestic and sexual abuse sector. These standards have now been approved and are available through the Skills for Justice Website. Skills for Justice will work with the Home Office to implement these standards within the sector.

Developing national standards for perpetrator programmes outside the CJS

The development project funded by the Home Office finished in April 2008. Accreditation standards have already had an influence on the development of services. As of June 2009, five projects are going through the accreditation process, with more expected to follow in the next six months. Respect hopes to develop a network of accredited services to provide effective interventions with perpetrators of domestic violence across England and Wales.

Domestic Violence Helpline

The Government continues to provide funds to a matrix of national helplines which are vitally important in providing a direct access to the public who may be experiencing problems related to domestic violence.

National Domestic Violence Helpline

From April 2008 to March 2009 the National Domestic Violence Helpline (NDVHL) – run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge - received over 137,000 calls bringing the total since December 2003 to over 600,000 calls. Callers received valuable information on safety and accommodation from the voicemail information service messages that play while callers are waiting to be connected to a member of staff.

The NDVHL estimates that approximately 50,000 women have been referred or self referred into refuge and other emergency safe accommodation since the start of the operation of the service.

The NDVHL has improved call management systems in the last year and worked closely with their database service provider to improve data capture systems and reporting systems. Joint call handling procedures have been reviewed and improved and staff received training to ensure a consistent response to callers.

All operational policies have been reviewed and improved, and a new call performance monitoring tool has been implemented.

Visits to the NDVHL website increased over the last year. It was established to give callers, particularly professionals, access to an alternative source of information and thus reduce the level of call demand at peak times.

The NDVHL has undertaken caller feedback exercises to evaluate the service. In the last year, caller feedback from survivors and professionals has shown a high percentage of

satisfaction with the service.

Respect

The Respect phone line offers advice to perpetrators seeking help to stop their behaviour. In November 2008, Respect recruited two new helpline workers (one full-time and one part-time) to allow an increase to capacity.

From February 2009, the phone line was open from Monday to Friday at 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm.

The helpline workers spoke to 2308 callers. The overall demand was 3822 callers, therefore Respect spoke to 60% of those trying to access the helpline. This is comparable to the 2007-2008, when Respect spoke to 2523 callers.

Respect also launched a new website: www.respectphoneline.org.uk and responded to approximately 540 emails. Respect also published a booklet for abusive men in intimate relationships with men: <http://respectphoneline.org.uk/pages/gay-and-bi-men.html>.

Respect also developed a resource for healthcare professionals working with perpetrators of domestic violence in collaboration with Barking and Dagenham NHS Trust and GLDVP: <http://respectphoneline.org.uk/pages/health-professionals.html>

An evaluation of the service is available from the Respect website: <http://respectphoneline.org.uk/pages/our-service-standards.html>

Men's Advice Line

The Men's Advice Line was established to respond to calls from male victims of domestic violence.

Men's Advice Line was accredited by the Telephone Helplines Association with the Quality Standard (Respect Phoneline was accredited in 2007). The Advice Line spoke to 1278 callers, the overall demand was 3229, therefore 40% of those trying to access the helpline were spoken to.

In 2007-2008 the Advice Line spoke to 1068 callers out of the 2839 (37%) who tried to access the helpline, therefore both the overall demand and the actual number of callers spoken to increased by almost 20%. We expect this to increase further as we have now extended the opening hours from 18 to 30 per week and we have more staff taking calls.

Men's Advice Line responded to approximately 600 emails and re-launched its website: www.mensadviceline.org.uk with information for male victims (including gay/bi) and frontline workers. It also launched a 'male victims of domestic violence toolkit' for frontline workers: <http://www.mensadviceline.org.uk/pages/screening-tool.html>

Men's Advice Line conducted research to identify and analyse caller's needs as well as their status as victims or perpetrators and how to help them: <http://www.mensadviceline.org.uk/pages/research-around-male-victims-and-domestic-violence.html>

An evaluation of the Men's Advice Line is available from its website: <http://www.mensadviceline.org.uk/pages/service-standards.html>

Broken Rainbow

The Broken Rainbow LGBT Domestic Violence Helpline is the only national DV Helpline staffed and supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans survivors, perpetrators, family and

friends, and professionals around the experience of domestic violence.

The helpline has seen an increase in calls from the previous year, along with significant increase in awareness training and development of support services across the UK.

Broken Rainbow continues to work closely with the police - who refer a large percentage of callers to the Helpline. Building on their previous work they set up partnership projects to increase awareness and encourage reporting of domestic violence through work with Unison, and other LGBT organisations. This year Broken Rainbow recruited their first GBT IDVA post, along with a development post in East Sussex.

Childline and the NSPCC adult Helpline service

The Government is providing funds to the NSPCC to support the most vulnerable children, including those whose childhood is being ruined by abuse of any kind. DCSF is providing £30m (2008-2011) to support the expansion and integration of the NSPCC's listening services. This money will allow the NSPCC to expand their services significantly so that more children can be given the advice and help that can be so important. This includes the launching of a ChildLine online service on counselling children over the internet, so that the NSPCC can significantly expand the service and reach more children quickly.

The Men's Coalition

The Coalition on Men and Boys (formerly the Men's Coalition) brings together a number of organisations working with men and boys. It aims to put men and boys on the public policy agenda, to tackle the problems men cause and the problems men face. This includes encouraging support and responsibility amongst men and boys for measures to tackle discrimination and violence, in collaboration with women's groups. During 2008-9, the Coalition developed a report ('Man Made: Men, masculinities and public policy') which will be launched in Autumn 2009 with the support of the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

The report provides a unique, in-depth analysis of the circumstances and needs of men and boys in England and Wales, and the issues they currently face. Focusing on the key themes of work, fatherhood, health, education, and violence, it analyses how public policy can support and engage with men and boys effectively, and outlines practical proposals for reform. It argues that, alongside efforts to improve the position and status of women, public policy needs to address issues relating to men and masculinity. It concludes that men and boys have great potential to contribute positively to caring, health, education and anti-violence strategies. To engage them in larger numbers in these efforts it is essential to tackle any resistance, develop education and social marketing campaigns, shift the predominant culture (eg. in political life, media, workplaces, sports), and change laws and policies in the ways set out in the report.

The Coalition is currently developing a longer-term strategy for taking forward the agenda set out in the report.

Accommodation & Housing-Related Support

The dynamics of domestic violence mean that accommodation can play an important role in the resolution of interpersonal violence and conflict. It is the foundation to ensuring that adult and child victims are safe and secure.

Our early approach to homelessness prevention looked at its main causes; of which

domestic violence was one. We strengthened the homelessness legislation in England in 2002 by extending priority need for accommodation to people vulnerable because they fled their home because of violence. It now provides one of the strongest safety nets in the world for families with children and vulnerable people who become homeless through no fault of their own.

Our Supporting People programme provides vital housing related support. In 2007/08, local authorities spent over £64.5million of their funding allocated through the Supporting People programme on housing related support services for women at risk of domestic violence.

With Sanctuary Schemes we built on the good work already in place developed by innovators like Harrow and Barnet. Developed with the Local Government Association and consulted on widely, the Sanctuary Scheme guidance set out what an effective scheme should look like and sought to change the behaviour of those who thought a change of locks was sufficient. Homelessness prevention data collected regularly from local authorities have shown a growing number of schemes across the country.

Although the schemes report high levels of satisfaction amongst recipients we considered it was time for independent research to verify their effectiveness and we commissioned research in September 2008.

The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) has also commissioned two other pieces of research on domestic violence. These three research projects are underway and we expect results by spring 2010.

Research project 1 - assistance for adults without dependant children

- This research will establish the extent to which adults who are neither pregnant nor who have dependant children and who have to leave their homes due to domestic violence are getting the help they need from local authorities to ensure they do not have to return to accommodation where they would be at risk of violence.

Research project 2 - accommodation and support provision for households at risk of domestic violence.

- This study will identify the current housing options available to households at risk of domestic violence, and to assess whether this provision meets current need.

Research project 3 - the effectiveness of schemes to enable households at risk of domestic violence to remain in their own homes.

- This project will evaluate the effectiveness of schemes that enable households at risk of domestic violence to remain in their own homes.
- Commonly referred to as 'Sanctuary Schemes', they aim to ensure the safety and security of accommodation occupied by the household at risk of domestic violence, and are often implemented alongside legal measures such as injunctions and restraining orders.
- In 2007/08, 2140 households were accepted, by local housing authorities in England as being owed a main homelessness duty where the reason for homelessness was fleeing domestic violence (3% of total acceptances).

No recourse to public funds

In March 2008 we announced a new scheme to provide support to victims of domestic violence who are successful in applying for indefinite leave to remain. The scheme will provide a contribution towards the housing and living costs of those victims of domestic violence who were previously admitted to, or granted an extension in the UK as a spouse, civil partner, unmarried or same sex partner, and are able to qualify for Indefinite Leave to Remain under the domestic violence rule.

During 2008, agreement was reached with domestic violence casework colleagues in the UK Border Agency (UKBA) to aim to make a decision on applications under the scheme within 20 working days, provided that the required supporting information is submitted with the application.

We have also been working with stakeholders and the Immigration Legal Practitioner's Association to simplify and strengthen the application process and content of the applications received by UKBA.

We are finalising the detail and hope to make an announcement on implementation by the Autumn.

Forced Marriage

Casework

In 2008 the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) introduced a new recording system in order to capture better data on forced marriage cases. The new system enabled the Unit to gain further information about calls to the Unit, for example who referrals came from, the region in the UK and the focus country, where this was outside of the UK. Data from the recording system has also highlighted that more victims from other communities (African, Middle Eastern and European) are coming forward to seek help.

This has helped the Unit identify further work priorities and activities for 2009-10 which focus on raising awareness of forced marriage in communities.²

Figures from last year show that there was a steady increase in the number of cases that the FMU dealt with against the figures for 2007. In 2008, over 1600 incidences of suspected forced marriage were reported to the FMU by individuals, voluntary sector organisations and other agencies, for example, the police, education professionals and social services. Of these, the FMU directly intervened to help victims in 421 cases, which included support in 213 overseas assistance cases – in 17 different countries and support to 208 reluctant sponsors in immigration cases.

The data shows that there was a 27% increase in the number of assistance cases and over a 100% increase in the number of reluctant sponsor cases in 2008 against the same period for 2007.

Cross government working

During 2008/09 the FMU worked with other government departments to raise awareness of forced marriage across communities in a range of activities. For instance:

- The FMU worked closely with the DCSF to develop material suitable for children and young people for use in schools.

² Forced Marriage Unit 2008 – Casework Data – January –December 2008

- From May 2008 to Jan 2009, the FMU supported the Ministry of Justice in the roll out of training on forced marriage to judges (through the Judicial Studies Board) in preparation for the implementation of the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007.
- The FMU worked with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to develop their first Honour Based Violence Strategy, which was launched at an event hosted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in October 2008. The FMU also part funded and featured in the forthcoming ACPO forced marriage training DVD for police officers.

Multi-agency statutory guidance

Section 63Q of the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 gives the Secretary of State the power to issue statutory guidance on forced marriage to public agencies.

In July 2008, the FMU ran a three month public consultation outlining the Government's draft proposals for statutory guidance on forced marriage. The majority of respondents felt that there was an appropriate level of information and detail in the draft guidance. They were also happy for it to stand alone and simply refer to other existing guidance relevant to safeguarding children and protecting adults and vulnerable adults. Many of the responses were incorporated into the final text of the guidance.

Following the consultation, the FMU in partnership with other government departments issued, on behalf of the Secretary of State, The Right to Choose: Multi Agency statutory guidance for dealing with forced marriage on 25 November to coincide with the implementation of the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007.

The guidance draws together existing requirements explicitly in the context of forced marriage cases and sets out the high level processes that chief executives, directors and senior managers of statutory bodies should take to improve their agency's responses to forced marriage. This provides practitioners with clear structures and guidance on how to handle the unique challenges of forced marriage and improve case handling.

Revised multi-agency practice guidelines

To complement the new statutory guidance, the FMU agreed in partnership with other government departments to update the existing non statutory practice guidelines that had previously been issued in single format for practitioners, such as the police, social services, education and health professionals. In February 2009, the FMU ran a six-week targeted stakeholder consultation on the proposed revised guidelines for practitioners. The revised guidelines were published in July 2009.

Domestic Programme Fund

In the summer of 2008, the FMU launched a pilot Domestic Programme Fund. The fund of £65,000 was used to support specialist organisations undertaking small projects on forced marriage to help deliver objectives under the FMU's action plan. As part of the bidding process, the FMU received 33 applications and 5 projects were successfully funded.

The projects funded in 2008/09 were:

- Developing a website for young people facing forced marriage- Ethnic Minority Foundation (National)

- Roll out of a campaign on forced marriage targeting Iranian, Kurdish/Arabic communities – Iranian and Kurdish Women’s Rights Organisation (London)
- Research into service provision for Women from North African and Middle Eastern communities – Refuge (National)
- Developing and rolling out training workshops to Education Welfare Officers in Schools in Birmingham – Doli Project (Birmingham)
- Identifying the scale of forced marriage in Scotland – Hemat Gryffe Women’s Aid (Glasgow).

These projects will be evaluated on completion.

New two-year action plan on forced marriage

Following discussion with other government departments and working group sessions with voluntary sector stakeholders, the FMU developed a new two year action plan for 2009/10. The Plan two key objectives are:

Strengthening safeguards in order to ensure that all victims of forced marriage receive sympathetic, effective and joined-up support from all relevant UK agencies.

To work towards eliminating forced marriage in the UK by challenging the practice before it takes place, through working with communities, victims and governments to overcome the culture of acceptance or of denial.

To achieve these objectives, the FMU will undertake three key campaigns:) Practitioner Response, Community Response, and International Response.

Community engagement

A further priority for the FMU last year was to increase its engagement with core communities in order to challenge attitudes and tackle the practice of forced marriage at the grass roots level. In March 2009, the FMU supported the roll out of a pilot where local community surgeries will run over a six month period in Blackburn. Activities under the pilot include a fixed surgery time where phone calls and face-to-face enquiries are taken and mobile surge rics going out to schools and universities to raise awareness. The FMU will undertake an evaluation of the pilot to assess its impact and identify lessons learnt with a view to exploring the potential for rolling the surgeries out across other regions.

The Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007

The Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 came into force in November 2008. The Act enables the family courts to make Forced Marriage Protection Orders (FMPOs) to prevent or pre-empt a forced marriage from occurring as well orders to protect the victim and help remove them from a situation after a forced marriage has taken place.

Initially, 15 courts have been designated to deal with applications.³ The location of courts is being kept under review.

The Ministry of Justice is also monitoring applications for FMPOs to assess how many are being made, at which courts, the type of applicant and the outcomes. As at the end

³ Principle Registry of the Family Division; High Court (London); Birmingham Family Courts; Blackburn County Court; Bradford County Court; Bristol County Court; Cardiff Civil Justice Centre; Derby County Court; Leeds Combined Court; Leicester County Court; Luton County Court; Manchester County Court; Middlesbrough County Court at Teeside; Romford County Court; and Willesden County Court.

of April 2009, 20 orders had been made. This is ahead of the projected 50 orders per annum anticipated before the Act came into force. These orders have offered protection to male as well as female victims of forced marriage. Working closely with colleagues across Government and wider stakeholders, the Ministry of Justice will publish a review in November 2009 looking at the impact the Act has had in its first year of operation.

Arrangements are also continuing to formalise the position for local authorities to act as Relevant Third Parties (RLP) to make applications on victims' behalf without the need for leave of the court. Provisions will be implemented from November 2009.

We are also making arrangements to identify suitable areas to pilot Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) based support for applicants, along the lines of the IDVA services currently in place for Specialist Domestic Violence Courts.

Changes to immigration legislation

In the Government's response to the consultation 'Marriage Visas: The Way Forward' published on 23 July 2008, we set out our intention to introduce a range of measures intended to tackle the problem of forced marriage.

Raising the age for sponsorship

We raised the minimum age at which someone can sponsor or be sponsored as a spouse from 18 to 21 on 27 November 2008. The intention is to provide young people with the opportunity to develop maturity and life skills which may allow them to resist any pressure to marry. It will delay sponsorship and allow victims of forced marriage an opportunity to seek help and advice.

We believe it to be important to protect young people from being forced into relationships they do not want at a time in their lives when they could be establishing a degree of independence as an adult through further education or work.

The age increase does not prevent young people from marrying at 18 if they wish to do so but those aged 18-20 will not be able to sponsor or be sponsored for a marriage visa.

Code of Practice

A Code of Practice was published on 6 March 2009 setting out how an application for a spouse visa or leave to remain in the UK as a spouse will progress if someone is identified as vulnerable to a forced marriage.

The Code is primarily aimed at both entry clearance officers overseas and case working teams in the UK. It was completed following extensive consultation across UK Border Agency, and with the FMU.

The Code will provide greater certainty to victims of forced marriage that the UK Border Agency has an effective system in place to deal with forced marriage, ensure cases are dealt with consistently and that appropriate support is offered to victims.

The Code is on the UKBA website and other electronic means available to staff. It is the most comprehensive staff guidance that UK Border Agency has produced on forced marriage.

Honour Based Violence

Cross government working

During 2008-09 the Home Office worked with other government departments to tackle honour based violence with a wide range of initiatives.

In June and July 2008 and March 2009, the Home Office held successful regional roadshows to raise awareness in local communities of the issues of forced marriage, honour based violence and female genital mutilation. The audiences included a range of practitioners from the police, education, health and voluntary sectors. Ideas and feedback from the events to develop initiatives at a local level will be passed to the relevant Government Offices for consideration.

These ideas have also been incorporated into the honour based violence work plan, led by the Home Office and approved by the honour based violence cross-government steering group. This plan covers specific areas including; adopting a coordinated community response to prevent and reduce honour based violence, ensuring that all reports of honour based violence are fully investigated, facilitating effective accountability of offenders through the criminal justice system and increasing awareness.

The Home Office has also been working closely with ACPO to ensure that police officers in all forces are aware of honour based violence, and have the knowledge and skills to deal with it effectively. In March 2008, ACPO and the National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA) refreshed and reissued their guidance on investigating domestic violence, which includes honour based violence, to all police forces and rolled out training on the guidance for all officers including compulsory sessions for all probationer police officers.

ACPO also released its Honour Based Violence Strategy in October 2008. The Strategy sets out proposals for moving forward the response of the police to honour based violence and the development of a coordinated national police Honour Based Violence Strategy and two-year action plan.

Support Services

In April 2008 the 'Honour Network' was launched by Karma Nirvana. This initiative, part funded by the FMU, was established to offer emotional and practical support to survivors of forced marriage and honour based violence. The Honour Network hosts a unique helpline which is manned solely by survivors of honour based violence and forced marriage.

Community engagement

In order to engage more with communities and raise awareness of forced marriage and honour based violence, ACPO lead a multi-agency media campaign where officials were invited to speak on a number of ethnic media television stations about the issues, for example, the Islam channel and a number of South Asian channels. This media campaign will continue in 2009-10.

Female Genital Mutilation

Cross government working

The Home Office held a series of successful regional roadshows in Summer 2008 raising awareness of forced marriage and honour based violence. Feedback from the events

indicated a lack of knowledge and understanding by practitioners regarding the practice of female genital mutilation. The Home Office held a further two roadshows in March 2009 in Bristol and Luton to raise awareness of the practice and stimulate decisive action to protect victims.

Comments and feedback on the events were collated and incorporated into a work plan to tackle female genital mutilation. This work plan will form the basis of a new post, to coordinate the government response to female genital mutilation and ensure work to eliminate this practice is prioritised and taken forward. The post will be funded by the Home Office, Department of Health, Forced Marriage Unit and Department for Children, Schools and Families and will be taken up by Autumn 2009.

Family Courts

Part IV of the Family Law Act 1996 provides single and unified domestic violence remedies in the county courts and magistrates' courts. Two types of order can be granted:

- a non-molestation order, which can either prohibit particular behaviour or general molestation;
- an occupation order, which can define or regulate rights of occupation of the home.

There has been concern about drops in the numbers of non-molestation orders attributed by some to the implementation of section 1 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 (implemented 01 July 2007). However, statistics published on 09 July 2009⁴ show a slight increase in the number of applications and orders for non-molestation made between January to March 2008 and 2009: 4,027 applications and 4493 orders made in 2008; and 4649 applications and 4964 orders made in the same period in 2009. Earlier data also appeared to suggest that more victims were choosing to report incidents to the police than apply for protective injunctions in the county courts. In 2007, 26,901 protective orders were made compared with 32,906 in 2004. The criminal courts dealt with 34,839 cases in 2004 rising to 67,094 cases in 2008/09.

An early evaluation⁵ of the impact of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 (August 2008), was unable to conclude that the drop in family court injunctions was wholly a result of implementation of section 1 of the Act. (Section 1 made breach of a non-molestation order a criminal offence.) See further detail on the evaluation below at the section on "Legislative Framework".

Similarly a review for the Legal Services Commission carried out in September 2008 could not attribute the decrease to one thing or another but concluded it was likely a combination of legal and other developments.

Demand for the Ministry of Justice publication Domestic Violence: A Guide to Civil Remedies and Criminal Sanctions is steady with stakeholders still requesting copies for multi-agency training and conference events. The Guide and translations are already available on line⁶ and plans are being taken forward to publicise the Guide wider, through the Family Justice Council.

4 Provisional Court Statistics Q1 2008 to Q1 2009: Ministry of Justice Statistics bulletin

5 <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/domestic-violence-crime-victims-act-2004.htm>

6 <http://www.family-justice-council.org.uk/600.htm>

The Family-Criminal Interface Committee

The Family-Criminal Interface Committee (FCIC) was established to take an overview role to coordinate work and to improve the interface between the family and criminal jurisdictions in England and Wales.

The Committee has considered the findings of the early evaluation of the impact of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. It has undertaken to review how non-molestation orders are initially served and the practicalities for the criminal and family justice agencies of dealing with a breach of an order in either the criminal court or in the civil court as contempt.

A Vulnerable Witnesses Working Party has been established by the FCIC to scope the broader issues faced by vulnerable witnesses in the family courts and to present practical solutions and possible recommendations for change. This has provided the Working Party with a further opportunity to run the special facilities post recognition survey again, among practitioners and other court users, this time including questions on instances when litigants in person cross-examining vulnerable witnesses.

The recognition survey followed a mapping exercise of the level of special facilities available in the family courts, after which the Ministry of Justice distributed a poster for courts to display information about who to contact if applicants are worried about intimidation while at court.

A final report of the survey findings will be available in August 2009 and the Working Party is due to report their proposals in the coming financial year.

The impact of the 'Gateway form'

Revised forms for child contact and residence applications were introduced in 2005 to give applicants and respondents an early opportunity to raise issues of 'harm' for the court to consider.

The evaluation of children's proceedings (domestic violence factors in residence and contact cases) was published on 11 December 2007 [MoJ (17/07)]. Following consultation final changes to the form are being considered by stakeholders to improve its effectiveness; this will come into effect in the next financial year.

Legal Aid

The Government is aware of the general concern regarding access to public funding (legal aid) for domestic violence cases.

The usual income and capital cap are now waived in cases of domestic violence and the same waiver applies to application for forced marriage protection orders. This should mean that more people are now eligible. In most cases, solicitors will use their devolved power to grant funding themselves in domestic violence cases. The numbers of applications refused in this category remains very low.

Objective 3 – To improve the criminal justice response to domestic violence

Rationale

- A coordinated response to the incidence of reported domestic violence by the criminal justice system and other partners can have a major impact on achieving protection for victims and on bringing perpetrators to justice.

Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) Programme

The SDVC Programme has been the centrepiece of the National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan. The model as set out in the National SDVC Resource Manual ⁷ contains 12 core components – including Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) and Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) – components that all contribute to the positive outcomes that have been achieved. (See *Justice with Safety* ⁸ report published March 2008.)

The programme has developed from the first 25 SDVC systems accredited in 2005/06, to a total of 122 accredited SDVCs, operational from April 2009. With further selections to be made in October 2009, we are well placed to meet our target of 128 SDVCs by 2011.

During the year a consultation sought the views of Local Criminal Justice Boards (LCJBs) on the reassignment of some or all responsibility for the development and operation of SDVCs from 2009/10. The outcome is that LCJBs will take responsibility for the governance and performance management of SDVCs. Accreditation of new SDVCs will remain with National Steering Group, with LCJBs and Government Offices in the Regions playing key roles. We will treat 2009-2010 as a transitional year for handing over these responsibilities to LCJBs. This will include a National Workshop for LCJB Business and Delivery Managers in May 2009 at which they will be guided on best practice approaches to governance of SDVCs and have the opportunity to ask about the detail of their new role.

Essential to the SDVC Programme has been the development of a network of Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) within the SDVC areas. The Ministry of Justice provided funding towards IDVA services for the past two years and has an ongoing commitment to future funding to 2010.

Integrated Domestic Violence Court Pilot - Croydon

Croydon implemented a Specialist DV Court in January 2004 and early on had ambitions to develop this into an integrated approach that would deal with criminal and civil-family domestic violence issues in one environment.

After a lengthy period of planning and negotiation, the pilot started in October 2006. An early impact evaluation was carried out under the wider remit to assess the impact of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. Disappointingly there were very few overlapping cases for the IDVC to deal with. The IDVC-SDVC Court Management Group considered the evaluation and the demands on local partnership resources. It was agreed in light of the number of cases having been identified to conclude the pilot and cease

⁷ <http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/domesticviolence/domesticviolence59.htm>

⁸ <http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/dv/dv018a.pdf>

operation of the IDVC.

Crown Prosecution Service

Performance management

From April 2008 - March 2009, the CPS dealt with 67,094 cases of domestic violence, an increase of over 3,275 cases from 2007-08. The target of 72% successful prosecutions for April 2009 was met during April 2008-March 2009 at 72.2%. The number of unsuccessful outcomes in domestic violence cases has fallen significantly, alongside a reduction in cases that have been discontinued by the CPS, falling from 24.7% in 2007-08 to 21.5% in 2008-09 and those in which a bindover has been used, falling from 6.6% in 2007-08 to 4.7% in 2008-09.

A new target has been set for 74% successful prosecutions by the end of March 2010. The CPS intends to continue to drive up performance through improved performance management and implementation of good practice in 2009-10.

Specialist domestic violence court data analysis

During 2008-09, the National Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) Programme assessed the performance of 64 specialist domestic violence courts during 2007-08. Each SDVC was sent their data, along with an in depth analysis of their performance, in order to help them identify areas for improvement. The National team also provided guidance to the 64 SDVCs on how to analyse their data for 2008-09.

Training

In 2005, the then Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) committed the CPS to train all prosecutors, designated caseworkers (now 'associate prosecutors') and caseworkers on domestic violence by the end of March 2008.

The initial training programme is completed and an evaluation report was published in November 2008. The key findings were that the training had contributed to the increase in successful prosecutions and had also had a positive impact on prosecutors' attitudes towards domestic violence.

The findings from the evaluation and feedback from staff were fed into the development of a new training programme. The new training is a case study based domestic violence training programme which addresses issues of how to proceed when the victim withdraws their support for the prosecution process, hearsay and reluctant witnesses. The programme was completed in April 2008 and will be supported by the revised on-line domestic violence training course and the revised Police/CPS modular training on domestic violence. New staff will have to complete this training within two years of joining the CPS and it can be used by existing staff as a refresher course.

Pilot on forced marriage and so-called honour crimes

In 2007-08, the CPS ran four pilots in Lancashire, London, West Midlands and West Yorkshire, to identify and monitor forced marriage and so-called honour crimes cases for the first time. Specialist prosecutors, who were selected, trained and given guidance, led on the prosecution of cases in their areas. They also provided advice about these cases and shared best practice with colleagues.

The pilot concluded in March 2008 and recommendations were in three broad categories:

- prosecution of cases;
- support for victims and witnesses; and
- future flagging of cases.

To progress this work, consideration will be given to selecting specialist prosecutors within CPS Areas or groups on a priority basis. During 2009-10, national guidance is being developed and selected prosecutors will also be trained.

The importance of addressing the specific support needs of victims and witnesses in these types of cases was also identified and specific actions were agreed to tackle this issue.

Finally, the importance of correctly identifying and flagging these cases was also recognised. It was recommended that flagging of forced marriage and honour crimes should be rolled out across the CPS during 2009-10.

Guidance on Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004

The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (DVCVA 2004) received Royal Assent in November 2004 and contained important new provisions in relation to the prosecution of cases of domestic violence.

The CPS worked with ACPO and the Ministry of Justice to develop guidance for prosecutors and caseworkers on sections 1 and 4 of the 2004 Act. This guidance was issued to prosecutors and caseworkers before the provisions came into force in July 2007. Further guidance was issued to prosecutors in May 2008 to improve performance.

The Home Office 'Tackling Violence against Women and Girls' Consultation confirmed that s.12 DVCVA 2004 (which introduces the possibility of a restraining order on conviction or acquittal in respect to any offence) would be implemented in September 2009. Cross-government work to deliver consistent guidance for the criminal justice system in a timely manner is ongoing.

Although the CPS is not one of the statutory agencies required to be involved we are also contributing to the cross government work in respect to the national implementation of s.9 DVCVA 2004 in respect to Domestic Homicide Reviews

Policy and Guidance

The refreshed domestic violence Policy and Guidance on Prosecuting Cases of Domestic Violence was launched on the 18 March 2009. This was accompanied by a new victim and witness leaflet which was designed to help explain some frequently asked questions about the criminal justice system. Work is on going to expand the use of this leaflet from the earliest point that a victim enters the CJS rather than just at the point that a defendant enters a not guilty plea.

Review of domestic violence equality and diversity issues

A CPS Domestic Violence Equality and Diversity Review was carried out in July 2007, and included an analysis of domestic violence data by gender and ethnicity. Focus groups with a range of communities were held in 2008 to address equality and diversity issues and identify any changes needed to CPS policy, guidance and training.

The feedback was incorporated into the Domestic Violence Policy and Guidance, as well

as forming the basis of a research proposal into race disproportionality.

The CPS Violence Against Women (VAW) strategy and action plans were published, after a public consultation, in April 2008 and officially launched at a conference in June 2008.

The strategy provides a framework to link and co-ordinate all aspects of violence against women work covering work on domestic violence, including harassment; forced marriage; so-called honour crimes; rape and sexual offences; female genital mutilation; child abuse; prostitution; pornography; crimes against older people; human trafficking, and staff harassment.

VAW performance management:

A Violence against Women Crime Report was published in December 2008 outlining performance across all VAW strands, with data, where available, from 2006-08.

The VAW strategy introduced a new VAW indicator from April 2008 to review performance of prosecutions across rape, domestic violence and sexual offences. The target for successful VAW cases was set at 71% and that target was exceeded at 71.9% in 2008-09. The sub-target for 2007-08 for domestic violence of 72% was met at 72.2%; for rape the target of 59% was just missed at 57.7% and for sexual offences of 72% was exceeded at 74.8%.

Development of VAW Coordinators

All CPS Areas revised the system to coordinate VAW work through Area Coordinators and a Seminar was held in April 2009 for the newly selected VAW leads.

Support for VAW victims

The VAW team supplied a list of national support organisations to the Victim and Witness Delivery Care Unit, so that Witness Care Units can signpost VAW victims to the appropriate support agency.

Systems to measure the support, safety and satisfaction of victims and the satisfaction and confidence of *VAW stakeholders* have been developed during 2008-09 and will be tested in the autumn of 2009.

Police and Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships

Risk Assessment

The risk assessment toolkit, Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and Honour Based Violence (DASH 2009) was piloted by the Police in 2008 in Wiltshire, Sussex and Westminster Borough (London), completing 2700 DASH risk assessments. In Wiltshire and Sussex the High Risk cases were reduced by 50% and feedback from first response and specialist was very positive. In February 2009 DASH was adopted by ACPO as the national toolkit for the police service and has allowed for the first time a risk identification and assessment model used by Police and multi-agencies. During 2009 NPIA are developing police training for DASH and have listed dates in July, August and October to provide 'train the trainer' events.

Domestic Violence Enforcement Campaign (DVEC)

Following on from the three previous campaigns in December 2008 into January 2009 a smaller scale DVEC was run in ten Force Areas over the Christmas & New Year period.

Again as in previous years the campaign was aimed at spreading the learning and raising awareness. The same Command Units were used from the previous DVEC and the results found that charging of perpetrators had increased by 9% and cautions had fallen by 29%.

To run alongside this a national TV campaign was made (funded by the Home Office Partnership Development Unit - formerly Police & Partnerships Standards) and broadcast by Channel 5 as part of their social responsibility commitment. It aimed to raise the profile of domestic abuse and to encourage victims to report. The project was managed by Warwickshire Police working in partnership with Women's Aid and Refuge. The advert ran across Channel 5, Fiver and Five US from Christmas day through to the 31 December 2008 and attracted 4.42 million viewers. Evaluation revealed that the National Domestic Violence Helpline had an increase in calls by 31% compared to the same time last year. A poster was developed to support the campaign and through funding from the Home Office provided additional support to police forces.

The Home Secretary asked ACPO Lead, Chief Constable Brian Moore to undertake a review of perpetrators to complement the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls consultation. Several events were held to identify additional powers the CJS may need to manage the activities of perpetrators particularly serial offenders, of gender based violence to include: DV & Stalking, HBV, FGM and FM, rape, sexual assault, sex trafficking, prostitution. Questions posed were:

- How can Police and other agencies track Serial Perpetrators, across boundaries?
- What information is required and what information should be made available to the public?
- Learning the lessons from past experience to enhance our understanding of perpetrator offending and what may help prevent it; taking into account powers and best practice that other jurisdictions have created to manage perpetrators.
- Research gaps in our knowledge about perpetrators and build an evidence base to underpin recommendations where appropriate.

A research report with recommendations will be submitted to the Home Secretary in September 2009.

Place Based Support

The Partnership Support Programme and DV Local Operational Review Process forms part of a menu of support offered by the Partnership Development Unit (PDU) to CDRP's to assist in building capacity and capability within CDRP's

National Projects

Body Worn Video (Headcams) – The £3 million funding over the past 2 years has now been distributed to all participating Police Forces. Negotiation with NPIA is ongoing to develop guidance to assist Police Forces in light of the learning gained from the pilot projects

The Tackling Violent Crime Programme (TVCP) supported regional good practice events aimed at sharing effective practice in tackling violent crime including Domestic Violence and supported a variety of local partnership initiatives through Home Office TVCP funding and Fieldworker support. Some examples of this are outlined below

- **Breaking the Cycle: Nuneaton and Bedworth** - This is a project which addresses the top 20 Domestic Abuse cases which have been identified by the “Narrowing Gap” research. It is a multi agency project which incorporates and provides full support from different agencies working to meet the specific needs of those families in the project.
- **Integrated DV Project: Sandwell** - A comprehensive project incorporating the training of key workers from a whole range of stakeholder agencies aimed at both raising awareness and improving the knowledge of frontline workers who may come into contact with potential domestic violence victims.
- **Young Peoples DVD and Drama: Blackpool** - Schoolchildren through Police School Liaison Officers have compiled a DVD and Drama project to be circulated to all schools in Blackpool to both raise awareness of domestic violence and through drama portray real life effects of domestic violence and provoke discussion amongst young people
- **Domestic Abuse project: Oldham** - A project that heavily incorporates victim safety and interventions from voluntary sector agencies such as Victim Support and Outreach to assist victims on a “wrap around” service.
- **St Helens Women’s Project: St Helens** - A range of interventions aimed at making women safer in the nighttime economy focussing on Violence against women as well as Women being perpetrators. Provision of counsellors on hand to talk to women who have experienced domestic violence or need advice on how to report it.
- **Peterborough** - the writing of a short non-mandatory perpetrators programme.
- **Northampton** - £3k funded some additional target hardening materials to support domestic abuse victims
- **Mansfield** - £9.8k for administrative support to MARAC - funding Women’s Aid to deliver. Administrator has been able to improve the quality of data and information maintained by the partnership regarding domestic abuse. The CAADA evaluation of Mansfield MARAC was very positive, leading to acceptance on to the Leading Lights Accreditation Programme. A reduction in repeat victims has been achieved.
- **Chesterfield** - £1.2k Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment and Safety Planning Booklets designed by service users to enable better personal action planning. Domestic Violence Service Promotional Materials Display boards for public spaces (e.g. libraries) to provide information to people who are otherwise considered “hard to reach”. LGBT focussed materials and generic service stickers for hospitals.

The Home Office National Partnership Performance Improvement Fund (NPPIF) has provided funding for a variety of domestic violence partnership initiatives including:

- **Leicestershire** £15K Walk-Thru domestic violence awareness presentation ‘A Day in the Life’ (being showcased at CDRP Conference)
- **Cheshire** - £28K to support Lifeline, a domestic violence Family Intervention Project
- **Sefton** - £25K supporting the setting up of a local MARAC
- **Derby** - £135K to support co-location of domestic violence practitioners in Derby City Family Justice Centre

- **London** - £55K to support partnership data sharing in assault cases
- **Plymouth** - £30K to improve provision of domestic violence and sexual advice referral centre services

Legislative framework for domestic violence

The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 introduced new powers (and amendments to existing ones) to strengthen the victim's case when brought to the attention of the criminal justice system. The sections which are not yet implemented are:

Section 9

This will place the establishment and conduct of Domestic Homicides on a statutory footing. During the year there was ongoing cross-Government work to develop guidance for local agencies conducting the Domestic Homicide Reviews.

Following publication of the Pemberton Domestic Homicide Review on 24 November 2008, it was decided that the Pemberton case should be treated as an exception rather than a template for future domestic homicide reviews. However we will look at the recommendations from the Pemberton Review and ensure that any relevant issues are incorporated into the national guidance.

Section 12

This extends the courts' powers under the criminal provisions of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, to enable them to impose restraining orders when sentencing for any offence or on acquittal, if it is considered necessary to protect the victim. It also gives any person mentioned in a restraining order the right to make representations in court if an application is made to vary or terminate the order. During the year work continued across Government to resolve resource issues relating to implementation. In March the Home Secretary committed to implement Section 12 in September 2009.

Early Evaluation of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004

This study was commissioned to provide an early evaluation of some of the measures of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004.

The report focuses on the three measures of the Act that were implemented during the evaluation period:

- Making common assault an arrestable offence*;
- Making it an arrestable, criminal offence to breach a non-molestation order;
- Extending the civil law on domestic violence (to ensure cohabiting same-sex couples have the same access to non-molestation and occupation orders as opposite sex couple, and non-molestation orders are available to couples who have never cohabited).

*Although this measure was superseded by the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, which amended the list of arrestable offences making all offences arrestable, this is still included within the scope of the evaluation.

Key findings from the evaluation were:

- The impact of the Act had been limited and in some respects unclear;
- There has been a positive impact since common assault became an arrestable offence (as are all criminal offences now) – strengthening and clarifying police powers and the positive arrest policy. Early findings indicated an increased use of common assault provisions;
- The impact of making breach of non-molestation orders a criminal offence was less clear-cut among professionals. Victims and advocates generally welcomed the measure, in the hope that better enforcement and heavier sanctions would result; and
- It was not possible to conclude that the drop in family court injunctions was wholly a result of implementation of section 1 of the Act.

The Ministry of Justice will continue to monitor levels of applications and orders for non-molestation orders and is working with the judiciary and stakeholders to improve the family and criminal justice systems response to victims of domestic violence.

Objective 4 – To support victims through the criminal justice system and to manage perpetrators to reduce risk

Rationale

- Providing specialist support to victims and enabling them to access a range of services can have a profound effect on their feelings of safety and on their engagement with the criminal justice system.
- A multi-agency approach to dealing with victims of domestic violence is crucial to understanding the dynamics and context of individual cases. By sharing information, agencies get a better picture of victims' situations and so develop responses that are better tailored to the needs and goals of individual victims and their children, as well as to the management of the perpetrator.

Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVA) Programme

Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) are trained specialists whose goal is the safety of victims. Their focus is to provide a service to victims at medium to high risk of harm, to address their safety needs and to help them to manage the risks that they face.

The role of the IDVA is a pivotal component of both the Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) model and the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

IDVA involvement with victims of domestic violence has been shown to decrease victimisation, increase notification of children at risk and reduce the number of victims unwilling to support a prosecution. See Justice with Safety.

The Ministry of Justice has been able to contribute towards IDVA services from funding derived from the Victim Surcharge. Minimum grants of £20,000 have been allocated to services supporting the 122 accredited SDVCs as well as a handful of developing areas and services linking with family support. We will also be looking to provide limited funding for IDVA services identified for the Forced Marriage Protection Orders support pilot.

Accredited training for IDVAs continues to be delivered by the charity Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA).⁹ In 2008/2009, the Government funded training for 75 IDVAs.

Assessing Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) and Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs)

We commissioned an evaluation to assess the role of IDVAs and ISVAs and this is planned for publication in autumn 2009. The work aims to assess how IDVAs and ISVAs have been implemented in various settings and what impact they have had on providing support to victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences

A Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARACs) is a multi-agency meeting which has the safety of high-risk victims of domestic violence as its focus. Usually led by

⁹ see www.caada.org.uk for more information

the police, MARACs are made up of statutory and voluntary representatives, including social services, IDVAs, victim support services, health representatives, housing services, probation services and education services.

By sharing information, agencies get a better picture of victim's situations and so develop responses that are tailored to the needs and goals of individual victims and their children. Safe information-sharing also allows agencies to manage the perpetrator in ways that reduce risk. Members of the MARAC jointly construct and implement a risk management plan that provides professional support to all those at risk and that reduces harm.

A key strength of the MARAC is that multiple agencies refer cases to the process. By March 2009 data showed that one in four referrals to MARACS come from agencies other than the police; split between the IDVA, other voluntary sector and the health services.

In February 2008 the Tackling Violence Action Plan announced that MARACs would be rolled-out nationally by 2011. At the end of March 2009 we were aware of over 200 MARACs in operation.

Training for MARACs is provided by CAADA who also collect data on their performance. During 2008/09 data was submitted to CAADA from 181 MARACs and from 1st April 2008 - 31st March 2009 over 24,000 cases had been brought to MARAC with over 34,000 children affected.

Accredited domestic abuse perpetrator programmes within the criminal justice system

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) piloted the three non-accredited interventions listed below. These are aimed at perpetrators of domestic abuse across eight Probation Areas and will inform future work.

Integrated Individual Sessions for Domestic Abuse (IISDA)

This intervention has been developed in partnership with Respect from an individual and group work programme originally developed in Scotland by the Caledonian Group. IISDA comprises of 18 core individual sessions which can then be supplemented by further modules dependant on risk and need.

Addressing Domestic Abuse at Approved Premises (ADAAP)

This intervention has also been developed in partnership with Respect and aims to enhance the work and risk management process with high risk offenders residing in approved premises in the community. It is based on three simple concepts of a) victim contact through Women's Safety Workers b) increasing the skills of the key workers c) review by the courts.

Caring Dads

This intervention originates in Canada and operates as one of a suite of interventions alongside a perpetrator programme. It is aimed at fathers who have been abusive to their partner or a child and are in contact with a child.

During the year NOMS has also been working closely with probation areas to improve the quality of data collection.

Prison Service

As part of a wider review of violence interventions, the Correctional Services Accreditation Panel (CSAP) was consulted on how best to identify suitable risk assessment instruments for domestic violence offenders. Following the advice of the CSAP, NOMS will carry out a research project during 2009-10 to identify the most appropriate tools.

Work on reviewing and revising the DARNA (Domestic Abuse Risk and Need Assessment) continued and a DARNA training package is due to be piloted in 2009-10.

NOMS Domestic Abuse Policy and Strategy

During the year work has continued on the development of a NOMS Domestic Abuse Strategy. The Strategy will provide a framework for prison and probation staff to work with domestic abuse perpetrator and victims. It will promote:

- a fully integrated and coordinated approach to the management of domestic abuse perpetrators, encompassing the assessment and management of risk of serious harm, access to interventions and inter-agency working;
- the delivery of an effective, consistent and high quality service to victims of domestic abuse; and
- a sufficiently robust and sensitive approach to respond to and actively manage staff who may be victims or perpetrators of domestic abuse.

Key findings from the Home Office Statistical Bulletin, Crime in England & Wales 2008/09¹⁰

- Domestic Violence accounts for 1 in 7 (14%) of all violent incidents.
- Around 1 in 3 (31%) of all violent incidents against women were incidents of domestic violence, compared to 5% of incidents against men.
- 77% of all victims of domestic violence were women
- Among men the prevalence of non-sexual partner abuse has decreased (from 4% to 3%).

¹⁰ Walker A., Flatley, J., Kershaw, C., Moon, D. (2009) Crime in England and Wales 2008/09. Home Office Statistical Bulletin 11/09. London: Home Office. Based on the face-to-face interviews.



NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DELIVERY PLAN
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NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
DELIVERY PLAN 2009-10

Objective 1: To coordinate work and address (primary, secondary and tertiary) prevention of domestic violence and integrate across all objectives

1.	Education (DCSF)
i	DCSF is seeking to make the whole of Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) curriculum a statutory subject and to introduce a statutory programme of study for PSHE which will include a focus on healthy, non-violent relationships.
ii	Continue roll out of Parental Support Advisors in schools to address the intergenerational impact of domestic violence
iii	Improve third sector participation in Black and Minority Ethnic community awareness of children and DV
2.	Health (DoH)
i	Establish Health Task Force - identifying the role of NHS in preventing, identifying and supporting victims (4 sub-groups 2 DV and 2 SV) Domestic Violence, FGM, HBV and FM
ii	Publication of Frame work for Violence and Abuse Prevention (which cuts across VAW, child abuse, youth crime, guns gangs and knives, and green spaces)
3.	Communities (CLG)
i	Deliver research into Accommodation and support provision for households at risk of domestic violence - This study will identify the current housing options available to households at risk of domestic violence, and to assess whether this provision meets current need.
ii	To provide £100,000 (2009-10) to support UKRefugesOnline a UK wide database of domestic violence services which supports the 24hr helpline. This is part of a three year indicative funding package for UKROL (£4000k 2008-11) which also supports the production and publication of the bi-annual Gold Book.
iii	Deliver research on the effectiveness of schemes to enable households at risk of domestic violence to remain in their own homes -The aim of this project will be to evaluate the effectiveness of schemes that enable households at risk of domestic violence to remain in their own homes.
4.	Female Genital Mutilation, Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage (All Departments)
i	To appoint a cross-Government FGM Coordinator role
ii	Training on identification of FGM for health and education professionals
iii	Revise and publish FM guidelines for frontline professionals
iv	Continue to increase Community Engagement around FM issues
v	Online Training package to identify and handle FM for all practitioners (police, health, education, social services etc)
vi	Research and guidance around FM and people with learning disabilities
vii	Launch an FGM fact sheet targeted at frontline staff which aims to raise awareness, of FGM highlight those most likely to be affected and direct professionals to guidance and services to assist them in preventing FGM.
viii	Launch of FMU two year action plan

Some activities will be repeated because the outcome will contribute to more than one objective.

Objective 2: Increase the identification of and intervention with, victims and perpetrators of domestic violence earlier by utilising all points of contact with key front line professionals.

1.	Health (DoH)
i	Bespoke CAADA training for all Family Intervention Project (FIPs) teams
ii	Children and Domestic Violence toolkit to be ready for publication.
iii	Publication of report on developing effective responses to domestic abuse for South Asian women
iv	Establish routine enquiry on domestic violence of all pregnant women and adult mental health services
v	Commission FORWARD to do a month long snapshot prevalence study on FGM
2.	Education, Children and Young People (DCSF)
i	Research into cases of actual and suspected forced marriage of young people at school, identifying good practice in preventative work
ii	Explore possible options for how MARACs might better relate to LSCBs, perhaps through guidance or other actions;
iii	DCSF interests in the National Advisory Group overview of the University of Lancashire's research project into the response of the police and children's services to domestic violence
iv	National roll out of online tool for parents.
3.	FGM, HBV and FM (Home Office, Health, DCSF)
i	Publish FM guide for MPs
ii	Revise and publish FM guidelines for frontline professionals
iii	New online training pack to help practitioners (health, police and social services) identify and handle FM
iv	Publication and dissemination of FGM factsheet to frontline professionals dealing with children, including schools, CDRPs, LGCB, GO DV/SV Co-ordinators, teacher unions - DCSF to write to all Ministers and all schools re. risks of FGM and FM

Objective 2 (Cont): Increase the identification of and intervention with, victims and perpetrators of domestic violence earlier by utilising all points of contact with key front line professionals.

4.	Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007
i	Policy paper on impact of first year of the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007
ii	Collate monthly data from courts
iii	Collate feedback on the process from key informants and practitioners
iv	Implement safeguards for Relevant Third Party (RTP) (Local Authority)
v	Pilot IDVA service supporting FMPO applications: includes data collection
vi	Consider Practice Direction for courts handling / recognising RTP (Local Authority); possible requests for special facilities;
vii	Make changes to rules for RTP forms
viii	Raise awareness / disseminate information via conference events, ad hoc events ; prepare guidance for Local Authority RTP and IDVA Pilot services; contribute to other publications (FCO guidance) paras for practitioners

Objective 3: To build capacity and maintain sustainability within the domestic violence sector to provide effective advice and support to the victims of domestic violence

1.	Work with Black Minority Ethnic Communities and other minority victims
i	Launch of scheme to assist victims with no recourse to public funds
ii	Development of a Step by Step guide for BAME victims
iii	Continue to develop work with the Men's Coalition on victims and perpetrators
2.	Development of National Service Standards (Home Office)
i	Development and publication of National Service Standards
ii	Promotion of National Occupational Standards
iii	Support and promote the Respect Accreditation Standards
iv	Ensure links with other service standards, for example, CAADA's Leading Lights, are made
3.	National Domestic Violence Helplines
i	Contribute towards the funding of National DV Helpline, Respect, Broken Rainbow and Men's Advice Line
ii	Hold regular forums for the Helpline providers and develop consistent data collection model
4.	Accommodation and Housing Related Support (CLG)
i	Deliver research into Accommodation and support provision for households at risk of domestic violence - This study will identify the current housing options available to households at risk of domestic violence, and to assess whether this provision meets current need.
ii	To provide £100,000 (2009-10) to support UKRefugesOnline a UK wide database of domestic violence services which supports the 24hr helpline. This is part of a three year indicative funding package for UKROL (£4000k 2008-11) which also supports the production and publication of the bi-annual Gold Book.
iii	Commission research on the effectiveness of schemes to enable households at risk of domestic violence to remain in their own homes -The aim of this project will be to evaluate the effectiveness of schemes that enable households at risk of domestic violence to remain in their own homes.
iv	Deliver research on domestic violence and homelessness assistance for adults without dependant children. The aim of this research is to establish the extent to which adults who are neither pregnant nor who have dependant children and who are homeless because they are fleeing domestic violence are getting the help they need from local authorities to ensure they do not have to return to accommodation where they would be at risk of violence.
5.	FGM, HBV and FM (Home Office, Health, DCSF)
i	Launch of funding programme for FM Projects

Objective 3 (Cont): To build capacity and maintain sustainability within the domestic violence sector to provide effective advice and support to the victims of domestic violence

6.	Work on Sustainability of VAW Voluntary Sector (GEO)
i	Lead a cross-government working group on sustainability which aims to develop a long-term and sustainable Government engagement strategy with the violence against women third sector. The group will look at better ways of working with the sector, including, what, if anything, we can do to improve our current approach to funding, taking into account the Government policy on local decision making. The group will work within the context of the VAWG consultation.
ii	Commission research on the VAW voluntary sector in order to develop a robust evidence base and refine our thinking on how better to work with and support the sector.
iii	Sponsorship of an IDeA conference on gender equality. Around 100 representatives from Local Authorities and Regional Improvement & Efficiency Partnerships will be in attendance. Specific attention will be given to the VAW voluntary sector
7.	Support for Victims
i	To work with the British Banking Association in relation to support for financial issues (HO Lead)

Objective 4: To improve the justice system's response to domestic violence by supporting victims and managing perpetrators

1.	Specialist Domestic Violence Court Programme (Home Office, Ministry of Justice, Crown Prosecution Service)
i	Making a further selection of SDVCs in October 2009 - review visits to 6 SDVCs
ii	Transitional/Development work with LCJBs on governance/performance management of SDVCs
iii	Plans for 5th Tranche of accreditations 2009 - 2010 (to be operational for April 2010); consider strategy for any future accreditations
iv	Publication of revised JSB Magistrates' Training Manual "An Ordinary Crime?" - awareness and legal training pack
v	Scoping of relationships between SDVC model in relation to Crown and Youth Court
vi	Work across government on the further expansion of Specialist court systems for vulnerable victims
2.	Crown Prosecution Service
i	CPS data will be reviewed in relation to the new target of 26% unsuccessful DV prosecutions
ii	CPS SDVC data will be provided to Areas quarterly to enable them to monitor their performance in this transition year.
iii	Work across Government on developing DV victim pathway of support
iv	Refresh of domestic violence module on CPS e learning site
v	Implement recommendations of CPS forced marriage and so-called honour crimes:
	select specialist prosecutors
	develop guidance
	training for specialist prosecutors
vi	Work with Victim and Witness Care Delivery Unit to implement findings from DV Thematic review
vii	Develop and publicise CPS campaign for Government wide 'Month of Action
viii	Cross Government work to revise the intimate violence, inter-personal violence modules, within the British Crime Survey.
ix	The VAW Strategy will be implemented in accordance with the overall national action plan. The key actions for 2009-10 include:
	- performance management through VAW Indicator; with targets for DV, rape and sexual offences
	- Overarching VAW guidance to be developed
	- Area review of each VAW strand on community engagement, stakeholder involvement and support for victims;
	-provide Witness Care Units with VAW victim support service lists
	- development of systems to monitor the support, safety and satisfaction of VAW victims;
	- measurement of systems to monitor stakeholder satisfaction; and
	- research to address race disproportionality on key VAW strands
x	Corston Work Roll Out - conditional cautioning for female offenders who are also DV victims

Objective 4 (Cont): To improve the justice system's response to domestic violence by supporting victims and managing perpetrators

3.	Independent Domestic Violence Adviser Programme (Home Office Ministry of Justice)
i	Commission service and expenditure information on 08/09 grants
ii	Allocation of 09/10 funding {£2.6m} [88 services in existing SDVCs & FMPO pilot]
iii	Invitations to bid for IDVA funding in 2009/10 {if anything left from £750,000 of £2.6m}
iv	Publication of the evaluation report on IDVAs and ISVAs
v	To continue the funding for IDVA training
4.	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (Home Office)
i	Continuing the national roll-out of MARACs and monitoring progress
ii	Establish a National MARAC Steering Group to provide strategic advice and guidance to the national roll-out
iii	Establish an Expert Panel to scrutinise the quality assurance process
iv	Work to improve links between MARACs and MAPPA and LSCBs including provision of guidance where appropriate
v	Keep under review guidance for practitioners on sharing personal and sensitive data
5.	National Offender Management Service
i	Continue to develop a NOMS domestic abuse strategy
ii	To develop a strategy to improve the quality and targeting of domestic violence provision and reduce waiting lists, once recommendations have been made by the comprehensive review of violence programmes taking place in prisons and probation
iii	To implement enhanced guidance on targeting for domestic abuse perpetrator programme and other violent offender
iv	Revised use of assessment and reporting tools to inform the effectiveness research
v	Review of women safety worker provision - provisional report by June 09 - internal consultation on recommendations for improvements
vi	Pilot areas to continue to implement community pilots before review and evaluation
6.	Police (Home Office)
i	Training and Implementation of the DASH model
ii	Development of NPJA Training Package for Police
iii	Launch of ACPO FM Training for Police

Objective 4 (Cont): To improve the justice system's response to domestic violence by supporting victims and managing perpetrators

7.	Family Criminal Interface Committee (Ministry of Justice)
i	Identify practical issues, barriers to and best practice solutions for operation / implementation of section 1 of the DVCV Act 2004 - dealing with breaches of non-molestation orders
ii	Produce further practical guidance [for individual agencies and/or joint guidance] on operation / implementation of section 1 of the DVCV Act 2004 - dealing with breaches of non-molestation orders in the field
iii	Publish report on recognition survey of special facilities poster in family courts: extended to include review of litigants in person cross examining vulnerable witnesses
iv	Finalise amendments to C1A 'gateway' form: child contact
v	Consider funding options to respond to HASC recommendation for research into unsupervised child contact
	Vulnerable Witness Working Party to consider broader issues of witnesses, eg, cases where they are cross-examined by (abusive) applicant/respondent in person; repeat special facilities recognition survey
8.	Family Justice Council (Ministry of Justice)
i	To submit regular updates on private law and public law objectives where they relate to children and domestic violence for 09/10
ii	Consider evaluating / monitoring the impact of the residence and contact orders: domestic violence and harm practice direction of 9 May 2008
iii	FJC/CAFCASS to monitor assessment of risk to children in the family courts
iv	Investigate implementation of MARACs for family proceedings

Objective 5: Cross Cutting Issues to Support Delivery of Objectives 1-4.

1.	Government as an Employer
i	Continue to monitor and gather information on success of policies through IMG
2.	Corporate Alliance Against Domestic Violence
i	Revisiting the governance of the CAADV with the corporate members with the aim of re-launching at membership event in Autumn 2009
3.	International
i	Participation in CAHVIO, Strasbourg: ad hoc committee on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence
ii	Attendance at 29th CoE conference of ministers "Breaking the Silence - united against domestic violence - Tromso, Norway
iii	Contribution to CDEG: CoE Steering Committee for Equality Between Men and Women
iv	Development of international FM work with other EU partners
v	Good Practice Exchange: Judicial Response to Gender Violence - Technical Seminar (not CoE)
vi	Contribute to briefing requests from EU, CEDAW, UN-BEIJING
4.	Communications
i	Violence against women cross-Government communications project, which will help identify and share best practice. Strategy and toolkit to be developed (GEO lead) develop an integrated comms campaign on all aspects of DV, HBV, FM and FGM xref with GEO toolkit on comms
ii	Co-ordinated departmental DV Awareness raising
iii	Improved data collection: commitment to provide IMG with regular data on civil protection orders and criminal DV cases
iv	Revision of the DV Mini-Site on crime reduction website
v	Development and launch of Toolkit to support the Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence Model
vi	Development of a HO effective database of good practice case studies for practitioners
5.	Definition
i	To revisit Government definition of domestic violence
6.	Legislative Framework
i	Implementation of section 9 of the DVCV Act 2004 (HO)
ii	Evaluation of impact of Legislation change in respect to marriage visa age
iii	Implementation of section 12 of the DVCV Act 2004 (MoJ/HO)