



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Department of Justice

Zero Tolerance

Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence 2024 Implementation Plan

2024 Implementation Plan for Zero Tolerance: Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence

Introduction

Zero Tolerance: Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence 2022-2026, published in June 2022, is a whole-of -government strategy to combat domestic, sexual and gender-based violence (DSGBV). The overarching purpose of the Strategy is that of zero tolerance in Irish society for DSGBV, delivering an enhanced understanding of the root causes and impacts of DSGBV across society, ensuring significant and ongoing reduction in the incidence of DSGBV and supporting changes in behaviour.

The Strategy also recognises and acknowledges the need to provide support for all victims/survivors of DSGBV so that Ireland becomes a place where victims and survivors receive quality supports and justice.

The Strategy was developed in partnership with the DSGBV sector to ensure it is targeted, comprehensive and effective in achieving its goals. It is structured around the four pillars of the Istanbul Convention:

- Prevention;
- Protection;
- Prosecution; and
- Policy Coordination.

Political oversight of the Strategy and its effective implementation rests with the Cabinet Committee on Social Affairs and Equality. A central element of the Strategy was the establishment of a statutory agency to work in collaboration with the NGO and DSGBV services sector to ensure that the best possible services are in place to meet the needs of victims and survivors. Cuan, the new DSGBV Agency was established in January of this year, and will coordinate the implementation of the Strategy going forward. The Strategy is accompanied by a detailed implementation plan per phase setting out how each of the Strategy aims will be achieved and who is responsible for their delivery. This document is the second such plan and will be coordinated by Cuan, for the first time.

Cuan

An Ghníomhaireacht um Fhoréigean Baile, Gnéasach agus Inscnebhunaithe, or Cuan, is a statutory agency under the remit of the Department of Justice dedicated to tackling and reducing domestic, sexual and gender-based violence (DSGBV). Cuan was established in statute via the [Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Agency Act 2023](#). The Act sets out a range of statutory functions for Cuan which can be summarised as follows:

1. Delivering excellent services to victims of DSGBV, including delivering on the number of safe and accessible accommodation spaces available, as well as ensuring that helpline and other supports are available to anyone requiring them.
2. Putting in place a robust set of national service standards and governance arrangements to ensure adherence to the appropriate standards for such supports.
3. Leading on consistent and ongoing research to inform DSGBV policy development, working with others such as the CSO who have data projects underway.
4. Leading on awareness-raising campaigns designed to reduce the incidence of DSGBV in Irish society as well as ensuring that all victims know how to access the supports they require.
5. Coordinating all Government actions set out in the Third National Strategy and reporting on their delivery to the Minister for Justice. Political oversight of the strategy will be provided by the Cabinet Committee on Social Affairs and Equality.

In 2024, Cuan has been allocated a total budget of approximately €59 million which represents a record increase in funding for combatting domestic, sexual and gender-based violence in Ireland. This significant funding will support the implementation of the Zero Tolerance Strategy and will assist Cuan in meeting the needs for services throughout the country. Under this Strategy, Cuan is required to develop a National Services Development plan which is prioritised in the deliverables for 2024. In the meantime, ensuring continuity of service provision is a key priority.

One of the key actions of the Strategy is doubling the number of refuge spaces available during Strategy's lifetime.

Prior to the establishment of Cuan, an Interdepartmental Steering Committee (IDG) was in place to manage and oversee progress on the delivery of additional refuge units. This Committee was chaired by the Department of Justice, with representation from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), Tusla, and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Inclusion and Youth (DCEDIY).

This Committee will now be coordinated by Cuan to further the development of local structures operating in the priority areas identified in the Strategy and will support the advancement of new refuges with capital funding support, provided as of now, via the DHLGH.

Implementation Plan Revised Approach

The National Strategy published in June 2022 was supported with the publication of an implementation plan by the Department of Justice in 2023. For 2024, a change of approach has been introduced with a bigger focus in the implementation plan on deliverables. This will support tracking of progress, but importantly it creates a more concise document that improves accessibility and readability for the range of partner organisations that are supporting implementation of the national strategy. The strategic objectives remain as per the national strategy and 2023 implementation plan but are now presented in the narrative sections of the document with a summary of progress to date and priorities for the upcoming implementation period. Action-focussed deliverables to achieve these objectives are presented in a tabular format with a clear lead and delivery timeline. The structure of the plan allows us to easily see and extract actions for our delivery partners, helping us to assess the work to be done and progress on same. Similar objectives have been grouped thematically and deliverables moved accordingly, however the core commitments agreed with delivery partners have not changed. An additional feature has been introduced to illustrate the cross-cutting nature of deliverables across multiple pillars. Cuan will work to develop a more outcomes-focused approach to tracking and reporting on progress towards Zero Tolerance in final two years of the Strategy 2025 – 2026.

There were a number of actions and deliverables assigned to the 'statutory DSGBV agency' in the 2023 implementation plan. Outputs in these areas, now to be delivered by Cuan, have been restructured to communicate the strategic approach Cuan will take, with a focus on building strong foundations to increase the pace and momentum of delivery in line with evolving capacity in the new Agency.

It will be a priority for Cuan to establish strong governance, oversight and reporting structures for implementation. These structures will align with Cuan's corporate governance structures and utilise existing partner structures. There will be a focus on strengthening structures for enhanced cross-government collaboration in 2024. In parallel to this, Cuan will work with partners to co-develop an engagement model that ensures a fully intersectional approach to meeting the needs of children, and diverse and socially included groups. The resulting model will place the voice of victims and survivors (including children) at the centre.

Note on Revised Layout

A number of acronyms have been used throughout this document to refer to various departments, agencies, organisations and groups of organisations. This is to improve the layout and readability of the deliverables presented in tabular format.

Acronym	Meaning
SCBOs	Specialist and community-based support organisations, including domestic and sexual violence service providers, NGOs and community organisations
CSO	Central Statistics Office
DCEDIY	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, and Youth
DFHERIS	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage
DPENDR	Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery, and Reform
DPSU	Divisional Protective Services Unit
DTAGSM	Department of Tourism, Arts, Culture, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
GSOC	Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission
HSE	Health Service Executive
NCCA	National Council for Curriculum and Assessment
NTA	National Transport Authority
ODPP	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
OPW	Office of Public Works
SATU	Sexual Assault Treatment Unit

PREVENTION PILLAR 1

Strategy Goal: Working towards the eradication of the social and cultural norms that underpin and contribute to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.

1.1 Enhance the understanding of the general public of all forms of DSGBV, its root causes and educate society to recognise the harm and prevent the human rights abuse that is DSGBV while making clear the pathways to safety and sanctions.

A whole of society approach is taken to recognise the role we all have in creating a society where there is zero tolerance for all forms of DSGBV. The preventative actions focus upon raising public awareness of DSGBV, and its root causes, across all groups in society. The preventative actions in the Strategy challenge existing myths, misconceptions, and established beliefs around DSGBV.

There has been significant activity in this area since the Strategy was published. In 2023, 'Let's Have The Consent Conversation' – A major national awareness raising campaign on the topic of sexual consent was launched on November 23rd 2023 across TV, local and national radio, digital audio, video on demand, digital out of home screens and across social media. The campaign aims to change attitudes to consent by making consent more personal and relevant across the spectrum of sexual relationships (and not just a term linked to a legal concept); and to build a positive understanding of consent by getting people thinking about what consent, as a positive force, means to them in terms of how they engage with and treat others and how they themselves are treated by others.

The second phase of the Intimate Images campaign, 'Serious Consequences' was launched in May 2023 to raise awareness that it is illegal to threaten to share an intimate image of another person, even if the threat is not followed through. Two major bursts of the campaign ran in 2023 across TV, local and national radio, digital audio, video on demand, digital out of home screens and in cinemas.

Recommendations arising from "Speak Up: A Call for Change" the report on harmful behaviours in the Arts sector, were taken forward with the establishment of 'Safe to Create', a collaborative programme looking to transform workplace culture and practices, and to provide safe and respectful working conditions for those working in the Arts.

In 2024, there will be an increased focus on ensuring that inclusivity is a central feature of prevention campaigns with marginalised and traditionally harder to reach communities included in campaign strategies. A strong evidence base for future preventative actions will be established in 2024 to review best practice models in preventing DSGBV. Deliverables on awareness raising campaigns on pathways to safety and supports available to victims of DSGBV have moved to the protection pillar.

	Outputs	Lead	Delivery Partner	2024 Timeline	Prevention	Protection	Prosecution	Policy Coordination
1.1.1	Design and execute a best-in-class approach to produce an evidence led prevention plan for DSGBV.	Cuan	SCBOs	Q2	√			
1.1.2	Evaluate impact of the 'Let's Have the Consent Conversation' campaign and augment campaign messaging.	Cuan		Q2	√			
1.1.3	Evaluate cut-through of the 'Serious Consequences' campaign on Intimate Image Abuse.	Cuan		Q2	√		√	
1.1.4	Complete scoping and research to inform communications strategy regarding prostitution, and its impact on wider gender equality and links to trafficking.	Cuan	SCBOs	Q3	√	√		
1.1.5	Complete scoping and research to inform strategy on the harms of pornography and of how the sex trade and pornography fuel misogyny and violence against women and undermine gender equality.	Cuan	DCEDIY, SCBOs	Q4	√			

1.2 Prevent DSGBV within Higher Education by enhancing understanding of DSGBV, consent, coercive control and healthy relationships, and support the implementation of a victim/survivor centred approach to responding to DSGBV

1.3 Enhance the understanding of children and young people on what creates gender inequalities and what constitutes gender equality, consent and healthy relationships (using best practice evidence)

There has been substantive progress in educational and curriculum re-development since the publication of the Zero Tolerance Strategy in 2022. The NCCA has been engaged in a programme of redevelopment of the Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum which includes Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) at all levels in Irish schools. This process is well underway with an updated Junior Cycle specification introduced into schools in September 2023, the introduction of Senior Cycle to start in September 2024 and the introduction to Primary to follow in 2025. The introduction of the updated specifications will be supported by teacher professional learning events to support teacher competence and confidence.

The “**Ending Sexual Violence and Harassment in Higher Education Institutions - Implementation Plan, 2022 – 2024**” was launched on 13 October 2022. The plan builds upon and complements the wide range of initiatives currently in place to support a zero tolerance approach to issues of sexual violence and harassment in our Higher Education Institutes.

The **Cineáltas: Action Plan on Bullying** was published on 1 December 2022 with an implementation plan published on 10 April 2023.

In 2024, the school curriculum and corresponding resources at primary level, junior and senior cycle SPHE/RSE will include age-appropriate content on consent, domestic violence and coercive control. A focus on safe and responsible use of the internet and social media will link its effects on relationships, self-esteem and LGBTQI+ matters. A whole school approach will be supported to create a positive school culture and environment free from gender-based violence. Risk factors for students, such as violence/aggression and bullying, will be minimised through the implementation of the actions in the Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice. The review of the Department of Education’s Action Plan on Bullying and Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools will consider the specific issues of sexual harassment, gender stereotyping and gender identity bullying, in both the physical and online sphere.

	Outputs	Lead	Delivery Partner	2024 Timeline	Prevention	Protection	Prosecution	Policy Coordination
1.3.1	Finalise the SPHE/RSE specification for Senior Cycle, for introduction in schools from September 2024	Department of Education	NCCA	Q2	√			
1.3.2	Complete the public consultation on a draft primary SPHE/RSE specification	Department of Education	NCCA	Q3	√			
1.3.3	Provide additional resources for post primary SPHE teachers via online toolkits, to include guidance on teaching specific learning outcomes in the updated curriculum, related to topics such as consent, gender, domestic and sexual violence.	Department of Education	NCCA	Q4	√			
1.3.4	Continue the implementation of actions in the Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice to promote a school environment free from gender-based violence	Department of Education		Q4	√			
1.3.5	Publish the first Cineáltas annual Implementation and Evaluation Report.	Department of Education		Q2	√	√		
1.3.6	Provide Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to support the implementation of Bí Cineálta procedures to prevent and address bullying behaviour for schools	Department of Education		Q2	√	√		
1.3.7	Pilot a new inspection model to evaluate the promotion of wellbeing in schools	Department of Education		Q2	√	√		
1.3.8	Hold a Cineáltas showcase and recognition event	Department of Education		Q2	√			

1.4 Enable frontline professionals and support staff to have the necessary analysis, skills, and expertise to identify potential DSGBV risks and make appropriate preventative interventions and referrals.

Frontline professionals such as medical professionals, social workers, educators, carers, support staff in residential settings and immigration support services are frequently best placed to make interventions with DSGBV victims. These professionals will be supported in acquiring the skills and expertise required to identify potential DSGBV risks and make appropriate interventions and referrals where they can. These deliverables are a core part of the response towards meeting objective 2.4 on ensuring a victim/survivor centred wraparound service, and 3.1 on ensuring that all professionals and front line workers involved in DSGBV work with adults and children in the courts and in the justice, legal and policing systems have the skills and understanding of DSGBV to equip them with the necessary expertise they require.

	Outputs	Lead	Delivery Partner	2024 Timeline	Prevention	Protection	Prosecution	Policy Coordination
1.4.1	Conduct a benchmarking exercise to map the levels of DSGBV and trauma informed content in both core training and CPD for relevant frontline professionals and support staff	Cuan	SCBOs	Q4	√	√	√	√
1.4.2	Produce a gap analysis and recommendations for the development of trauma informed DSGBV modules suitable for delivery across a range of platforms and audiences	Cuan	SCBOs	Q4	√	√	√	√
1.4.3	The Garda College will develop a plan for delivery of a trauma-informed curriculum to the organisation with involvement from GNPSB.	An Garda Síochána	Department of Justice, Cuan, The Probation Service, Courts Service	Q2		√	√	

	Outputs	Lead	Delivery Partner	2024 Timeline	Prevention	Protection	Prosecution	Policy Coordination
1.4.4	The Legal Aid Board will ensure that staff who deal with victims of DSGBV receive adequate DSGBV training, as part of Supporting the Victim's journey.	Legal Aid Board		Q4		√	√	
1.4.5	Healthcare worker training will take place to assist identification of domestic violence and refer victims/survivors to appropriate services. Launch of Module 2 connected to previous goal	HSE		Q2		√		
1.4.6	Launch of HSE training Module 3 'Respond' and Module 4 'Refer'	HSE		Q4		√		
1.4.7	Healthcare staff will have access to all DSGBV training modules through HSELand	HSE		Q4		√		

1.6 Make spaces safer to reduce opportunities for sexual and gender-based violence

Several objectives addressing safer spaces in various contexts have been grouped together in this section for ease of reference:

1.5 Make digital and media spaces safer through robust regulation as well as working with civil society and the media to foster awareness of the harm caused by domestic, sexual and gender-based violence (meeting the requirements Article 17 of the Istanbul Convention).

1.7 Make workplaces safer, in the public, private and other sectors, reducing opportunities for sexual violence and gender based violence, and promote public awareness of existing legislation that is in place, as well as training for staff.

1.8 Review the Garda vetting and Private Security Authority (PSA) licensing arrangements with a view to strengthening protections for children and vulnerable adults.

There are a series of deliverables focussing on safer spaces in both 2023 and 2024 plans with significant progress to build from in 2023. The Online Safety and Media Regulation Act was commenced on 15 March 2023 with Coimisiún na Meán also formally established on the same date. The establishment of Coimisiún na Meán is a key milestone which seeks to make digital and media spaces safer through robust regulation, as well as working with civil society and the media to foster awareness of the harm caused by DSGBV.

There were a number of key legislative updates in this area in 2023:

- Ireland has ratified the International Labour Organisation Convention No.190 with the process completed in January 2023.
- The report of the judge- led independent review into dignity and equality issues in the Defence Forces was published on 28 March 2023, with agreement to progress the 13 recommendations. Recommended amendments to sections 169 and 192 of the Defence Act 1954 are included in the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Human Trafficking) Bill 2023.
- The Work Life Balance and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 has been signed into law. It supports victims of domestic violence through the introduction of a statutory paid leave entitlement of five days.

In 2024, we are reframing our understanding of 'safe spaces' to encompass digital spaces, public spaces and work spaces and how each might be made safer to reduce opportunities for sexual and gender-based violence. Digital and media spaces will be made safer through robust regulation and working with civil society and the media to foster awareness of the harm caused by DSGBV. Engagement between civil society and the media on portrayal of DSGBV in the media will be supported. Workplaces will be made safer in public, private and other sectors, reducing opportunities for sexual violence and gender-based violence to occur. This will include promoting public awareness of existing legislation and putting in place appropriate training for staff.

The work to review how best to address gender-based harassment offences, public abuse of women and gender-based aggressive behaviour continues. The Criminal Justice (Prohibition of Incitement to Violence or Hatred and Hate Crime) Bill 2022, due for enactment by the end of 2024, will create new, aggravated forms of certain existing criminal offences, where those offences are motivated by prejudice against a protected characteristic, including gender.

Ensuring the safest possible travel experience for users of public transport services and infrastructure as well as the safest possible working environment for transport employees will be achieved by working collaboratively with stakeholders. Garda vetting and PSA licensing arrangements will be reviewed to strengthen protections for children and vulnerable adults.

	Outputs	Lead	Delivery Partner	2024 Timeline	Prevention	Protection	Prosecution	Policy Coordination
1.6.1	Engage with Coimisiún na Meán on their establishment of a regulatory regime for online safety.	Cuan	Coimisiún na Meán	Q3	√			
1.6.2	Continue awareness campaigns with the aim of promoting inclusivity, courtesy and respect for all when travelling on public transport.	Department of Transport	NTA	Q4	√			
1.6.3	Continue to take steps to increase the availability of public transport, including taxis, to make travel, particularly in the night-time economy safer and more accessible for women and other vulnerable users.	Department of Transport	NTA	Q4	√			
1.6.4	Publish the second annual report on public transport passenger safety and personal security.	Department of Transport		Q4	√			
1.6.5	Take forward actions on the recommendations in the Report from the Independent Review Group on Dignity and Equality Issues in the Defence Forces.	Department of Defence	Defence Forces	Q4	√			
1.6.6	Finalise the Garda Vetting Review and PSA licensing arrangements with a view to strengthening protections for children and vulnerable adults. Report to the Minister on the work of the review group.	Department of Justice	An Garda Síochána	Q2	√			

PROTECTION PILLAR 2

Strategy goal: Ensure that victims/survivors (adults and children) have immediate and longer-term access to safety, support and advocacy they need, with agencies held accountable for the protection of victims/survivors.

2.1 Ensure that individuals who experience DSGBV can access adequate, extensive and accessible information on and offline.

Ensuring that anyone experiencing DSGBV can access the information they need is an essential part of protecting victims and survivors. An intersectional approach to delivery will continue to be critical in ensuring that relevant information is accessible across all groups of society. Consideration will be given to presenting information in a way that is accessible to migrants and refugees and people with disabilities and other marginalised and vulnerable groups.

The 'Always Here' campaign highlighting pathways to safety and supports available to victims of DSGBV was launched by Minister McEntee on 20th December 2023 and ran until January 22nd. The campaign was delivered through TV and radio and also utilised more traditional media to maximise reach. The first stream, delivered in 2023 focused on domestic violence with a second stream on sexual violence to be developed.

Awareness raising campaigns focused on the rights and supports available to victims of crime will continue throughout 2024. The experience of survivors will feed into a guide on the legal system in Ireland, helping people to navigate their way around family law, criminal law and civil law. The revised Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, which now makes provision for crimes committed by a member of the same household, will be further publicised. Information on sexual and domestic violence services will be widely shared throughout healthcare facilities. The International Protection Office will continue to roll out its training for frontline staff to ensure that gender sensitivities are considered in applications for international protection.

The deliverables associated with training and CPD for frontline workers have been moved to section 1.4.

	Outputs	Lead	Delivery Partner	2024 Timeline	Prevention	Protection	Prosecution	Policy Coordination
2.1.1	Evaluate the domestic violence stream of the 'Always Here' campaign on pathways to safety for victims of DSGBV	Cuan		Q2		√		
2.1.2	Develop sexual violence stream of the 'Always Here' campaign on pathways to safety for victims of DSGBV	Cuan	SCBOs	Q2		√		
2.1.3	Update the Victim's Charter website and develop materials in different languages to improve reach across society. Focus on hard to reach groups	Department of Justice	Cuan	Q4		√		
2.1.4	Promote changes to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme.	Department of Justice		Q4		√		
2.1.5	Create a user-friendly guide to the family law system, the criminal law system, and civil law system, informed by adult and child survivors.	Department of Justice	Cuan, SCBOs	Q4		√	√	
2.1.6	Develop and distribute materials, promote awareness of existing DSGBV services, resources, and national campaigns which will be available in healthcare settings.	HSE	Cuan	Q4		√		
2.1.7	Develop and distribute online materials, promote awareness of existing DSGBV services, resources, and national campaigns, with particular attention to hard-to-reach groups	Cuan	SCBOs	Q4	√	√	√	
2.1.8	Apply gender-specific guidelines and a gender sensitive interpretation of the International Protection Act 2015 as per Article 60 and 61 of the Istanbul Convention.	International Protection Office, Department of Justice	Department of Justice	Q4		√		

2.2 Ensure availability of accessible quality specialist and community based DSGBV services across the state so that all people who experience DSGBV have access to integrated services in the short, medium and longer term.

Establishing the foundations and pre-requisites to inform the development of a National Service Delivery Plan and services evaluation framework will be a priority for Cuan in 2024. The national plan will be based on i) a full assessment of current and emerging needs, ii) an understanding of pre-existing service delivery commitments iii) service delivery model specification iv) current assessment (mapping) of service type and capacity v) service configuration and costed service capacity expansion inclusive of workforce considerations. The development and resourcing of referral pathways (supported by key worker approaches where appropriate) to local specialist supports, including therapeutic services and SATU Service, will also be considered as part of the national plan. A review of funding for DSGBV Services will support strategic investment, more effective organisational capacity, and ongoing professional development and health and wellbeing within the sector.

Using a participatory approach, models of engagement will be implemented across the service delivery sector to ensure a reliable intersectional approach to meeting the needs of our diverse population and vulnerable groups. This will include mechanisms to ensure the voice of victims/survivors and children are incorporated throughout. In addition, there will be a dedicated focus on reviewing the provision of specialist DSGBV services for children and young people.

This work will be complemented by a parallel work programme that will deliver a standards specification and monitoring framework, in addition to a training and staff support plan. Work will be undertaken to map current service types, identify gaps and emerging needs and set out pathways for the delivery of high quality DSGBV services. In the meantime, ensuring continuity of service provision is a key priority. Cuan will continue to work with Tusla for a transitional period to ensure no interruption to funding or services occurs.

	Outputs	Lead	Delivery Partner	2024 Timeline	Prevention	Protection	Prosecution	Policy Coordination
2.2.1	Establish a strategic needs assessment framework for the National Services Development Plan covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope of services • Definition of service models and referral pathways • Approach to mapping existing service activity, funding and capacity 	Cuan	Co-designed with SCBOs	Q3		√		√
2.2.2	Set out a work programme for phased delivery of the National Services Development Plan in 2025 and 2026.	Cuan	SCBOs, DHLGH	Q3		√		
2.2.3	Produce a report on service standards development, implementation, assessment and monitoring.	Cuan	SCBOs	Q4		√		√
2.2.4	Work with the sector to agree the values that will inform the approach to service standards as part of 2.2.3 above.	Cuan	SCBOs	Q3		√		
2.2.5	Identify national and international models of best practice and support for men experiencing DSGBV.	Cuan	SCBOs	Q3		√		√
2.2.6	Engage with the DPENDR to explore the potential for introduction of standardised multi-annual funding structures, processes and service agreements that consider the full economic costs of DSGBV service delivery.	Cuan	DPENDR	Q3		√		

2.3 Enable victims/survivors of DSGBV to rapidly access and live in safe, accessible short and long term accommodation as a priority.

2023 saw significant development of the partnership structures to manage and oversee progress on the advancement of new refuge developments. An Architectural Blueprint was published, which comprised of a suite of documents to assist in the refuge development process and a series of workshops brought together key partners from domestic violence services The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Tusla, The Housing Agency and the Department of Justice. In November 2023, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage issued a Circular to Local Authorities setting out the key role of Local Authority Housing Teams in supporting CAS funding arrangements for refuge development. Additionally, a review of the Guidelines for Housing Authorities for Assisting Victims of Domestic Violence with Emergency and Long-Term Accommodation Needs was completed.

Going forward, a Steering Committee with Cuan and DHLGH representatives will remain in place to continue assisting the development of local structures in priority areas, and will support their advancement of new refuges with through the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS).

There was a significant increase in the provision of additional emergency accommodation, in the form of Safe Homes, for those in crisis situations but at low to medium risk of serious harm. Designated resources in 2023, supported engagement with service-provider organisations, local authorities and (as relevant) Approved Housing Bodies' (AHB) and to fund service provision and some operating costs for this accommodation. The provision of Safe Homes more than doubled in 2023 with 17 additional safe homes coming on stream bringing the total number to 49 by the end of the year.

In 2024, an Accommodation Development Plan will set out the range of accommodation responses and models available along with proposals for strategic development based on evidence of need and accounting for good practice within the sector. Metrics and targets will track progress towards doubling the provision of refuge accommodation over the lifetime of the Strategy. The focus on resourcing the timely delivery of high quality, safe accommodation in priority areas will continue through the targeted provision of project management and capacity building supports. Close collaboration with sectoral partners in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Housing Agency will continue to underpin this work.

Continuing the expansion of safe homes will be a focus, along with building sectoral capacity to support their development. Further work will take place to scope models of alternative domestic violence accommodation modelling good practices from other jurisdictions. Developing clear pathways into longer term accommodation out of refuge and emergency settings will be a key focus in 2024.

Recommendations from the review of Policy and Procedural Guidance for Housing Authorities in Relation to assisting victims of Domestic Violence with emergency and long-term accommodation needs will be communicated to ensure continuing effectiveness and consistency in responses to assist victims of domestic violence. The Department of Justice will engage with key stakeholders to remove the barriers that can prevent people experiencing sexual or domestic violence to remain at home, when it is safe to do so.

	Outputs	Lead	Delivery Partner	2024 Timeline	Prevention	Protection	Prosecution	Policy Coordination
2.3.1	Prepare a paper for the Minister for Justice exploring the development of new policy on removal orders to take offenders out of the home in high risk cases.	Department of Justice	An Garda Síochána	Q3		√		
2.3.2	Develop a strategic plan for the development of safe accommodation for people experiencing domestic violence. The plan should cover staying safe at home, emergency accommodation and pathways out of emergency accommodation.	Cuan	DHLGH, and other relevant Departments and Agencies, with SCBOs	Q4		√		√
2.3.3	Explore models for the delivery of domestic violence refuge accommodation and identify opportunities to accelerate delivery to meet the targets set out in the Strategy	Cuan	DHLGH, and other relevant Departments and Agencies, with SCBOs	Q4		√		√
2.3.4	Related to 2.3.2, communicate recommendations from the Review of the 2017 Guidance for Housing Authorities with the view to developing clear pathways into longer term accommodation/homes out of refuge and other forms of emergency accommodation	DHLGH	Cuan	Q4		√		√

	Outputs	Lead	Delivery Partner	2024 Timeline	Prevention	Protection	Prosecution	Policy Coordination
2.3.5	Examine the current legislative position on assisting victims of Domestic Violence with emergency and long-term accommodation needs. For example, in cases such as joint social housing tenancy. Consider what guidance can be provided and whether legislative change is appropriate.	DHLGH	Local Authorities	Q4	√			
2.3.6	Commence the publication of quarterly reports on progress towards doubling the number of refuge spaces over the lifetime of the Strategy with an accessible tracking mechanism.	Cuan	DHLGH	Q3		√		√
2.3.7	Active planning and engagement underway for the delivery of 150 additional family refuge units.	Cuan	DHLGH, SCBOs	Q4		√		
2.3.8	Deliver 8 new family refuge units and ensure 25 additional family refuge units are under construction	Cuan	DHLGH, SCBOs	Q4		√		
2.3.9	Increase the number of safe homes by a further 35%	Cuan	DHLGH, SCBOs	Q4		√		

2.4 Ensure a victim/survivor centred wraparound service through the creation of clear integrated local pathways (building on the mapping of the victim/survivor journey work) for adults and child (female and male) victims/ survivors to access the domestic violence and sexual violence information, services and supports.

It is envisaged that work on the National Service Development Plan will create a shared understanding and collaborative approaches between services. Clearer pathways between services will be achieved by addressing gaps, developing a key worker approach across services for victims and survivors.

Identifying measures to respond to socially excluded groups will ensure ongoing professional development to be directed where it is needed.

In 2023, six dedicated Domestic Violence Worker posts were developed within Tusla. On an ongoing basis, the Tusla Reform Programme addresses practices and structures to support an integrated response for children and families experiencing domestic violence and a national approach to safety planning for children who have been exposed to harm.

This year, healthcare professionals will have improved access to information, training and resources focused on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and will ensure services are accessible to those who need them.

	Outputs	Lead	Lead Delivery Partner	2024 Timeline	Prevention	Protection	Prosecution	Policy Coordination
2.4.1	Review protocols for victims'/ survivors' referrals to/from local services providing DSGBV support.	Cuan	Department of Justice, SCBOs	Q4		√		
2.4.2	Finalise the high-level design of Tusla's Local Integrated Service Delivery Model	Tusla	Cuan and SCBOs	Q2		√		
2.4.3	Publish Tusla DV Informed Child Protection and Welfare Guidelines.	Tusla		Q2		√		
2.4.4	Tusla commencement of the implementation of its new Local Integrated Service Delivery Model	Tusla	SCBOs	Q4		√		
2.4.5	Continue development of the HSE national helpline services, expanding their capacity and responsiveness across multiple platforms through delivery of HSE-lead training and provision of resource materials.	HSE		Q4		√		
2.4.6	DSGBV training modules including FGM specific content available to health staff and helpline workers	HSE	Department of Health	Q2		√		
2.4.7	FGM specific awareness sessions provided and updated information on FGM services available on HSE's DSGBV website.	HSE	Department of Health	Q2		√		

2.5 Recognise and support the child/young person as an individual victim/survivor who experiences DSGBV using child friendly and age-appropriate communications

The Third National Strategy recognises children and young people as victims and survivors of DSGBV in their own right. To better support them, we are committed to strengthening our response by providing expanded services. Recognising and supporting children and young people will be a focus in 2024 and will be a dedicated area of focus in the design of engagement structures and the National Services Development Plan.

Additional Barnahus facilities in Dublin and Cork will be developed. Legislative proposals to underpin Operation Encompass in the Irish systems will be explored. Identifying the national responses required to address the needs of children impacted by DSGBV in an age-appropriate way will be developed, while supporting the non-abusive parent as best practice form of child protection. The provision of enhanced court accompaniment and support services for children will form part of the National Service Delivery Plan.

Work is already under way to re-develop school curricula to include Relationship and Sexuality Education in Irish schools. By 2025, this will be fully implemented in primary and secondary schools. Plans to develop specific interventions for young people as victims/ survivors including in relation to their intimate relationship experiences will be taken forward through completion of the framework for youth therapeutic services.

	Outputs	Lead	Delivery Partner	2024 Timeline	Prevention	Protection	Prosecution	Policy Coordination
2.5.1	Progress development of additional comprehensive Barnahus facilities	DCEDIY	Department of Health	Q4	√	√		
2.5.2	Complete Interagency agreement on Barnahus therapy model implementation plan	DCEDIY	Department of Health	Q2		√		
2.5.3	Virtual Barnahus in place in the South	DCEDIY	Department of Health	Q2		√		
2.5.4	Virtual Barnahus in place in the East	DCEDIY	Department of Health	Q4		√		
2.5.5	We will examine legislative proposals that would underpin Operation Encompass in the Irish systems.	Department of Justice	An Garda Síochána	Q3		√		
2.5.6	Develop an engagement model for children and young people.	Cuan	DCEDIY, Tusla, HSE, SCBOs	Q3		√		
2.5.7	Resource the provision of enhanced court accompaniment and related support services for children as witnesses in criminal trials.	Cuan	Department of Justice, SCBOs	Q4	√	√		
2.5.8	Complete the framework for Youth Therapeutic services in collaboration with Sexual Violence & Rape Crisis Services.	Cuan	SCBOs	Q4		√		

2.6 Ensure those, primarily women, in prostitution have access to safety, health care, support and exit routes.

Marginalised women need specialised health services to feel protected, supported and heard, and we will continue to facilitate access to appropriate services.

A dedicated unit was established for victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation by the International Protection Accommodation Service within the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, and Youth. The female-only unit has accommodation for eight victims, where they will get additional supports as required. This centre will operate as a pilot programme throughout 2024 with a view to applying learnings to further specialised centres in the future.

The capacity of the Women's Health Service will continue to develop so that the needs of marginalised women, especially for those working in prostitution, can be strengthened. Strengthening the service's online presence will be a priority.

	Outputs	Lead	Delivery Partner	2024 Timeline	Prevention	Protection	Prosecution	Policy Coordination
2.6.1	Build capacity of the Women's Health Service (WHS) to respond to the needs of marginalised women – especially women who work in prostitution – and strengthen the service's online presence to ensure reach to relevant groups.	Department of Health	HSE	Q2		√		
2.6.2	Development of data collection systems for the Women's Health Service.	Department of Health	HSE	Q2		√		
2.6.3	Implementation of the Women's Health Service online communication strategy.	Department of Health	HSE	Q3		√		
2.6.4	Women's Health Service data collection systems in place	Department of Health	HSE	Q4		√		
2.6.5	Operate the pilot accommodation centre for victims of trafficking/sexual exploitation.	DCEDIY	SCBOs	Q4		√		

PROSECUTION PILLAR 3

Strategy Goal: Ensure that victims/survivors (adults and children) have immediate and longer-term access to the safety, support and advocacy they need, with agencies held accountable for the protection of victims/survivors, and that the Justice systems implement the law and provide the consistent enforcement and judicial proceedings necessary to vindicate the rights of the victim/survivor.

3.1 Ensure that all professionals and frontline workers involved in DSGBV work with adults and children in the courts and in the justice, legal and policing systems have the skills and understanding of DSGBV to equip them with the necessary expertise required.

Deliverables in this area have been moved to section 1.4 to allow for an integrated response to developing professional education and CPD for frontline workers.

3.2 Reform the operation of the family law courts to ensure victims/survivors are better protected.

Research published in May 2023 exploring the interface between civil family law, public criminal law and the child protection justice systems points to reforms needed and how these might be progressed.

The first Family Justice Strategy 2022 - 2025 was published on 16 November 2022 and an Implementation Group has been established to oversee implementation of strategy actions, including actions relating to victims/ survivors of DSGBV.

Informed by the Review of Expert Reports in family justice, we will review international best practice to strengthen the voices of the child in court proceedings. This review is currently being finalised by the Department of Justice. Professional criteria, accreditation, and regulation of court experts and assessors appointed by the courts will be progressed. Training on children's rights, DSGBV awareness and child-friendly communication will be a focus.

We will also work towards the enactment of the Family Courts Bill 2022 and plan for its commencement.

	Outputs	Lead	Delivery Partner	2024 Timeline	Prevention	Protection	Prosecution	Policy Coordination
3.2.1	Consider recommendations arising from the 2023 research exploring the interface and interaction of civil family law, public criminal law and the child protection justice systems, and develop proposals as appropriate.	Department of Justice	Cuan, Courts Service	Q3			√	
3.2.2	Examine and implement, as appropriate, the recommendations contained in the Family Justice Strategy relating to victims/survivors of DSGBV.	Department of Justice	Cuan	Q2			√	
3.2.3	Work towards the enactment of the Family Courts Bill 2022 and plan for its commencement.	Department of Justice	Courts Service	Q4			√	
3.2.4	Progress the work of the Voice of the Child Working Group to examine current arrangements to hear the voice of the child in private family law and Alternative Dispute Resolution.	Department of Justice	Cuan and Tusla with the support of SCBOs	Q4			√	
3.2.5	Finalise and publish the Review of the Role of Expert Reports in Private Family Law and establish the Voice of the Child Working Group.	Department of Justice	Cuan and Tusla with the support of SCBOs	Q2			√	

3.3 Work to reduce attrition rates and enhance access to the legal system for individuals experiencing DSGBV.

In 2023, legislative changes took place which work towards this objective. The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Human Trafficking) Bill 2023 was published on 5 July 2023 and will strengthen the law around sexual offences and improves protections for victims of sexual offences and of human trafficking.

The Criminal Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2023 came into force on 1 November 2023. It creates new stand-alone offences of stalking and non-fatal strangulation. It also doubles to 10 years the maximum sentence for assault causing harm, this being one of the most common offences in domestic violence cases.

The publication of Supporting a Victim's Journey in 2020 was an important step in protecting vulnerable victims of sexual violence and ensuring the criminal justice system works for those who need it. In 2024, the Department of Justice will continue working with stakeholders to implement the systemic improvements set out in Supporting a Victim's Journey.

The timescale from complaint to trial will be reduced. Access to the court processes will be enhanced through a variety of mechanisms such as multi-lingual documentation and remote access. Legal aid resources for both adult and child victims and survivors of DSGBV will be considered in the context of the recommendations of the Civil Legal Aid Review, to be completed in 2024. Changes to income eligibility thresholds will also be examined in the context of the recommendations.

The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Human Trafficking) Bill 2023, currently progressing through the Houses of the Oireachtas, will ensure anonymity for victims and the accused in sexual offence trials, repeal provisions for sentences to be delivered in public, and make provision for legal representation for victims in certain circumstances.

	Outputs	Lead	Delivery Partner	2024 Timeline	Prevention	Protection	Prosecution	Policy Coordination
3.3.1	Work towards enactment of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Human Trafficking) Bill 2023.	Department of Justice		Q2			√	
3.3.2	Commence part 2 of the Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) Act 2023 as it relates to body-worn cameras	Department of Justice		Q2				
3.3.3	Initiate a limited proof of concept deployment of body worn cameras in a small number of areas for members of An Garda Síochána.	Department of Justice	An Garda Síochána	Q2			√	
3.3.4	Examine whether the six month time limit for the making of complaints relating to summary offences, as provided for in Section 10(4) of the Petty Sessions (Ireland) Act 1851, should be modified in the prosecution of offences under the Domestic Violence Act 2018	Department of Justice	An Garda Síochána	Q2			√	
3.3.5	Finalise the review of recommendations made by the National Women's Council of Ireland's (NWCI) research relating to situations where parallel civil and criminal and possibly child welfare proceedings arising from the same incident exist. This is linked to action 3.2.1.	Department of Justice	Courts Service, Cuan, Tusla and SCBOs	Q4			√	
3.3.6	Create a plan to provide enhanced information of processes in the family justice system, detailing what information is required and what areas should be involved.	Department of Justice	Courts Service, Cuan, SCBOs	Q4		√	√	
3.3.7	Review the provision of information for children and young people in court processes.	Department of Justice	Courts Service, Cuan, SCBOs	Q2				

	Outputs	Lead	Delivery Partner	2024 Timeline	Prevention	Protection	Prosecution	Policy Coordination
3.3.8	Examine and review the rationale for the disclosure of counselling notes as part of court proceedings including a victim/survivor perspective through a dedicated Interagency Working Group.	Department of Health	DoJ	Q3			√	
3.3.9	Consider and progress as appropriate the recommendations made by the Civil Legal Aid Review Group.	Department of Justice		Q4			√	
3.3.10	Review the salaries and the fee rates paid by the Legal Aid Board to assess their effectiveness.	Department of Justice	DPENDR	Q2			√	
3.3.11	Review whether, in general, the notice period that the Legal Aid Board receives on the timing of section 3/4 applications has improved so that the Board is in a position to provide legal representation before the hearing of the application.	Department of Justice	Legal Aid Board, Legal Practitioners, and the ODPP	Q2			√	
3.3.12	Explore the extension of the application of the vulnerable witnesses list (currently being implemented in District Court 18) to other locations within the Dublin Metropolitan District.	Courts Service		Q2		√	√	
3.3.13	Establish a community based victim/survivor-led restorative justice project in the Northwest of Ireland to include recruitment and training of an outreach worker.	The Probation Service	Department of Justice	Q2		√	√	

3.4 Reduce demand for prostitution

In 2024, greater alignment between this Strategy and the new Human Trafficking Action Plan will be developed through improved collaboration with persons involved in the sex trade. This will include continuation of safeguarding checks of persons and premises known for involvement in the sex trade, and taking part in national and internationally co-ordinated days of action targeting organised prostitution, brothel-keeping and the purchase of sex.

Recommendations arising from the Review of Part 4 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017 will be considered and progressed. This Act criminalises payment for sexual activity with a trafficked person or a person in prostitution to ensure efficacy of the legislation in reducing demand and supports prosecuting offenders purchasing sex.

	Outputs	Lead	Delivery Partner	2024 Timeline	Prevention	Protection	Prosecution	Policy Coordination
3.4.1	Consider and progress recommendations arising from the Review of Part 4 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017.	Department of Justice	Cuan and An Garda Síochána	Q4			√	√
3.4.2	Collaborate on national and internationally co-ordinated days of action targeting organised prostitution, brothel-keeping and the purchase of sex.	An Garda Síochána		Q4	√		√	

3.5 Strengthen the policing and prosecution of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence

Strengthening the policing and prosecution of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence is vital in the effective law enforcement that enables victims and survivors to access justice. Ensuring every Garda Division has a fully staffed and equipped Divisional Protective Service Unit (DPSU) with trained staff is a key aspect of this reform. In 2023, a tailored Divisional Protective Services Unit (DPSU) training programme was delivered to all DPSU members nationwide in collaboration with the Garda College. Increasing the provision of specialist interview suites will follow review of the current capacity and current technical capability of the interviewing suites available at present. The Garda National Protective Services Bureau (GNPSB) will pilot the use of hard disc recording technology to assess its suitability for national rollout.

The Garda Síochána Inspectorate will finalise their inspection into the effectiveness of An Garda Síochána's response to domestic abuse in order to improve the policing response to domestic violence.

An Garda Síochána work to increase prosecutions of breaches of civil orders provided for in domestic violence and family law settings.

The Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC) as an independent oversight body will work to improve the safety of victims and the policing response through investigation of complaints and investigating the adequacy of An Garda Síochána's response domestic violence and sexual violence incidents. This will include complaints about members of An Garda Síochána as perpetrators. GSOC will also develop its own capabilities in the investigation of DSGBV through training its own staff and subjecting its investigations to higher-level decision making within GSOC.

There are a number of deliverables relating to training in section 1.4 that go towards meeting this objective.

	Outputs	Lead	Delivery Partner	2024 Timeline	Prevention	Protection	Prosecution	Policy Coordination
3.5.1	Develop a tailored Divisional Protective Services Unit (DPSU) training programme.	An Garda Síochána	Department of Justice	Q2	√	√	√	
3.5.2	Commence Divisional Protective Services Unit (DPSU) training programme.	An Garda Síochána	Department of Justice	Q2	√	√	√	
3.5.3	Commence implementation of relevant recommendations of DPSU review.	An Garda Síochána	Department of Justice	Q2	√	√	√	
3.5.4	Pilot the use of hard disc recording technology to assess its suitability for national rollout to specialist interview suites.	An Garda Síochána	Department of Justice	Q2		√	√	
3.5.5	Establish victim interview room at the new GNPSB facility in Dublin 15.	An Garda Síochána	Department of Justice	Q2		√	√	
3.5.6	Progress development of an additional specialist interview suite in the Portlaoise area.	An Garda Síochána	Department of Justice	Q4		√	√	
3.5.7	Ensure that training and knowledge around prosecutions of domestic abuse orders, in particular barring orders, is reiterated and reinforced to the operational ranks of An Garda Síochána.	An Garda Síochána	ODPP	Q4		√	√	

	Outputs	Lead	Delivery Partner	2024 Timeline	Prevention	Protection	Prosecution	Policy Coordination
3.5.8	Commence a process to review the recording of the service of DVA orders by AGS	An Garda Síochána	ODPP	Q4		√	√	
3.5.9	Establish three advisory groups to support the work progressing the recommendations of the Study on Familicide and Domestic Homicide Reviews.	Department of Justice	Relevant Departments and Agencies	Q2	√		√	√
3.5.10	Finalise report on the effectiveness and efficiency of the Garda Síochána's response to domestic abuse.	Garda Síochána Inspectorate	An Garda Síochána and the Department of Justice and Cuan	Q2		√	√	
3.5.11	Consider the findings and implementation of recommendations made in relation to improve the policing response to domestic abuse.	Garda Síochána Inspectorate	Department of Justice, An Garda Síochána	Q3		√	√	√
3.5.12	Examine and make recommendations in relation to Garda Síochána policy/practice relating to DSGBV, with a view to improving service levels for victims and improve the effectiveness of Garda investigations.	GSOC	An Garda Síochána	Q4		√	√	

3.6 Ensure perpetrators of DSGBV are held to account and prevented from victimising/re-victimising, to include domestic violence and sexual violence perpetrator programmes.

Legislation to strengthen the management and monitoring of sex offenders in the community was introduced with the Sex Offenders (Amendment) Act 2023 which was enacted in April 2023 and commenced by order in November 2023. The Sex Offender Risk Assessment and Management (SORAM) framework supports enhanced co-operation and co-ordination between the statutory organisations who manage risks to the community posed by convicted sex offenders and in safeguarding the welfare of children.

In 2024, the Department of Justice, the Probation Service and the Irish Prison Service will review the systems and mechanisms by which those convicted of DSGBV crimes are managed in community settings. Risk assessment mechanisms for adult and children victims and survivors of DSGBV will be reviewed and strengthened in preparing for release of perpetrators convicted of DSGBV. Supports for people in prison who have experienced sexual or domestic abuse will also be reviewed.

A National Perpetrator Programme will be created and resourced and will include a suite of programmes for convicted and non-convicted perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence offences, accompanied by integrated safety support structures for partners and children.

The response to children as convicted and non-convicted perpetrators within the criminal justice system will be reviewed to ensure that responses are appropriate and effective in reducing reoffending by prioritising diversion, restorative justice and therapeutic interventions. The Probation Service and Irish Prison Service will continue engagement on how children who are perpetrators of sexual violence can engage in streamlined and complementary interventions between Oberstown and the Irish Prison Service.

	Outputs	Lead	Delivery Partner	2024 Timeline	Prevention	Protection	Prosecution	Policy Coordination
3.6.1	The Offender Management Governance & Strategy Group will establish a working group to develop a mechanism to oversee the multi-agency management of intimate partner violence offenders	Department of Justice	The Probation Service, An Garda Síochána, the Irish Prison Service	Q2	√	√	√	√
3.6.2	Procure expertise to conduct an independent review of the supports for people in custody who have experienced sexual, domestic or gender-based trauma	Irish Prison Service	Department of Justice, The Probation Service and relevant SCBOs	Q2		√		
3.6.3	Establish a multi-disciplinary National Steering Group to oversee implementation and ongoing review of a programme of interventions developed by the IPS Psychology Service	Irish Prison Service		Q4		√	√	
3.6.4	Agree a work plan for the development of National Perpetrator Programme	Department of Justice	Cuan, The Probation Service, and relevant SCBOs	Q3		√	√	√
3.6.5	Agree approach to strengthen risk assessment mechanisms for adults and child victims/survivors in the post release of perpetrators convicted of DSGBV and implement necessary measures.	Department of Justice	The Probation Service, and relevant SCBOs	Q3				

POLICY COORDINATION PILLAR 4

Strategy Goal: Situated/coordinated in the Department of Justice (as per the audit), the State offers a comprehensive, co-ordinated, authoritative, monitored and evaluated set of responses to DSGBV, which will be informed by engagement with both key stakeholders and service users, operating and interconnected at national level and regional/local level with independent oversight.

4.1 Create strong oversight and implementation structures to deliver on the Strategy, with regional coordination structures to oversee delivery of services on the ground

Strong governance and oversight structures are required to deliver on the implementation of the Third National Strategy. A monitoring and reporting framework for the implementation of the Strategy will set out clear reporting processes to the Minister and all other stakeholders. This structure will be underpinned by the principle of co-design. Where necessary, local structures will be resourced to connect at the national level.

	Outputs	Lead	Delivery Partner	2024 Timeline	Prevention	Protection	Prosecution	Policy Coordination
4.1.1	Establish governance, oversight and co-design structures to support strategy implementation.	Cuan	Department of Justice, DCEDIY, relevant SCBOs, external expertise	Q2	√	√	√	√
4.1.2	Develop a monitoring and reporting framework for strategic implementation setting out clear reporting processes to the Minister and all other stakeholders	Cuan	Department of Justice, supported by SCBOs and informed by the voices of victims/ survivors	Q2				√
4.1.3	Establish the necessary co-design structures to ensure consistency and coherence in messaging in the planning and roll out of campaigns particularly in relation to consent.	Cuan	Department of Justice, SCBOs	Q2	√			√
4.1.4	Engage with relevant government fora and departments to inform the development of public policy and practice on DSGBV issues on a quarterly basis.	Cuan	Relevant Government Departments and Agencies together with SCBOs	Q4	√			√
4.1.5	Establish a working group to report to the Minister for Justice regarding the various awareness raising initiatives envisaged under the Strategy.	Cuan	Relevant Government Departments and Agencies together with SCBOs	Q3				√
4.1.6	Publish a Progress Report on the Implementation of the 2024 Plan at 6 month intervals, following Cabinet Approval.	Cuan	Department of Justice	Q4				√

4.2 Ensure an effective, robust research and evaluation strategy and enhance the coordination of data collection.

Several objectives addressing research, evaluation and data have been grouped together in this section for ease of reference:

- 4.2 Ensure an effective, robust research and evaluation strategy;
- 4.3 Develop enhanced coordination of data collection strategies;
- 4.4 Ensure issues of policy intersectionality are highlighted and prioritised;
- 4.5 Make clear connections and agree targets with other equality and inclusion strategies and related legislation (that focus on socially excluded groups).

Developing a shared approach to research and evaluation on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence issues across government departments and agencies and the wider DSGBV sector will be a focus in 2024. Cuan will lead on research to inform DSGBV policy development in Ireland.

The enhanced coordination of data collection on DSGBV in the Irish context is a key objective of the Third National Strategy. Coordinating data collection across the DSGBV Sector will underpin research development. Government departments, agencies and service providers will be enabled to gather and report data relevant to the implementation of the Strategy in order to develop key performance indicators to track and measure progress.

A co-ordinated system for collecting, analysing and sharing data on access to and the use of DSGBV service will identify quantitative and qualitative data gaps where they exist. Making clear connections with other relevant strategies will enable protocols for data collection to be agreed.

	Outputs	Lead	Delivery Partner	2024 Timeline	Prevention	Protection	Prosecution	Policy Coordination
4.2.1	Develop a research and data plan that identifies immediate priorities and outcomes for 2024 and 2025 and incorporates a mechanism to support the collation of DSGBV data across government departments and agencies.	Cuan	Relevant Government Departments and Agencies together with SCBOs	Q3	√	√	√	√
4.2.2	Develop key performance indicators to track and measure progress of the strategy.	Cuan		Q3	√	√	√	√
4.2.3	Collaborate with CSO and other research agencies and academics in the DSGBV sector to develop analytical capacity for reporting and use of data in service planning.	Cuan	CSO	Q4	√	√	√	√
4.2.4	Agree a project plan and timeline for a Domestic Violence/Gender Based Violence survey.	CSO	Cuan, SCBOs	Q3	√	√	√	√
4.2.5	Commence preliminary work on data requirements subject to the agreed project timeline in 4.2.4 above.	CSO	Cuan, Relevant academic experts and SCBOs	Q4	√	√	√	√

4.3 Ensuring issues of policy intersectionality are highlighted and prioritised is important in the implementation plan and will be a key focus of Cuan going forward.

A number of objectives addressing inclusion and socially excluded groups have been grouped together in this section for ease of reference:

- 4.6 Ensure there is a priority focus on DSGBV services being inclusive, and improve outcomes for socially excluded groups;
- 4.7 Recognise the voice of the victim/survivor adults, children and young people) and provide an opportunity for their voices to be heard at different levels;
- 4.8 Recognise the child as an individual victim/survivor who experiences DSGBV;
- 4.9 Develop standardised funding structures and processes across governmental departments to allow for adequate funding for the sector and avoid duplication of funding.

Making connections to other equality and inclusion strategies and related legislation that focuses upon socially excluded groups will ensure DSGBV services are inclusive and improve outcomes for socially excluded groups, whether adults or children and young people. In particular there will a focus on meeting the specific needs of people with disabilities, the Traveller and Roma communities, migrants and refugees, and LGBTI+ people. Engaging with the wider DSGBV research community will facilitating the consideration of intersectionality and understanding barriers faced by minority groups.

The work of the Strategy is informed and influenced by victims' and survivors' needs and rights. The voice of victims and survivors will continue to underpin the work of progressing the Strategy in 2024. This will include the child as an individual victim or survivor who experiences DSGBV in their own right.

Work in reviewing the funding of services as part of the National Services Development Plan will support the longer term objective of developing standardised funding structures across Government.

	Outputs	Lead	Delivery Partner	2024 Timeline	Prevention	Protection	Prosecution	Policy Coordination
4.3.1	Engage with the DSGBV research community to understand the intersectional needs and barriers faced by minority groups.	Cuan	SCBOs	Q4				√

