



HM Government

A Call to End Violence against Women and Girls

Action Plan 2014

March 2014

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Ministerial foreword by the Home Secretary



Violence against women is a despicable crime which has absolutely no place in our society. But for too long, too many women and girls have suffered domestic abuse, rape, sexual assault and crimes such as stalking. In 2012/13, 76 women lost their lives to a partner or ex-partner¹. That is the lowest number since 1998/99, but it is still too many.

I am determined that violence of all kinds against women and girls should end. In November 2010, I set out this Government's strategy to tackle this issue. Since then, the annual Action Plan has supported the delivery of that strategy and I am proud of the progress that has been made, both domestically and abroad.

Supporting victims must be at the heart of our approach. Since the publication of the last Action Plan, we have continued our core funding of nearly £40 million to support specialist domestic and sexual violence services and have seen an increase in the numbers of rape crisis centres which have opened. This Action Plan sets out what more we will do to support local commissioners in providing services which meet the needs of victims.

I want to ensure that the police and other agencies have the right tools in place to protect victims. This year we will be rolling out domestic violence protection orders and the domestic violence disclosure scheme across England and Wales. These provide the police with new powers to put protective measures for victims in place.

In addition to this, I have commissioned Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to review the police response to domestic violence. The review's findings will be published later this month and I am committed to ensuring that the recommendations are implemented. We continue to work with the College of Policing and National Policing Leads to improve the police response, particularly on crimes such as stalking where the legislation we introduced is still relatively new.

¹ Office for National Statistics: Statistical Bulletin: *Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences*, 2012/13 published 13 February 2014

On rape and sexual violence, I want to ensure the voices of victims are heard and that they can access justice. The latest data published by the Office for National Statistics shows a small fall in the prevalence of sexual assaults. At the same time, more crimes are being recorded by the police and rape conviction rates are at their highest levels. However, data published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary shows a wide variation in performance between different forces, and the number of referrals from the police to the Crown Prosecution Service has fallen. This Action Plan sets out the steps we are taking, working with the Director of Public Prosecutions, Police and Crime Commissioners and other partners, to understand why this has happened and what we need to do to address it.

New technology and social media continues to be misused to exploit and target the vulnerable. Bullying, stalking, harassment, and threatening behaviour which occurs online is just as unacceptable as when it occurs offline. I am absolutely clear that these are crimes, and will be treated as such.

Education must also play a role in discouraging violent and abusive behaviour. Our *This is Abuse* campaign has been successfully helping to educate young people about damaging behaviours within relationships, and this year's campaign had a specific focus on reaching young men to help them understand what constitutes abusive behaviour.

Crucially, I am conscious that violence against women and girls is not just a matter of concern for the UK, but a global issue. Along with many in the international community, I want to see a world in which women and girls in every country are able to live lives free from violence. I am proud of the work we are doing through programmes such as the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative. I will continue to make sure our domestic approach complements and supports our international approach and that we lead by example.

I have always been clear that violence against women and girls cannot be solved by Government alone. I am grateful to frontline practitioners and voluntary organisations for their passion and commitment to this cause and thank them for their continued engagement with Government on these difficult issues.

I am determined to see a society where violence against women and girls is completely unacceptable, where people speak out, and where no woman or girl is exploited, traumatised or coerced into damaging sexual behaviour or criminal activity. I hope we can work together to make this a reality.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Theresa May', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

The Right Honourable Theresa May MP
Home Secretary

Ministerial foreword by the Minister of State for Crime Prevention



Violence against women and girls is a significant social problem and I am working closely with the Home Secretary to tackle it.

The potential and dignity of every individual should not be blighted by any form of violence. I am determined to see a real shift in attitudes towards violence against women and girls – from frontline professionals, across institutions and in the wider public. We are all responsible for standing up and challenging behaviours which are unacceptable. We must continue to come together to address these issues and I am working with the women’s sector and other interested parties to ensure we make a positive difference.

The Coalition Government has made good progress on this agenda, including taking forward legislation to criminalise forced marriage in England and Wales, and extending the domestic violence definition to include those aged 16-17 and to cover coercive control. We will continue to work with the College of Policing and other key partners to support the development of expertise across the police and other first responders to tackle issues such as stalking and abusive crimes taking place online.

The National Group on Sexual Violence Against Women and Vulnerable People, which I lead, is delivering a number of significant improvements to the Government’s response to sexual violence and, importantly, will drive a significant cultural shift so that the focus of the criminal justice system is on the credibility of the allegation rather than the credibility of the individual.

Eradicating female genital mutilation is one of our top priorities and on 6 February, to mark the International Day for Zero tolerance to female genital mutilation, I hosted a roundtable where Ministers from different departments across Government signed a declaration to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to end this terrible form of abuse. We have a comprehensive package of work over the forthcoming year to achieve this goal and I am committed to driving this work.

But to really combat FGM we need to engage with at risk communities – and be absolutely clear that this is an illegal practice which will not be tolerated. That is why

we are also criminalising forced marriage. No political or cultural sensitivity should prevent us from recognising abuse for what it is, challenging behaviours that perpetrate it or working to eliminate it from entire communities.

And of course, there are wider societal attitudes to challenge. In December last year, we re-launched the *This is Abuse* campaign to help change some young people's way of thinking. Through this campaign we want to prevent teenagers from becoming victims and perpetrators of abuse, encourage them to consider their views of abuse and the meaning of consent within relationships, and signpost them to help and advice. Crucially, a significant focus of the campaign is targeted at boys and young men to help them identify and challenge abusive behaviour.

This campaign is contributing to the wider cultural awareness that violence is unacceptable, and that it is never the victim's fault. Since we first launched the campaign in 2010, there have been over a million and a half visits to the website and visits have increased significantly during this campaign period. I am proud of our collaborations with Hollyoaks and MTV in particular – these credible voices are really reaching young people.

Multi-agency working really is fundamental to ending violence against women and girls. Victims have a range of needs which cannot be addressed in isolation. Victims may suffer different types of abuse with a variety of consequences. Support services, interventions and statutory responders must therefore offer an integrated range of care services. This Action Plan sets out how we will get this multi-agency response right.

Together we can make a difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norman Baker". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Norman Baker MP
Minister for Crime Prevention

Executive Summary

Our vision

Our vision remains nothing less than the elimination of violence against women and girls. This was our ambition in November 2010 when we first issued our Call to End Violence against Women and Girls, and it remains so today. The Government has made significant strides in tackling violence against women and girls and continues to demonstrate commitment and national leadership to maintain momentum and drive progress in the right direction. This Action Plan sets out the detail of our achievements, and where we will particularly focus our activity over the coming year in response to emerging challenges. Our determination to tackle these forms of violence which cause irreparable damage remains as strong as ever and this agenda continues to be a priority for the Coalition Government.

Progress over the last year

We have made significant progress in the last 12 months with over 50 actions in the March 2013 Action Plan being completed. Good progress has been made on the remaining actions which are on course. In addition, the Coalition Government has taken a number of steps to tackle emerging issues over the course of the last year. Our fundamental approach has not changed and we have built on the benefits from having:

- Clear strategic objectives focused on prevention, provision of services, partnership working, and justice outcomes and risk reduction;
- Commitment right across Government with activity co-ordinated across Departments overseen by an Inter-Ministerial Group chaired by the Home Secretary;
- Active engagement with local areas and voluntary sector partners to inform our policies related to violence against women and girls;
- Ensuring wider Government reforms support our approach to tackling violence against women and girls; and
- A commitment to almost £40 million of ring-fenced funding over the spending review period for specialist violence against women and girls services from the Home Office and Ministry of Justice.

The Government has continued to provide strong leadership, nationally and internationally, to end violence against women and girls. We have worked with our partners including the police and women's sector to deliver key activity over the last 12 months. This includes:

- Re-launching the highly successful ***This is Abuse*** campaign, including collaborations with Hollyoaks and MTV, and a new focus on reaching young male perpetrators.
- Completion of the **domestic violence disclosure scheme (Clare's Law)** pilot and the announcement that the scheme will be rolled out nationally from March 2014, allowing the police to disclose information to the public about a partner's previous violent offending and thereby empowering people to make an informed decision about the future of a relationship.
- Evaluation of the **Domestic Violence Protection Order** pilot, and the announcement that this too will be rolled out nationally from March 2014, preventing perpetrators of violence from returning to their home for up to 28 days, giving the victim time to consider their options.
- A review of the police response to domestic violence by **Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary**, which will report by April.
- Encouraging employers to sign a **Pledge** committing their organisations to having a comprehensive policy to support staff experiencing domestic violence as part of the **Public Health Responsibility Deal**. The Home Office, Department of Health, HMRC, the Ministry of Justice, Crown Prosecution Service, Public Health England and NHS England have all already signed the Pledge and it is our ambition that all civil service departments will be signatories by April 2015.
- Publishing a 'lessons learned' document based on the findings of the Home Office **Domestic Homicide Reviews**, which identified common themes and made recommendations to be considered locally.
- Progressing legislation to **criminalise forced marriage** in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill, to ensure that this unacceptable practice can be robustly prosecuted.
- Successfully bidding for funding (approximately £250,000) from the European Commission to fund a project raising awareness of **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** in the UK. Project activities will include a promotion campaign for the NSPCC FGM helpline, community engagement, learning packages for safeguarding professionals, awareness raising sessions with Local Safeguarding Children's Boards and hosting an EU wide event to share effective practice.

- Part-funding a new study into the **prevalence of FGM in England and Wales**. The new research will be the first update since a 2007 study revealed that over 20,000 girls in the UK could be at risk of FGM each year. The results are due to be published in April.
- Maintaining one of the most **robust sex offender management** regimes in the world which has included introducing new legislation to reform the civil orders available, giving the police and courts broader powers to manage registered sex offenders and those who pose a risk.
- Working with the Director of Public Prosecutions to understand the fall in **referrals from the police to the Crown Prosecution Service in rape and domestic violence cases**, and agreeing a six point plan to tackle this issue, including the establishment of a national scrutiny panel led by the Director of Public Prosecutions and the National Policing Lead for Rape.
- Funding the development and delivery of a **training package on stalking** to further assist frontline workers to identify cases of stalking, and support and advise victims appropriately.
- Continuing to work with the Crown Prosecution Service, National Policing Lead, the College of Policing and others to **raise awareness of stalking**, and encourage further training of police and CPS staff.
- Funding the development and delivery of a series of **Commissioning Masterclasses**, specifically designed to support voluntary sector organisations providing local domestic violence and sexual violence services to engage effectively with the new commissioning landscape.
- Engaging closely with local commissioners, including issuing a Violence Against Women and Girls fact pack and holding a conference on commissioning for **Police and Crime Commissioners**, and establishing a cross-Government task and finish group to drive progress around commissioning issues.
- Supporting work by the voluntary sector to develop a **standards framework** to assist local commissioners to make informed choices about local sexual violence and domestic violence services.
- Setting out a programme of work through the **National Group on Sexual Violence against Children and Vulnerable People** to prevent sexual abuse happening in the first place; to protect children online; to make sure the police can identify and deal with abuse; and ensure victims are at the heart of the criminal justice system. We are ensuring that the work of this group links in effectively with the broader agenda on violence against woman and girls.

- Continuing to provide funding for 13 **Young People's Advocates** to provide direct support to young women who have been victims or are at risk of gang-related violence and exploitation. The Coalition Government is the first to tackle this issue.

Our progress domestically has continued to be matched by our determination to lead the way to end violence against women and girls internationally. In the last year we have:

- Participated in the **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 57th Session** in March 2013 with the priority theme of 'The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls'. Through the UK's leadership, the international community agreed a set of concrete conclusions for the very first time, placing women's rights at its heart.
- Signed up to the **United Nations Resolution on addressing Femicide** following the CSW 57th session.
- Led on the new **UN Security Council Resolutions 2106 (preventing sexual violence in armed conflict) and 2122 (women's roles in conflict prevention)** setting out a framework for preventing sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict which were agreed. The UN General Assembly Declaration was endorsed by 140 nations.
- Through the CSW 57th Session, we also signed up to the **UN COMMIT Initiative** launched by UN Women setting out the UK Government's commitment to ending violence against women and girls through our continuing leadership at national and international level.

Moving forward: the next 12 months

This is the third review of the Action Plan since we launched our Call to End Violence against Women and Girls in 2010. We remain clear that the underlying principles of the strategy – prevention, provision of services, partnership working, justice outcomes and risk reduction – remain as valid now as in 2010.

Government reforms have continued apace over the last twelve months, not least in the arena of local commissioning. We will ensure that the strong framework we have established to tackle violence against women and girls is aligned with these reforms, and identifies new opportunities to encourage targeted attention and support where it is most needed.

To ensure we do this, we are focused on delivering ongoing actions between now and April 2015. We have developed new actions to tackle emerging challenges and,

following consultation with the voluntary sector and frontline agencies, areas where we think national impetus and leadership can make a real difference.

Early intervention

Early intervention is crucial to prevent and stop the escalation of abuse. While our approach remains focused on supporting victims, success ultimately depends on stopping violence from happening in the first place.

Schools play a vital role in education and safeguarding and we will continue to identify ways to engage with schools and support the education of young people on healthy relationships and, in particular, raise awareness around consent. We will achieve this by working in partnership with expert groups and professional bodies and highlighting best practice by promoting case studies produced by the PSHE Association to ensure teachers have the tools and resources they need to safeguard children. Schools will welcome initiatives such as the work of the PSHE Association, the Sex Education Forum, and Brook, on new supplementary advice, 'Sex and relationships education (SRE) for the 21st century', published recently. This addresses changes in technology and legislation since 2000, in particular equipping teachers to help protect children from inappropriate online content, online bullying, harassment and exploitation.

Our original strategy recognised that gender inequality can underpin violence against women and girls. The plan sets out the core work we are taking forward to raise the aspirations and ambitions of women and girls. This is critical to ensure our young women are empowered to realise their full potential at home, in education and in work. Ensuring that the workplace is somewhere that victims can receive support and assistance is another of our goals – employers can play a real role in supporting women experiencing domestic abuse.

Government has already taken strong action to support women's economic empowerment and to address the barriers faced by women in the labour market and in business. We are making lasting structural changes to ensure our workplaces match the needs of women in modern Britain, including extending the right to request flexible working to all, increasing child tax credits for lower income families, extending the free entitlement to early education and working with business to increase the number of women on corporate boards.

We have also acted to encourage and support more women to start their own business, through mentoring, financial help and cutting red tape, and we are promoting gender equality at work via "Think, Act, Report" which asks private and voluntary sector employers to make things fairer for women at work through greater transparency on pay and other workplace issues.

While our long term goal is a change in attitudes towards violence against women and girls, we must also tackle those who are already perpetrators of violence. We need to ensure that the criminal justice response to offenders is robust, but we also need to support investment in programmes which actually change offending behaviour. The plan accordingly sets out how we will evaluate and promote good local practice to achieve this.

Supporting effective local approaches

The Government remains committed to devolving power, resources and accountability to local areas. But there is still more that central Government can do to support local areas to deliver effectively. Partnership working and a multi-agency approach have long been recognised as critical to local success and, now that local commissioning is taking centre stage, this is a key area we need to get right.

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) have been in place for over a year and it is encouraging that many have included tackling violence against women and girls in their Crime and Policing Plans. Individual Police and Crime Commissioners are emerging as champions of these issues and there is a wealth of good practice developing which we need to capture and share. In addition, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Clinical Commissioning Groups are bedding in locally.

This latest Action Plan identifies a number of ways that Government will continue to support the transition to a more localised commissioning landscape, with a specific focus on supporting the voluntary sector to develop the capacity and expertise to be successful in a competitive commissioning environment. We will also support local commissioners to ensure they have all the information they need to make informed decisions about commissioning sexual violence and domestic violence services in their area.

Driving a culture change

It is critical that we have robust laws and that we promote clear policies and guidance to tackle violence against women and girls. But if laws, guidance and policies are to have traction and real world impact, it is also critical that there is a culture within all agencies which is clearly focused on the needs of the victim and taking a partnership approach to tackling these crimes.

This Action Plan sets out how we will develop and promote a clear set of leadership behaviours applicable to police, children's and adult services, and health professionals. We need to ensure that professionals are accountable, that statutory guidance is taken seriously and implemented, and that consistent messages are in place around what outcomes we expect to see for victims. The findings of the HMIC

review into domestic violence and abuse, due to be published by April, will be critical to identifying tangible steps to achieve this.

We also need to recognise that attitudes which are entrenched in some segments of society need to be tackled to make a real sustainable change – attitudes which foster ongoing gender inequality, that provide cultural excuses or exemptions for illegal activity and attitudes of ambivalence and it being someone else's problem or responsibility.

This latest Action Plan frames Government activity against the need for this fundamental shift in attitudes, focusing on what we can do to ensure the accountability of professionals, how we can develop and build on our campaigns on teenage relationships and body confidence, and how we can support initiatives such as bystander programmes, which support people to intervene safely if they witness violence and empower the public to challenge unacceptable attitudes and behaviour. It also clearly sets out how we will build on the growing momentum to end practices like female genital mutilation and forced marriage by engaging directly with communities and faith leaders.

Join up with other Government programmes

Violence against women and girls cannot be tackled in isolation. There is significant cross-over with other Government programmes, both domestic and international, and we need to ensure that there is a clear read across between strategies with aligned aims. Our strategy to end gang and youth violence supports our work to protect gang-associated women and girls and challenge misogynistic attitudes; our action plan to tackle sexual violence against children and vulnerable people will support the aims in this action plan to tackle sexual violence; and our commitment to tackle modern slavery will further support the protection of some of our most vulnerable women and girls. We will ensure that key programmes to tackle violence are working collaboratively and complementing one another.

The devolved administrations continue to play a key role in efforts to tackle violence against women and girls and we will continue to consult and collaborate with them on a range of issues, and to ensure that learning and effective practice is shared across the United Kingdom.

In addition, we will continue to engage on international initiatives, identifying ways where domestic and foreign approaches to tackling violence against women and girls can add value at home and abroad. We are engaged in working with the international community to develop a post-2015 Framework which will replace the Millennium Development Goals and it is our position to push for an ambitious stand-

alone goal on gender equality and a target on ending all forms of violence against women and girls.

Better data and outcomes

The collection and analysis of good data is a fundamental tool in our fight to combat violence against women and girls. There is a significant body of academic, voluntary sector and criminal justice system research available. This Action Plan sets out steps we will take to further develop the evidence base on different manifestations of violence against women and girls to help inform targeted and innovative approaches.

This Action Plan also sets out how we will engage with national ‘what works’ centres like the Early Intervention Foundation and the What Works Centre for Crime Reduction to provide an authoritative and credible voice for frontline professionals and local areas seeking to initiate more effective local approaches.

While data from the Office for National Statistics indicates reporting to the police is going up for partner abuse, we will explore victims’ experiences of the criminal justice system to do more to address barriers to reporting. However, we must ensure that victims who do not wish to formally report offences receive the support and services they need.

Review

By March 2015, we want to know that our work is having a real impact for victims. We want to be able to say how the extensive activity outlined in this plan has made a tangible difference in terms of preventing abuse, reducing offending, raising awareness, supporting victims and bringing offenders to justice.

We have accordingly identified clear outcomes we want to see in each chapter of this plan. We will use the activity to improve data on violence against women and girls to evaluate and capture progress against these outcomes.

Chapter 1: Preventing violence

Guiding principle: To prevent violence against women and girls from happening in the first place by challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it, and intervening early to prevent it.

The outcomes we want to achieve by 2015:

- A greater proportion of society believes violence against women and girls is unacceptable and is empowered to challenge violent behaviour;
- Fewer victims of sexual and domestic violence and abuse each year;
- Frontline professionals (e.g. teachers, doctors, nurses and midwives, police and prosecutors) are better able to identify and deal with violence against women and girls at an early stage;
- More employers recognise and support victims of domestic and sexual violence; and
- Changed cultural attitudes on illegal practices like female genital mutilation.

Key activity across Government since 2013 on early intervention and preventing violence:

- Launched the updated *This is Abuse* campaign with a greater focus on reaching boys and produced a resource pack for teachers and other professionals to support the campaign, which received the Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) Association quality mark. The campaign website has seen a significant increase in the number of unique visitors compared to previous years.
- Announced the roll-out of the domestic violence disclosure scheme to enable people to make informed decisions about their relationships.
- Introduced a Domestic Violence Chapter and Pledge in the Public Health Responsibility Deal to help employers across all sectors to support their staff, and held an event to encourage business leaders to adopt the Pledge. Signatories to the pledge include British Airways, Sodexo, and Kier Group Plc.
- Published a rapid evidence review of body image literature (May 2013) to inform the work of the Body Confidence campaign and hosted a seminar on body image with academics from across the world. The evidence gathered from this was published as a report in December 2013.
- Obtained funding (approximately £250,000) from the EU Commission to develop an initiative on female genital mutilation (FGM) which will support community organisations to engage with high risk groups, dispel myths and educate those high risk groups on the reality of FGM.
- Supported the launch of the NSPCC FGM helpline.
- Commissioned the Health and Social Care Information Centre to advise on the feasibility of coding FGM in National Health Service clinical data sets. The Department of Health recently announced that from April NHS Hospitals will be required to record information on patients with FGM, and that from September all

acute hospitals will be required to report this data centrally to the Department of Health on a monthly basis.

- Worked with the Metropolitan Police to improve the way the police and other services reach out to women and girls who are at risk from gangs so they can be given the right support. This good practice will be shared with other areas across the country.
- Published draft legislation in December proposing to change the law so music DVDs have to be age rated by the British Board for Film Classification in future.
- Introduced family friendly filters to support parents to protect children from adult internet content and progressed legislation to ban rape pornography.
- Made online safety a prominent feature of the new curriculum ensuring that children will be educated about online safety from the age of five.
- Published NICE Public Health Guidance on how social care, health services and those they work with can identify, prevent and reduce domestic violence and abuse on 26 February this year.
- Announced the establishment of a new expert subject group on PSHE and sex and relationship education (SRE) to be chaired by the Chief Executive of the PSHE Association.
- Outlined plans to send guidance to all schools about keeping children safe, including material that will enable those working with children to tackle FGM following a meeting between FGM campaigners and the Secretary of State for Education.

Further information on past activity is available in Annex A.

From March 2014 we will:

- Continue activity to significantly raise awareness of domestic violence, sexual violence and stalking among professionals and victims - including coercion, intimidation and abuse which is taking place online - and what support services are available.
- Run national campaigns to support a grass roots shift in attitudes towards violence against women and girls and continue to take the onus off victims and shift responsibility to the perpetrator.
- Extend grant funding to the PSHE Association for a further year in 2014-15 to further raise the profile of PSHE and SRE, and improve the quality of teaching – for example by developing and publishing a set of case studies exemplifying good teaching on PSHE topics – including SRE.
- Highlight best practice amongst schools by promoting the case studies produced by the PSHE Association, and continue to support the education of young people on healthy relationships and in particular raise awareness around consent by building on the This is Abuse campaign.
- Continue to support the PSHE Association who are consulting on guidance to support teachers in discussing consent as part of sex and relationships education (SRE). The guidance will include suggestions for teachers when developing pupils' understanding of respectful relationships and their awareness of preventing violence against women and girls.
- Continue to support under-represented groups, for example girls at risk from gang violence or from honour based violence such as female genital mutilation

or forced marriage, with a concerted programme of events, including an FGM awareness raising campaign and an EU wide event to share best practice.

- Focus on developing a robust evidence base on what works and use the range of what works centres and hubs to promote effective practice for professionals.
- Work towards raising girls' aspirations, including in the workplace, by promoting gender equality at work via "Think, Act, Report" which asks private and voluntary sector employers to make things fairer for women at work through greater transparency on pay and other workplace issues.
- Commence legislation to criminalise forced marriage and conduct a comprehensive outreach programme for local communities ahead of the summer holidays.
- Continue to bring the international and domestic work on violence against women and girls closer together and identify opportunities to share the excellent work underway across the United Kingdom to tackle violence against women and girls, for example at the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative Summit planned for June.
- Remain vigilant in continuing to monitor data and examine any other evidence that comes to light concerning gender-selective abortions, and issue further guidance which makes it clear to abortion providers that the Government is clear that abortion on the grounds of gender alone is illegal.

By April 2015:

Public awareness of violence against women and girls is increased and there is a reduced acceptance of violence against women and girls across agencies and the public.				
Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
1	Continue to deliver a cross-Government VAWG Communications Strategy.	HO	1	Ongoing to April 2015
2	Further promote and disseminate the <i>This is Abuse</i> teacher resource pack.	HO	NEW	September 2014
3	Promote awareness of CEOP materials for schools and consider how their networks can support VAWG messages.	HO	NEW	December 2014
4	Promote the teaching of sexual consent and the importance of healthy relationships in schools.	DfE	2	Ongoing to April 2015
5	Promote the outcomes from the newly established Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) and Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) expert subject group to help provide support to teachers.	DfE	NEW	Ongoing to April 2015
6	Pursue a range of channels to make suitable materials available to schools on violence against women and girls and related safeguarding issues, including the supplementary guidance on SRE produced by the PSHE Association, the Sex Education Forum and Brook.	DfE	NEW	Ongoing to April 2015
7	Work with partners, including the PSHE Association, head and teacher associations and unions and the Early Intervention Foundation to give school staff effective access to a range of information and resources on violence against women and girls and related safeguarding issues.	DfE HO	NEW	Ongoing to April 2015
8	In conjunction with the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) and NHS England, establish a virtual Centre of Excellence to provide a one-stop shop for NHS and social care organisations seeking information governance and information sharing advice and ensure sexual and domestic violence issues are covered.	DH	NEW	Spring 2014
9	Develop a toolkit of resources to support businesses to raise awareness of domestic violence during the 16 days of global action to end gender based violence.	PHE	NEW	November 2014

An authoritative evidence base is available, providing local areas with access to good quality materials and effective practice, and driving the development of Government policy.

Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
10	Review academic research and voluntary sector evidence on violence against women and girls to inform the development of an authoritative evidence base.	HO	NEW	Ongoing to April 2015
11	Disseminate the findings of the policy research reports “Effective responses to long-term consequences of violence and abuse” and “Bridging the knowledge and practice gap between domestic violence and child safeguarding: developing policy and training for general practice”.	DH	NEW	Spring 2014
12	Deliver a series of academic roundtables on key VAWG themes to inform our evidence base and drive policy development.	HO	NEW	December 2014
13	Engage with the Office for National Statistics with the aim of improving gender sensitive presentation of data.	HO	NEW	Ongoing to April 2015
14	Engage with national ‘what works’ centres to support the development and dissemination of authoritative analyses of effective interventions.	HO	NEW	Ongoing to April 2015

Inappropriate media portrayal of women and children is more likely to be challenged and children are less likely to be exposed to sexualised media and sexual bullying.

Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
15	Continue to work closely with media regulators and stakeholders across industry to ensure that suitable media content protections are maintained.	DCMS	10	Ongoing to April 2015
16	Consider available measures to challenge social media sites that enable, or allow promotion of, violence against women and girls.	HO	11	Ongoing to April 2015
17	Ban Video on Demand (VOD) material that is rated R18 behind access control to bring regulations for VOD and hard-copy into line as set out in the Video Recordings Act.	DCMS	NEW	By April 2015
18	Criminalise the possession of pornography depicting rape.	MoJ	NEW	By April 2015

19	Have children in all four key stages taught about internet safety as part of the national curriculum.	DfE	NEW	September 2014
Interventions where women and girls are at risk are improved, with better outcomes for victims.				
Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
20	Work to tackle sexual bullying and harassing practices such as 'sexting'.	HO DfE	14	Ongoing to April 2015
21	Promote effective partnership working between police and schools where children are at risk of domestic violence (e.g. Operation Encompass).	National Policing Lead	15	Ongoing to April 2015
22	Embed, where appropriate, violence against women and girls in child protection and safeguarding approaches and procedures.	DfE HO	16	Ongoing to April 2015
23	Explore the suitability of existing risk assessment tools for 16 and 17 year olds.	HO	17	Spring 2014
24	Reform social work education and practice development through the College of Social Work. Following Sir Martin Narey's recommendation, new guidance will be provided by the Chief Social Worker for Children and Families, to ensure that social workers are able to identify and swiftly respond to instances where children are subject to violence or abuse.	DfE	18	Ongoing to April 2015
25	Continue to work with the Troubled Families Programme, particularly identifying any learning around intervening with families where domestic violence is an issue.	HO TFT	NEW	Ongoing to April 2015
26	Consider interim data from the independent evaluation of the Troubled Families Programme to gauge the prevalence of domestic violence within families currently being worked with and to inform practice in services for troubled families.	HO TFT	32	December 2014
Acceptance of 'honour' crimes is reduced and communities are empowered to prevent them happening.				
Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
27	Raise awareness of forced marriage and challenge attitudes which condone this practice through media activities, training events and community engagement.	FMU (HO/ FCO)	19	Ongoing to April 2015

28	Develop a programme of work to change the landscape in which the NHS will respond to, follow-up and support the prevention of FGM.	DH	NEW	By April 2015
29	NHS hospital trusts will be required to return reports centrally on prevalence of FGM within patients treated.	DH	NEW	From September 2014
30	Fund a community engagement initiative on FGM.	HO	NEW	September 2014
31	Host an EU Wide event to raise awareness of FGM.	HO	NEW	February 2015
32	Launch and deliver a communications campaign to raise awareness of FGM amongst professionals and practising communities.	HO	NEW	By September 2014
33	Develop and launch a range of materials on FGM, including an e-learning tool, and an FGM resource pack.	HO	NEW	By September 2014
34	Deliver an FGM outreach programme to local safeguarding children's boards.	HO	NEW	By April 2015
35	Launch a Declaration of Religious Leaders against FGM.	HO	NEW	June 2014

An increased take up of perpetrator interventions to break the cycle of violence.

Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
36	Support evaluation of local perpetrator referral pilots and communicate findings to local commissioners.	HO	104	Ongoing to April 2015
37	Consider the evidence base for what works in the context of perpetrator programmes, identify and disseminate good practice.	NOMS	NEW	By April 2015

Prevent girls becoming victims by raising aspirations, confidence and tackling gender inequality.

Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
38	Produce an online guide for parents to help them support their teenage girls through school subject, qualification and career choices. The pack will provide guidance on what subject choices their children will make and when and challenge gender expectations.	GEO	NEW	July 2014
39	Continue to champion Think, Act, Report as an effective way for companies to show how they support women to make the most of their talents.	GEO	NEW	By April 2015

40	Revise statutory guidance to schools on careers, working with key stakeholders to develop the National Careers Service to inspire young people and adults in their career choices, and raising awareness of the opportunities studying science, technology, engineering and mathematical (STEM) subject offers.	BIS DfE GEO	NEW	By April 2015
41	Support the development of further resources for young people of secondary school age, and their parents, to improve their media literacy and resilience to low body image.	GEO	NEW	December 2014
42	Continue to promote uptake of the Responsibility Deal domestic violence pledge by employers in the public and private sector.	DH HO	NEW	Ongoing to April 2015
The personal safety of women and girls is increased.				
Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
43	Continue to work with the University of the West of England in the development of a bystander intervention toolkit for Universities.	PHE	NEW	December 2014

Case Study: *This is Abuse Campaign*

The Home Office has been running two national campaigns across England and Wales since 2010 with the aim of preventing teenagers from becoming victims and perpetrators of abusive relationships. Both campaigns were targeted at 13 to 18 year old boys and girls and aimed to encourage teenagers re-think their views of violence, abuse, controlling behaviour and what consent means within their relationships. Since 2010 there have been over 1 million visits to the 'This is Abuse' website and comments left by teenagers on the discussion forums indicate that the campaign is contributing towards changing attitudes and behaviour.

"I've broken up with my boyfriend of nearly 6 months. After watching this video, the exact words of 'you're pathetic, are you gonna go cry to your friends' echoed in my mind. He has said those exact words to me on many occasions. He put me down, stopped me from talking to my friends who were boys, checked my inbox, my texts, physically pushed me around. I don't see why I didn't see this before."

"I used to convince myself that what happened to me wasn't rape and that it was my fault, but after seeing this advertised made realise that what happened to me wasn't my fault and I feel so much better about myself that he was an animal and I was just the victim. Thank you for this video as I was only 15 and am now 16, has helped a lot. :)"

This year we have worked in partnership with the popular teen soap, Hollyoaks, to produce two new adverts with two characters, Patrick Blake (Jeremy Sheffield) and Maxine Miniver (Nikki Sanderson) who have been involved in an abusive storyline. The first advert shows that not all abuse is physical. The second advert focuses on consent. The adverts are supported by additional extended online scenes, social media posts and a specific timeline tab on the Hollyoaks Facebook page to allow viewers to track signs of abuse in the relationship.

We have also worked in partnership again with MTV following the success of the last campaign. We have used a range of credible and high profile celebrities to act as a counter narrative within the sometimes highly sexualised environment of music TV. In the MTV adverts celebrities such as Example, Jason Derulo, The Wanted and others call out relationship abuse and encourage teens to make a stand. This strand of the campaign was aimed primarily at boys and adverts ran across all MTV channels and online from 5 December until the end of January 2014 with a call for all young people to **#callitout**. Kiss FM have also supported the campaign by producing a series of radio adverts which highlight abusive and controlling behaviours.

We have been working closely with partners and our agencies to develop a campaign that works more effectively for boys. We know that is harder to reach boys through more traditional forms of advertising and that some boys don't want to visit a website that labels them as an abuser but they still want to find out more information on these issues. Through our pilot work which looked at boys reactions to the campaign we know that the name 'This is Abuse' can be a barrier to boys so we have developed a page on the campaign website which is specifically aimed at boys called 'In the Know'.

We have worked in consultation with partners to develop a discussion guide which sets out common misconceptions which teenagers hold when it comes to their attitudes towards abuse, controlling behaviour and consent within their relationships and provides guides and tips on how to use the campaign support materials in discussions with teenagers on these issues. The discussion guide has been quality assured by the PHSE Association and is available to download from the [GOV.UK website](#).

Chapter 2: Provision of services

Guiding principle: provide adequate levels of support where violence occurs.

The outcomes we want to achieve by 2015:

- Women and girls who are victims of violence experience a good and consistent level of service across England and Wales;
- Statutory, voluntary and community sector get the response right the first time; and
- Local commissioners identify and provide high quality services which meet the needs of victims at a local level.

Key activity since 2013 on provision of services:

- Published a new Victim's Code (the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime) which clearly sets out the information, support and services that victims can expect to receive from criminal justice agencies in England and Wales at every stage of the process. The Code provides an enhanced level of service to victims of the most serious crime, which specifically includes victims of domestic violence and victims of sexual offences, to make sure they get the right support at the right time.
- Supported a group of umbrella organisations from the women's sector to produce a standards framework to enable local commissioners to make informed choices about local provision of services to support victims of domestic violence and sexual violence.
- Produced a fact pack on violence against women and girls for Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), and held a conference in November specifically for PCCs and the VAWG sector on commissioning services which meet the needs of victims.
- Established a cross-Government group to co-ordinate activity to support all local commissioners including local authorities, health commissioners and Police and Crime Commissioners to understand the needs of victims and provide appropriate services.
- Continued to fund new rape crisis centres, as well as the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) and Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) networks.
- Funded the delivery of a series of training workshops for frontline professionals and voluntary organisations to better identify and tackle cases of stalking.
- Funded the delivery of several workshops to support voluntary sector organisations providing sexual and domestic violence services to engage effectively on local commissioning.
- Allocated £20.8 million in grants to Police and Crime Commissioners so that they can:
 - Build the capacity and capability of potential providers of services for victims from the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector to bid effectively for local funding;

- Prepare for the transition from central to local commissioning of victim services.
- Awarded a contract to 'Pulse Regeneration' (a Social Enterprise and Community Regeneration Specialist) to provide over 40 skills and information workshops from January until June 2014 to help strengthen the capacity and capability of VCSE organisations in understanding the new commissioning landscape, engaging with local commissioners and preparing to bid for local funds.
- Published 'Securing excellence in commissioning sexual assault services for people who experience sexual violence' in June 2013. The publication sets out the partnership and operating model for co-commissioning sexual assault services, in England.
- Published the NHS Public Health Functions Agreement for 2014-15, which included a sexual assault services specification setting out ambitions for more consistent provision across England.
- Incorporated issues related to violence against women and girls into the credibility training provided to staff assessing asylum claims. Training will be rolled out from June 2014.
- Implemented a programme of six monthly audits of gender-related issues in asylum claims to monitor the quality of our management of gender cases. The first report was produced in October 2013 and recommendations are being taken forward.
- Funded three voluntary organisations (National Working Group, Parents Against Child Exploitation and Barnado's) who are helping to support young women and girls who are at risk, or already victims, of child sexual exploitation.

Further information on past activity is available in Annex A.

From March 2014 we will:

- Deliver tangible improvements in local commissioning through the Commissioning Task and Finish Group and report back to the Inter-Ministerial Group on progress.
- Build on the support offered to commissioners and the women's sector through the Commissioning Masterclasses and the standards framework to ensure the sector is prepared to engage effectively in the new commissioning landscape, including with Police and Crime Commissioners and local health commissioning bodies, by April 2015.
- Develop our knowledge and understanding of what is happening in local areas to fully understand the impact of the changes to commissioning on local service providers by facilitating regional meetings with local commissioners, service providers and victims.
- Continue to identify examples of good commissioning practice locally, for example where successful consortia have formed to make bids for funding, and ensure these are shared.
- NHS England will develop a sexual violence care pathway map to ensure local commissioners and agencies understand their responsibilities in cases of sexual assault.

By April 2015:

Funding arrangements to deliver specialist services are continued until March 2015.				
Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
44	Continue the allocation of £28 million of Home Office funding over four years towards part-funding of IDVA, ISVA and MARAC co-ordinator posts, training and support , and running costs of national help lines to support the victims of domestic violence and stalking.	HO	23	Until March 2015
45	Continue to provide £4 million funding to local rape support schemes to strengthen the sector.	MoJ	24	Until March 2015
46	Continue to work with the voluntary sector to develop new rape support provision in areas lacking provision; specifically to engage with Police and Crime Commissioners on potential locations for two new centres during 2014.	MoJ	25	Ongoing to April 2015
47	Provide £2 million in funding from receipts from offenders for specialist services for victims of sexual and domestic violence.	MoJ	NEW	Until March 2016
48	Continue to fund the Victoria Climbié Foundation and AFRUCA who work on safeguarding issues in BME communities, and seek to raise awareness in communities and among front-line practitioners.	DfE	NEW	Until March 2015
49	Continue to fund a programme led by Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) to support young victims of inter-personal violence.	DfE	NEW	Until March 2015
50	Continue to fund Children and Families Across Borders to help social workers with international social work issues.	DfE	NEW	Until March 2015
51	Continue to fund three voluntary organisations (National Working Group, Parents Against Child Exploitation, and Barnado's) working to tackle child sexual exploitation against women and young girls.	DfE	NEW	Until March 2015
Improvements in local provision and quality of services for victims of domestic violence and sexual violence.				
Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
52	Continue to raise awareness of stalking to improve professionals' response.	HO	29	Ongoing to April 2015
53	Identify effective practice in the delivery of Bystander Programmes with a view to supporting their implementation across the UK.	HO	NEW	December 2014

54	Develop proposals around third party reporting to enable concerned relatives, friends or colleagues to report their concerns safely and ensure action is taken where someone may be at risk.	HO	NEW	September 2014
55	Support local practitioners to routinely provide victims of domestic and sexual violence with information about local service provision, in conjunction with Police and Crime Commissioners.	HO	NEW	September 2014
56	Deliver a number of events across the UK for local Jobcentre Plus domestic violence champions to raise awareness of DWP domestic violence policies.	DWP	NEW	By April 2015
57	Develop practice guidance on the adult safeguarding elements of the Care Bill which comes into force in April 2015.	DH	NEW	October 2014
58	Produce a sector wide statement on adult safeguarding to protect individuals who may be vulnerable to abuse or neglect – including women at risk of violent abuse.	DH	NEW	By April 2015
59	Improve the information base for sexual assault services (SAS) commissioning and outcomes by establishing an updated baseline of SAS commissioning by Force area and developing national quality indicators for SAS.	NHS England	NEW	September 2014
60	Take forward the training of Health Visitors in relation to domestic violence and abuse.	DH	NEW	From April 2014
61	Sponsor the CP-IS project to develop an information sharing solution that will deliver a higher level of protection for children who visit unscheduled health care settings such as hospital emergency departments and walk-in centres.	DH NHS England	NEW	Ongoing to 2018
62	Consider ways to engage with health commissioning bodies and professionals to better identify and treat stalking behaviour.	HO NHS England	105	Ongoing to April 2015
63	Develop and disseminate information for practitioners working with children and families on how to identify and address the risks posed by adolescent to parent violence.	HO YJB	NEW	December 2014

Victims of forced marriage and honour based violence receive appropriate and effective support.

Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
64	Build capacity amongst Non-Government Organisations to establish local initiatives and services to raise awareness of, and tackle, forced marriage.	FMU (HO / FCO)	34	Ongoing to April 2015

More frontline professionals have completed good quality training on tackling domestic violence and sexual violence, stalking and other VAWG issues.

Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
65	Produce a universal academic module (six days duration) for frontline professionals on violence against women and girls. The training module will be produced for frontline practitioners including nurses, teachers and social workers so that they can access a formal standard of training which is directly relevant to their work.	HO	37	Ongoing to April 2015
66	Support the ISVA network in increasing effectiveness and building capacity to support victims of sexual assault, including: establishing and maintaining a central register of ISVAs; raising the profile of the role amongst statutory agencies; leading quarterly regional focus groups.	HO	38	Ongoing to April 2015
67	Deliver focus groups for frontline professionals and local commissioners, involving victims identifying what kind of support and services they need.	HO	NEW	By April 2015

Provision for girls is improved with clear join up between relevant Government strategies.

Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
68	Ensure that policy areas focusing on child sexual exploitation, girls and gangs, domestic and sexual violence are joined up and explore the use of current definitions to ensure clarity and effective practice in local areas.	HO	43	June 2014
69	Publish "Looking to the Future" a strategic document replacing the revised National Services Guideline and which highlights voluntary and community sector specialist counselling and support as part of integrated care pathways.	DH HO NHS England	NEW	By April 2015

Commissioning of domestic violence and sexual violence services is happening effectively at a local level.

Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
70	Review commissioning approach, and coverage of, violence against women and girls helplines.	HO MoJ	52	Summer 2014

71	Produce commissioning map for stakeholders and other Government Departments to clearly understand the implications of Government reforms on violence against women and girls.	HO	55	Summer 2014
72	Continue to support providers of specialist sexual and domestic violence services to enable them to engage effectively with the competitive local commissioning model.	HO	NEW	By April 2015
73	Continue to support the development of a Commissioning Standards Framework by the women's sector, and ensure this is disseminated to local commissioners.	HO	NEW	Spring 2014
74	Deliver a programme of regional engagement with local commissioners to share learning, good practice and facilitate relationship building between commissioners and local providers.	HO	NEW	December 2014
75	Disseminate good practice on the development of collective commissioning models and consortia bidding across local areas.	HO	NEW	September 2014
76	Development of an all-encompassing costing formula for SARCs inclusive of paediatric pathway ISVA, Crisis workers and other functions. This will include a detailed review of typical care pathways, costs and volumes to inform the formula.	NHS England	NEW	September 2014
77	Investigate cases where providers believe commissioners have not followed the Social Value Act (through the Cabinet Office Mystery Shopper Service) and carry out proactive spot checks of individual procurement exercises to check that the Act has been applied.	CO	NEW	Ongoing to April 2015
Improved services for male victims.				
Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
78	Direct £500,000 from the Victim's Fund into supporting male victims of rape and sexual violence.	MoJ	NEW	Until March 2015
The asylum system is as gender-sensitive as possible.				
Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
79	Work with key stakeholders to improve the processes for referring asylum seekers who are victims of sexual violence to the appropriate services and signpost women and girls to available information and advice.	HO	46	September 2014

80	Improve guidance and training within the asylum system by enhancing the quality of the country information on violence against women and girls available to asylum decision makers; incorporating a violence against women and girls element into credibility training and foundation training for new case owners; and continuing work with Asylum Aid and other corporate partners to develop a training DVD on managing asylum claims from women.	HO	47	September 2014
81	Monitor how asylum interviewers and decision makers handle gender-related issues on a six monthly basis, monitor trends in performance over the longer term and address specific gender-related performance issues.	HO	48	September 2014
82	The Syrian Vulnerable Person Relocation (VPR) scheme to provide emergency sanctuary in the UK for displaced Syrians will prioritise survivors of torture and violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, and women at risk or in need of medical care.	HO	NEW	Ongoing

Case Study: *Forced Marriage Unit*

The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) continues to be at the forefront of the Government's approach to tackling forced marriage in the UK. It is the central point for developing policy across Government, feeding into the wider violence against women agenda. The FMU operates both in the UK, where support is provided to any individual, and overseas, where consular assistance is provided to British nationals, including dual nationals.

Two British sisters (17 and 18 year olds) were taken to Pakistan on a 'family holiday' by their mother while their father remained in the UK. Both were then placed at risk of being forced into marriage after 'suitors' had been identified and presented to them by their mother in Pakistan. When both sisters declined an offer of marriage, their mother assaulted them by pouring boiling water on them. The 17 year old had a secret boyfriend back in the UK and had been using her uncle's mobile phone to secretly text him and ask for help. The boyfriend contacted the Police in back in London, who in turn called the Forced Marriage Unit.

With the consent of the two girls, a Forced Marriage Protection Order (FMPO) was then taken out by Social Services against both parents (despite the fact that the assault was committed by their mother in Pakistan) and served on their father as he still remained in the UK. There were also identified risks to the younger siblings, a 14 year old, 12 year old and 3 year old, so the FMPO covered the younger children as well. Once the FMPO was served on their father, he contacted their mother and she brought all of the children to the British High Commission. The two eldest daughters were taken to a refuge until their flight was booked and they then returned to UK two days later and accommodation was sought for them. The remaining children also returned to the UK with the mother shortly after and were temporarily taken into care.

Case Study: *Protecting vulnerable people in the night-time economy*

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria, working closely with Northumbria Police and Safe Newcastle, have developed vulnerability training for staff in the night-time economy. The scheme started following observation of predatory men in the night time economy and the rape of a young woman, removed from premises by a doorman for being drunk.

To ensure that situations like this do not arise again, over 500 door supervisors across the Northumbria Force have been trained to understand and assess vulnerability. Whenever a person is ejected from a premise or is refused entry the door supervisor will now assess the vulnerability of that individual and take the appropriate steps to safeguard that person. Door supervisors will also take safeguarding action if they see a vulnerable person in the street. The training is already delivering results, in Sunderland door staff identified a female who was intoxicated and complaining of a male harassing and threatening her in the street, the door supervisors swiftly took her to a place of safety within the club and sought police help.

This training has been adopted by the Security Industry Authority who govern the issue of licences to door supervisors. Vulnerability awareness is now a compulsory part of their initial training. A National Launch took place in the Northumbria area in September 2013. The door supervisor training led to the development of a vulnerability awareness package for police officers which has been adopted by the National College of Policing.

This partnership, though the first of its kind, highlights the continuing need to look for new ways of working to identify and respond to risks so as to safeguard others. Currently the training is being delivered to a number of other services including Street Pastors, university security staff, hotel staff, taxis, St John's Ambulance, bar staff and public transport staff. A Safe Haven in Newcastle City Centre is soon to open on weekends and will be staffed by the Ambulance Service to provide a place of safety.

Case Study: ISVA Network

From April 2013 the Police and Crime Commissioner took over the funding of the Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service across Avon and Somerset. This change provided an opportunity to make use of the positive relationship ISVAs have with their clients by adding into the specification the requirement that they ask them, at the most appropriate time, about their experience of the criminal justice system. The survey asks about the victim's interaction with the police, support services and criminal justice agencies. The questions seek to bring about understanding of the victim journey, told in their own words, so that as a system we can improve the service that we offer. Most importantly it seeks to understand how they felt, what went well and what could have been better.

Through this independent, innovative, and credible feedback regime the Constabulary and partners will be able to truly understand, and learn from, what the victims of sexual violence tell us our services look and feel like. ISVAs began conducting this survey in September 2013 and a first set of findings will be available in spring 2014. It is recognised that having offered this valuable feedback victims deserve in return to know what will be changed as a result, so an annual report of findings and recommendations will be published.

This is one particular mechanism as part of a wider focus in Avon and Somerset on listening to the voice of the victim as the most valuable resource we have to continually improve the service we offer. By asking the right question at the right time, we can get feedback that when passed to the relevant agencies, can enable great change. For example, case studies detailing the victim's experience at court have been used informally by the PCC to feed back to the judiciary, which has led to positive changes in listing procedures.

Chapter 3: Partnership working

Guiding principle: Work in partnership to obtain the best outcomes for victims and their families.

The outcomes we want to achieve by 2015:

- Better support available for victims and their families from statutory, voluntary and community sectors working together to share information and agree practical action;
- Improved the life chances of victims of violence against women and girls overseas, with this issue an international priority for the UK; and
- Internationally, to secure a stand-alone goal on gender equality and a target on ending violence against women and girls in the post 2015 framework which will replace the Millennium Development Goals.

Key activity since 2013 on partnership working in England and Wales:

- Encouraged local Jobcentre Plus offices to identify a local champion on domestic violence. There are now 245 such champions across the UK, and District Managers have improved access to domestic violence management information.
- Carried out an analysis of data to identify domestic violence 'hotspots' for the Destitute Domestic Violence Concession and the Job Seekers Allowance Domestic Violence Easement cases.
- Social Justice Ambassadors, Partnership Managers and domestic violence champions in job centres have been encouraged to work together to raise awareness and replicate best practice so that operational staff will be able to provide a better service to domestic violence and abuse victims.
- Continued to fund Domestic Homicide Reviews and published a 'lessons learned' document to help local areas to identify and learn from handling of domestic violence cases.
- Published an updated version of statutory guidance, *Working together to safeguard children*. This guidance, which sets out the roles and responsibilities of services, promotes the value of effective multi-agency working. It takes a child-centred approach to ensure that children at risk are identified early and assessed, and that they get appropriate support.
- Published arrangements for working with partners in health, care and the criminal justice sectors in "Securing excellence in commissioning sexual assault services for people who experience sexual violence".
- Published early findings from our project to improve understanding of the different local multi-agency models that are in place to support safeguarding responses for children and vulnerable people such as Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASHs).

Further information on previous activity is in Annex A.

Devolved Administrations:

We have continued to collaborate with the devolved administrations on issues affecting the United Kingdom as a whole, some of which relate to devolved matters, and also on some non-devolved matters.

Some examples where we have worked together include:

- Devolved administrations are represented on the Executive Board of the UK Council on Child Internet Safety made up of industry, charities, academia and law enforcement. The group is a key aspect of our self-regulatory approach to internet safety.
- Close liaison on the changes to the sex offender civil orders. The legislation allows for the prohibitions contained in the new orders to be enforceable in Scotland (and Northern Ireland). Enforcement of any breach of either order will also apply in the devolved administrations.
- Liaison with the Scottish Government on the roll-out of Domestic Violence Protection Orders, which is taking place from March this year following a successful pilot.
- Working with the devolved administrations on the assessment of the implications for the United Kingdom involved in signing the Istanbul Convention.

From March 2014 we will:

- Work closely with the devolved administrations to share learning and collaborate effectively to tackle violence against women and girls.
- Make materials from the FGM awareness campaign and e-learning package available for use by the devolved administrations.
- Continue to work in partnership across Government and with local commissioners, local service providers and other agencies to ensure that the impact of Government reforms are fully understood and managed.
- Support statutory and voluntary agencies in sharing information about the women and girls most at risk of violence and agreeing clear referral and needs assessment arrangements.
- Develop an authoritative evidence base to ensure local areas and professionals have access to high quality information about what works, and continue to work across the range of 'what works' online resources to ensure dissemination of products.
- Increase our knowledge and understanding of how things are working at local level, identify and share best practice and engage with commissioners at a regional level to support good local decision making.
- Continue to work on multi-agency models through the National Group to tackle Sexual Violence Against Children and Vulnerable People (SVACV). We will publish the final report of findings from the study of local multi-agency information sharing models, including multi-agency safeguarding hubs (MASHs) and consider how to best share the good practice identified by this study.

Key activity since 2013 on partnership working internationally:

- The Ministerial Champion for tackling violence against women and girls overseas appeared before the International Development Committee (IDC) setting out progress the UK has made in taking actions to address VAWG both internationally and domestically. The IDC published its report in June 2013.
- In addition, the Ministerial Champion for tackling violence against women and girls overseas has visited countries including Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia, DRC, Malawi, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal, and South Africa over the last year and has raised issues relating to violence against women and girls on these visits.
- Contributed to the 6th Periodic Report on the implementation of the United Nations Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights setting out the work undertaken to address violence against women and girls through prevention and early intervention.
- Held a call to action event in November 2013 entitled “Keep Her Safe: Protecting Girls and Women in Emergencies” which mobilised global leadership to ensure the needs of girls and women are at the heart of the first phase of any humanitarian response.
- Participated in the examination held by the Committee setting out the progress the UK has made in implementing the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

From March 2014 we will:

- Work towards ratifying the Istanbul Convention to incorporate the treaty into UK law which will mean the UK will be legally bound to a set of standards to protect women and girls from violence.
- Continue to drive progress to tackle impunity for sexual violence in conflict internationally through the Foreign Secretary’s Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative (PSVI) and through the better implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution on women, peace and security.
- Ensure domestic policy engagement with the PSVI, including contributing to the Summit in June.
- Publish the UK’s National Action Plan on women, peace and security for 2014-17.
- Continue to work towards a stand-alone goal on gender equality and a target on ending all forms of violence against women and girls in the framework that will replace the Millennium Development Goals after 2015.
- Work with the US, who will take on the leadership of the ‘Call to Action’ on protecting women and girls in humanitarian emergencies in 2014, to hold the humanitarian community to account for the agreements reached at the London meeting.
- Increase DFID’s programming on early and forced marriage and work across donor countries to ensure a coordinated, strategic effort to galvanise action to bring an end to forced marriage.
- Continue to scale up efforts to tackle FGM which will include launching a social change communications programme to support a global movement for change, commencing FGM data collection in the NHS to inform services and safeguard

girls, and independent research to better understand the practice and what works to prevent it.

- Support the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls, its causes and its consequences, on their visit to the UK.
- Use the June 2014 Summit entitled 'End Sexual Violence in Conflict: London 2014' to deliver practical global commitments and support national Governments in countries affected by conflict related sexual violence to tackle the problem head on.
- Roll out the four components of the £25 million violence against women and girls research and innovation fund over the next five years to better understand what works in preventing and responding to VAWG globally.

By April 2015:

Local areas increase their take up of multi-agency working models.				
Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
83	Continue to hold the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) scrutiny panels and implement recommendations and learning to support high risk victims of domestic violence.	HO	NEW	Ongoing to April 2015
84	Carry out a more in depth review of Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) and disseminate findings to local areas.	HO	NEW	December 2014
85	Explore opportunities to promote local action to follow up recommendations from DHRs.	HO	NEW	September 2014
86	Provide a 'top tips' document to support DHR panels.	HO	NEW	Spring 2014
87	Review and update the statutory guidance for agencies on forced marriage.	HO	NEW	Summer 2014
Tackling violence against women and girls is always considered in development of Government reforms.				
Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
88	Work across Government to ensure we understand and manage the potential impact of reforms on violence against women and girls.	ALL	58	Ongoing to April 2015
89	Work closely with the devolved administrations to tackle violence against women and girls effectively and share learning and good practice.	HO DAs	NEW	Ongoing to April 2015
More employers have improved awareness of violence against women and girls and how to support victims in the workplace.				
Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
90	Raise awareness across Government Departments of violence against women and girls in the workplace and where to seek help and support, using the example of the work already undertaken by the Department of Health.	ALL	61	Ongoing to April 2015

The life chances of violence against women and girls victims overseas are improved.				
Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
91	Work with Governments overseas to encourage legislative and policy reform to address the structural causes of violence against women and girls, in accordance with international commitments.	FCO	62	Ongoing to April 2015
92	Continue to strongly support the ratification and lobby for the full implementation of the Convention of the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol.	FCO	63	Ongoing to April 2015
93	Continue to promote the domestic implementation of CEDAW.	GEO	64	Ongoing to April 2015
94	Take action to tackle violence against women and girls in conflict and post conflict countries through the implementation of the UK National Action Plan (NAP) on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 Women, Peace and Security, in partnership with DFID and the MoD.	FCO MoD DFID	65	Ongoing to April 2015
95	Ensure that the UK's humanitarian action, including both assistance and protection, prevents and responds to violence against women and girls.	FCO MoD DFID	66	Ongoing to April 2015
96	Work with UN Women to ensure it focuses on key priorities including violence against women and girls and the delivery of the Millennium Development Goals and delivers real progress for women and girls worldwide.	DFID FCO	67	Ongoing to April 2015
97	Continue to support the role of the Council of Europe (CoE) in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls.	HO MoJ GEO	68	Ongoing to April 2015
98	Provide practical guidance to DFID country offices to tackle violence against women and girls in at least 15 of the poorest countries (includes countries in the UK 1325 National Action Plan).	DFID FCO	69	Ongoing to April 2015
99	Work with partners to improve and communicate the evidence base on violence against women and girls and understanding of effective interventions.	DFID	70	Ongoing to April 2015
100	Improve the international, including EU, response to forced marriage by continuing to lobby for commitment to tackling the practice at key events.	FMU (HO / FCO)	71	Ongoing to April 2015

101	Through the Foreign Secretary's Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative, address the culture of impunity for sexual violence committed in conflict by strengthening international efforts and co-ordination; and supporting states to build their national capacity.	FCO	73	Ongoing to April 2015
102	Invest up to £35 million over five years to support work to end FGM in at least fifteen countries.	DFID	74	Ongoing
103	Support the UN Special Rapporteur on the causes and consequences of violence against women and girls during their visit to the UK.	DFID HO	NEW	Spring 2014
104	Continue to work towards the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.	HO MoJ	NEW	Ongoing to April 2015
105	Publish the UK National Action Plan on women peace and security for 2014 to 2017.	FCO DFID MOD	NEW	June 2014
106	Use the June 2014 Summit on the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative to deliver practical global commitments and support national Governments in countries affected by conflict related sexual violence to tackle the problem head on and to promote domestic action.	FCO HO	NEW	June 2014
107	Continue to work towards a stand-alone goal on gender equality and a target on ending violence against women and girls in the framework that will replace the Millennium Development Goals after 2015.	DFID	NEW	By April 2015
108	Roll out the four components of the £25m Violence against Women and Girls Research and Innovation Fund to better understand what works in preventing and responding to VAWG globally.	DFID	NEW	By April 2015

Case Study: Domestic Violence Intervention Programme Co-location in Hackney Children and Young People's Services

It has long been recognised that multi-agency working and communication are crucial to providing effective services to protect vulnerable people.

In an innovative, integrated model of working between the statutory and voluntary sectors to promote joint learning and enhance safeguarding practices, Domestic Violence Intervention Programme (DVIP) Violence Prevention Programme Practitioners and Women's Support Practitioners have been co-located alongside Hackney Children and Young People's Services (HCYPS).

The main roles of the specialist staff are to:

- Support social workers in building their skills in assessing and engaging with families affected by domestic violence.
- Identify risks to children and partners, safety planning for children and partners and engage with risky fathers.
- Deliver a Respect accredited domestic violence perpetrator programme
- Provide a support service to partners of men on the violence prevention programme, including individual and group sessions.

The dynamic nature of the project has enabled responses to evolve over time and reflect the emerging needs of Hackney's teams. Activities have therefore included joint home visits and assessments by Social Workers and DVIP practitioners; provision of interventions with 11-18 year olds using violence within families; consultations regarding over 200 families; interactive training workshops to meet Social Workers' identified skills development needs; and delivery of a support group for women as well as ongoing delivery of the perpetrator programme.

Evaluated outcomes to date have included:

- Indications of training and consultations leading to Social Workers' subsequent applications in practice when engaging perpetrators and supporting victims more effectively and confidently;
- Evidence that early involvement of DVIP at Initial Assessment stage with some families can lead to more informed and confident assessments, early signposting to external support agencies, increased collaboration and trust from mothers experiencing abuse; and more appropriate closing of cases that do not meet thresholds for CIN/CP;
- Clear testimony to how structured group and individual support with some women can help divert children away from permanent Local Authority Care and back into safe family environments after Domestic Violence, not only improving the lives and wellbeing of the mother and child, but saving the Local Authority significant amounts of money in avoiding future Care costs;
- Demonstrated benefits of the collaborative and dynamic approach taken by HCYPS and DVIP to evolving the activities within this co-located project, thus enabling creative dialogue and flexibility around tasks that respond to the needs of HCYPS teams.

Case Study: *Hampshire Stalking Consultancy Clinic*

The Hampshire Stalking Consultancy Clinic was developed following assimilation of stalking research, recommendations of the 2011 Parliamentary Inquiry into stalking law reform, the 2012 Home Office consultation responses, and feedback from victim groups.

This wealth of research concurs that stalking is a highly complex crime, posing new problems and challenges for all those individuals and agencies involved in dealing with both victims as well as stalkers. A pro-active multi-disciplinary approach to dealing with stalking cases is crucial. The holistic stance should include assessments of mental health and risk. The Hampshire Stalking Consultancy Clinic is the first local service of its kind.

The overall purpose and aim for the Clinic is to reduce harm caused to victims by assessing and identifying risks, formulating problems and signposting, and consideration of offender management.

Complex or high risk cases are identified, and then investigating officers, probation managers or victim advocates are invited to attend and present their own cases to the clinic. The 'stalking risk profile' assessment tool is utilised, as well as professional expertise, to guide action, support, and try to prevent the escalation of cases.

The Clinic involves police, probation, victim advocates and Southern Health NHS psychiatrists and psychologists. The information-sharing agreement and working protocol were designed with a view that the model could be shared with other forces.

The Clinic is supported by the Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Simon Hayes, who has commissioned funding. This includes a new designated half post IDVA/Stalking Advocate with county-wide coverage. A police volunteer assists administration.

Case Study: Nepal's Enabling State Programme (DFID)

The Enabling State Programme (ESP) was one of DFID's most innovative, longest-running governance programmes. It closed last week after 13 years. The programme's aims were to **support state institutions and citizens** to work together to **promote inclusive and responsive policies and programmes**. This was achieved by focus on four key areas:

Voice and Accountability: Increasing the ability of civil society partners to hold decision makers to account and access their rights and entitlements;

State Capability: Working to improve the capability of select state institutions and political parties;

Capacity Development: Increasing the capacity of ESP staff and partner organisations to measure gender equality and social inclusion, and promote accountability and transparency; and

Information and Evidence: Supporting the production of public information, sound evidence and analysis for state institutions, civil society and donors.

The ESP's focus on gender equality and social inclusion led to innovative projects, such as a media campaign **reaching out to thousands of young men** through the national football and cricket associations to raise awareness of combating gender-based violence. Nepal hosted the **South Asian Football Federation Championship** in September 2013. Seizing this unique opportunity, DFID Nepal helped promote messages on the need to **stop violence against women and girls**. DFID also worked with the Government of Nepal, the police, the Asian Development Bank and ten civil society organisations in **50 districts through 37 projects** focused on **engaging men and women, the government and Civil Society Organisations**; awareness raising; **capacity development** of youth groups and government frontline officials in service centres; **community-based mediation**; and **research** studies on policy and Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevalence.

Key results

- A **national anti-GBV strategy** and action plan was developed.
- A functional **Gender Empowerment Coordination Unit** was established within the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers.
- **Men's engagement to combat GBV increased** in target districts. This is fundamental to changing notions of masculinity and reducing GBV.
- **Citizen awareness of GBV and related legal provisions increased**, with increased reporting of cases as well as media coverage.
- **Better collaboration was reported among media and civil society**, working together to raise awareness and advocate for reporting of GBV cases
- **Effective response services** were provided through one-stop crisis management centres in 15 districts.
- Community-based mediation centres alone **resolved over 119 GBV and domestic violence cases** between April 2009 and September 2013.

Case Study: Addressing Gender based violence in South Africa (DFID)

South Africa has one of the highest incidences of gender based violence (GBV) in the world, for a country not at war. Survey data has shown that an estimated **42% of South African men have perpetrated violence against a partner**. DFID's programme, '**Preventing Gender Based Violence in South Africa**', is designed to increase security and justice for women and children, **strengthen prevention** and protection measures, **challenge social norms** around violence against women and children, and strengthen the **evidence-base** for interventions to eliminate GBV. DFID funds are contributing to a larger programme with the Government of South Africa, which is being delivered as a joint initiative by UNICEF/UNFPA and Save the Children Fund (SCF) – "A Safer South Africa for Women and Children".

Working at a national, provincial and community-based level, the programme entails:

- Working with policymakers to close **gaps in the policy and legal framework** and supporting evidence-based advocacy and planning
- **Strengthening protection and prevention measures in schools**
- **Supporting social norms change** through community empowerment workshops and communication campaigns including working with traditional and religious leaders.
- **Improving the evidence base for effective interventions** to prevent Violence Against Women and Girls

Key results of the programme:

The programme will run from 2012 to 2015 and at the Annual Review in September 2013 had achieved some impressive results, including:

- The "Opening our eyes" GBV manual for educators has been developed and approved by the Minister of the Department of Basic Education. **Training will be rolled out in all 9 provinces targeting 2500 master trainers.**
- **120 Children's Committee members** have been trained on the **prevention of violence in schools**, peer identification and referral of cases. The children were further trained on the use of social media for raising awareness on issues relating to violence.
- A total of 8 **Community Dialogues** with participants from at least 13 different communities have been held in both the Eastern Cape and Free State provinces by Sonke Gender Justice. The dialogues have reached a total of **801 beneficiaries, of which 214 members are men.**
- There have been 528 1 hour long radio shows **produced by children addressing various violence related issues** affecting their communities which have been broadcast to a cumulative **listenership of 842,000** people.

Chapter 4: Justice outcomes and risk reduction

Guiding principle: Take action to reduce the risk to women and girls who are victims of these crimes and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.

The outcomes we want to achieve by 2015:

- Increased confidence of women and girls to access to the Criminal Justice System;
- Improved criminal justice experience and outcomes for victims of violence against women and girls, including the rate of convictions;
- Increased rate of rehabilitation among offenders; and
- Reduced multiple incidents of violence by using the appropriate risk management tools.

Key activity since 2013 on justice outcomes and risk reduction:

- Introduced legislation to criminalise forced marriage in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill.
- Announced the national roll-out of Domestic Violence Protection Orders and the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme from March.
- Established dedicated Rape and Serious and Sexual Offence (RASSO) units in every Crown Prosecution Service Area across England and Wales staffed by specialist prosecutors to ensure a consistent service to victims.
- Through the Rape Monitoring Group, published comprehensive data on performance figures on rape for all police forces in England and Wales to all Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners as a basis for improving performance.
- Published a six point plan to address the fall off in referrals from the police to the Crown Prosecution Service.
- Developed operational guidance on the handling of domestic violence cases to include in the standard operating procedures for Magistrates' Courts.
- Made legislative changes to the civil orders available to manage risky behaviour by sex offenders, giving the police and courts broader powers to manage registered sex offenders and those who pose a risk.
- Separated stalking and harassment offences in police recorded crime returns to the Home Office to improve monitoring of the implementation of the new stalking legislation which will take effect from April.
- Given greater recognition to stalking as a crime by changing how primary offences are recorded in stalking cases, so that stalking will be logged as the primary offence (rather than for example criminal damage).
- Developed a Joint Protocol (National Policing Lead on Stalking and Harassment and the Director of Public Prosecutions) to ensure that the stalking offences created in 2012 are implemented effectively. This will be completed in the spring.
- Launched new training for Crown Prosecution Service lawyers focused on the use of stalking offences under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. In addition, over 1,000 CPS lawyers completed training on cyber-stalking.

- Funded delivery of a series of training workshops on stalking for frontline professionals.
- Amended the Offender Rehabilitation Bill to ensure that contracts with providers of rehabilitation and supervision services under the Transforming Rehabilitation reforms consider and identify the particular needs of female offenders. To support this amendment we have also developed and made available guidance for rehabilitation and supervision providers on gender-specific needs of female offenders (including histories of domestic violence); and introduced gender specific outputs into contracts.
- Established a Crime Statistics and Analysis Cell with the Service Police Crime bureau to improve the quality of information relating to Service Police Investigations into sexual violence by the armed forces. A new stand alone database covers all sexual offences investigated by the Service since the implementation of the Armed Forces Act 2006.

From March 2014 we will:

- Continue to work with the police to support improvements to the handling of domestic violence cases, particularly with reference to the findings of the HMIC review.
- Continue to work with the College of Policing to deliver effective training on a range of violence against women and girls issues to the police.
- Continue to raise awareness about violence against women and girls, including with Police and Crime Commissioners, building on work such as the reissue of the joint police and CPS Evidence Checklist for all police and prosecutors to follow to build the best case possible based on all available evidence, which is particularly important for cases where the victim is no longer willing to support the prosecution.
- Take forward the six point action plan to tackle the fall off in referrals from the police to the Crown Prosecution Service in rape and domestic violence cases.
- Take forward the Crown Prosecution Service action plan to tackle FGM.
- Develop a code of practice to ensure 'safe addresses' and other personal information about the identity and whereabouts of victims of domestic and sexual violence are properly protected.
- Develop our work on female offenders, ensuring that those who are also victims of abuse receive support on these issues whether they serve sentences in custody or in the community.
- Develop a set of leadership behaviours applicable to police, children and adult services and health professionals, as a tool to drive culture change, through the National Group to tackle Sexual Violence Against Children and Vulnerable People (SVACV).
- Increase investment in paediatric sexual assault services to improve the paediatric and forensic medical response to child victims of sexual violence.
- Continue to provide Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners with robust data on rape through the Rape Monitoring Group.

By April 2015:

The law is changed where necessary to better protect VAWG victims and new legislation is effectively monitored.				
Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
109	Implement legislation to make breach of a Forced Marriage Protection Order a criminal offence.	MoJ HO CPS	91	June 2014
110	Implement legislation to make forcing someone to marry a criminal offence in England and Wales.	HO FCO CPS MoJ	92	June 2014
111	Update multi-agency practice guidelines and statutory guidance on forced marriage.	FMU (HO/FCO)	NEW	Summer 2014
112	Develop a code of practice to ensure 'safe addresses' and other personal information about the identity and whereabouts of victims of domestic and sexual violence are properly protected.	MoJ HO	NEW	By April 2015
113	Consider how a civil protection order for potential victims of FGM might work alongside the criminal legislation (the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003) and, if appropriate, develop legislative proposals.	MoJ	NEW	By April 2015
114	Monitor implementation of the new stalking offences.	HO	93	Ongoing to April 2015
There is an increase in reporting and recording of offences.				
Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
115	Improve understanding of the incidence, reporting and prosecution of false allegations or perverting the course of justice, in rape or domestic violence cases.	HO CPS MoJ	94	Ongoing to April 2015
116	Further our understanding of violence against women and girls through developing an improved evidence base.	HO All	98	Ongoing to April 2015
117	Revise the National Offender Management Service domestic abuse strategy and the Best Practice Guidance for Offender Managers working with perpetrators of domestic abuse in line with the new domestic abuse programme.	NOMS	102	April 2014

118	Continue to ensure that convicted sex offenders in the UK are managed in as robust and effective a way as possible.	HO ACPO NOMS	107	Ongoing to April 2015
119	Better understand and respond to issues around the implementation of the new stalking legislation including monitoring the number of prosecutions commenced.	CPS	NEW	September 2014
120	Continue to work on the review of the use of out of court disposals in the context of violence against women and girls (six point plan).	MoJ HO	NEW	By April 2015
121	Build an evidence base on any use of out of court disposals and community resolutions for violence against women and girls cases (six point plan).	HO National Policing Leads	NEW	By April 2015
122	Provide information about the provision of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors and their contribution to successful criminal justice outcomes (Six point plan).	HO	NEW	September 2014
123	Further investigate the proportion of violence against women and girls cases being charged across police force areas (Six point plan).	CPS	NEW	Ongoing to April 2015
124	Convene a joint National Scrutiny Panel to further investigate the fall in the number of rape cases referred from the police to the Crown Prosecution Service (Six point plan).	CPS National Policing Lead	NEW	April 2014
125	HMIC Crime Recording Review to capture how forces record rape.	HMIC	NEW	By April 2015
126	HMIC Rape Monitoring Group to provide biannual update of performance figures on adult and child rape for all police forces in England and Wales to all Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) as a basis for improving performance.	HMIC	NEW	Ongoing to April 2015

The investigation of violence against women and girls offences shows clear improvements demonstrated by the experience of victims.

Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
127	Complete and evaluate the pilot of enhanced training for police officers on risk assessment in domestic abuse cases.	HO	NEW	By April 2015
128	Ensure stakeholder involvement in violence against women and girls issues through the CPS External Consultation Group and publicise good practice.	CPS	NEW	Ongoing to April 2015

129	Develop a domestic abuse toolkit for use by the Armed Forces and civilian services responding to incidents and allegations of domestic violence involving service personnel and their families.	MoD	NEW	By April 2015
130	Increased investment in paediatric sexual assault services to include improved forensic medical provision.	NHS England	NEW	April 2014

The Criminal Justice System response to violence against women and girls shows clear improvements.

Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
131	Ensure the recommendations from the HMIC review of the police response to domestic violence are effectively implemented.	HO	NEW	By April 2015
132	Support work on improved violence against women and girls prosecution volumes and outcomes.	CPS	NEW	By April 2015
133	Support prosecutions involving harmful traditional practices, including taking forward actions in the CPS female genital mutilation action plan.	CPS	NEW	By April 2015
134	Establish effective procedures to address VAWG issues across the criminal justice system and with the prevention agenda.	CPS	NEW	By April 2015
135	Deliver and monitor the national roll-out of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme	HO	NEW	From April 2014
136	Deliver and monitor the national roll-out of Domestic Violence Prevention Orders	HO	NEW	From April 2014
137	Consult on policing approaches to managing sexual and violent offenders, rape and domestic abuse, emphasising the needs of the victim and multi-agency approaches to these crimes.	National Policing Lead	NEW	By April 2015
138	Explore feasibility of conducting analysis of sexual violence victims' experiences of the criminal justice system through using data held by victim support services.	HO	NEW	By April 2015
139	Develop and disseminate information for practitioners working with children and families on how to identify and address the risks posed by adolescent to parent violence.	HO YJB	NEW	By April 2015

Victims of domestic violence are more effectively supported and protected through the court system.				
Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
140	Support Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVCs) to ensure effective operation, including monitoring progress of court closures and mergers, reviewing service delivery and exploring piloting the SDVC model in youth courts.	HO MoJ CPS	87 88	Ongoing to April 2015
141	Address ways to improve support for domestic and sexual violence victims including through the establishment of Victim Liaison Units.	CPS	NEW	By April 2015
142	Review policies, guidance and training across violence against women and girls issues.	CPS	89	Ongoing to April 2015
143	Finalise guidance on vulnerability and credibility of victims of violence against women and girls.	CPS	90	Ongoing to April 2015
There are improvements in outcomes for offenders in tackling perpetrator behaviour and reducing reoffending.				
Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
144	Reform Civil Orders to manage sex offenders even more effectively.	HO	NEW	Ongoing to April 2015
145	Create a new specialist risk assessment tool to enhance the validity of the risk-targeting criteria for the offending behaviour programme 'Building Better Relationships' in line with the What Works risk principle.	NOMS	101	September 2014
Female offenders who have been victims of domestic violence are receiving appropriate support.				
Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
146	Continue to deliver the Women Awareness Staff Programme and Sex Workers in Custody and Community to women's prison staff.	NOMS	109	Ongoing to April 2015
147	Review the feasibility of replicating recommendations set out the Corston Review, (which assessed women with particular vulnerabilities in the Criminal Justice System) in the youth justice system.	HO NOMS YJB	110	By April 2015

148	Continue to develop support for women in custody who are victims of domestic violence. This will include aligning support and services for women who have been abused, raped, involved in prostitution or who have experienced domestic violence with current practice and policies.	MoJ NOMS	NEW	By April 2015
149	Support wider Government efforts to safeguard those involved in prostitution, including through the promotion of suitable out of court disposals such as the Women's Specific Condition.	CPS	NEW	By April 2015
150	Ensure that gender-specific needs of women are recognised as part of the Transforming Rehabilitation reforms to probation services.	MoJ	NEW	By April 2015

Case Study: Crown Prosecution Service

Improving the approach to Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) prosecutions is a key priority for the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and, in 2012-13, the conviction rates for cases flagged as domestic violence and rape were at record highs for the second year running. But there is still more that can be done to further improve our performance.

Rape is one of the most serious offences and can cause victims long-lasting harm. Prosecuting rape takes time and high levels of knowledge and expertise as well as a comprehension of the psychological effects of sexual violence and how to challenge myths and stereotypes.

In October 2013, the CPS established Rape and Serious Sexual Offence (RASSO) units in each of its Areas across England and Wales. The establishment of these units is a significant achievement aimed at improving the CPS's case handling and response to victims of these serious sexual assaults. As well as rape and Crown Court cases of sexual offences, each RASSO Unit will also deal with Crown Court cases of child sexual abuse, sexual offences with multiple victims, sexual offences with vulnerable adults, youth court rape and sexual offences and cases involving allegedly false allegations. These cases are complex and are best dealt with by a team of trained specialists with expertise in dealing with sexual offence cases.

Victims of sexual offences should have the opportunity to take advantage of all available special measures to enable them to give their best evidence in court and to ensure victims receive the service they deserve. This will be emphasised in the joint national protocol between the police and the CPS, currently being updated to ensure we work together closely to improve our response.

Performance of each Unit will be monitored through the existing VAWG assurance process, including detailed scrutiny of a sample of rape cases to ensure each Area continues to address and improve its performance.

ANNEX A: National Group to tackle Sexual Violence Against Children and Vulnerable People

Actions included in the National Group on Sexual Violence against Children and Vulnerable People action plan which link to VAWG.

Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
SVACV	Publish a final report on multi-agency information sharing arrangements (such as MASH) and develop a programme of support for areas.	HO	SVACV	By April 2015
SVACV	Develop a set of leadership behaviours applicable to police, children and adult services and health professionals.	HO	SVACV	By April 2015
SVACV	Explore and address the cultural issues which may impact on group associated child sexual exploitation and challenge views against women and girls where appropriate.	HO	7	Ongoing to April 2015
SVACV	Take forward actions in the Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan	HO	57	Ongoing to April 2015
SVACV	Identify lessons emerging from reviews into historical child abuse and ensure learning is applied to sexual violence more widely.	HO	84	Ongoing to April 2015
SVACV	Test the use of pre-recorded cross-examination by piloting Section 28 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999, which provides for pre-recorded cross-examination of vulnerable witnesses in three courts – Leeds, Liverpool and Kingston-upon-Thames.	MoJ	SVACV	By April 2015
SVACV	Work with industry to support the roll out of family friendly network level domestic filters to all customers throughout 2014; including, through Ofcom, monitoring whether ISPs have delivered on their family friendly filtering commitments and working with the UK Council for Child Internet Safety Working Group to consider how effective filters are.	DCMS	SVACV	December 2014
SVACV	Work with industry to support better ways of reporting and tackling abuse online.	DCMS	SVACV	December 2014

Ending Gang and Youth Violence

Actions included in the Ending Gang and Youth Violence Strategy which link to VAWG.

Ref.	Action	Lead Dept.	2013 ref.	Timing
EGYV	Support local areas to integrate their strategic safeguarding responses on gang and youth violence, sexual violence and child sexual exploitation.	HO	EGYV	By April 2015
EGYV	Continue to fund 13 'Young People's Advocates for Sexual Violence' who will provide direct and dedicated support to young people experiencing, or at risk of, sexual abuse and exploitation in gang affected neighbourhoods.	HO	26	Until March 2015
EGYV	Share good practice on how to address harmful attitudes towards women and girls with mentors and other professionals working with young men and boys, with a specific focus on gang-related issues.	HO	EGYV	By April 2015
EGYV	Continue working with the Metropolitan Police to produce a template 'problem profile' for gang-associated women and girls to help local areas identify vulnerable gang-associated women and girls and target appropriate interventions.	HO	EGYV	Ongoing to April 2015
EGYV	Roll out further training on how to identify and support gang-associated women and girls, aimed at teachers, health and youth justice professionals, police officers and social workers.	HO YJB DfE	EGYV	By April 2015

ANNEX B:

Completed Actions

Ref.	Action	Summary
3	Map existing violence against women and girls prevention material, and explore wider crime prevention approaches to inform new violence against women and girls prevention activity	This work is nearing completion with reference to the work already underway by AVA. The results of the exercise will be published in the spring.
4	Hold a roundtable with academics, violence against women and girls experts, and researchers from other disciplines to explore new ways of changing attitudes.	The roundtable took place on 23 July.
5	Run a pilot to help understand boys' reactions to Teenage Rape Prevention and Teenage Relationship Abuse campaign messages, and consider lessons for future campaigns.	The Home Office ran a pilot and the findings from this research have informed the next phase of the campaign which launched on 5 December and runs until the end of March 2014.
6	Identify mechanisms to engage with men and encourage them to take more responsibility for reducing the levels of violence against women.	The Home Office <i>This is Abuse</i> campaign has had a more defined focus on young men and boys. Current campaign activity ends in March 2014.
8	Monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Bailey Review of the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood.	The Department for Education published a stocktake of progress on meeting Bailey's recommendations in 2013. Recommendations continue to be implemented by relevant departments.
9	Ensure recommendations from Claire Perry's work in her role as the Prime Minister's advisor on preventing the sexualisation and commercialisation of children informs development of violence against women and girls strategy.	Work is now incorporated into actions being progressed by Government departments on this agenda.
12	Ensure media literacy tools are available to help people challenge body images and gender stereotyping in the media.	The Media Smart packs for primary school teachers and parents developed by GEO have now been downloaded over 35,000 times. Work on further resources is ongoing to April 2015.

13	Increase use of parental controls by improving skills of parents and children and provide resources for the schools and children's workforce.	Relationships between industries and VCS forged through UKCCIS are working well (BT sponsorship of parenting classes, and Microsoft sponsoring digital parenting training). CEOP continues to provide award-winning resources on internet safety. The Safer Internet Centre, funded by the EU, has vastly improved information to parents and children and has doubled engagement in Safer Internet Day in the past two years UKCCIS is ongoing and continues to be supported by Ministers.
20	Continue to challenge attitudes, prevent FGM and encourage individuals to report cases of FGM, e.g. assessing how best to include FGM as a key focus in Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs.	The FGM e-learning tender and community engagement initiative were launched on 6 February at the cross-Government roundtable held to mark International Zero Tolerance Day on FGM. Ministers also signed a declaration on 6 February confirming their commitment to tackling FGM.
21	Review 'Declaration Against FGM' document pilot.	The review is completed, the publication of the document will continue.
22	Consider what more could be done with our partners to increase personal safety for women and girls, including initiatives to improve women and girls' perceptions of personal safety, and their awareness of initiatives to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour on public transport.	The Department for Transport has taken forward a number of initiatives to help women and girls feel safe when using public transport which include allocating £250 million over 2009-19 to the National Stations Improvement Programme, modernising train stations with design that incorporates best practice on personal security and safety. The joint British Transport Police / DFT Secure Stations scheme accredits train stations that have introduced a comprehensive package of security measures, such as staff training, help points, CCTV, lighting and information.
27	Work with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Experience (NICE) to produce public health guidance on preventing domestic violence.	NICE guidance on Domestic violence and abuse: how social care, health services and those they work with can identify, prevent and reduce domestic violence and abuse published in February 2014.
28	Support the Forensic Science Regulator to work with key stakeholders to establish a quality standards framework for the provision of forensic sexual assault services.	The Forensic Science Regulator established the Medical Forensic Specialist Group in June to support development of the quality standards. Work is ongoing.

30	Develop a new awareness campaign in the Armed Forces, using the recently produced DVD on domestic violence, and explore scope for voluntary sector involvement.	Work continues on raising awareness using the DVD and study days. LIBOR funding has also been awarded to 3 domestic abuse-related projects. One of these will develop a domestic abuse toolkit for use by the Armed Forces and civilian services responding to incidents and allegations of domestic abuse involving Service personnel and their families.
31	Overhaul our systems to ensure that we have an accurate picture of the extent of sexual offences in the Armed Forces.	A Crime Statistics and Analysis Cell (CSAC) has been created within the Service Police Crime Bureau at Southwick Park, Hampshire. The aim of the CSAC is to improve the quality of, and speed of access to, information relating to Service Police investigations. This has involved creating a new stand-alone database to cover all sexual offences investigated by the Service Police since the implementation of the Armed Forces Act 2006.
33	Based on the recommendations of Dame Fiona Caldicott's review of Information Governance, develop a new statutory code of practice for health and social care bodies to have regard to when making decisions about information sharing. This will include a framework containing more detailed guidance on particular aspects of information sharing.	New statutory guidance on information governance for the health and care system is due to be published by April 2014. The Department of Health is also working with the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) and NHS England to establish by Spring 2014 a virtual "Centre of Expertise" that will provide a one-stop-shop for NHS and social care organisations seeking information governance and information sharing advice.
35	Review use and perceived effectiveness of multi-agency guidelines for dealing with FGM.	A review of the multi-agency guidelines has been completed. Results found that whilst the guidelines are highly regarded in terms of content, there was limited awareness of them. We will be working with partners across Government to address the issues raised with a view to ensuring the guidelines are made more accessible.
36	Develop training for health visitors to provide support to families where they suspect violence against women or children may be a factor.	Domestic violence and abuse training for health visitors was developed in autumn 2013. Delivery of training is taking place between January and March 2014.

39	Develop a guide to signpost local areas to information on domestic and sexual abuse for under 18s.	Published March 2013.
40	Ensure that gang-associated girls and young women can access youth and criminal justice services without risk to their safety, through disseminating best practice on 'safe spaces' to Youth Offending Teams and Probation Trusts.	Advice was provided at events for youth justice practitioners in March 2013, and YJB have incorporated information into their 'Working with girls who offend' website.
41	Deliver training to local areas to highlight issues and best practice on young people, gangs and sexual and domestic abuse.	The Home Office, with the support of the Youth Justice Board, Department for Education, Public Health England and the College of Policing held regional training events for teachers, health and youth justice professionals, police officers and social workers in areas affected by gang violence from December 2013 to February 2014.
42	Work with the Association of Chief Police Officers to develop and disseminate an agreed definition for 'gang-associated female' to better inform identification and service provision for this group.	Gang-associated women and girls were tied in with the definition of a gang associate. ACPO approved the gang definitions and the definition is there for forces to use if they wish, but is not insisted on.
44	Conduct research, to understand how the Destitute Domestic Violence and Job Seekers Allowance Domestic Violence easement are operating, with a commitment to build on the outcomes as we look ahead to Universal Credit implementation (where both the concession and the easement will be continued).	Research was published in June 2013. Domestic Violence policies were re-launched to DWP staff between June – October 2013 through the publication of various products, updating guidance and reviewing learning and development. Initial results from a targeted survey show that the re-launch was successful in communicating the right messages to staff. DWP intend to build on these positive results.
45	Review reports from projects funded by the Male Victims Fund to identify lessons that can be shared more widely.	The review is complete and the report prepared. Next steps are currently under consideration.
49	Provide information to support health and wellbeing boards to understand violence against women and girls and who they can work with at a local level to take action on it.	Department of Health has produced statutory guidance for Health and Wellbeing Boards and their partners on Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies. The Local Government Association has been funded to lead a development support programme for Health and Wellbeing Boards to enable them to fully realise their system wide leadership role.

50	Issue fact pack on violence against women and girls for local commissioners, including Police and Crime Commissioners, to improve understanding of violence against women and girls issues, the costs on services and communities, and the benefits of tackling violence against women and girls effectively.	The fact pack was issued in August 2013. Further updated communications to Police and Crime Commissioners will be provided throughout 2015 as necessary.
51	Identify which violence against women and girls services are to be commissioned nationally and which would benefit from local commissioning and reflect this in the commissioning framework being developed to support both national and local commissioners of victims' services.	This action has been superseded by the broader work of the Commissioning Task and Finish Group which is delivering a range of actions over the next year to support service provider and commissioners.
53	Highlight, through national commissioning agreements and documents, voluntary and community sector specialist counselling and support as part of integrated care pathways.	The role of the specialist sexual violence voluntary sector was covered in the "NHS public Health functions agreement 2014-15". It will be covered further in "Looking to the Future" a strategic document that replaces the revised "National Services Guide" expected to be published in spring 2014.
54	Support commissioning of sexual assault services through a revised public health functions agreement and publication of revising National Health Service Commissioning Board operating model for commissioning sexual assault services as part of the Securing Excellence in Commissioning series.	A revised "NHS public health functions agreement" for 2014-15 was jointly published by the Department of Health and NHS England in November 2013. The accompanying Sexual Assault Services specification set ambitions for more consistent provision of sexual assault services across England and for improvement in delivery of integrated services across statutory and non statutory services through co-commissioning with partners. "Securing Excellence in commissioning sexual assault services for people who experience sexual violence" was published in June 2013. This document set out the partnership and operating model for co-commissioning Sexual Assault Services (SAS) in England.

56	Highlight the need for effective paediatric provision and pathways in national commissioning agreements and documents on sexual assault services.	This was highlighted in the "NHS public health functions agreement" published November 2013. NHS England has reviewed national budget allocation and commissioning models for achieving better paediatric sexual assault services to be used to inform Sexual Assault Services (SAS) commissioning by its area teams.
57	Department of Health to take forward actions in the child sexual exploitation plan.	The Government's Action Plan on Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation published in 2011 required the Department of Health to look into how the health services can help child and sexually exploited people. The department set up the Independent Health Working Group whose report was published on 15 January 2014. The department's response to the recommendations in the Health Working group Report will be incorporated in the VAWG 2014 Plan.
59	Ensure Public Health England is an active participant and leads in developing action plans to reduce violence against women and girls.	Public Health England has been active in leadership on tackling VAWG issues since it came into being last year. Specifically, PHE has led on the development of the domestic violence Public Health Outcomes Framework indicator, supported the work of the Coalition Government to improve information sharing from emergency departments to prevent violence and marked the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women with a series of podcasts and twitter activity. The PHE corporate blog in December focused on domestic violence and they have signed the public health responsibility deal on domestic violence and become a member of the Corporate Alliance Against Domestic Violence (CAADV).

60	Work with businesses to tackle violence against women in the workplace; to include developing and publishing a pledge with explanatory guidance for all employers to sign as part of the Public Health Responsibility Deal in order to commit them to develop a comprehensive policy to support all members of staff experiencing domestic abuse.	DH hosted a staff event on 25 November to highlight to colleagues what is being done to support those in the workplace who are affected by domestic violence. DH have signed up to the responsibility pledge and tackling domestic violence is included in the department's staff and wellbeing strategy. A domestic violence support group was launched in October 2013 to empower and enable staff affected by domestic violence to overcome difficulties. The champions of the group are trained and accredited volunteers.
72	Review results of EU Fundamental Rights Agency's survey on violence against women and girls across EU member states and consider any recommendations.	The survey will be published in March 2014 and recommendations will be considered.
75	Work on the development of guidance and learning programmes for the police on sexual and domestic violence, including FGM, forced marriage, 'honour' based violence (HBV) and stalking.	Responsibility for police training now sits with the College of Policing who are developing three levels of training for public protection. New packages were launched in February 2014.
76	Seek to re-establish effective voluntary arrangements with local authorities to ensure that the protocol on exchange of information is adopted and used to best effect. The protocol was developed by the Crown Prosecution Service, the Association of Chief Police Officers, LGA and Association of Directors of Social Services.	The protocol and best practice model for the sharing of information between the criminal courts and family courts was published in October 2013. Work is underway to implement the Protocol on a national basis.
77	Develop new Standard Operating Procedures for violence against women and girls and measures to support local prosecution action plans. This includes considering the feasibility of extending Rape and Sexual Offence Units to improve prosecutions.	The CPS has established dedicated Rape and Serious Sexual Offence unit across every CPS area in England and Wales. The CPS has also developed operational guidance on the handling of domestic violence cases to include in the Standard Operating Procedure for the Magistrate's Court.
78	Implement actions on special measures to improve support for vulnerable victims – including those of domestic and sexual abuse – in court.	The CPS Legal Guidance on Special Measures will be finalised in March 2014.

79	Improve understanding and awareness of additional services for violence against women and girls victims through consultation on the Victims' Code.	A new Victim's Code (the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime) was brought into force on 10 December 2013. The Code provides an enhanced level of service to victims of the most serious crime, which specifically includes victims of domestic violence and victims of sexual offences, to make that they get the right support at the right time. Under the Code, victims are entitled automatically to victims' services, although victims of domestic and sexual violence must give explicit consent. Under the enhanced service victims are entitled to quicker updates on the status of their case and access to pre-trial therapy or counselling where appropriate or available.
80	Issue our response to the review of the effectiveness of the statutory guidance on Domestic Homicide Reviews.	The response was published in June 2013.
81	Review policies, guidance and training across violence against women and girls issues.	The CPS has carried out a range of work aimed at further improving the prosecution of VAWG, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The monitoring of the CPS's performance on VAWG through the bi-annual VAWG assurance process; • Working with the Home Office and National Policing colleagues to develop a six-point action plan to better understand the falls in referrals of domestic violence and rape cases from the police to the CPS; • The publication of the CPS Annual VAWG Crime Report; • Webinar for prosecutors on honour-based and forced marriage; • Session held for the Heads of Rape and Serious Sexual Offence Units.
82	Develop an overarching and agreed approach to the investigation and prosecution of sexual offences, supported by the College of Policing; including public consultation on new guidance.	The CPS issued Legal Guidance on prosecuting cases of child sexual abuse in October 2013. The guidelines were informed by a series of roundtable discussions led by the then Director of Public Prosecutions and a twelve week public consultation.

83	Support prosecutions involving harmful traditional practices, including FGM and female foeticide.	The Director of Public Prosecutions led on the publication of two actions plans regarding female genital mutilation in November 2012 and October 2013, following discussions with key stakeholders. This includes training for police and CPS specialists. The Director of Public Prosecutions published details of the rationale behind decisions not to prosecute abortion cases.
85	Pilot a domestic violence disclosure scheme in four police force areas.	The pilot is completed and the scheme will be rolled out nationally from March 2014.
86	Consider the case for implementing section 60 of the Family Law Act 1996. This provision would provide for a 'prescribed person' such as the police or Local Authority to make an application for a domestic violence injunction on someone else's behalf. A similar provision is already available in forced marriage cases.	Costings for implementation of the provisions are being developed pending further information from the DVPO pilot. Advice will be provided to Ministers in due course.
88	Consider feasibility of applying Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) model in youth cases.	A questionnaire was sent to local criminal justice agencies and an information sharing exercise held to consider the feasibility of this proposal. Progressing work towards developing a pilot is included in new actions to take forward over the next year.
89	Address ways to improve the support to victims in the prosecution of domestic violence cases.	The CPS bi-annual VAWG assurance continues to monitor performance on domestic violence. Specific work on domestic violence included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a revised domestic violence policy; • Research into victim non-engagement and withdrawal.
90	Develop guidance on the vulnerability and credibility of victims of violence against women and girls.	Guidance is being developed in consultation with third sector organisations for finalisation in 2014/15.
95	Carry out further research on the health aspects of violence against women and children.	Five projects have been commissioned by the Department for Health for completion between 2014 and 2016.

96	Clarify the issues around Female Genital Cosmetic Surgery through the inquiry that Sir Bruce Keogh is conducting into cosmetic surgery and other cosmetic interventions.	Sir Bruce Keogh's review into cosmetic interventions recommended that the Royal College of Surgeons establishes a Cosmetic Surgery Interspecialty Committee and work with Professional Associations, including the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG), to identify, review and develop (where required) standards for the training and practice of cosmetic surgery. FGCS will be considered as part of this work.
97	Commission the Health and Social Care Information Centre to advise on the feasibility of coding FGM in National Health Service clinical data sets, to improve information sharing and care for those affected by FGM, and support prevention amongst at-risk communities.	The feasibility study into collecting data on FGM in the NHS has been completed. Next steps are now being agreed.
99	Explore with College of Policing the potential for evaluating the effectiveness of police responses to violence against women and girls.	This work has been superseded by the HMIC Inspection of the police response to domestic violence. The inspection is complete and will report in April 2014.
100	Consider whether MARACs could be used to identify and support high-risk victims of rape and sexual assault.	Initial view from Police force piloting an SV MARAC model were broadly positive, identifying its value in building wider trust and confidence in the police. Emphasised the need for consistent support to the SV MARAC structure and joint ownership.
103	Consider how to support GPs to give effective response when they are engaging with violence against women and girls perpetrators.	Since the restructuring of the NHS in April 2013 this work has been absorbed within on-going work being taken forward with the Royal Colleges of General practitioners. Health Education England commissions the training for doctors seeking to become general practitioners. HEE will continue working with the Royal College of General Practitioners to include the relevant training in the curriculum.
106	Publicise the YJB domestic abuse webpage and effective practice library for practitioners working with young perpetrators and consider gaps in service provision.	The domestic abuse webpage is regularly updated. Suitable resources have been identified and placed within the webpage, as well as the in effective practice library.

108	Commission women's community services through Probation Trusts, allocating a protected investment of £3.78 million.	A stock-take of the provision of services for female offenders was published in October 2013. This action is superseded by the forthcoming new commissioning landscape for Transforming Rehabilitation.
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