



HM Government

A Call to End Violence against Women and Girls

Progress Report 2010 – 15

March 2015

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Ministerial foreword by the Home Secretary



When I became Home Secretary in 2010 I was clear more had to be done to stop violence against women and girls. Every year thousands of lives are ruined, childhoods damaged and families destroyed, with victims all too often hiding in silence behind closed doors. Our ambition must be nothing short of eradicating this appalling suffering and Our Call to End Violence against Women and Girls set out our strategy to do just that.

More than four years later I am proud of the progress we have made. We have seen a real commitment across Government not only to tackle domestic and sexual violence and abuse, but other forms of harm including stalking, forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

Today the infrastructure we have in place to tackle these issues looks very different than in 2010. We have strengthened the law and provided professionals with new powers to tackle domestic violence and abuse, stalking, forced marriage and revenge pornography. We introduced Clare's Law and Domestic Violence Protection Orders to help break the cycle of abuse.

We provided £40 million for specialist local support services and national helplines – and as a result we have seen an increase in the number of rape crisis centres opening up. And we have worked with police and crime commissioners, health commissioners and local authorities to support them in providing effective local services for victims and survivors.

We are working to change attitudes too. Our highly acclaimed *This is Abuse* campaign aims to prevent teenagers from becoming victims and perpetrators of abusive relationships. Since the campaign's launch in 2010, there have been over two million unique visits to the campaign's website and comments left on the website show that it is helping young people to rethink their views of violence, abuse and controlling relationships.

I have also been absolutely clear that we must get the police and criminal justice response right. That is why I commissioned an inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary into the police response to domestic abuse. Its report last year revealed significant failings and attitudes that are not good enough. I have been determined that this situation improves dramatically, and since then police forces, supported by police and crime commissioners, have signalled a commitment to lasting change.

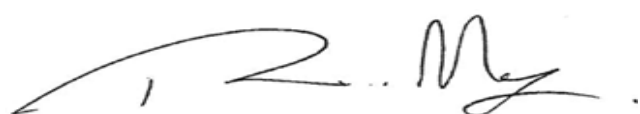
Our approach is having an impact. In the past year, the proportion of women experiencing sexual violence has fallen. Prosecutions for rape and domestic abuse have increased since 2010 and are expected to increase further this year. The conviction rate for violence against women and girls is at its highest ever level, and more women are willing to come forward to report these terrible crimes.

But across all areas much more remains to be done. This report details the work we have carried out, what we have achieved, and the difference that we have made. We have created a good foundation, but will have to build on this in the future if we are to continue making a difference, not just in this country but overseas.

Finally, I want to thank all those on the frontline, the practitioners and voluntary organisations, whose work often goes unrecognised. It is thanks to your dedication and hard work that women and girls are supported and lives really are turned around.

I am clear that no woman should ever suffer in silence or live in fear of violence. No man or woman should think it is acceptable to abuse another. And no child should grow up in a family torn apart by violence and abuse.

It is only by working together that we will be able to turn this vision into reality.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Theresa May', with a large flourish at the end.

The Right Honourable Theresa May MP
Home Secretary

Ministerial foreword by the Minister of State for Crime Prevention



Nationally and internationally, violence against women and girls is an issue which cannot be ignored and I am proud of what we have achieved at home and overseas since 2010.

I am delighted to be working alongside the Home Secretary once again as we now take stock of our progress towards our vision to end violence against women and girls.

Our efforts to prevent violence and abuse and drive a culture change have targeted anyone who can make a difference including the wider public, statutory agencies and professionals. Broader recognition of violence as a public health issue and specific training on domestic and sexual abuse means that at every point of contact – whether in A&E, by a midwife, health visitor, teacher or police officer – there is a greater chance that abuse will be spotted – and stopped.

I am particularly proud to have had the opportunity to spearhead the campaign to eliminate female genital mutilation (FGM) in one generation. I am unequivocal that this criminal child abuse must stop and over the course of the Parliament we have seen a real shift in attitudes. Media, political, and public awareness of FGM has increased significantly and, at our groundbreaking Girl Summit last July, we announced a radical package of measures to tackle this form of abuse once and for all. I have supported the Africa-led movement to address FGM, and believe that “Girl Generation” - a programme funded by the Government that supports campaigns to end FGM across the world – can make a huge difference to women and girls globally.

I strongly believe that the broader work the UK has done to address violence against women and girls overseas has set a high threshold for engagement and action which must be continued by any future government. During my time as Cross-Whitehall Ministerial Champion on Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls Overseas, I have met with women and girls who have experienced the most devastating human rights abuses. The UK has played a significant role in pushing hidden, sensitive and neglected issues into the spotlight, not only FGM, but also sexual violence in conflict and the need to address violence against women and girls in humanitarian emergencies.

I look forward to an important year, internationally and in the UK. The international community will be agreeing a new sustainable development framework and the UK Government has championed the inclusion of a standalone goal on Gender Equality

and Empowerment of Women and Girls in the Post-2015 development goals agenda, including a target to end all forms of violence against women and girls.

2015 also marks the 15th anniversary of the landmark Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security which re-affirmed the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction – all of which are essential elements in preventing violence against women and girls. We will continue to advocate for strong commitments which maintain global momentum to gender equality and tackling violence against women and girls.

Together, we have made a difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynne Featherstone', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rt. Hon Lynne Featherstone MP
Minister of State for Crime Prevention

Executive Summary

The Government can be proud of its achievements since the beginning of this Parliament in tackling all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG), both in the UK and overseas. Our approach has supported a fundamental shift in attitudes with an improved awareness of VAWG and a growing understanding that all forms of gender based violence are unacceptable – and never the victim’s fault.

Violence against women and girls has a devastating impact on victims and their families. The cost to those individuals cannot be measured, but the costs of violence and abuse to the economy can be calculated and are considerable. Sylvia Walby’s report¹ estimates that providing public services to victims of domestic violence and the lost economic output of women affected costs the UK £15.8 billion annually. The cost to health, housing and social services, criminal justice and civil legal services is estimated at £3.9 billion. A cross-government approach to tackling this violence and abuse has been essential in making progress.

The infrastructure in place to tackle VAWG in the UK looks significantly different than it did five years ago. Domestic abuse is now a recognised offence in its own right, and our understanding is more sophisticated, acknowledging coercive control as well as physical violence. We have made clear our expectation that every report of rape or sexual assault is treated seriously, that every victim is treated with dignity, and every investigation and prosecution conducted thoroughly and professionally. Female genital mutilation (FGM) is now widely recognised as the terrible form of child abuse that it is and forced marriage is a criminal offence as is stalking.

We have increased young people’s awareness of relationship abuse and professionals are better informed, better trained and more accountable. The needs of the victim are at the heart of the criminal justice response and we have challenged the police to make significant improvements in their response to VAWG related crimes. Increases in reporting of sexual offences² and domestic abuse incidents³ indicate that victims have more confidence in the criminal justice system.

We have cemented our standing as a world player on this important agenda and hosted three major international summits on VAWG: the Call to Action on Protecting Women and Girls in Emergencies (2013); the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict (2014) and the Girl Summit on eliminating female genital mutilation (FGM) and child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) in a generation (2014).

These global summits have raised awareness and galvanised action to end all forms of violence against women and girls, both at home and abroad.

¹ Walby, S (2009), The Cost of Domestic Violence Up-date 2009 Lancaster University

² <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/year-ending-september-2014/index.html>

³ <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/focus-on-violent-crime-and-sexual-offences--2013-14/index.html>

Crucially, the Government's work on VAWG has delivered a range of positive outcomes and the breadth and scale of our programme to tackle these crimes is making an impact on the lives of women and girls.

Since Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) were introduced, over 2500 have been put in place across 39 forces. We have been absolutely clear that the responsibility for violence lies with the perpetrator and by implementing this innovative measure to close a gap in the law, we have ensured that it is the perpetrator who is sanctioned, while their victims are able to stay in their own home and be more effectively protected.

Information released by police forces indicates that over 3500 applications have been made under the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS or Clare's Law) which we introduced last year and over 1300 disclosures made. It is encouraging to see how the tools we have provided to ensure that women are safer on a day to day basis are being used - we are meeting a demand and empowering potential victims of domestic abuse to make an informed decision to leave a relationship before it is too late.

While the prevalence of domestic abuse has remained relatively stable over the last six years, data from the Crime Survey of England and Wales (CSEW) shows that the prevalence of sexual violence has fallen since 2011/12 and is now at its lowest level since those figures were first captured by the CSEW in 2004/05. Reporting rates for sexual violence however have increased – a positive indication that while fewer sexual assaults are happening, more victims have the confidence to come forward. All elements of VAWG show increases in reporting – a critical strategic objective for what are hidden crimes⁴.

And there have been improvements in criminal justice outcomes for VAWG with rape referrals from the police to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) increasing after swift Government action to tackle a fall off in referrals last year. Prosecutions for domestic abuse have increased while out of court disposals for domestic abuse at the pre-charge stage have reached their lowest levels⁵, and we have seen increases in the volume of prosecutions and conviction rate for all VAWG offences. These figures are showing that not only are victims more confident in coming forward – the criminal justice system is delivering improved outcomes for them.

We continue to rigorously pursue perpetrators with the CPS projecting that there will be around 550 extra jury trials this year and 650 extra decisions to charge in cases involving rape allegations and an increase in prosecutions for domestic abuse to nearly 90,000 by the end of this financial year (up from 70,700 in 2012/13).

And our international work is reaching women and girls across the world. To date, at least 945,000 women and girls have accessed VAWG prevention services funded by

⁴ <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/focus-on-violent-crime-and-sexual-offences--2013-14/index.html>

⁵ <http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/equality/vaw/index.html>

the UK Government, such as receiving life-skills training or risk reduction materials; or have participated in safe spaces where women and girls have accessed information, counselling, and peer support.

Under this Government, VAWG is no longer a side issue – it is a high profile, mainstream consideration across Government departments.

During the course of this Parliament we have:

- Provided stable funding of £40 million between 2011 and 2015 to provide a critical bedrock of support to victims of domestic and sexual abuse;
- Introduced new legislation and law enforcement tools including the criminalisation of forced marriage, new stalking laws, the national roll-out of Domestic Homicide Protection Orders and the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, the criminalisation of possession of realistic depictions of rape and revenge pornography, and new civil orders to manage sex offenders;
- Recognised that domestic abuse affects young people as well and revised our definition of domestic abuse accordingly;
- Raised young people's awareness of VAWG through the acclaimed *This is Abuse* campaign and the provision of a discussion guide for teachers based on the campaign materials;
- Driven a step-change in the response to hidden crimes such as FGM through a comprehensive package of reforms, including those announced at the Girl Summit in 2014 and announced mandatory reporting for FGM;
- Reformed frontline agencies' response to VAWG by driving a culture change in the police response through the HMIC review, new guidance and training for healthcare professionals and the promotion of partnership approaches through the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) model, the troubled families programme and the emerging Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH);
- Revised statutory safeguarding guidance to put the needs of children back at the heart of the assessment process and to focus clearly on the core legal requirements that all professionals should follow in order to keep children safe;
- Commissioned the Bailey Review on the Commercialisation and Sexualisation of Childhood;
- Delivered the highest VAWG conviction rate since records began through the work of the CPS including wider support for the criminal justice system to further improve the response to VAWG;
- Supported local commissioners and service providers to engage with the new local structures to facilitate effective commissioning of VAWG services for victims;
- Significantly scaled up our work to tackle VAWG overseas with a 63% increase in UK-funded VAWG programmes implemented in 29 countries across the world since 2012; and
- Supported male victims through the Male Rape Support fund and funding the national helpline for male victims of domestic violence.

Violence against women and girls has resonance with other Government programmes to tackle sexual abuse of children and vulnerable adults, child sexual exploitation, and the abuse of women and girls in a gang context.

In August last year Professor Alexis Jay published a report into child sexual exploitation in Rotherham which showed that organised child sexual abuse had been happening on a massive scale over many years. A report on the priority action the Government is taking to tackle child sexual exploitation was published on 3 March. The Prime Minister launched this national policy response at a No.10 Summit, also on 3 March, where he challenged leaders from local authorities, children's services, health professionals, Chief Constables and experts in child protection to work more effectively to strengthen the systems in place to protect children.

We are also determined to tackle online sexual abuse of children and the Prime Minister's #We Protect Children Online Summit in December last year resulted in commitments which will drive greater cooperation across international law enforcement agencies to track down offenders and victims. A UK wide operation to identify and take law enforcement action against individuals viewing indecent images of children online has resulted in over 700 arrests and more than 400 children being safeguarded.

Wider work on sexual abuse against children and vulnerable people is co-ordinated by the National Group on Sexual Violence against Children and Vulnerable People established in 2013. A refreshed action plan and report setting out the significant progress the Government has made in tackling all forms of sexual violence over the last eighteen months is due to be published this spring.

Some people draw on extremist ideologies to try to justify violence against women and girls, for example the belief that females are inferior or that their behaviour warrants punishment. These views go against core British values and are unacceptable. In the spring the Government will introduce a new strategy to tackle all forms of extremism. It will empower people to identify and confront extremism, and to proudly champion shared values like respect, tolerance and individual liberty.

This report highlights Government activity, funding and outcomes in our work to tackle VAWG.

But we know there is still more to do.

We will continue to raise awareness and support frontline professionals, to tackle online manifestations of VAWG and support schools to educate young people about these crucial issues. We will continue to drive a wider culture change and challenge the attitudes that underpin gender-based violence until we do, one day, achieve our ambitious vision of eliminating violence against women and girls altogether - here and overseas.

Domestic violence and abuse

The trend on prevalence of domestic abuse has been flat since 2008/09. From the 2013/14 Crime Survey for England and Wales it is estimated that 1.4 million women were victims of domestic abuse in the last year. The Government has made significant strides to improve the criminal justice response to domestic violence and abuse – **and our work is having an impact.**

- 85 women were killed by a partner or ex-partner in 2013/14. This is slightly lower than in 2011/12 (89) but higher than the 77 victims in 2012/13;
- The number of referrals for domestic abuse and violence from the police for prosecution is higher than ever before (over 100,000);
- The number of cases of domestic abuse reaching court has also risen. In 2013/14, there were just over 78,000 prosecutions nationally. Current projections expect that figure to increase to nearly 90,000 by the end of 2014/15;
- The conviction rate for domestic violence and abuse is also at its highest ever level at almost 75% in 2013/14 – up from 72% in 2009/10.

Sexual violence

The report produced in 2013 by the Home Office, Ministry of Justice and the Office for National Statistics estimated the number of victims of rape at 60,000-95,000 per year.

Latest data on the prevalence of sexual assault experienced for women in the last year (2013/14) was 2.2%, down from 3.0% in 2012/13 and 4.2% in 2011/12. This is the lowest recorded number since those figures were first captured by the Crime Survey for England and Wales in 2004/05.

In their report published in January this year, the Office for National Statistics was clear that increases in rape and sexual offences are due to **greater victim confidence and better recording by the police** rather than more sexual assaults taking place.

Not only are reports of rape going up, but the number of rape prosecutions*:

- has increased over the last year, going from 3,692 to 3,891;
- is higher than it was under the previous Government (3,819 in 2009/10 and 3,495 in 2008/9);
- is expected to be about 30% more than in 2012/13 meaning there will be around 550 extra jury trials and 650 extra decisions to charge this year.

In addition, 'no crime' rates for rape have fallen year on year since 2010. More adult sex offenders are currently in prison (an increase from 8,980 in 2010 to 11,119 in 2014) and the average sentence length has gone up from 50 months in 2010 to 60 months in 2013. The number of MAPPA sexual offenders charged with a serious further offence has dropped from 162 in 2009/10 to 143 now.

**Figures based on CPS data on rape prosecutions which include not only cases initially charged and manually flagged as rape, but also cases where a conviction was obtained for an alternative or lesser offence. The rape flag is applied at the onset of a case and will remain even if the rape charge is amended. The data is used for CPS case management purposes.*

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 said we would achieve:

- 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 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;
- Changed cultural attitudes on illegal practices like female genital mutilation.

Progress since 2010

In 2010, we put prevention at the heart of our approach to tackle VAWG. We committed to challenging the attitudes, behaviours and practices which cause women and girls to live in fear and to tackling the gender inequalities that underpin violence against women and girls.

We have done this by driving a culture change through acclaimed campaigns, improving and increasing training for professionals and introducing new tools like the Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO) and Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) to help enforcement agencies respond effectively to identified risk and take action to stop violence happening in the first place. Information released by police forces indicate that over 3500 applications have been made under the DVDS since the national roll out in 2014 and over 1300 disclosures have been made, providing the opportunity for individuals to make informed decisions about their relationships.

Long term shifts in attitude require a sustained drive to challenge entrenched cultural norms across all sections of society. We have recognised factors which may make someone vulnerable to abuse and taken a broad approach: addressing the root causes of violence, tackling structural inequalities and ensuring women can fulfil their potential in education, at home and in the workplace. There are more women in work than ever before; more women on FTSE Boards than ever before (22.8% of FTSE 100 Directors, up from 12.5% in February 2011); there are now no all-male FTSE100 boards; the gender pay gap is the lowest on record and women under 40 working full-time now earn more than men.

Our Body Confidence campaign⁶ challenges the intense scrutiny on physical appearance that can contribute to the objectification and sexualisation of women and girls and limit aspirations, well-being and confidence. It is encouraging that the

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/body-confidence-campaign-progress-report-2013>

supporting resources pack has been downloaded over 35,000 times and that sections of the national media have now entered the debate over the portrayal of women.

Prevention is not just about reaching victims. Men have an essential voice in bringing about widespread change and we have worked with the White Ribbon Campaign⁷ to promote their message of men as change agents. Our targeted campaign on domestic violence during the football World Cup in 2014 recognised how such events can lead to increases in abuse and a significant focus of our most recent campaign aimed at teenagers, *This is Abuse*, targeted boys and young men to help them identify and challenge abusive behaviour.

The *This is Abuse* campaign encourages teenagers to re-think their views of violence, abuse, controlling behaviour and what consent means within their relationships. Since we first launched the campaign in 2010 there have been over two million unique visitors to the website. Our collaborations with television programmes popular with our target group are showing how credible voices can really reach young people.

But it is the voices of teenagers themselves, captured on our website, that provide the most compelling evidence of how our campaign is having an impact.

"I used to convince myself that what happened to me wasn't rape and that it was my fault, but seeing this advert made me 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 – has helped a lot"

"Just finished with my boyfriend of two years after seeing these videos and I can relate to each one...I know I deserve better than what I was getting put through"

"In my relationship, I didn't think it was abuse, now I have seen these clips, I realise it is abuse, I'm going to put a stop to it, thank you for the videos so I can see how wrongly my boyfriend is treating me."

Providing frontline professionals with the right information and tools to spot signs of abuse, make appropriate interventions and deal effectively with disclosures is critical

⁷ <http://www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk>

to ensure that victims get the help and support they need and are able to break cycles of abuse. The Public Health Outcome Framework includes a new indicator on domestic violence - a further sign that tackling abuse is now considered an integral part of the nation's health and - crucially - health professionals are taking a greater role in identifying where abuse is happening.

We have invested over £600,000 since 2011 to provide training programmes for Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) and Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs), an FGM e-learning package and stalking training for professionals. We have supported enhanced training on VAWG for health visitors and general practitioners. We are reforming social work education through sponsored training programmes like Step Up to Social Work and the development of professional standards that all child and family social workers will be expected to meet.

Early intervention is vital to protecting victims - and their children. These measures, coupled with a radical overhaul of social work and safeguarding approaches, mean that **early intervention has become embedded in the professional framework under this Government.**

Making an impact: *This is Abuse*

In 2009, research by the NSPCC showed that teenagers did not understand what constituted abusive behaviour or what consent meant. In response, the Government developed the Teenage Relationship Abuse campaign and the Teenage Rape campaign, which finally joined up in 2012 and became the acclaimed *This is Abuse* campaign.

This is Abuse targets teenagers between 13 and 18, and aims to prevent teenagers from becoming victims and perpetrators of abusive relationships by encouraging them to re-think their views on controlling behaviours, abuse, violence and what consent means within their relationships. There have been over 2 million unique visits to the website since its launch.

Last year, we worked with Hollyoaks and MTV to maximise opportunities to connect with the right audience. Recognition of the campaign amongst the target audience is strong and as a result of seeing our advertising young people are now more likely to recognise abuse and seek help. You can read more about the results from the *This is Abuse* campaign on GOV.UK.

A campaign like ours is the beginning of a conversation. To enable professionals and teachers in particular to carry on that conversation, we produced the *This is Abuse* discussion guide which was awarded the Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education Association quality mark. The PSHE Association noted that the guide "*provides everything a teacher should need to set up a powerful piece of learning about this crucial issue*".

Government Action: Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education

We recognise that education on issues relating to VAWG is important to maintain momentum in driving cultural change – and to protect young people.

This Government is committed to supporting good quality PSHE education in schools which may cover a range of issues like consent and relationship abuse. We believe that all schools should teach PSHE and this expectation is made clear in the introduction to the framework for the new national curriculum. Our approach has been to support PSHE experts and schools to make the right choices for local PSHE provision.

We commissioned the PSHE Association to produce new guidance for teachers on teaching consent. To provide further support for teachers we established the PSHE Expert Group in 2014. It will ensure that teachers have the advice and resources to deliver high quality teaching and give PSHE the same prominence as national curriculum subjects. The group will seek to identify how PSHE education can help to keep pupils safe, particularly in relation to healthy and unhealthy relationships and domestic abuse.

We extended grant funding to the PSHE Association into 2014/15, providing an additional £75,000 for the association to continue advising schools on curricula and staff training and to develop and promote a set of case studies illustrating good PSHE teaching on FGM, honour killing and forced marriage.

Making an Impact: Effective local collaboration

There is some excellent practice in areas of local collaboration which we believe should be shared. For example, a ground-breaking project that aims to prevent domestic violence through schools launched in Bristol in March 2014 with the full backing of the city's Mayor, Avon and Somerset Police Crime Commissioner and all four of the city's MPs.

'The Bristol Ideal' calls on local primary and secondary schools to take seven simple actions that will make a lasting impact on domestic abuse figures: 14,000 women and girls become victims each year in the city of Bristol. The actions cut across the whole school, from setting in place policies to ensuring staff are well trained, having a dedicated champion and, crucially, providing pupils with high quality Relationship Education, delivered by trained professionals. The project team have provided all head teachers with a pack of guidance and resources as well as free training that will enable schools to implement the actions simply and effectively.

The project is embedded into the city's Domestic Violence Strategy, Bristol Safeguarding Children's Board's Strategic Priorities 2013-16, Avon and Somerset Police Crime Commissioner's Priorities and Bristol's Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy. Once schools achieve all seven standards, they will be given Bristol Ideal Status.

Making an Impact: Empowering women to prevent violence and report concerns

Professor Jay in her inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham identified that more should be done to encourage and empower women from the Pakistani community to speak out about their experiences. This finding supports other evidence of under-reporting of exploitation and abuse in minority ethnic communities.

As part of a Government wide response to tackle abuse and particularly child sexual exploitation DCLG has set up a £250,000 empowering women fund. Voluntary and community sector groups will be invited to bid for funding to support exemplary projects across the country that will help give women, especially in hard to reach groups, the confidence to challenge sexual abuse wherever it occurs. This new fund opened for applications on 3 March.

An inability to speak English is one of the barriers that prevent some women from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities from reporting child sexual exploitation. DCLG's £6 million English Language programme has given nearly 10,000 more adults the chance to make friends, get a job and take a full part in British life by learning to speak English through community-based language classes. Approximately two thirds of learners are women, mainly from Pakistani, Bangladeshi or Somali backgrounds. The community based English Language programme has a good record of reaching BAME women and a proven track record in increasing their confidence to report problems. DCLG is expanding its English Language programme in a further 10 areas targeted specifically at hard to reach women from these backgrounds to build confidence and give them the basic language skills to report abuse.

To help the most isolated take part the classes are delivered in local community or faith venues. Childcare is often provided and role-play, online learning, and informal conversation groups are used to increase confidence. The classes involve local volunteers and mentors, and focus on relevant life skills – covering topics like going to the doctors, talking to teachers and shopping on the local high street.

The classes are giving women the confidence they need to speak to professionals such as their GPs and their children's teachers, opening the door for them to report any problems they may have. This will give them the necessary confidence to speak up if they see or experience violence or other forms of abuse.

Making an Impact Internationally: What works?

In 2013 the UK launched a pioneering programme called 'What Works to Prevent Violence' which intends to drive innovation, generate ground-breaking new evidence, and inform new prevention programmes to stop violence against women and girls.

The fund, amounting to £25 million over five years, will produce new knowledge and evidence on addressing violence in various contexts to inform the future effectiveness of programmes. This evidence will provide a global resource that all partners working on preventing violence against women and girls will be able to access to improve their approach.

Government Action: Online safety

The growth of the internet has been phenomenal in recent years. Now more than ever we are engaging with each other in a virtual reality spanning the globe. The internet brings great benefits but it also has a dark side. Many crimes now have an online element, with offenders using the internet to target and abuse individuals or to facilitate stalking, fraud or terrorism.

Online safety – for children as well as adults – is a Government priority. Considerable success has been achieved in prompting parents to switch on parental internet controls and ensuring the availability of family-friendly public Wi-Fi in places children are likely to be. Ministers from the Department for Education, the Home Office and the Department of Culture, Media and Sport co-chair the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS), a multi-stakeholder forum bringing together government, industry, charities and others to work in partnership to keep children and young people safe online. It looks at evidence and develops and promotes effective tools and information for children and parents.

The UKCCIS is reviewing its existing guidance for providers of social networking services with a view to developing this. The Government's priority is to help ensure companies operating in the UK are informed about best practice, take steps to ensure children using their services are doing so in a safe and supported way and are protected from harmful content and contact. We expect social media companies, and others, to have robust processes in place and to act promptly when abuse is reported. In spring 2014, following a request from the Prime Minister, the UK's major Internet Service Providers (ISPs) launched a large-scale awareness campaign, *Internet Matters*. The campaign will run over three years and will help inform parents about how best to protect children from online risks. We also announced an extra £500,000 funding for the Safer Internet Centre to ensure schools and teachers are equipped to teach young people how to be safe online and Internet Safety now forms part of the national curriculum.

The Government has driven work to tackle the use of the internet in the sexual abuse of children, worked with industry and partners to block returns leading to child abuse material from online searches, and given the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) a remit to proactively search out indecent imagery so that it can be taken down or blocked. The Prime Minister's #We Protect Children Online Summit in December 2014 resulted in further commitments to drive greater cooperation across international law enforcement agencies to track down offenders and victims. Government has also introduced a single, secure database of indecent images of children which will provide law enforcement with effective tools to search seized devices for indecent images of children, reduce the time taken to identify such images, increase the ability to identify victims and allow industry and international partners to remove this material from the web.

The Government funded Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (now part of the National Crime Agency) has developed the Thinkuknow education programme to protect children and young people from sexual abuse and exploitation. The programme provides training and resources used by a network of over 100,000 professionals with children and young people including:

- Websites for children aged 5-7, 8-10, 11-13 and those over 14 covering broad internet safety. The over 14s site includes information on sex, relationships and how the internet affects them;
- *First to a Million*: an interactive film focusing on young people who post video content online and highlighting how quickly things can spiral out of control; and
- *Exploited*: an educational resource to help young people stay safe from sexual exploitation and provide advice on healthy relationships.

The Government has announced a further £10 million for 2015/16 to allow NCA-CEOP to create new teams to tackle online child sexual exploitation and a joint NCA and Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) team that will use the latest techniques and expertise to track down online offenders.

PREVENTION AT A GLANCE

<p>470</p> <p>Signatories to the charter to end FGM including 43 national governments</p>	<p>14.4 million</p> <p>Women in work (increase of 774,000 since 2010) and more women on FTSE boards than ever before</p>	<p>350,000+</p> <p>Materials (posters, leaflets, fact-packs, guidance) distributed to stakeholders to tackle FGM</p>
<p>2 million+</p> <p>Visits to the <i>This is Abuse</i> website since 2010</p>	<p>£3 million</p> <p>Department of Health investment in FGM prevention programme over two years</p>	<p>2500+</p> <p>Domestic Violence Protection Orders in place across 39 forces</p>
<p>1300+</p> <p>Disclosures made under the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme since national roll-out in 2014</p>	<p>1000+</p> <p>Attendees at 10 regional conferences on FGM across England</p>	<p>35,000+</p> <p>Downloads of 'Media Smart' resource challenging media representation of women</p>
<p>50+</p> <p>Companies signed up to the Public Health Responsibility Deal Pledge on domestic violence</p>	<p>£25 million</p> <p>Pledged over three years by Internet Service Providers to raise parental awareness of online safety</p>	<p>8000+</p> <p>Registrations for FGM e-learning training package to date</p>
<p>350+</p> <p>Faith representatives signed up to the declarations condemning FGM and forced marriage</p>	<p>220</p> <p>Companies signed up to <i>Think, Act, Report</i> to improve gender equality in the workplace</p>	<p>7000</p> <p>PSHE professionals sent the <i>This is Abuse</i> campaign support materials</p>

"I think the DVPO is the best thing they have ever done"

(DV Victim – DVPO pilot evaluation)

"I thought it was a fantastic tool that didn't put the onus on the victim and that's something we get an awful lot where the victim doesn't want to make that decision"

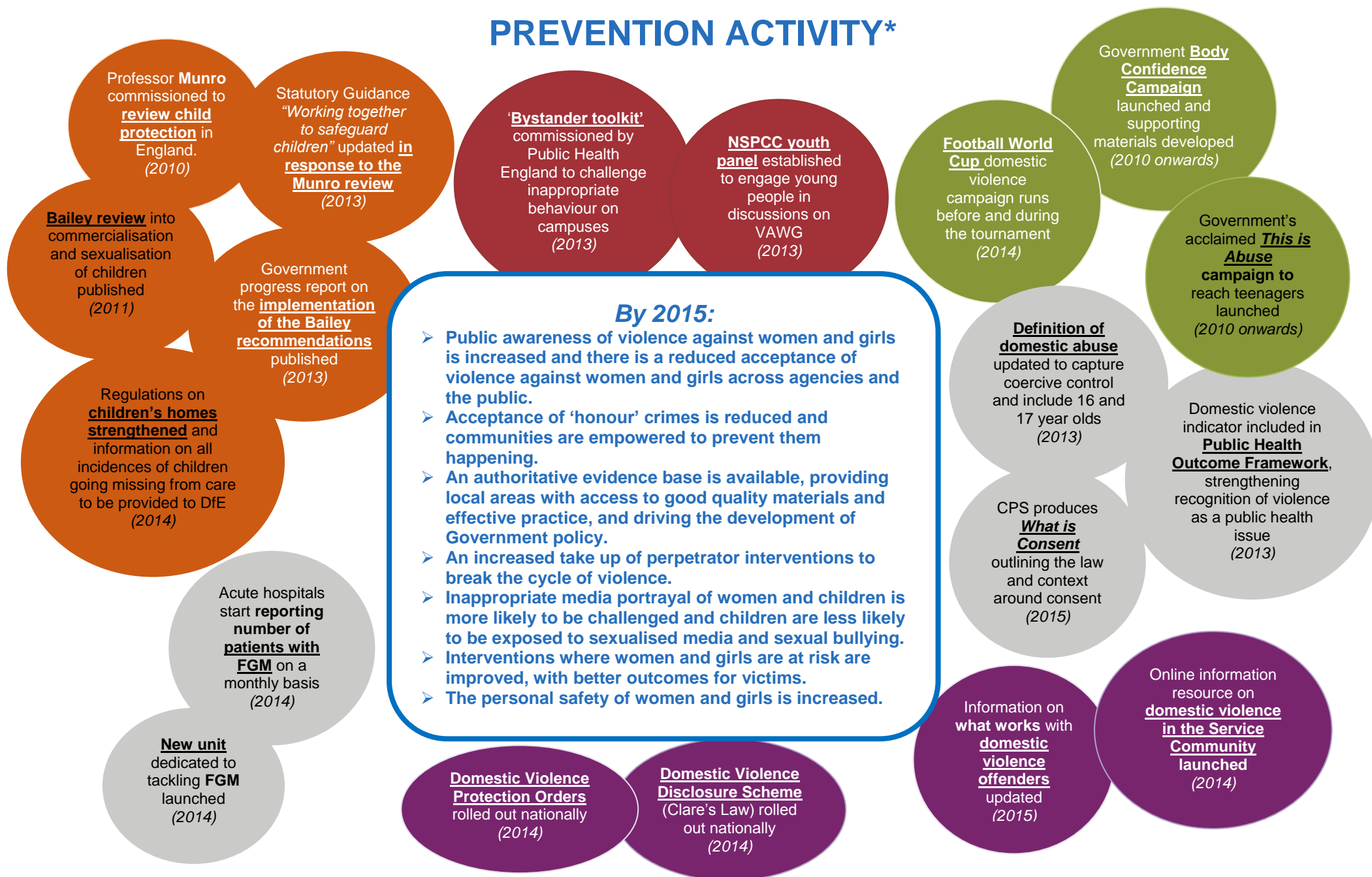
(Police Officer – DVPO pilot evaluation)

"Thank you for this invaluable online learning – I am sure I will be using it on a regular basis"

"Really well done on making such a sensitive issue into a great learning experience"

(Practitioner feedback on FGM e-learning course)

PREVENTION ACTIVITY*



*A selection of activity, not an exhaustive list

Chapter 2: Provision of services

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

The outcomes we said we would achieve:

- 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;
- Local commissioners identify and provide high quality services which meet the needs of victims at a local level.

Progress since 2010

Our Call to End Violence against Women and Girls made clear that our priority was to move away from the short-term and piecemeal funding arrangements in place previously and to provide core funding for the duration of the Parliament. We have continued to fund critical frontline services and invested funds from across government departments into VAWG related activity.

We ring-fenced nearly £40 million of stable funding from 2011 to 2015 for specialist local domestic and sexual violence support services and national helplines. We supported critical frontline services including 144 Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs), 87 Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs), and 54 Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Co-ordinators. We funded SafeLives (previously Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse) to provide training to IDVAs and quality assurance for MARACs. The Government provided training on Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) and continue to provide a DHR quality assurance process.

Since 2010 we have placed funding of rape crisis centres on a sustainable footing. Between 2011 and 2014 we spent £4 million per year to fund 77 rape support centres across England and Wales; this has now increased to £4.4 million for 84 centres. We have met the coalition commitment to open 15 new rape support centres with Grantham and Crawley being the most recently launched. In December 2014, we announced an additional £7 million investment for victims of sexual violence including £2.15 million to existing female rape support centres on top of current funding.

The 2012 consultation 'Getting it Right for Victims and Witnesses' committed additional receipts of funding raised from offenders to support victims of sexual and domestic violence. This commitment meant that in 2014/15 Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) received £1.3 million for the specific purpose of commissioning local support services for victims of domestic and sexual violence in addition to their local commissioning budgets of £24 million.

Of the £12.5 million PCC Competed Fund in 2014/15, 66% of the bids which secured funding were to increase and/or improve the support offered to victims of domestic or sexual violence at a total investment of £7.3 million. Our Police Innovation Fund has provided £1.4 million for body-worn cameras to help officers gather evidence at the scene. In addition to the £275,000 already allocated to support domestic violence initiatives, a further £4 million from the Transformation Challenge Award 2015/16 will be awarded in April this year.

In February this year we launched two new funds to support victims of sexual abuse: a £2 million fund to support non-statutory organisations in England and Wales which have experienced an increase in demand as a direct result of the Child Abuse Inquiry announced in 2014; and a £2.84 million fund to support non-statutory organisations in England and Wales providing support to victims of sexual abuse more generally to help meet increased service demand. These funds will be run through the Norfolk PCC.

We have funded services to tackle emerging issues, for example by providing £1.2 million over three years (now extended to 2015/16) for 13 Young People's Advocates working in areas most affected by gangs to provide dedicated support to young people who have been victims of domestic violence or sexual exploitation. We allocated £10 million over two years (2014-2016) to support local refuge provision. To mark the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM in February, we announced £2 million for a new national programme backed by Barnardo's and the Local Government Association that will create a highly specialised team of skilled social workers with extensive experience of working with those at risk of FGM.

We know that our funding has had an impact. For example, following intervention by a MARAC and an IDVA service, up to 60% of domestic abuse victims reported no further violence. For victims who had engaged with an IDVA following the charge of a perpetrator, 72% reported a complete cessation of abuse compared to 59% of victims where there was no charge following a report to the police.⁸ Research demonstrates the impact of these services in reducing levels of violence in high risk cases.

Levels of abuse reported by service users ⁹		
	<i>At engagement</i>	<i>At case closure</i>
Physical Abuse	71%	14%
Stalking and harassment	55%	20%
Jealous and controlling behaviour	79%	25%
Sexual abuse	21%	3%

In 2010, we set out our approach of radically changing how services are commissioned and we have systematically devolved power, accountability and resources to local areas. We have been clear that local commissioners must work together provide services that meet the needs of women affected by domestic and

⁸ http://www.caada.org.uk/policy/A_Place_of_greater_safety.pdf

⁹ <http://www.caada.org.uk/dvservices/insights-for-domestic-abuse-services.html>

sexual violence in their area and that cutting services to VAWG victims should not be seen as an easy way to manage pressure on budgets.

This process has been challenging and there is more to do to ensure every area understands this and gets it right. There are examples of good practice and we have provided significant support to commissioners and service providers including:

- A specific VAWG event and fact pack for PCCs;
- A series of regional events for commissioners and service providers across the UK, with supporting online resources due to be published this spring;
- A series of commissioning 'masterclasses' designed for providers of VAWG services in collaboration with the Cabinet Office Commissioning Academy; and
- Statutory guidance for Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) and the development of a support programme (by the Local Government Association) to enable them to fully realise their leadership role in local commissioning.

New agencies established by the Government have supported effective service provision. For example, NHS England now has an assurance process to provide national oversight across England on the commissioning and delivery of sexual assault services. NHS funding for sexual assault services increased from £8.9 million in previous years to £16.8 million in 2014. In addition, we have worked to provide greater levels of support when violence against women and girls occurs across the world. Overall there has been a 33% increase since 2012 in UK programmes that focus on providing basic services to women and girls who have experienced gender based violence in developing countries.

Central funding to services has remained stable during this Parliament. The transfer of power and resources to local commissioners means **there are more opportunities to improve domestic and sexual violence service provision based on local need.**

Making an impact: Effective commissioning

Effective local collaboration between commissioners can make a real difference to service provision.

To give just one example, the PCC for Essex, Essex County Council, Southend Borough Council and Thurrock Borough Council have pooled resources – and funds – to provide an increased Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) service.

Essex PCC, Nick Alston, said “This service will now have more IDVAs working more hours across a greater area of Essex than ever before, providing crucial, and in some cases life-saving, support to victims of domestic abuse. This bidding process also shows that, by working closely with our local authority partners, we have effectively and successfully pooled our budgets to create a broader and more far-reaching support service to those most in need.”

It is encouraging that many PCCs have made tackling VAWG a priority in their local Crime and Policing Plans.

Making an Impact: JobcentrePlus Domestic Violence Champions

In 2012, the Government introduced a specific easement from job seeking conditions for claimants who are victims of domestic violence and abuse.

'Jane' disclosed that she was a victim of domestic violence and abuse to her work coach at a jobcentre interview. Her work coach instigated the easements available and remained in regular contact with Jane. Jane's life was still chaotic at that point and her work coach ensured that she received the full 13 week easement period.

During this time, her work coach stayed in touch and continued to offer support. When Jane was more settled, her work coach supported her to become registered as a self-employed child minder. Jane signed off Job Seekers Allowance and has remained in sustainable employment since.

Government Action: Girls and Gangs

The Ending Gang and Youth Violence programme was launched in 2011 after the August disturbances. We invested £10million to provide intensive support to the 29 local areas across the country facing some of the biggest problems with gangs and youth violence. The programme has since expanded to cover 43 areas in total.

Women and girls can experience significant harm as a result of their association with gang members, including sexual violence. We have driven work to tackle this issue, including encouraging the provision of 'safe spaces' in youth offending teams where girls can be seen without intimidation from gang members and providing training for local partners on how to identify and support these girls and young women.

We provided £1.2 million in funding from 2012-15 for 13 young People's Advocates to enable direct support to young women who are at risk from sexual exploitation by gangs. In December, we announced the continuation of this funding for 2015/16.

Making an impact: Funding local initiatives

As a result of funding received from the Home Office and the FGM Special Initiative, Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid were able to run a community based FGM project.

With a local group set up by committed individuals, they ran a community event last November bringing together 45 mothers with their daughters to raise awareness on FGM. As well as creating dialogue between mothers and their daughters on issues surrounding FGM, the event resulted in a much better understanding of FGM and its consequences. Many women expressed their desire to stop the practice as a result.

They also supported the founder of local group "Care for Woman and Girls" to develop her capacity to run the group and access resources. Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid provided one to one training sessions to developing understanding of FGM and planning & organisational skills, as well as media training.

The founder of the group is now developing her work, planning events and awareness raising sessions and supporting women. She says "I am grateful for the support and guidance I have received. I now understand how FGM can effects women in so many different ways. I want to empower women in my community to say NO to FGM"

Making an impact: IRIS Programme

Healthcare professionals can provide an essential lifeline to victims who may not want to disclose abuse to criminal justice agencies. The Department of Health is funding Next Link Domestic Abuse Services to replicate and roll out the effective Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS) general practice based model to tackle domestic abuse.

'Catherine', a disabled mother, suffered domestic abuse in silence for 16 years. Catherine found the courage to disclose her abuse to her GP who had been trained in understanding domestic violence. Her GP knew how to support her, and how to get her help.

She was referred to the IRIS programme and after 12 months of support, Catherine reported "getting my freedom back and making my own decisions" and that she had started a degree.

Government Action: Asylum

Significant efforts have been made to improve the gender sensitivity of the asylum system. Gender issues are included in the guidance for asylum decision makers and in the mandatory training that supports the guidance. Applicants may request a female case-owner and can bring people with them to interviews to provide emotional support. We have made significant improvements to the screening environment at our centres to give applicants greater privacy to impart sensitive information.

The Country of Origin Information service now produces thematic reports on gender issues in particular countries. In the past year, for example, such reports on Somalia, Pakistan, Libya, Zimbabwe and Bangladesh have been produced. A number of thematic reviews of interviews and decisions in gender-related asylum claims have been carried out in order to monitor quality and promote operational improvement.

We have also worked beyond the UK. The crisis in Syria has left millions of people displaced and in need of aid, including 3.8 million refugees in Syria's neighbouring countries. Due to the conflict and population displacement, many of the most vulnerable households are supported by women, who often lack the resources they and their children need. Vulnerable groups such as these are a priority for UK humanitarian assistance and protection.

The UK has, for example, provided cash assistance to help female refugees in Jordan pay rent. We are also providing livelihoods support to women, including training, hens, feed, seeds and tools. Pregnant women are particularly at risk, and the UK is providing new-born kits for mothers and pregnant women in Iraq, and reproductive health services for women in Jordan. We are also providing financial support for vulnerable Syrian women who are thought to be at risk of coerced marriage, to help reduce their risk of exploitation.

We recognise that some of those who are most vulnerable cannot be supported effectively in the region. In January 2014 we launched the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation (VPR) scheme, to identify displaced people who are most at risk and offer them care, protection and support in the UK. The VPR scheme is the first resettlement programme run by the UK to target support for refugees specifically on the basis of their vulnerability. It is prioritising women and children at risk, alongside people in need of serious medical care and survivors of torture and violence.

PROVISION OF SERVICES AT A GLANCE

<p>£600,000+</p> <p>Distributed to charities to support local initiatives to tackle forced marriage since 2010</p>	<p>£10million</p> <p>Package put in place to support refuge provision over two years</p>	<p>£4.85million</p> <p>Additional funding announced in 2015 to support victims of sexual abuse over 2 years</p>
<p>6500+</p> <p>GPs and Health Visitors trained to recognise domestic violence</p>	<p>500+</p> <p>Outreach events held for statutory agencies to tackle forced marriage since 2010</p>	<p>£1.6million</p> <p>To fund 13 Young People's Advocates to support girls affected by or at risk of gang violence</p>
<p>£4.25million</p> <p>Committed to the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women</p>	<p>£400million</p> <p>Invested in Improving Access to Psychological Therapies since 2011</p>	<p>6000+</p> <p>Cases given support and advice on forced marriage by the Forced Marriage Unit since 2010</p>
<p>£7.35million</p> <p>Contribution to support the independent College of Social Work</p>	<p>245</p> <p>Domestic violence and abuse champions in place in Job Centres across the UK</p>	<p>£270,000</p> <p>Pledged for frontline projects to tackle FGM</p>
<p>40+</p> <p>Regional events held across England to support local commissioners on VAWG</p>	<p>70+</p> <p>Professionals across England trained to recognise stalking and share expertise locally</p>	<p>£7.3million</p> <p>Allocated to Police and Crime Commissioners to support local domestic and sexual violence services</p>

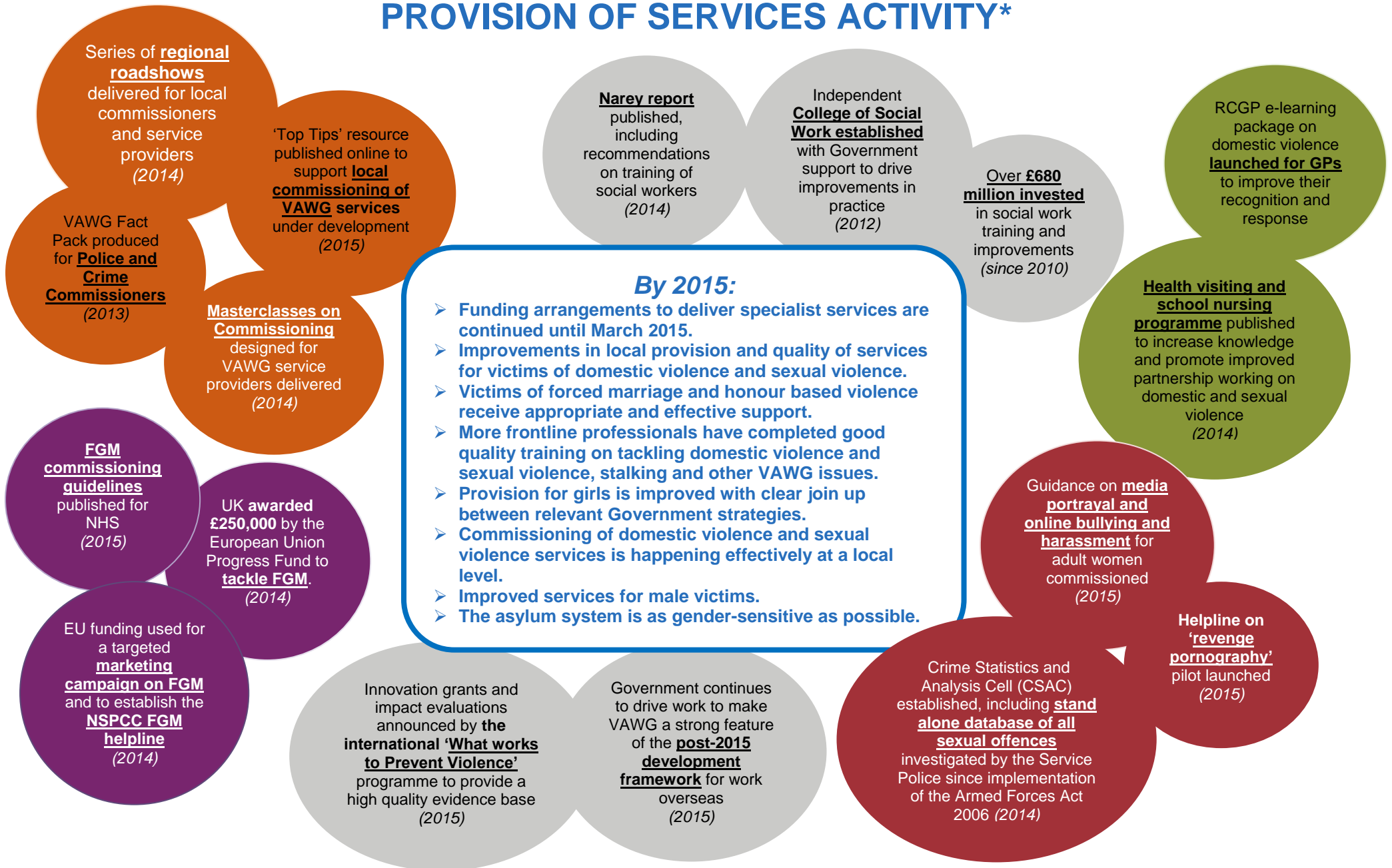
"Really informative event – I will fight even harder to ensure local provision develops"

"Thank you for organising this event – it's helpful to have a day away from competing priorities to focus on this"
(feedback from commissioners on Home Office regional events)

"At last, a gang strategy that acknowledges the presence of girls."

(Carlene Firmin, MBE - Head of the MsUnderstood Partnership and Senior Research Fellow, University of Bedfordshire)

PROVISION OF SERVICES ACTIVITY*



*A selection of activity, not an exhaustive list

Chapter 3: Partnership working

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

The outcomes we said we should achieve:

- 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.

Progress since 2010

Effective partnership working is fundamental to tackling VAWG successfully. A multi-agency approach with committed leadership, strategic vision, accountability, clear pathways and effective information sharing is essential to bring together the services needed to seamlessly support victims throughout their journey - from disclosure to healing.

Our project to better understand the multi-agency information sharing models in place across the UK has provided valuable insights into how the best models impact the local response to safeguarding issues. We found that an effective Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)¹⁰ led to:

- More accurate assessment of risk and need. Importantly it was felt that improved identification of risk allowed for earlier intervention and taking preventative action before risk had escalated;
- More thorough and driven management of cases;
- Better understanding between professionals; and
- Greater efficiencies in process and resources.

While each locality will have varying needs and different approaches to VAWG, consistency in core areas is important. That is why we have continued to fund the MARAC co-ordinator role and to quality assure Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs). We have produced an initial evaluation of findings from DHRs so that all local areas can benefit from the lessons learnt.¹¹

Our drive to promote partnership working is seeing results as MASH and MARAC models become more established in local areas. Research has shown that in 2007/08, 76.5% of MARAC referrals were from the police. In 2013/14, this had fallen to 61.2% of cases demonstrating that a wider range of professionals are now using the MARAC system.

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-working-and-information-sharing-project>

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-homicide-review-lessons-learned>

The Government has continued to drive progress to deliver better, more open public services centred on individual and family needs. For example, the Public Service Transformation Network includes seconded staff from a range of government departments and is promoting the service transformation approach demonstrated by the four Whole-Place Community Budget pilots. The Transformation Network works with places to develop and implement an approach that is locally driven, puts people first, integrates service delivery, manages demand on services, and uses evidence to drive change and tackle barriers in Whitehall. Nine places are being supported to use this approach specifically to reduce domestic violence and abuse.

The independent Service Transformation Challenge Panel was established by the Government to recommend changes which would help public services deal with demographic changes, increasing expectations and the need to reduce the cost of public services. Their report 'Bolder, Braver and Better: why we need local deals to save public services' was published in 2014¹².

We have used these principles to inform our approach to other issues. The considerable investment made by this Government in the Troubled Families Programme for example is delivering an integrated whole families approach which grips each family's problems as a whole, rather than tackling them in isolation, and works with them intensively to achieve and sustain change for the long term. The programme is tackling a range of underlying problems such as domestic violence, mental health problems and substance misuse issues.

Effective partnership working needs to be developed across all areas in England and Wales. **This Government has promoted the elements of successful partnership working, identified examples of good practice and supported dissemination of these principles and practice.**

Devolved Administrations

Devolution affects many areas of government covered in the Government's strategy. The Scottish Government, the Northern Ireland Executive and the Welsh Government Assembly all have their own approach to tackling VAWG. The commitments in the VAWG action plans apply only to England and Wales.

Wales

The Welsh Government is taking a firm stand against gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence with the introduction of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Bill. The Bill sets out the legislative framework to ensure an improved public sector response to such abuse and will establish the post of Ministerial Adviser to advise and assist Welsh Ministers in tackling these issues in Wales.

¹² <http://files.themj.co.uk/EMBARGOED%2026%20Nov%202014%201430%20-%20Challenge%20Panel%20Report%20v2.pdf>

The National Training Framework (to be launched in spring 2015) on gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence will ensure the availability of quality and consistent training to raise awareness of these important issues across the Welsh public service, change attitudes and improve the type and consistency of support provided to victims.

The Welsh Government achieved White Ribbon status¹³ in June 2014. The Minister for Public Services and a number of senior Welsh Government officials, including the Permanent Secretary, are White Ribbon Ambassadors.

In order to drive culture change, the Welsh Government has funded a range of activity including the Making a Stand Campaign; a radio campaign to promote the All Wales Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Helpline; and a Christmas TV campaign encouraging families and friends to recognise when abuse is happening.

The Welsh Government is also taking a leading role in the area in addressing FGM and Forced Marriage providing, in partnership with third sector partners, awareness raising, training and prevention initiatives.

In 2014-15 the Welsh Government provided over £215,000 to the sexual violence sector across Wales to respond specifically to the significant increase in demand for their services in recent years, particularly from clients of historic abuse following high profile investigations such as Operation Yewtree and at North Wales Care Homes. This funding is directly supporting many of the victims of such historical abuse.

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland has put in place a range of measures to support and protect victims of domestic and sexual violence and abuse to bring perpetrators to justice. Examples of activity include:

- The Rowan Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), for all people who have been sexually assaulted or raped, opened to Police referrals in May 2013 and to third party and self-referrals in September 2013. In the first 18 months of operation, there were 925 referrals to the SARC of which 42% were under the age of 18.
- A Regional Directory of Services was published in March 2010 and updated in 2013. This details all existing services for victims of sexual violence and abuse, both children and adults, across the voluntary and statutory sectors.
- An Anti-Rape campaign specifically targeting students in further and higher education was re-launched in September 2010 to reinforce the message that non-consensual sex is a crime and to raise awareness of how alcohol can impact judgement.
- The establishment in January 2010 of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferencing (MARAC) across Northern Ireland. Since then over 8,000 high risk

¹³ <http://www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk>

victims of domestic violence have had safety plans put in place to protect them – plans which have included over 10,500 children.

- In December 2011 a scheme allowing victims of domestic violence to access legal aid quickly was made permanent.
- A new joint “Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse” Strategy is being developed.
- In Northern Ireland the offence of forced marriage came into operation in January 2015 (section 16 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015).
- The Northern Ireland Executive agreed to publish Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines on Female Genital Mutilation. These have been published on the web and circulated to key agencies for dissemination.

Scotland

The Scottish Government’s commitment to tackling all forms of gender based violence and abuse is absolute. In June 2014 the Scottish Government published *Equally Safe: Scotland’s strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls* which sets out a national strategic framework to guide activity to tackle violence against women and girls, setting it clearly in the context of gender inequality.

There are a range of laws in place to deal with domestic abuse and the Scottish Government has strengthened the law around domestic and sexual violence by bringing in the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009, and criminalising forced marriage. The Victims and Witness (Scotland) Act 2014 gives victims of domestic abuse automatic access to measures, such as screens and video links, when giving evidence. The Scottish Government has also provided additional in-year funding to be shared between the Scottish Court Service and Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) to assist in the efficient processing of summary cases, including cases involving domestic abuse.

Police Scotland has improved the investigation of rape and other sexual crimes, setting up a new National Rape Task Force and Rape and Sexual Crime External Advisory Group which now operates across Police Scotland to inform and improve rape investigation. COPFS have developed a team of expert prosecutors in the National Sexual Crimes Unit (NSCU), established in 2009, which specialises in the investigation and prosecution of serious sexual crime across Scotland.

During 2014 a range of work was taken forward by the Scottish Government and its partners in both the statutory and third sectors to tackle FGM including working with colleagues in Westminster to close a loophole in the law in the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation (Scotland) Act 2005; funding the development of a range of information materials on FGM; and providing funding to the Scottish Refugee Council to support the development of the report, *Tackling Female Genital Mutilation in Scotland; A Scottish Model of Intervention*, published in December 2014, to help

inform our approach with community and statutory partners to tackling FGM in Scotland.

The Programme for Government published in November 2014 set out commitments to consult on whether a bespoke new offence of committing domestic abuse should be introduced and to consider creating a new offence to deal with the issue of 'revenge porn'. The Scottish Government are working with Police Scotland and other relevant bodies to draw on the lessons from the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse pilots launched in November 2014 in Aberdeen and Ayrshire and to assist Police Scotland in considering whether this approach should be extended more widely to help prevent the risk of harm.

Internationally

Tackling violence against women and girls overseas is essential to sustained poverty reduction. Violence can lead to women not achieving their full political and economic potential and not being able to contribute fully to building prosperous societies. The Prime Minister appointed a Cross-Whitehall Ministerial Champion on Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls overseas to give extra impetus to this important agenda.

Addressing violence against women and girls in conflict and emergencies

Our work to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in humanitarian responses has increased six-fold in the period between 2012 and 2014.

In November 2013, the UK and Sweden co-hosted the launch of the Call to Action on Protecting Girls and Women in Emergencies. This brought together governments, UN agencies, international NGOs and civil society organisations to agree a new approach to protecting girls and women in humanitarian emergency situations. To support the initiative, the UK announced £21.6 million in new funding including a £10 million programme in Pakistan, Democratic Republic of Congo and Ethiopia that will directly benefit over 8600 adolescent girls; £3 million to support the United Nation's Population Fund (UNFPA) work to protect girls and women in Syria by establishing safe spaces and strengthening the capacity of health services providers; and £3 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to ensure that survivors of sexual violence in conflict receive comprehensive support services and that field workers have proper tools to help prevention.

In addition, the UK is now providing £39.5 million in humanitarian aid in response to the current crisis in Iraq, and has pledged £800 million for those displaced in and around Syria. This includes assistance to prevent gender-based violence and provide support to survivors through community centres, safe spaces and psychosocial support.

The Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict

Sexual violence has been used a weapon of war in almost all conflicts in our lifetimes. Most victims are women and girls – including young children – but it also affects men and boys. Survivors of sexual violence in conflict are often rejected by their families and communities due to social stigma and are often left traumatised, ill and unable to continue to work or go to school. The culture of impunity for these crimes means most perpetrators remain unpunished for their crimes.

In June 2014, the UK hosted the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict to bring together experts and decision makers to identify what practical action is necessary to address this issue. Holding a Summit on this scale represented a major step forward in international efforts to increase political will – evidenced by the fact that 155 countries have now endorsed the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict - change global attitudes and break the taboo surrounding the use of sexual violence in conflict.

The Summit brought together over 120 countries, 70 ministers, 900 experts from health, legal, military and academic professions and over 100 NGOs and international partners from civil society, the UN, international tribunals and survivors to break the silence on the atrocities of sexual violence in conflict.

The Government committed a further £6 million at the Summit including £4.25 million to the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and £750,000 to a pilot with the International Organization for Migration to better support survivors in displacement camps. A further £1 million will go to the International Criminal Court Trust Fund for Victims.

As UN Security Council lead for Women Peace and Security, the UK has been at the forefront of the implementation of UNSCR 1325. In Mindanao, Philippines, the UK funded women's meaningful participation in the establishment of Bangsamoro, the new devolved government of Mindanao. We will continue to support such activities as a means of establishing sustainable peace agreements, which are essential to avoid conflict associated violence against women and girls.

Ending FGM and Child, Early and Forced Marriage in a generation

The Prime Minister hosted the groundbreaking Girl Summit 2014 in July. The event galvanised political and popular support to end female genital mutilation (FGM) and child, early and forced marriage domestically and internationally. The event delivered a high-level declaration as well as new commitments for practical action from governments, civil society, the private sector and others.

The UK is investing the largest single donor commitment ever to end FGM worldwide as part of our vision to see an end to the practice in one generation. A flagship regional programme of up to £35 million combines targeted action with communities in at least 15 countries with support for legislative and policy change and effective implementation of laws and policies. The programme aims to see a reduction of FGM by 30% in ten countries over five years.

Following the Girl Summit, the Department for International Development approved a further programme of up to £36 million to accelerate action to end child marriage. This will include support for a UN Global Programme to tackle child marriage in 12 priority countries.

Government Action: Female Genital Mutilation

This Government has driven a step-change in tackling female genital mutilation (FGM) with our intensive campaign of action at home and overseas. Our international efforts, and the significant package of measures to raise awareness and engage communities in the UK, are highlighted throughout this report.

Health services are a vital part of the efforts to end this abhorrent practice. The Government's specialist FGM unit, launched in December 2014, has developed a range of FGM conferences aimed primarily at NHS staff on how to develop FGM services and implement safeguarding measures locally. The Department of Health's national FGM prevention programme, in partnership with NHS England, aims to improve the way the NHS responds to the health needs of girls and women who have had FGM. The programme is backed by £1.4million - the largest ever domestic funding package for FGM – and actively supports NHS staff to better 'care, prevent and protect'. Work includes support for health professionals to have sensitive discussions with women about FGM, recording that information appropriately and to safeguard against risk.

We have developed training, care pathways and awareness-raising materials to support NHS staff to work effectively with agencies such as the police and social services to safeguard girls. Since April 2014, NHS staff must record in patient healthcare records whenever it is identified that a patient has had FGM. The aggregated anonymised data is returned monthly to the Department of Health from all acute hospital providers in England. This data will drive forward improvements to ensure the provision of quality services and support prevention work with the police and social services. In addition, we have strengthened the criminal justice response to FGM (see Chapter 4).

Helping Communities Prevent FGM and “Honour” Based Violence

FGM is a deeply culturally embedded practice, and legislation alone cannot eliminate it. Prevention is at the heart of the Government's work on FGM in the UK. Long-term and systematic eradication of FGM in the UK will require communities to abandon the practice themselves. To keep girls safe we need to work directly with local people who know what will work in their areas. That is why in preparation for the Prime Minister's Girl Summit, the Department for Communities and Local Government worked with faith leaders to agree declarations condemning FGM and forced marriage. These declarations make clear that no faith condones these practices and signal a commitment to work together to end them for good. Over 350 faith leaders have signed the declarations.

In December 2014, The Department for Communities and Local Government and the Government Equalities Office announced a further £270k for community groups to carry out work in their communities to change beliefs and practices, and keep girls safe. 17 projects have now been funded to prevent FGM and others forms of “honour” based violence. These projects include:

- Funding for a new nationwide website designed by and built for young people to help them to get the information they need to prevent FGM happening to themselves or their friends;
- Delivering training in primary schools to help prevent FGM early on in a girl's life
- Workshops with local faith leaders to help raise awareness of FGM among faith communities
- A national conference for teachers run by the youth organisation Integrate Bristol to help build teachers and pupils confidence to address FGM in school.
- New national networks of community champions to provide a link between community members and statutory services to prevent FGM and forced marriage.

Making an impact: Stamping Out and Preventing Gender Based Violence Programme (STOP GBV):

STOP GBV, funded jointly by DFID and USAID since 2011, provides comprehensive medical, legal and counselling services for GBV survivors, supports increased access to justice through training, supports survivors to take cases to court, and challenges social norms through raising awareness. The programme operates in 16 districts in Zambia.

'Martha' had been sexually abused by a man in her village and had just delivered a baby. When her mother heard the messages from a STOP GBV sensitisation exercise, she decided to report Martha's case to STOP GBV workers, explaining that Martha was traumatised by the ordeal and unable to cope. As a result of the STOP GBV programme, Martha has been able to access the legal justice system and speak out about what happened to her. Justice is now being pursued against her abuser, demonstrating a further sign to the community that sexual abuse will not be tolerated.

Making an impact: Troubled Families Programme

In April 2012, the Prime Minister launched the Troubled Families Programme with an ambition to turn around the lives of 120,000 troubled families in England by May 2015. A £448 million budget for 2012-2015 was made available to support this. The programme, delivered by 152 councils across England, is changing the way local public services work with troubled families. The programme is firmly on track with over 85,000 families turned around as of October 2014.

Through the delivery of the programme, we have found that domestic violence is prevalent among troubled families. In *Understanding Troubled Families*, a report published as part of the programme's independent national evaluation, it was revealed that 29% of families were experiencing domestic violence when they entered the current programme. This compares to a national estimate which puts the level of domestic violence among individuals at around 7%. Furthermore, 29% is likely to be an underestimate as violence is often unreported at first and may only be disclosed once the key worker is supporting the family. The report also found: 62% of families experiencing domestic violence had a truanting child compared to 54% where there was no domestic violence and 39% of families experiencing domestic violence also had a young offender compared to 31% where there was no domestic violence. 60% of families experiencing domestic violence included an adult with a mental health problem compared with 40% in families where there was no domestic violence; and 41% of families where there was domestic violence included a child with a mental health problem compared with 28% without a domestic violence problem.

In 2013, the Government announced an expansion of the Troubled Families Programme to reach up to an additional 400,000 families from 2015/16 – investing an additional £200 million in the first year. Building on the success of the current programme, it will reach families with a broader range of multiple problems – including those with younger children, those affected by domestic violence, and families where mental and physical health problems are prevalent.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING AT A GLANCE

<p>£21.6million</p> <p>Pledged to help protect girls and women in emergencies</p>	<p>£10million</p> <p>To support 29 areas most affected by gangs in 2012/13, including work to tackle girls and gangs</p>	<p>85,000+</p> <p>Families turned around after local intervention supported by the Troubled Families Programme</p>
<p>3000</p> <p>Overseas hits on the PHE and CAADV online toolkit on addressing domestic violence in the workplace</p>	<p>£448million</p> <p>Invested in supporting the Troubled Families Programme</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Local Authorities in Wales achieved White Ribbon Status in 2014</p>
<p>102</p> <p>Schools in Wales received programme on healthy relationships funded by Welsh Government</p>	<p>54</p> <p>Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Co-ordinators funded since 2010</p>	<p>63% increase</p> <p>In UK development programming to prevent and respond to VAWG overseas between 2012-2014</p>
<p>£500,000</p> <p>To the Safer Internet Centre to help keep young people safe online</p>	<p>43</p> <p>Areas supported by the Ending Gang and Youth Violence team, including on girls and gangs</p>	<p>£4million</p> <p>Increase in 2014/15 to support effective services across Wales for victims of domestic abuse</p>

“Having a great experience. Thank you UK Government and UNICEF”

“Amazing work done by the UK Government that was really appreciated – thanks for bringing young people from all over the world. Please keep doing it”

“I see change happening!”

(Participants in the Girl Summit July 2014)

“I am really thankful for such an event”

“It is amazing that this event is actually happening. So inspiring!”

“We were hugely impressed by the range of organisations represented, and by the bravery and courage of survivors”

(Participants in the PSVI Summit June 2014)

PARTNERSHIP WORKING ACTIVITY*



*A selection of activity, not an exhaustive list

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 said we would achieve:

- 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.

Progress since 2010

Disclosing abuse is not easy and taking the decision to engage the criminal justice system can be even harder. We have made significant progress in bringing the needs of victims to the forefront of our criminal justice approach right through from the police and prosecutorial response to how victims experience the court process.

We have tightened the legislation in key areas to ensure vulnerable women and girls are better protected. This has included: introducing legislation to criminalise forced marriage and the breach of a Forced Marriage Protection Order in England and Wales; the national roll out of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare's Law) and Domestic Violence Protection Orders; the introduction of new stalking legislation; provisions to criminalise 'revenge pornography' and possession of depictions of rape; and the new offence of domestic abuse to capture coercive and controlling behaviour. Civil orders for sex offenders have been reformed and new measures to prevent FGM have been introduced.

We have implemented new European Union measures (the European Protection Order (Criminal) Directive and the Protection Measures (Civil) Regulation) so that those with a protection order will receive an equivalent level of protection should they travel to a participating Member State without needing to initiate new court proceedings.

VAWG crimes are under-reported and this Government has been determined to give victims more confidence to come forward. The most recent crime statistics published in January showed a continuing increase in police recorded rape (31%) and sexual offences (19%) in the last year. These are now at their highest ever levels.

The Office of National Statistics (ONS)¹⁴ is clear that increases in rape, sexual assault and violence are due to greater victim confidence to report these crimes and

¹⁴ <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/year-ending-september-2014/index.html>

better recording by the police. Other data sources demonstrate that there are also increases in the volumes of referrals, prosecutions and convictions for VAWG crimes and longer sentences for offenders.¹⁵

Those who come forward must be properly supported through the court process. Our new Code of Practice for Victims of Crime, implemented in 2013, sets out the information, support and services victims can expect from criminal justice agencies in England and Wales. Victims of domestic violence and abuse and sexual offences are entitled to receive an enhanced level of service under the code including information on pre-trial therapy and counselling.

The Code entitles victims to make a Victim Personal Statement (VPS) which provides them with a stronger voice in the criminal justice process and enables them to explain to the court in their own words how the crime has affected them. These have been particularly effective in recent high profile cases of historic sexual abuse.

In September 2014, the Government announced further commitments to help victims of crime navigate the criminal justice system, access information and support, strengthen the protection for vulnerable victims and witnesses at court, and to guarantee their rights in law. These included a requirement that publicly funded advocates must complete approved specialist training on working with vulnerable victims and witnesses to represent cases involving serious sexual offences; giving vulnerable witnesses greater opportunity to give evidence from a location away from court and a programme for the national roll-out of pre-trial cross-examination for child victims subject to the evaluation of recent pilots.

The experience of attending court can be especially difficult and we have trialled a number of measures such as pre-recorded evidence to make the process easier for victims. We are funding the court-based Witness Service to be provided by Citizens Advice from April this year. This important service, which covers all criminal courts, will continue to provide emotional and practical support to all witnesses who wish to receive it. New specifications will ensure better support for young, vulnerable and intimidated witnesses – including home visits before a trial and at remote video link locations – and consistency of support across the courts.

Specialist Domestic Violence Court systems are in place to support victims and enable agencies to identify, track and risk assess domestic abuse cases better so that more offenders are brought to justice. Many courts are equipped to allow victims to provide evidence in a location away from the court trial.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has placed supporting victims of VAWG at the heart of their approach and a range of guidance and training has been developed to ensure that prosecutors have the right tools for the job. The Director of Public Prosecutions requires CPS areas to report on their performance directly to her on a

¹⁵ <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/year-ending-september-2014/index.html>

bi-annual basis through a VAWG assurance scheme which has led to continuous improvement across the service.

To build and maintain people's confidence in how the police deal with rape and sexual offences, the CPS and police launched the National Rape Action Plan in 2014. The plan includes striking the right balance between investigations that rightly focus on the offender while also ensuring an effective response to victims. A joint protocol setting out how to deal with all rape cases from the initial complaint to after the verdict in a trial was published earlier this year to ensure victims are treated with sensitivity and respect and that their allegations are investigated thoroughly. The CPS has also published fresh guidance about the issue of consent in rape cases.

The victim experience begins with the police. In 2013 the Home Secretary commissioned Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) to undertake a comprehensive review on how the police deal with domestic violence because she was concerned that the response was inadequate.

HMIC's report¹⁶, published in March 2014, exposed significant failings, including a lack of visible police leadership and direction, poor victim care and deficiencies in the collection of important evidence. The Government has driven rapid action to ensure the HMIC recommendations are implemented across all police forces, with the establishment of a National Oversight Group chaired by the Home Secretary. Every police force has now published their own action plan setting out how they will address the findings of HMIC in their force area.

We also made commitments to support female offenders who were also victims of domestic or sexual violence. Our Transforming Rehabilitation reforms are placing the needs of female offenders at the forefront – including supporting those who have been victims of VAWG. The framework developed by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) on 'Supporting women offenders who have been victims of domestic or sexual violence' requires that interventions and services take place within an environment where women who have been victims feel safe enough to disclose abuse and to receive support and advice as part of their pathway away from offending. We also ran a pilot to provide a domestic violence helpline to those in custody and the findings are under evaluation.

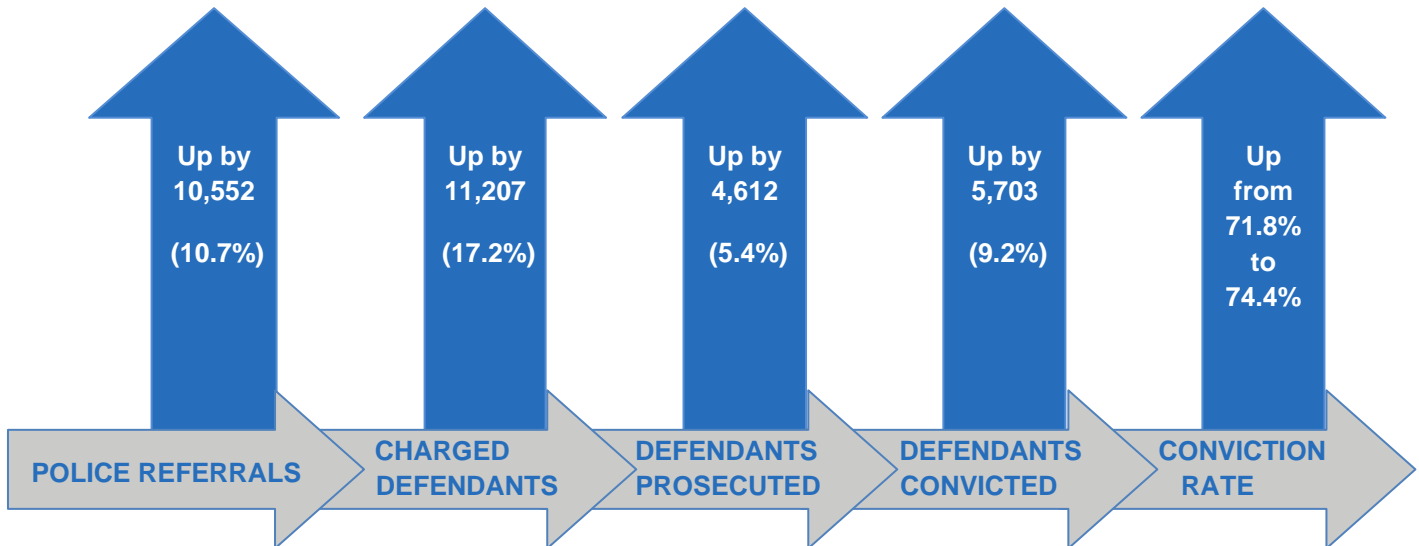
Under this Government, victims of these terrible forms of abuse are **more likely to report the offence to the criminal justice authorities and more perpetrators are being brought to justice.**

¹⁶ <http://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/improving-the-police-response-to-domestic-abuse.pdf>

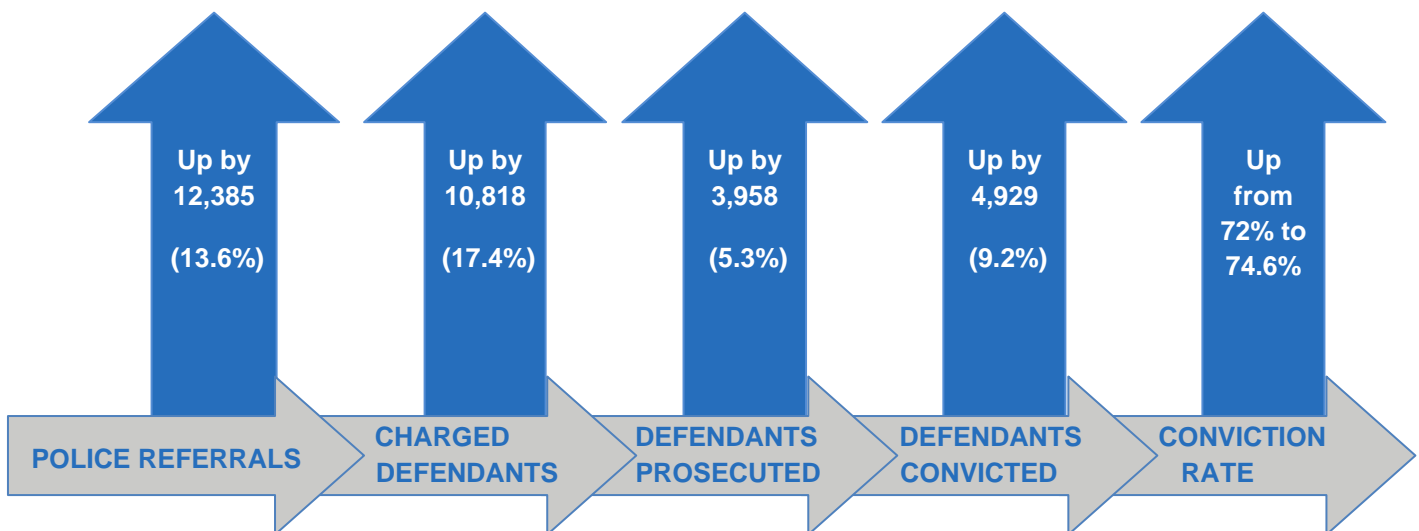
Data

This Government has made significant strides to improve the criminal justice response to domestic violence and abuse.

VAWG Offences in 2013/14 compared to 2009/10¹⁷



Domestic Violence Offences in 2013/14 compared to 2009/10



¹⁷ CPS data are available through its Case Management System (CMS) and associated Management Information System (MIS). The CPS collects data to assist in the effective management of its prosecution functions. The CPS does not collect data which constitutes official statistics as defined in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. Data has been drawn from the CPS's administrative IT system, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the CPS. A 'flagging' system is used to extract information on domestic violence and rape from the CPS Case Management System. The flagging system requires administrators to identify and 'flag' appropriate cases as domestic violence or rape. The flag is used primarily for victim care purposes and will remain even if the domestic violence or rape aspect of the case is not proceeded with. Data for VAWG crimes grouped together include domestic violence, rape and sexual offences. CPS prosecutions are counted in terms of the number of defendants. Note the charging numbers covers those cases by suspect/defendant *forwarded* to CPS during 2009/10 – 2013/14 for charging decisions and are not directly comparable in numbers with those prosecuted which covers cases *finalised* during 2009/10 – 2013/14. The official statistics relating to crime and policing are maintained by the Home Office and the official statistics relating to sentencing, criminal court proceedings, offenders brought to justice, the courts and the judiciary are maintained by the Ministry of Justice.

Making an impact: Stalking

Stalking is an insidious and horrible crime and, in the most extreme cases, can lead to murder. We recognised there was a gap in the law and in 2012 introduced new legislation specifically to tackle stalking. In 2013/14, over 700 prosecutions were instigated using the new offences – a significant increase from the first year demonstrating that the legislation is beginning to take effect. Additionally, the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015 will allow more time for investigating the section 1 Malicious Communications Act 1988 offence and increase the maximum sentence to two years. When commenced, this will help to ensure that people who stalk or abuse online are prosecuted and properly punished.

Stalkers may benefit from using the internet to track their victims and find out about every aspect of their life. We need to understand more about how data can be accessed online and whether there are sufficient protections in place for victims. The Home Office Crime Prevention Panel is working with experts to improve our understanding of the situation and consider recommendations for preventative action. We are working with the College of Policing to review training for police to investigate stalking and the revised guidance will form part of the Authorised Professional Practice tools available to forces. Since 2012, over 56,000 police staff and over 1600 CPS staff have completed specialist training in identifying and tackling stalking, ensuring that the frontline have sufficiently robust understanding of the issues to prosecute perpetrators. In a recent case, a stalker who had subjected an ex-partner to a terrifying seven month campaign was jailed for six years and given an indefinite restraining order.

Government Action: Criminalising ‘revenge pornography’ and rape pornography

Realistic depictions of rape for gratification and ‘revenge porn’ (the distribution of private sexual photographs or recordings of someone without their consent and with the intention of causing them distress) are unacceptable and the Government has taken decisive action to put a stop to them. The Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015 introduced a range of new offences including criminalising the possession of extreme pornography images depicting rape and non-consensual penetration and making the sharing of ‘revenge pornography’ a criminal offence.

We launched a ‘revenge pornography’ helpline pilot in February this year. The helpline provides advice and support to ensure that victims can access services including legal support and removal of content. CPS Legal Guidance on Prosecuting Communications Sent via Social Media was updated in October 2014 to include specific reference to cases involving the malicious use of ‘revenge pornography’.

Government Action: Civil Orders for Sex Offenders

The Government has made changes via the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which make it easier to restrict the activities of anyone who poses a risk of sexual harm to children and adults.

This year two new orders replaced existing powers in England and Wales and the threshold for risk was lowered to cover any case of sexual harm, not just cases of serious sexual harm:

- **Sexual Harm Prevention Orders** can be applied to anyone convicted or cautioned for a sexual or violent offence, including where offences are committed overseas. They replace sexual offences prevention orders and foreign travel orders; and
- **Sexual Risk Orders** can be applied to any individual who poses a risk of sexual harm in the UK or abroad, even if they have never been convicted. They replace the risk of sexual harm order.

Both powers can place a range of restrictions on individuals depending on the nature of the case, such as limiting their internet use or preventing travel abroad.

Making an Impact: Pre-recorded cross-examination

CPS Mersey-Cheshire is one of three areas involved in a pilot to allow vulnerable victims and witnesses to have their cross examination pre-recorded.

The cross examination is recorded as soon as possible after the alleged offence, away from open court and is then shown as evidence at trials. It helps make the process far less distressing for the victim. In a recent case, the defendant changed his plea to guilty before the trial began after the defence saw the recording of the victim’s cross examination.

Jeremy Decker, the lawyer in the case said: *“Without the cross examination conducted in advance, the case may not have had a successful outcome”.*

Senior District Crown Prosecutor Geoff Fryar said: *“We’ve been really pleased to be part of this pilot and we look forward to seeing the national results of the evaluation at the end of the process. Jeremy’s case was an excellent example of how this should and can be done.”*

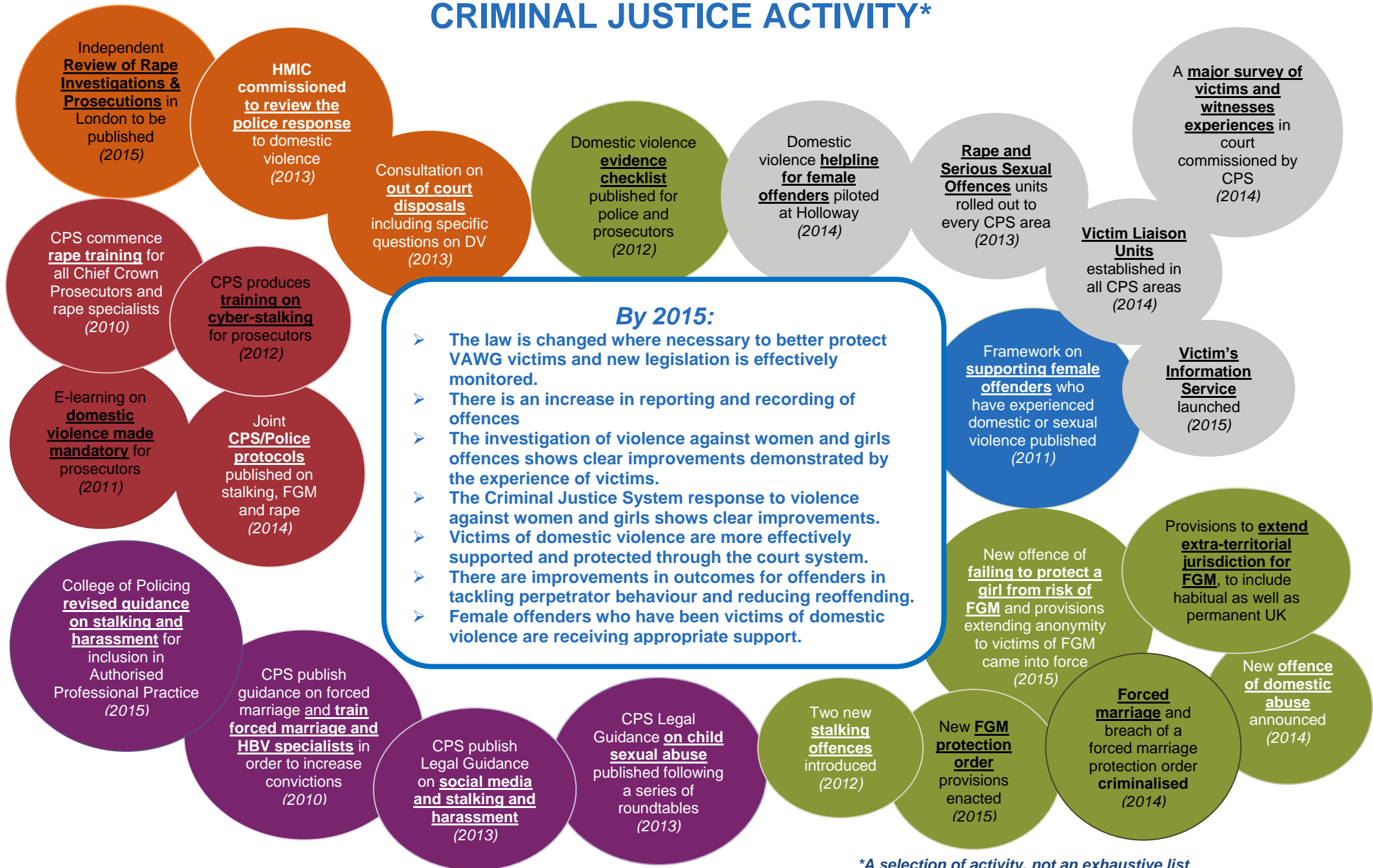
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AT A GLANCE

<p>1600+</p> <p>Crown Prosecution Service staff trained to tackle stalking</p>	<p>200</p> <p>ISVAs and Young People's Advocates given enhanced training in criminal justice procedures</p>	<p>£75million</p> <p>Per annum for five years from 2015/16 to modernise courts and tribunals administration</p>
<p>700+</p> <p>Prosecutions brought for stalking under the new legislation in 2013/14</p>	<p>£2million</p> <p>Allocated from probation trusts for services to support female offenders</p>	<p>56,000+</p> <p>Police staff trained to recognise and investigate stalking</p>
<p>£8.6million</p> <p>For specialist services for victims of sexual and domestic violence to PCCs (from offender receipts)</p>	<p>£63million</p> <p>Investment over 4 years to build law enforcement capabilities to tackle cyber crime</p>	<p>£24million</p> <p>Grant funding for the court based witness service for April 2015 – March 2017</p>
<p>200+</p> <p>Court premises equipped with video links to enable victims to give evidence away from the trial court</p>	<p>76,526</p> <p>Defendants charged for VAWG in 2013/14 - the highest level ever recorded</p>	<p>£10.96million</p> <p>Invested in women's community services for women who have experienced abuse</p>

"For several years now the CPS has been a leader among state agencies in showing how making a clear strategic priority of tackling violence against women in all its forms can improve justice for women and girls"

(Ending Violence Against Women Coalition)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACTIVITY*



*A selection of activity, not an exhaustive list

ANNEX A:

The 2014 VAWG Action Plan contained 150 actions across Government. Updates on progress are listed below.

Ref.	Action	Outcome
1	Continue to deliver a cross-Government VAWG Communications Strategy.	<p>The Home Office has continued to lead on the cross-government communications strategy to tackle VAWG. The original strategy has been supported by annual action plans, and supported by a range of communications activity including regular VAWG newsletters, quarterly stakeholder meetings and a variety of events, roadshows and seminars across the country.</p> <p>Public campaigns across Government have included <i>This is Abuse</i>, Body Confidence, and the Domestic Violence Football World Cup Campaign. The Forced Marriage Unit has delivered nearly 500 outreach events to professionals and communities, and the drive to tackle FGM has included significant awareness raising activities.</p> <p>This progress report includes more details on this activity and the impact it has made.</p>
2	Further promote and disseminate the <i>This is Abuse</i> teacher resource pack.	The <i>This is Abuse</i> resource pack received the Quality Award from the PSHE Association who also distributed it to their mailing list of nearly 7000 professionals. The guide has been distributed through a variety of other relevant channels and is available on the CEOP ThinkUknow website.
3	Promote awareness of CEOP materials for schools and consider how their networks can support VAWG messages.	CEOP campaigns are referenced in the <i>This is Abuse</i> discussion guide and signposted in the <i>This is Abuse</i> campaign briefs.
4	Promote the teaching of sexual consent and the importance of healthy relationships in schools.	The Government has supported the provision of good quality PSHE education through supporting and funding experts including the PSHE Association. Ministers have supported PSHE Association resources, for example by providing a joint foreword from the Department of Education and the Home Office for their new guidance on consent. More details of the Government's work on this action are captured in this progress report.
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.	The PSHE Expert Group was established in 2014. They have identified key areas where teachers need further support and made recommendations to the Government and stakeholders. The Department for Education is continuing to work with the PSHE Association to take forward the Group's recommendations.

Ref.	Action	Outcome
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.	<p>Coupled with the previous activity detailed in this area, the supplementary guidance on SRE is available to all schools from the PSHE Association website. Information about the supplementary was included in the March 2014 VAWG newsletter with a distribution of nearly 300 stakeholders.</p> <p>With Government funding, the PSHE Association has produced a number of new briefing sheets for teachers on FGM, forced marriage, honour violence and tackling sensitive subjects. Their website also has a dedicated area providing support and information on identifying girls at risk of FGM.</p> <p>The Association of Teachers and Lecturers has developed a Safer Schools website including safeguarding advice for schools, and Against Violence and Abuse (AVA) has made information available.</p>
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.	<p>Work with the PSHE Association is detailed in previous actions. In addition, the Department for Education published updated statutory guidance on safeguarding '<i>Keeping Children Safe in Education</i>' in April 2014. The Secretary of State wrote to all heads drawing attention to this guidance.</p> <p>Ministers met with representatives from head and teacher associations to discuss how to reach education professionals most effectively.</p>
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.	<p>The virtual Centre of Excellence is now called the Information Governance Alliance and was launched last Autumn.</p> <p>More information can be found here: http://systems.hscic.gov.uk/infogov/iga</p>
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.	<p>PHE commissioned the Corporate Alliance Against Domestic Violence (CAADV) and Latimer Creative Media to develop a digital toolkit for businesses (launched in 2014). It provides practical tools and resources to help businesses to take action, from raising awareness internally to being visible to their customer base through Twitter and social media. Nearly 3,000 visitors from 47 countries across the globe have visited the 16 Days of Action.</p>

Ref.	Action	Outcome
10	Review academic research and voluntary sector evidence on violence against women and girls to inform the development of an authoritative evidence base.	<p>The College of Policing has conducted a systematic review of interventions into domestic abuse and will publish their findings in due course.</p> <p>The Early Intervention Foundation published their report <i>Early Intervention in Domestic Violence and Abuse</i> in 2014, including consideration of research into effective approaches.</p> <p>The Mirabal review of perpetrator interventions and the Rotherham Secretary of States' group has led a review of evidence on sexual abuse.</p>
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".	Interim outputs from these independent research projects were published in 2013 and 2014. The final report from "Effective responses to long-term consequences of violence, trauma and abuse" is currently undergoing independent peer review. The final report from "Bridging the knowledge and practice gap between domestic violence and child safeguarding: developing policy and training for general practice" has been received and will also undergo independent peer review.
12	Deliver a series of academic roundtables on key VAWG themes to inform our evidence base and drive policy development.	Roundtables have been held with a range of experts, academics and practitioners. Topics have included stalking perpetration, female genital mutilation, Domestic Violence Protection Orders, local commissioning, and the role of Independent Sexual Violence Advisers.
13	Engage with the Office for National Statistics with the aim of improving gender sensitive presentation of data.	In January, the Home Office issued new guidelines to the police for collecting domestic abuse data against a clear national standard. For the first time, from April 2015, consistent, comparable and accessible data on domestic abuse will be collected and this will include a breakdown of data by gender.
14	Engage with national 'what works' centres to support the development and dissemination of authoritative analyses of effective interventions.	<i>Please see action 10.</i>
15	Continue to work closely with media regulators and stakeholders across industry to ensure that suitable media content protections are maintained.	<p>Government is working to safeguard consumer confidence and safety regarding audiovisual (AV) content in a world where many different types of media are now routinely used.</p> <p>Ofcom carried out audience research on this issue and held a series of industry roundtables earlier this year to discuss the findings and consider possible next steps.</p>

Ref.	Action	Outcome
16	Consider available measures to challenge social media sites that enable, or allow promotion of, violence against women and girls.	The Home Office Crime Prevention Panel is working with experts to better understand how data is stored and shared on the internet and how this can facilitate stalking. We are currently considering recommendations made on how to better protect vulnerable people. Decisions on which recommendations to progress will be made by the end of March.
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.	The Audio Visual Media Services Regulations came into force in December 2014.
18	Criminalise the possession of extreme pornography depicting rape.	The provisions have been included in the Criminal Justice and Courts Act.
19	Have children in all four key stages taught about internet safety as part of the national curriculum.	Internet Safety became part of the national curriculum in September 2014.
20	Work to tackle sexual bullying and harassing practices such as 'sexting'.	<p>The Government funded Child Exploitation and Online Protection Agency (CEOP), now integrated within the National Crime Agency, has issued advice on sexting and produced materials for teachers.</p> <p>By law, every school is required to have a behaviour policy which includes measures aimed at preventing all forms of bullying - including cyberbullying - among pupils. We have updated the advice to schools on bullying and cyberbullying, setting out their legal duties and the powers and the steps they can take to tackle this effectively.</p> <p>The new curriculum will also mean from the age of five, children will be taught how to stay safe online, and how to communicate safely and respectfully. The Department for Education have given almost £3million to Beatbullying, the Diana Award, Kidscape and the National Children's Bureau to provide state-of-the-art materials on cyberbullying.</p>
21	Promote effective partnership working between police and schools where children are at risk of domestic violence (e.g. Operation Encompass).	<p>Operation Encompass is a local initiative based in Plymouth and set up by the police to support children who live in households where domestic violence occurs. Under Operation Encompass, the police alert relevant schools of domestic violence incidents so that the school, through its key adult, can provide appropriate and tailored support to individual children affected by that violence.</p> <p>The Forced Marriage Unit also work with schools in affected areas and the <i>This is Abuse</i> campaign materials support a range of professionals on engaging young people.</p>

Ref.	Action	Outcome
22	Embed, where appropriate, violence against women and girls in child protection and safeguarding approaches and procedures.	The Statutory Guidance <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> and <i>Keeping Children Safe in Education</i> includes links to detailed guidance on VAWG-related issues within the context of processes to protect children from all forms of abuse.
23	Explore the suitability of existing risk assessment tools for 16 and 17 year olds.	This action has been incorporated into work underway by the College of Policing.
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.	In November 2014, the Department for Education published a statement of the knowledge and skills for child and family social work, drafted by the Chief Social Worker and shaped by nearly 1,000 social workers. This is the definitive statement of what these social workers need to know and be able to do in order to make the right decisions for some of the most vulnerable families.
25	Continue to work with the Troubled Families Programme, particularly identifying any learning around intervening with families where domestic violence is an issue.	The Troubled Families national evaluation will provide further information on how the programme has worked with families affected by domestic violence that can then be disseminated across relevant networks. More detailed information on the Troubled Families Programme is included in this progress report.
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.	The Troubled Families Team conducted research into the prevalence of problems, including domestic violence within the families included in the first phase of the programme. Evidence of high prevalence supported the inclusion of domestic violence as a national criteria for families identified to take part in the expanded programme.
27	Raise awareness of forced marriage and challenge attitudes which condone this practice through media activities, training events and community engagement.	The Forced Marriage Unit has delivered work to provide a better service for victims and tackle the drivers of forced marriage, including a preventative media campaign to raise awareness of in the run-up to the school summer holidays and community engagement work to challenge attitudes and change behaviours. The Girl Summit held in July 2014 focused on female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage. Further detail on this work is included in this progress report including DCLG work to support communities and encourage faith leaders to support the declaration against forced marriage.
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.	The Department of Health launched a national FGM prevention programme in 2014, in partnership with NHS England, to improve the way the NHS responds to the health needs of girls and women who have had FGM. The programme is backed by £1.4million in funding. The Department has developed e-learning with Health Education England and more details are included in this report.

Ref.	Action	Outcome
29	NHS hospital trusts will be required to return reports centrally on prevalence of FGM within patients treated.	A legal requirement for NHS staff to record in patient healthcare records whenever it is identified that a patient has had FGM through the delivery of NHS care has been in place since October 2014. This requirement applies to all clinicians and healthcare professionals across the NHS.
30	Fund a community engagement initiative on FGM.	The community engagement initiative has been launched with 12 local organisations receiving funding. In addition, DCLG has funded a further 17 projects to tackle FGM in communities.
31	Host an EU Wide event to raise awareness of FGM.	The EU learning forum event was held on 5 February 2015. The event was attended by the Minister for Crime Prevention and representatives from ten EU Member States.
32	Launch and deliver a communications campaign to raise awareness of FGM amongst professionals and practising communities.	The campaign was launched in summer 2014. During the campaign period, calls to the NSPCC helpline increased by 23% compared to 2013, and there were over 20,000 unique visitors to the NSPCC website. Targeted community outreach work resulted in the distribution of over 10,000 wallet cards given to individuals and campaign materials displayed in over 500 outlets.
33	Develop and launch a range of materials on FGM, including an e-learning tool, and an FGM resource pack.	The package of resources was launched at the Girl Summit in 2014. Over 3000 requests have been made for materials, and over 350,000 materials distributed. There have been over 8000 registrations for the e-learning tool.
34	Deliver an FGM outreach programme to local safeguarding children's boards.	The tender for this work has been awarded to Forward and awareness sessions will be delivered by April 2015.
35	Launch a Declaration of Religious Leaders against FGM.	The declaration was launched at the Girl Summit in 2014 and signed by over 300 religious leaders.
36	Support evaluation of local perpetrator referral pilots and communicate findings to local commissioners.	The College of Policing are undertaking a review of domestic violence interventions, including perpetrator programmes, following HMIC's recommendation.
37	Consider the evidence base for what works in the context of perpetrator programmes, identify and disseminate good practice.	The National Offender Management Service has updated the 'what works with domestic violence offenders' fact sheet to disseminate to practitioners and stakeholders.
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.	<i>Your Daughter's Future</i> was published on 27 February providing an online resource covering all the issues within this action.

Ref.	Action	Outcome
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.	<p>Over 270 companies covering over 2.5 million employees publicly signed up to the principles which <i>Think, Act, Report</i> embodies. These cover a wide range of sectors, and include household names such as Marks and Spencer, Lloyds Bank, Shell, easyJet, IBM and BT.</p> <p>Of the companies supporting <i>Think, Act, Report</i> who responded to our 2014 annual survey: 70% are now gathering more data on gender equality in the workplace, 59% are now publishing more information externally and 80% have conducted a pay analysis in the last two years.</p>
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.	Guidance was published in March 2013 and updated in April 2014.
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.	In October 2014, the Government Equalities Office launched guidance and lesson planning on body image for those working with older teenagers, primarily through the National Citizen Service, to raise awareness of this issue and encourage young people to develop their own active citizenship projects on body image.
42	Continue to promote uptake of the Responsibility Deal domestic violence pledge by employers in the public and private sector.	Since its launch, nine Government departments have signed the Responsibility Deal domestic violence pledge as well as NHS England and Public Health England. Over 50 companies have signed up.
43	Continue to work with the University of the West of England in the development of a bystander intervention toolkit for Universities.	The toolkit - the Intervention Initiative - was launched at an event in UWE on 24 September 2014. It is now being trialled at UWE with 350 law students, ahead of a formal roll-out in the next academic year. Ministers wrote to all vice chancellors to encourage their support for the toolkit.
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 for MARACs and IDVAs, and running costs of national help lines to support the victims of domestic violence and stalking.	Ring fenced funding for these services has been in place since 2011. Funding for ISVAs & IDVAs is confirmed for 2015-16.

Ref.	Action	Outcome
45	Continue to provide £4 million funding to local rape support schemes to strengthen the sector.	The Ministry of Justice is providing £4.4million per annum to 86 Rape Support Centres until at least March 2016. Funding was announced for the final two rape support centres in September 2014. In addition, a £4.85 million uplift in funding for services supporting victims of sexual abuse was announced in February in response to increased demands generated by the Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in addition to the £2.15 million uplift to rape support centres.
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.	Police and Crime Commissioners were engaged in discussions about where the final two rape support centres should be. The decision to open centres in Grantham and Crawley was announced in September 2014.
47	Provide £2 million in funding from receipts from offenders for specialist services for victims of sexual and domestic violence.	£1.3m allocated to PCCs as part of their 2014/15 budgets for the specific purpose the local commissioning of SV/DV specific specialist victims services. £44,000 allocated to deliver additional training to ISVAs. £364,000 allocated to 12 organisations in 2014/15 in England and Wales to provide face to face services for male victims of rape and sexual violence as well as £200,000 funding for a national online service for men.
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.	Community volunteers trained through this funding have cascaded training to members of their communities. Practitioners have had awareness of safeguarding and cultural practices raised, and families have been supported in contact with social services.
49	Continue to fund a programme led by Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) to support young victims of inter-personal violence.	Over 100 Young People's Violence Advocates (YPVAs) have been trained and are working to assist YP at risk. The roles of YPVAs vary, but they include caseworkers. The programme will support directly the young people who are subject to that casework and help to develop good practice.
50	Continue to fund Children and Families Across Borders to help social workers with international social work issues.	Around 2,000 enquiries from social services handled in first year of grant and positive feedback from users. Apps produced include a training app on FGM.
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.	The three organisations funded are, between them: providing direct support to young people and families affected by CSE; providing specialist advice and support to professionals; raising awareness among young people; and helping LSCBs and partners to develop effective policy and practice.

Ref.	Action	Outcome
52	Continue to raise awareness of stalking to improve professionals' response.	<p>The Home Office funded development and delivery of a one day course on stalking, delivered to professionals across the UK from January to March 2014. These materials are available free of charge for use by local areas.</p> <p>The College of Policing are revising training and guidance on stalking to incorporate this into Authorised Professional Practice resources. The Home Office supported development on new National Operational Standards on stalking for professionals, including the police.</p>
53	Identify effective practice in the delivery of Bystander Programmes with a view to supporting their implementation across the UK.	This work has been incorporated into the work of the College of Policing, and broader Home Office work on perpetrators.
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.	Proposals have been developed and are under consideration. There is scope to link this work into broader consideration of bystander interventions.
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.	Ways to support local practitioners have been included in the VAWG Factpack produced for Police and Crime Commissioners and in the online 'top tips' resource (due to be launched in spring) for all local commissioners and service providers. A series of six regional events across the UK brought together local practitioners and commissioners to facilitate closer working.
56	Deliver a number of events across the UK for local Jobcentre Plus domestic violence champions to raise awareness of DWP domestic violence policies.	Over half of the upskilling events have been held and the remainder are on track for completion by April 2015. There are over 245 domestic violence champions in local job centres.
57	Develop practice guidance on the adult safeguarding elements of the Care Bill which comes into force in April 2015.	Practice guidance will be published in draft, consulted upon, refined and published for use on the web by April 2015.
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.	This was achieved in 2014 by putting adult safeguarding in primary legislation for the first time. The Act is supported by statutory guidance published in October 2014.
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.	Following the NHS England SARC Public Health Oversight Group meeting where HO, MoJ and APACS were present, we shared the NHS England commissioning assurance process for SARC.
60	Take forward the training of Health Visitors in relation to domestic violence and abuse.	Domestic violence and abuse e-learning modules have been developed following the roll out of the face to face training to over 300 health visitors. This training which was delivered by the Institute for Health Visiting is now available on their website.

Ref.	Action	Outcome
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.	CP-IS went live in 'first wave' sites in October 2014 and will be rolled out across England by 2018.
62	Consider ways to engage with health commissioning bodies and professionals to better identify and treat stalking behaviour.	The Home Office funded development and delivery of a one day course for professionals, including health practitioners and materials are available for use free of charge. Information about this training package was also included in the VAWG Newsletter. Regional roadshows brought together commissioners to cover all aspects of VAWG service provision and a roundtable of experts on stalking perpetration had informed policy development.
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.	Draft guidance has been circulated for comments which will inform how to take action on this issue forward.
64	Build capacity amongst Non-Government Organisations to establish local initiatives and services to raise awareness of, and tackle, forced marriage.	The Forced Marriage Unit supports the development and implementation of local forced-marriage related projects amongst NGOs through the Domestic Programme Fund. Thirteen projects (including four by DCLG) were funded including regional conferences looking at forced marriage involving learning disability victims; a project that builds upon existing foundations to develop awareness, referral processes and strategies for professionals following disclosures; and increasing awareness and knowledge amongst school pupils, teachers and safeguarding/support staff.
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.	This work has been led by academics and non-government organisations. In addition, this progress reports provides details of training materials funded and supported by the Government for a range of professionals on VAWG issues.
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.	The most recent focus group was held in November. The ISVA role and the new ISVA register has been distributed to a number of stakeholders through a variety of channels, including the VAWG newsletter.
67	Deliver focus groups for frontline professionals and local commissioners, involving victims identifying what kind of support and services they need.	Six regional events were held across the UK between September and November 2014. A 'top tips' online resource has been developed with consultation with service providers and commissioners.

Ref.	Action	Outcome
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.	Government departments have continued to work together across these important programmes and ensure that the work is effectively joined up. This has included for example a presentation on VAWG and the Girls and Gangs working group.
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.	Publication is planned for November 2015.
70	Review commissioning approach, and coverage of, violence against women and girls helplines.	A review of the national helplines has been completed. Options for future commissioning approaches are under consideration.
71	Produce commissioning map for stakeholders and other Government Departments to clearly understand the implications of Government reforms on violence against women and girls.	This has been incorporated in the 'top tips' document on the local commissioning of VAWG services.
72	Continue to support providers of specialist sexual and domestic violence services to enable them to engage effectively with the competitive local commissioning model.	<p>A series of six regional events have held for local providers and commissioners. This has been supported by the development of a 'top tips' guide and dedicated VAWG commissioning webpages.</p> <p>This progress report provides further details on support given to commissioners.</p>
73	Continue to support the development of a Commissioning Standards Framework by the women's sector, and ensure this is disseminated to local commissioners.	This action has been superseded and support has been provided to commissioners and local service providers through the series of regional events and the 'top tips' guide.
74	Deliver a programme of regional engagement with local commissioners to share learning, good practice and facilitate relationship building between commissioners and local providers.	<p>The six regional events took place from September to November 2014.</p> <p>This progress report provides further details on support given to commissioners.</p>
75	Disseminate good practice on the development of collective commissioning models and consortia bidding across local areas.	A 'top tips' guide has been developed for commissioners and providers which includes case studies. In addition, good practice case studies were shared as part of the regional events on commissioning.
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.	This report, with recommendations on longer term policy and commissioning alignment across health and justice agencies to support commissioning, was published in February.

Ref.	Action	Outcome
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.	<p>The mystery shopper scheme has conducted spot checks on just over 50 cases involving the Social Value Act. 20% of those cases resulted in us making recommendations to contracting authorities where they had not fully applied the provisions of the Act. In doing this we drew authorities' attention to the policy advice on the Act which is published on GOV.UK.</p> <p>Mystery Shopper continues to spot check services procurements to ensure compliance with the Act and deal with any referrals that suppliers and others may have in they believe the Act has not been properly considered in the pre-procurement phase of a particular public services contract.</p> <p>The Small Business Enterprise and Employment (SBEE) Bill which is currently before Parliament includes a provision to place Mystery Shopper on a statutory footing, requiring contracting authorities to provide information to assist with Mystery Shopper investigations.</p>
78	Direct £500,000 from the Victim's Fund into supporting male victims of rape and sexual violence.	£564,000 in funding has been allocated to the Male Rape Support Fund in 2014/15 and £650,000 in 2015/16.
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.	A signposting pilot will be launched in spring 2015. The Home Office is also working towards a system for referring women to appropriate services at the decision point of the asylum process.
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.	<p>Gender issues are included in the guidance for asylum decision makers and in the mandatory training that supports the guidance.</p> <p>The Country of Origin Information service now produces thematic reports on gender issues in particular countries. In the past year, for example, such reports on Somalia, Pakistan, Libya, Zimbabwe and Bangladesh have been produced.</p>
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.	<p>A number of thematic reviews of interviews and decisions in gender-related asylum claims have been carried out in order to monitor quality and promote operational improvement.</p> <p>An analysis was carried out for the June 2014 Thematic Review covering asylum claims based on or featuring gender-related persecution and gender issues. A further sample of cases is currently under audit.</p>

Ref.	Action	Outcome
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.	The commitment to relocate several hundred Syrians to the UK over 3 years from 1 April 2014 is on track to deliver that commitment with nearly 100 individuals or families relocated. These cases include survivors of violence and torture.
83	Continue to hold the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference scrutiny panels and implement recommendations and learning to support high risk victims of domestic violence.	Scrutiny panels are held twice a year and the last panel considered coercive control specifically.
84	Carry out a more in depth review of Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) and disseminate findings to local areas.	Researchers have been commissioned to conduct a review of DHRs which will include demographics and key lessons. A full report of the findings of the review will be published later this month (March 2015).
85	Explore opportunities to promote local action to follow up recommendations from DHRs.	Police and Crime Commissioners are taking forward an HMIC action to monitor the delivery of DHR actions locally. Guidance for local areas will be included in the resources for commissioners to be published later this month (March 2015).
86	Provide a 'top tips' document to support DHR panels.	DHR experts have contributed to consideration of how this document should develop. Delivery is linked to actions 84 and 85.
87	Review and update the statutory guidance for agencies on forced marriage.	The updated guidance was launched in June 2014
88	Work across Government to ensure we understand and manage the potential impact of reforms on violence against women and girls.	VAWG issues have been considered in a wide range of policies, such as job seekers allowance, legal aid and health among others.
89	Work closely with the devolved administrations to tackle violence against women and girls effectively and share learning and good practice.	The Devolved Administrations have continued to deliver their strategies to tackle VAWG and progress summaries are included in this report.
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.	Various, departments have liaised with the MoD to discuss the work in train with regard to the DV Pledge; attended VAWG Sub-group meetings to raise awareness; held a VAWG awareness week to highlight corporate support available to victims of domestic violence.
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.	Please see update summary of international work in this report.

Ref.	Action	Outcome
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.	The Government Equalities Office (GEO) launched a group in 2014 to scrutinise CEDAW extension requests received from four of the seven outstanding Overseas Territories (OTs). The group has commissioned further evidence and will explore ways in which they can help to develop National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) capacity where it does not already exist in order to encourage engagement both within and across the OTs.
93	Continue to promote the domestic implementation of CEDAW.	A Cross-Government official level working group has been set up to monitor implementation of the CEDAW recommendations. A follow up report on anti-abortion law in Northern Ireland was submitted to the Committee on 26 November 2014 in response to a recommendation on women and health and a report on access to legal aid is due to be submitted in November 2015. The Responses to all other recommendations will be included in the UK's 8th periodic report which is scheduled to be submitted in July 2017.
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.	The third UK NAP was published in June 2014 at the PSVI Summit. For the first time, an implementation plan for the NAP was published in December 2014. It will be used to assess the impact of UK efforts in the NAP's six focus countries: Afghanistan, Burma, DRC, Libya, Somalia and Syria.
95	Ensure that the UK's humanitarian action, including both assistance and protection, prevents and responds to violence against women and girls.	In 2013, the Department for International Development established a corporate policy commitment to ensure that VAWG is considered in all UK-funded humanitarian support. DFID also announced over £20m in new funding, including support to survivors and those at risk of sexual violence and exploitation in the Syria region. We have also ensured that VAWG has been considered and appropriately included in all our humanitarian responses, including the Philippines, Central African Republic, Iraq and South Sudan. We have reviewed our stockpiles to ensure that non-food items are suitable and prepositioned to meet the needs of women and girls, and are investing heavily in research and evidence on what works to prevent violence against women and girls, including in conflict and humanitarian settings.

Ref.	Action	Outcome
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.	UN Women's strategic plan and results framework for 2014-17 is much stronger than 2011/13. Includes VAWG and Millennium Development Goals post 2015.
97	Continue to support the role of the Council of Europe (CoE) in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls.	Council Conclusions on VAWG and FGM have been agreed by the Government and endorsed at the JHA Council in February. GEO officials attend the Council of Europe Gender Equality Commission meetings and share best practices with other Member States.
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 VAWG Helpdesk has responded to over 50 queries and completed several country assignments. The VAWG and education guidance note has been distributed widely. Further guidance notes on economic development, community programming and Health are in development.
99	Work with partners to improve and communicate the evidence base on violence against women and girls and understanding of effective interventions.	The VAWG Research & Innovation Fund (now What Works to Prevent Violence programme) tendered out and started Dec 2013. Regular learning events for DFID staff. VAWG Overseas Champion spoke at Commission for Status of Women side event on evidence of VAWG interventions. VAWG Helpdesk circulated over 50 query reports, evidence digests produced and circulated and guidance notes created (see action 98).
100	Improve the international, including EU, response to forced marriage by continuing to lobby for commitment to tackling the practice at key events.	Delivery of presentations and being part of expert panels on forced marriage at the 'Too Young to Wed' event in Oslo and an honour-related conflicts event in Copenhagen. FMU also attended Almedalen Week in Visby, Sweden to speak about the UK's approach, coinciding with the new forced marriage legislation introduced in June 2014 in Sweden. Contributions also provided to the UN Committee on the UK's implementation of the Optional Protocol on the Rights of the Child.
101	Through the 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.	155 countries have now endorsed the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict and agreed to ensure their domestic legislation allows for the prosecution of sexual violence crimes and that no peace agreements give amnesty to people who have ordered or carried out sexual violence crimes. The International Protocol on the Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict launched at the Global Summit in June will improve global standards on how to document and investigate conflict related sexual violence and improve accountability.

Ref.	Action	Outcome
102	Invest up to £35 million over five years to support work to end FGM in at least fifteen countries.	The programme had its first annual review in March 2013 and has fully met expectations. Support to the UN Joint Programme is ongoing, the MoU for Phase 2 of the programme was signed in December 2013, work plans and the overall results framework are being finalised. The contract for the Social Change Campaign was announced on International Day for Zero Tolerance for FGM (6th Feb), the inception period is due for completion by the end of the summer. The procurement process for the research component is ongoing, and we expect the contract to be awarded in September.
103	Support the UN Special Rapporteur on the causes and consequences of violence against women and girls during their visit to the UK.	The visit took place in March and April 2014. A full itinerary was put in place for the Special Rapporteur, including meetings with a number of Government Departments, devolved administrations and frontline agencies.
104	Continue to work towards the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.	The Government remains committed to working towards ratification of the Istanbul Convention. While we already comply with the vast majority of the articles, government departments and the Devolved Administrations continue to examine rigorously whether we are doing everything necessary to be able to move to ratification. We are now considering the extent to which we first need to take extra-territorial jurisdiction in respect of offences established in accordance with the Convention, to ensure our full compliance before moving to final ratification.
105	Publish the UK National Action Plan on women peace and security for 2014 to 2017.	Published in June 2014 at the ESVI Summit. This has been followed up with the launch of an Implementation Plan that will complement the NAP and aide implementation of HMG policy.
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.	At the Summit, practical actions were achieved through the launch of the first International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict – training of the Protocol has started in Bosnia and the DRC; the Federal Government of Somalia presented its National Action Plan for addressing sexual violence; the Government of the DRC committed to implement their National Strategy to Fight Sexual Violence; the Government of Libya committed to enact into law a Decree that recognises victims of sexual violence; Liberia, Mexico, Morocco, Senegal, South Korea and the Palestinian Authority endorsed the Call to Action on Protecting Women and Girls in Emergencies and the UK pledged £6 million to support survivors of sexual violence.

Ref.	Action	Outcome
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.	Commission for Status of Women (58th session) agreed conclusions included proposal for stand-alone goal on gender equality and empowerment of women & girls, and integration of gender across all post-2015 framework. And included proposed target on ending VAWG. The Open Working Group co-chairs' paper on Focal Areas includes, "By 2030 end all forms of VAWG" and, "By 2030, end child/early and forced marriage" under the Focal Area on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.
108	Roll out the 4 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.	Now called What Works to Prevent Violence Programme: Component 1 (what works in prevention) contracted to S Africa Medical Research Council consortium in Dec 2013 - innovation grants to be announced in December 2014; Component 2 (what works in emergencies & conflict) contracted to International Rescue Committee consortium in April 2014; Component 3 (economic & social costs) was contracted to the National University of Ireland, Galway in June 2014. Evaluation is in the process of being tendered out. Launch of Components 1 & 2 were launched at PSVI Summit, June 2014.
109	Implement legislation to make breach of a Forced Marriage Protection Order a criminal offence.	Section 120 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, which was implemented on 16 June 2014, amends Part 4A of the Family Law Act 1996 to make the breach of a forced marriage protection order a criminal offence in England and Wales with a maximum penalty of 5 years' imprisonment.
110	Implement legislation to make forcing someone to marry a criminal offence in England and Wales.	Section 121 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, which was implemented on 16 June 2014, makes forcing someone to marry a criminal offence in England and Wales.
111	Update multi-agency practice guidelines and statutory guidance on forced marriage.	All forced marriage guidance documents were updated in June 2014 to coincide with the enactment date of the new law and now fully reflects the forced marriage offences.
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.	We are exploring how to progress this work with the Centre of Excellence for Information Sharing.
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.	Clause 72 of the Serious Crime Act includes provisions for a new FGM protection order.

Ref.	Action	Outcome
114	Monitor implementation of the new stalking offences.	From April 2014, stalking and harassment offences have been separated in police recorded crime. This data will provide a clearer picture of stalking and help inform policy development. In addition, CPS data shows that there have been 743 prosecutions under the new legislation in 2013/14, a significant increase on the previous year.
115	Improve understanding of the incidence, reporting and prosecution of false allegations or perverting the course of justice, in rape or domestic violence cases.	In March 2013, the CPS report showed that so called false rape allegations are rare. Over a seventeen month period, there were 5651 prosecutions for rape and only 35 for making a false allegation of rape.
116	Further our understanding of violence against women and girls through developing an improved evidence base.	Please see updates on previous actions – work on evidence bases is now incorporated with the College of Policing work plan.
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.	The NOMS position statement on working with perpetrators is under consultation and will be supported by best practice guidance. The “What works with DV offenders” factsheet is under review and will be re-published in spring.
118	Continue to ensure that convicted sex offenders in the UK are managed in as robust and effective a way as possible.	We have reformed Sex offender civil orders (Please see action 144).
119	Better understand and respond to issues around the implementation of the new stalking legislation including monitoring the number of prosecutions commenced.	The joint CPS and police national protocol on stalking was launched in September 2014. A number of training modules have been developed for police and CPS staff, and the College of Policing is currently revising the police guidance to be incorporated into their Authorised Professional Practice. See previous actions and the full progress report for further details on stalking and numbers of prosecutions.
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).	The consultation on the O OCD framework sought views on whether O OCDs should be used for offences involving domestic abuse more generally. The Government response in November 2014 coincided with the start of a 12 month pilot in three police force areas to test out the use of O OCDs in some domestic abuse cases.
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).	HMIC considered out of court disposals as part of their review of the police response to domestic violence. Out of court disposals for domestic abuse at the pre-charge stage have reached their lowest levels.
122	Provide information about the provision of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors and their contribution to successful criminal justice outcomes (Six point plan).	Data commissioned from Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) on the effectiveness of IDVAs is included in this report.

Ref.	Action	Outcome
123	Further investigate the proportion of violence against women and girls cases being charged across police force areas (Six point plan).	The work of the National Scrutiny Panel on Rape led to the publication of a joint CPS and Police National Rape Action Plan. There is continued oversight of this issue through the CPS VAWG Assurance Process and the CPS VAWG Annual Crime Report for 2013/14 explores pre-charge data showing rises across VAWG strands.
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).	The National Rape Action Plan on investigation and prosecution of rape was published in June 2014 to address this issue. In addition, Dame Elish Angiolini QC is conducting an independent review into the investigation and prosecution of rape cases in London.
125	HMIC Crime Recording Review to capture how forces record rape.	HMIC carried out an all-force investigation of crime recording practices at the request of the Home Secretary. PCCs and Chief Constables are expected to use these findings to improve the service provided to victims. These reports, in conjunction with HMIC's Rape Monitoring Group data for rape published earlier in the year, gives all chief constables and police and crime commissioners key data and analysis to improve their force's response to victims of rape.
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.	The HMIC Rape Monitoring Group provides PCCs and Chiefs with core information to further improve their response to rape. The Group has published data for all forces on no-crime rates, rates per 100,000 and detection rates to enable Chief Officers and PCCs to interrogate force performance on rape.
127	Complete and evaluate the pilot of enhanced training for police officers on risk assessment in domestic abuse cases.	The College of Policing are undertaking a review of risk assessment following HMIC's report. This review will overtake this work.
128	Ensure stakeholder involvement in violence against women and girls issues through the CPS External Consultation Group and publicise good practice.	CPS continues to meet regularly with their External Consultation Group and further ensures stakeholder involvement and engagement through public and targeted consultation on guidance and policies, and Director of Public Prosecution led stakeholder meetings. Good practice is disseminated to prosecutors through an internal VAWG Casework Hub and externally through a CPS VAWG newsletter and media activity.
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.	The launch of the toolkit will be in spring 2015.
130	Increased investment in paediatric sexual assault services to include improved forensic medical provision.	Investment in paediatric services has increased from £8.9 million to £16.9 million some of which will help to improve forensic medical provision.

Ref.	Action	Outcome
131	Ensure the recommendations from the HMIC review of the police response to domestic violence are effectively implemented.	The Home Secretary chairs a National Oversight Group to drive action to implement the HMIC recommendations. The group has met three times to date with a further meeting later this month. The next progress report is due in spring.
132	Support work on improved violence against women and girls prosecution volumes and outcomes.	<p>The CPS VAWG Annual Crime Report for 2013/14 published in July 2014 provides an overview including record high conviction rate for VAWG of 74.4%.</p> <p>Key activity includes: oversight through the CPS VAWG Assurance Process; updated legal guidance for prosecutors including on domestic violence, social media and forced marriage; training for prosecutors including e-learning on stalking and harassment and webinars on alleged false rape allegations; the development of specialist units for Rape and Serious Sexual Offence Units and taking forward national initiatives with the police such as the National Rape Action Plan.</p>
133	Support prosecutions involving harmful traditional practices, including taking forward actions in the CPS female genital mutilation action plan.	<p>The FGM Action Plan implementation includes joint CPS protocols with the police. The first prosecution of an FGM offence was brought in March 2014.</p> <p>Nationally, the CPS is advising on legislative changes and locally, CPS Areas are taking forward a range of activities to improve prosecutions including conferences and seminars on FGM.</p>
134	Establish effective procedures to address VAWG issues across the criminal justice system and with the prevention agenda.	CPS prepared and developed a paper for the September 2014 cross-Government VAWG Delivery Board. The paper was used to inform the assessment of delivery against aims related to justice outcomes and risk reduction.
135	Deliver and monitor the national roll-out of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme	DVDS is now fully rolled-out across England and Wales. We are exploring how DVDS up-take can be captured as part of the HMIC recommendation to set national data standards for the police.
136	Deliver and monitor the national roll-out of Domestic Violence Prevention Orders	DVPO roll-out is on-target to be completed by late summer 2014. We are exploring how DVPO monitoring can be captured as part of the HMIC recommendation to set national data standards for the police.

Ref.	Action	Outcome
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.	Government departments work closely with relevant policing leads on the police approach to sexual and domestic violence and abuse. Implementing the recommendations from the HMIC review into the police response to domestic violence is driving improvements across all forces and departments engage through key forums including the police-led National Rape Working Group, HMIC's Rape Monitoring Group, and the National Policing Lead's Management of Sexual Offenders & Violent Offenders Group. Home Office groups such as the National Oversight Group and Sexual Offenders and Violent Offenders Working Group have strong police representation.
138	Explore feasibility of conducting analysis of sexual violence victims' experiences of the criminal justice system through using data held by victim support services.	Analysis of Rape Crisis data is completed and is used to inform policy. An anonymised version is under development for publication later this year.
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.	A draft document is currently under development for dissemination in Autumn 2015.
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.	A report with findings based on analysis of survey responses from SDVCs is being prepared. A feasibility study on applying the SDVC model to the youth courts has been carried out and representatives from the National SDVC Steering Group will discuss this further with external organisations.
141	Address ways to improve support for domestic and sexual violence victims including through the establishment of Victim Liaison Units.	Victim Liaison Units have been established in all CPS areas.
142	Review policies, guidance and training across violence against women and girls issues.	CPS continues to support prosecutors on VAWG issues including through: the publication of updated legal guidance on domestic violence, social media, stalking, forced marriage; participation in piloting of section 28 on pre-recorded cross-examination; training including on forced marriage, female genital mutilation, a National Conference on Rape, allegedly false rape allegations. See CPS VAWG Annual Crime Report for further information.
143	Finalise guidance on vulnerability and credibility of victims of violence against women and girls.	The guidance was published in 2015 and launched at National Conference on Rape Investigations and Prosecutions.
144	Reform Civil Orders to manage sex offenders even more effectively.	Reforms successfully delivered via Anti Social Behaviour Crime & Policing Bill. Guidance, training, legal and court processes will be issued in the spring.

Ref.	Action	Outcome
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.	The project has been completed and the findings are being prepared for publication (probably in August) to share with practitioners. The final paper will be peer reviewed.
146	Continue to deliver the Women Awareness Staff Programme (WASP) and Sex Workers in Custody and Community (SWICC) to women's prison staff.	WASP and SWICC programmes are delivered by NOMS based on demand from establishments. Over ten have been delivered in the last year.
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.	The Youth Justice Board is carrying out the assessment and will produce findings later in the year.
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.	Work is ongoing to review interventions that are delivered across the women's custodial estate to ensure they meet needs and reduce risk of re-offending.
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.	The CPS VAWG Crime Report for 2013/14 includes relevant case studies.
150	Ensure that gender-specific needs of women are recognised as part of the Transforming Rehabilitation reforms to probation services.	<p>The Ministry of Justice guidance for bidders on the different needs of female offenders to bidders included a section on DV & signposts to specialist organisations. A service specification output mandates the need to devise safety plans for victims of DV. The new 'Through the Gate' service introduces a resettlement needs assessment with specific questions for victims of DV & referral to specialist services.</p> <p>Section 10 of the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014 requires contracts with new providers of probation to consider and identify needs of female offenders, including whether they have been victims of DV. Under their contracts, providers are required to deliver three gender specific outputs, giving female offenders the option, where practicable of (i) having a female supervisor/responsible officer; (ii) attending meetings or appointments in a female-only environment; and (iii) of not being placed in a male-only environment for unpaid work or attendance requirements.</p>