

Behind Closed Doors Network Event – 12th October 2007

Sexual Violence & Abuse

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Context

April 2007 – HM Government Published

- Cross Government Action Plan on Sexual Violence & Abuse
- Sexual Violence & Abuse Action Plan – Implementation Guide

Context

Sexual violence & CSA are two of the most serious & damaging crimes in our society

Addressing harm they cause is a priority - agendas

Public Health

Reducing Crime

Offenders to Justice

Education

Safeguarding Children

Gender Equality

Context

Strong Links Between Sexual Violence & Other Gender Based Violence

- Domestic Violence – greater integration
- Forced Marriage – Forced Marriage Unit
- Honour Killings – National Delivery Plan DV
- Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation
- Sexual Exploitation through Prostitution
- Female Genital Mutilation

Priority

- Common
 - 23% women & 3% men as adults
 - 21% girls & 11% boys as children
- Most vulnerable are most at risk
- Both consequence & cause gender inequality
- Fear in the community

Priority

- Severe & long term physical & mental health implications for victims
- Offenders get away with it – 15% reported - 6% result in conviction
- Important element of domestic violence
- Huge cost – sexual offences 2003/4 - £8.5 billion
- Support for victims often unavailable

Action Plan

- Inform stakeholders & public what we are seeking to achieve
- Identify actions to deliver objectives
- Identify gaps in existing work
- Be more accountable
- Platform to develop more strategic & holistic approach

Objectives

- Maximise prevention
- Improve criminal justice response
- Increase access to health & support services for victims

Prevention

- Three Tier Approach
 - Level 1 (All)
 - Work in Education
 - Raise Public Awareness
 - Alcohol Harm Reduction
 - Create Safer Environment

Prevention

- Level 2 (Risk of Victimisation)
 - Work to safeguard vulnerable children
 - Work to safeguard vulnerable adults

- Level 2 (Risk of Offending)
 - Treating young people who sexually harm
 - Work with adults at risk of offending
 - Sharing information & vetting

Prevention

- Level 3 (Existing Victims)
 - Managing risk of re-victimisation of adult & child victims

- Level 3 (Existing Perpetrators)
 - Bring offences to justice
 - Managing offenders
 - Treating offenders
 - Sharing information

Prevention – Work Streams

- Development of role of MAPPA
- New strategies for treating sex offenders both adults & young people
- Implement Working Together guidance
- New vetting & barring scheme for those working with children
- Help schools - new standards on sexual & mental health promotion

Progress Indicators

- Number of victims of sexual assault (BCS)
- Percentage number 'Healthy Schools'
- Number LAA implemented CAF by 2008
- Level compliance by sex offenders
- Number of offenders completing treatment programmes

Improve CJ Response

- Improved victim support & information provision during CJ process
 - Training for specialist officers, rape prosecutors & barristers
 - New performance management framework
 - Implement recommendations 'Without Consent'
 - Enhanced standards of victim care

Progress Indicators

- Various measures of attrition rates
- Number of prosecutions for rape
- Police forces implementing 'Without Consent'
- Training levels for advocates
- Number of SARCs
- Proactive victim contact - Probation

Increase Access Health & Support

- Promote more co-ordinated & holistic response for victims
- Extending networks of SARCs (Sexual Assault Referral Centres)
- Independent Sexual Violence Advisors
- VVAPP (Victims of Violence & Abuse Prevention Programme) – develop national service guidelines
- Enhance capacity - voluntary sector

Progress Indicators

- Number organisations providing support
- Average waiting times to access services
- Numbers attending SARCs
- Numbers seen by ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Advisor)
- Number areas with gender based violence forum
- Inclusion sexual violence & abuse in Local Area Agreements

Future

- PSA2 - Reduction in fear of crime (eg rape) & Increase number offences brought to justice
- PSA 2008/9 – more focus on sexual offences
- National Community Safety Plan 2006/9 – key priority encourage reporting of DV and sexual assaults
- Crime Strategy – in development - increase focus on those offences likely to cause most harm – eg sexual violence & abuse

Implementation Guide

Key Agencies

Police CPS Courts NOMS LCJBs
PCTs SARCs Forensic Services
Local Authorities CDRPs LSCBs YOTs
Immigration & Nationality Directorate
Voluntary & Community Sector

Source

www.crimereduction.gov.uk