

# **Transforming the Response to Domestic Abuse: Summary of the Draft Bill**

**Reducing Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Inquiry – Meeting 3**  
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# Introduction to the Domestic Abuse Bill

- **New Domestic Abuse Bill first raised in February 2017**
- **Context:**
  - Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-2020 (refresh happening soon)
  - Victims Strategy – Published September 2018

# Section 1 – Promoting Awareness

## 1.2 – Educating young people on relationships:

- We recognise that if we want to change attitudes we need to engage with children at the earliest possible opportunity
- We want to help schools deliver high quality relationship education that covers domestic abuse
- We will introduce regulations and statutory guidance for schools.
  - In primary schools we want to equip children with the foundations for healthy respectful relationships
  - In secondary schools, we propose teaching young people about healthy intimate relationships, sexual exploitation, consent and domestic abuse.

# Section 1 – Promoting Awareness

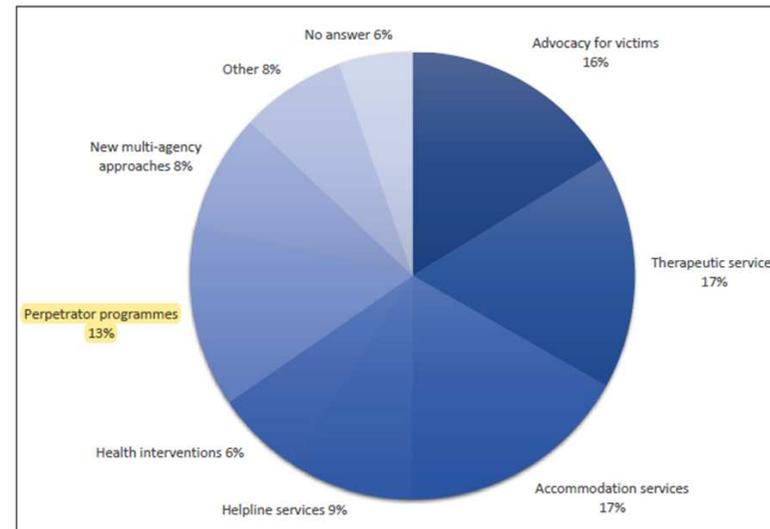
## 1.4 – Raising public awareness of public abuse

- We recognise that there is a need to provide more information to the public.
- We want to challenge the social attitudes that allow domestic abuse to occur.
- We will work with partners to review, evaluate and understand current communication activities, which will help inform future communications.
- We will work to tackle harmful gender norms, in recognition that all forms of violence against women and girls are both a cause and a consequence of wider gender inequality.

## Section 2 – Protect and support victims

**2.2 – Resources - Priority for perpetrator programmes, third highest response (13%) when asked about prioritisation of government funding towards domestic abuse.**

- **No specific funding for perpetrator**



## Section 2 – Protect and support victims

### 2.3 – Working together: A proactive and reactive multi-agency response

- The government recognises that the most effective initiatives to tackling domestic abuse are those that adopt a collaborative multi-agency approach, with services commissioned locally and driven by local needs.
- We will help local areas to develop a more integrated approach to multi-agency working that looks at victims, their families and perpetrators in the round.

## Section 2 – Protect and support victims

### 2.4.3 – Substance Misuse

- Domestic abuse is prevalent among those with substance misuse issues. In 29% of incidents of domestic violence, the victim perceived the offender to be under the influence of alcohol.
- The interplay between domestic abuse and substance misuse is complex.
- We will consider the impact of alcohol on domestic abuse and develop a response as part of the department's alcohol policy work.
- We will allocate funding for training to promote greater joining-up between substance misuse and domestic abuse services.

## Section 3 – Perpetrator Response

### 3.2.6 – Conditional cautions

- **Out-of-court disposals are measures that allow the police to deal with lower risk offending in a proportionate manner. One such measure is a conditional caution.**
- **Current guidance from the DPP restricts the use of conditional cautions in cases of domestic abuse – A trial project (CARA) gave permission for conditional cautions for lower risk, normally first time reported, domestic abuse incidents.**
- **We will: Building on the success of Project Care we have agreed for some police forces to pilot conditional cautions for lower risk first reports of domestic abuse.**

## Section 2 – Protect and support victims

### 3.4 – The perpetrator journey

- Domestic abuse usually occurs as a repeated pattern of behaviours, with some perpetrators abusing multiple partners over a number of years.
- To reduce and prevent domestic abuse, it is vital that we tackle perpetrators, including repeat and serial perpetrators, to stop them offending.
- Perpetrator interventions are already available for those who have been convicted of offences and those who may be at risk of re-offending.
- There are also options for interventions for perpetrators who have not been convicted of an offence. These interventions can be delivered or commissioned by the police, local authorities, or by CafCass, and are designed to support perpetrators to change their behaviour to prevent an initial offence from occurring. These interventions can also prevent the escalation of offences, or any instances of further abuse.
- We also support the important work of Respect

# Commitments towards the perpetrator journey

- Aim in working with perpetrators is to prevent reoffending in order to protect victims and their children, and to give victims the space and security to rebuild their lives.

Criminal Justice Pledges	Perpetrator Intervention Pledges	System Pledges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure all criminal justice agencies have access to the right information at the right time, so that they can work together to accurately identify, assess and manage dangerous perpetrators in order to keep victims safe.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To support people to fully participate in programmes, we will promote the use of interventions that can help motivate people in prison to engage in a programme or overcome barriers that are preventing them from engaging.</li> <li>• We will issue guidance that ensure perpetrator programmes are flexible, trauma-informed, and adapted to accommodate people’s individual needs and circumstances.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve the framework for managing perpetrators and strengthen multi-agency working by promoting the changes made to the guidance on referrals to national Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangement Teams</li> <li>• For Gov. to support the important work of Respect, who through their service standards are helping to ensure that programmes targeted at a range of perpetrators are delivered safely and effectively</li> </ul>