

## Summary: Intervention & Options

<b>Department /Agency:</b> <b>Home Office</b>	<b>Title:</b> <b>Impact Assessment of the 'Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls' Consultation Paper</b>	
<b>Stage:</b> Options/Consultation	<b>Version:</b> 1	<b>Date:</b> 6 March 2009
<b>Related Publications:</b>		

**Available to view or download at:**

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/keepwomensafe>

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**What is the problem under consideration? Why is government intervention necessary?**

Violence against women and girls and their fear of violence are significant problems and result in significant economic and social costs. The government will carry out a formal consultation process to establish the best way to combat these problems. Previous work in this area focussed on how to address specific offences (for example, domestic or sexual violence) but did not seek to examine linkages between them or the impact they have on other government departments. The consultation will focus on a more comprehensive approach to combating violence against women and their fear of violence.

**What are the policy objectives and the intended effects?**

The objectives of the consultation are:

- to raise awareness of the scale and seriousness of the problem
- to encourage debate on the solutions, whether they lie with Government, with individuals, within relationships, or communities.

The policies implemented following consultation will aim to reduce the escalation of violence; prevent it happening in the first place; minimise the negative impact on victims through effective services; and prevent repeat offending and repeat victimisation.

**What policy options have been considered? Please justify any preferred option.**

Nine key themes are set out in the consultation document covering prevention, provision of services, and protection through the criminal justice system. At this stage the government is asking questions concerned with these themes to start a debate on some policy proposals as well as promoting discussion on new ideas about how best to make a real impact.

**When will the policy be reviewed to establish the actual costs and benefits and the achievement of the desired effects?** A strategy will be produced following the consultation period and will be supported by a full impact assessment. Plans for a review will be developed as part of the strategy following consultation

**Ministerial Sign-off** For consultation stage Impact Assessments:

***I have read the Impact Assessment and I am satisfied that, given the available evidence, it represents a reasonable view of the likely costs, benefits and impact of the leading options.***

Signed by the responsible Minister:

..... Date: 6 March 2009

## Summary: Analysis & Evidence

<b>Policy Option:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
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<b>COSTS</b>	<b>ANNUAL COSTS</b>	Description and scale of <b>key monetised costs</b> by 'main affected groups' Unknown at consultation stage		
	<b>One-off</b> (Transition) <span style="float: right;"><b>Yrs</b></span>			
	<b>£ Unknown</b>			
	<b>Average Annual Cost</b> (excluding one-off)			
	<b>£ Unknown</b>	<b>Total Cost (PV)</b>	<b>£ Unknown</b>	
Other <b>key non-monetised costs</b> by 'main affected groups' Not applicable at consultation stage				

<b>BENEFITS</b>	<b>ANNUAL BENEFITS</b>	Description and scale of <b>key monetised benefits</b> by 'main affected groups' Unknown at consultation stage		
	<b>One-off</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Yrs</b></span>			
	<b>£ Unknown</b>			
	<b>Average Annual Benefit</b> (excluding one-off)			
	<b>£ Unknown</b>	<b>Total Benefit (PV)</b>	<b>£ Unknown</b>	
Other <b>key non-monetised benefits</b> by 'main affected groups' Unknown at consultation stage				

Key Assumptions/Sensitivities/Risks Unknown at consultation stage
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Price Base Year	Time Period Years	<b>Net Benefit Range (NPV)</b> <b>£ N/A</b>	<b>NET BENEFIT (NPV Best estimate)</b> <b>£ N/A</b>
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What is the geographic coverage of the policy/option?	England, Wales, NI			
On what date will the policy be implemented?	N/A			
Which organisation(s) will enforce the policy?	Home Office, Police			
What is the total annual cost of enforcement for these organisations?	£ N/A			
Does enforcement comply with Hampton principles?	Yes			
Will implementation go beyond minimum EU requirements?	N/A			
What is the value of the proposed offsetting measure per year?	£ N/A			
What is the value of changes in greenhouse gas emissions?	£ N/A			
Will the proposal have a significant impact on competition?	No			
Annual cost (£-£) per organisation (excluding one-off)	Micro N/A	Small N/A	Medium N/A	Large N/A
Are any of these organisations exempt?	No	No	N/A	N/A

<b>Impact on Admin Burdens Baseline</b> (2005 Prices)			(Increase - Decrease)		
Increase of	£ N/A	Decrease of	£ N/A	<b>Net Impact</b>	£ N/A

Key: Annual costs and benefits: Constant Prices (Net) Present Value

## Evidence Base (for summary sheets)

[Use this space (with a recommended maximum of 30 pages) to set out the evidence, analysis and detailed narrative from which you have generated your policy options or proposal. Ensure that the information is organised in such a way as to explain clearly the summary information on the preceding pages of this form.]

### Rationale

Violence against women and girls and their fear of violence are significant problems. It is broad in its extent, and the total annual cost of violence against women, covering domestic and sexual violence, has been estimated to be around £40bn, which includes significant costs to the criminal justice system (see Walby (2004) and Hard Knock life (2008)). It also limits the effectiveness of action on a number of government targets, for example on increasing the number of looked-after children; and on long-term mental health issues.

Violence against women is both a consequence and cause of gender inequality, and there are connections across all forms of violence against women. For example, among adult female victims of intimate violence, 33% experienced more than one type of abuse, most commonly partner abuse, and sexual assault (18%) (British Crime Survey 2007/8).

The Government is committed to tackling violence against women and girls so that they feel safe; to stop violence against them from happening in the first place; and to prevent any escalation of violence in its severity or recurrence.

Government interventions will have a greater impact and momentum when brought together under a sustained and comprehensive strategy and this will greatly benefit from a formal consultation process. All areas of Government, both local and national, can make a contribution to combating violence against women.

### Objective

The approach proposed in the consultation document is to focus Government action on the **Prevention** of violence against women, **Provision** of services for victims, and delivery of **Protection** through the Criminal Justice System. The government will ask respondents for their views on 9 themes including a number of existing policy proposals that sit within this model (Prevention, Provision, Protection), and propose that more action is needed to address prevention and provision activities as well as the current focus already on CJS protection.

The main objectives for the consultation are:

- to raise awareness of the scale and seriousness of the problem; and
- to encourage debate on the solutions, whether they lie with Government, individuals, within relationships or communities.

The Government's intention is to consult on a number of new policy proposals, as well as to design policy interventions that will reduce the escalation of violence; prevent violence happening in the first place; minimise the negative impact of violence on victims through effective services; and prevent repeat offending and repeat victimisation.

### Appraisal

This impact assessment relates to a consultation process and at this stage there is no formal appraisal of the costs and benefits of any particular policies that are designed to reduce violence against women and their fear violence.

The consultation will promote discussion on the following 9 themes:

- primary prevention through (1) children's education; (2) increasing women's confidence; and (3) improving women's safety, especially when travelling home;
- secondary prevention through (4) action to pick up on the early signs of violence; and (5) addressing the impact on children;
- tertiary prevention through (6) intervention to change perpetrator behaviour;
- provision of services, especially in (7) health and social care; and (8) providing women with a place of safety, and a fresh start; and
- protection (9) through the criminal justice system that works and when it's needed.

There will be consultation on a number of new policy proposals as outlined below, as well as on other policy initiatives. Responses to the consultation will be used to help design policy.

### *Existing policy proposals*

At this stage of the consultation there are no accurate costs available for the following interventions. These costs will be assessed during the consultation stage.

Education: studying the development of attitudes that lead to more serious abuse and violence later in life, working with existing DCSF initiatives.

Safer Streets Website: giving people a say on what would make them feel safer on their streets, building on existing work by Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships.

Safer car parks: working alongside the British Parking Association to promote and help develop their 'Park Mark' Safer Parking Scheme.

Flag and track: addressing how the police and other local agencies can best track perpetrators who offend serially by assessing information needs and what information can be made available to the public.

Jobcentre plus staff training to better identify & manage violence against women victims: by continuing to provide staff training in respect of violence against women and this training will be refreshed as appropriate.

### *Benefits*

Although it is not yet possible to consider the benefits of these and any future government interventions as a result of the consultation, there is already good evidence to illustrate the potential benefits that can accrue from their impact, for example:

- domestic violence tends to increase in its severity and frequency over time, so early prevention and reducing the escalation of violence will be a significant benefit

- the total annual cost of violence against women is thought to be around £40bn per year so there are significant economic and social costs that could be saved
- the total cost of each rape is estimated to be £76,000, so again each incident prevented would be associated with a significant reduction in costs
- the average cost of violence against the person is estimated to be around £10,000 per incident, rising to just over £20,000 for serious wounding, around £31,000 for sexual offences, and to almost £1.5million in the case of homicide. Reductions in these offences would lead to substantial savings.

The potential benefits of each government intervention will vary depending on the type of intervention used, and possibly the mix of interventions that are used. For example, the benefits to some prevention policies are often not easily identified as they are longer term in nature compared with those that can result from the immediate provision of services.

Policies to improve education for example, will see slower results than measures to improve the feeling of safety in problematic areas. The evaluation of 'Domestic Violence Matters' showed that there was a window of opportunity of around four hours following an assault during which a supportive intervention could have had more positive and far-reaching outcomes than if offered later. Helping those likely to receive a disclosure of violence may have a cost-saving impact.

In addition, an evaluation of Local Authority Sanctuary Schemes showed their cost effectiveness in comparison with re-homing an at-risk woman and her family. There is also evidence to show that perpetrator programmes are effective if accessed quickly, though there are access delays in some areas.

### **Monitoring**

As a result of the consultation and the implementation of new policies, it is likely that there will be an increase in the reporting of violence against women and this will need to be factored in when assessing levels and changes in violent crime. This impact will be assessed using official British Crime Statistics, especially on levels of repeat victimisation to determine impact. There is also a wide range of third-sector evidence that may be drawn on in order to determine the impact of new actions taken.

### **Evaluation**

An appropriate cross government evaluation programme will be considered during the consultation period and will need to consider the type and mix of new initiatives that are implemented.

### **Feedback**

The consultation process is the first step in ensuring there is sufficient feedback into the policy making process. Given the new focus on prevention, and the linking of composite offences into a 'violence against women' strategy, the government will also seek to assess the impact of this new approach and will continue to consult widely with key stakeholders.

### **References**

British Crime Survey (2007/08)

Hard knock life (April 2008), *Violence against women*, A guide for donors and funders, New Philanthropy Capital

The Economic and Social Costs of Crime against individuals and households in 2003/04, Home Office On Line Report 30/05

Walby, S. (2004) *The Cost of Domestic Violence*, Women and Equality Unit, see publications in <http://www.womenandequalityunit.gov.uk>

**Specific Impact Tests: Checklist (next section)**

The relevant tests will be completed as part of a full Impact Assessment for the strategy.

## Specific Impact Tests: Checklist

Use the table below to demonstrate how broadly you have considered the potential impacts of your policy options.

**Ensure that the results of any tests that impact on the cost-benefit analysis are contained within the main evidence base; other results may be annexed.**

Type of testing undertaken	<i>Results in Evidence Base?</i>	<i>Results annexed?</i>
Competition Assessment	No	No
Small Firms Impact Test	No	No
Legal Aid	No	No
Sustainable Development	No	No
Carbon Assessment	No	No
Other Environment	No	No
Health Impact Assessment	No	No
Race Equality	No	No
Disability Equality	No	No
Gender Equality	No	No
Human Rights	No	No
Rural Proofing	No	No

