



Men Overcoming Violence

STRATEGIC PLAN 2020 - 2024



OUR MISSION

To promote the safety and wellbeing of women and children who have experienced violence and abuse in their intimate relationships, through the provision of **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PERPETRATOR INTERVENTION PROGRAMMES** for men, where they are challenged to take responsibility for their abuse.

To change their attitudes and behaviour and develop respectful, non-abusive relationships.

OUR VISION

Families and relationships, safe and free from abuse in all its forms.

INTRODUCTION

MOVE Ireland is the largest provider of Domestic Violence Perpetrator Intervention Programmes (DVPPs) for men in Ireland, delivering programmes in the following areas; Athlone, Sligo, Tralee, Galway, Cork, Dublin (Tallaght, Swords and Dublin City) Navan, Limerick/Clare and North Tipperary.

There is much to celebrate about the quality and accessibility of services for perpetrators in Ireland namely;

- The establishment in 2017 of a National DVPP (CHOICES) funded by the Department of Justice and Equality, delivered by MOVE Ireland, MEND and the North East Domestic Violence Intervention Programme (NEDVIP), incorporating standardized training and supervision arrangements;
- Sustainable rolling intervention programmes;
- Support for partners of men referred to the programme;
- Accessible services which are open to referrals from services and individuals;
- Increased knowledge and recognition of the value of DVPPs. Interventions which hold abusers to account while simultaneously linking victims into support services, play a role in the infrastructure and responses to ending all forms of domestic abuse (DA). For many men, women and children, their lives are improved following a domestic violence perpetrator programme.

- *“Following successful assessment the current evidence tells us that steps towards change happen for most. Some men make only a few, halting steps forward.. a tiny minority take steps backwards..others start taking small steps and end up taking huge leaps... Far fewer women report being physically abused (61% before, compared to 2% after), they report that forced sexual abuse is reduced (from 30% to ZERO), with similar reductions for using a weapon’. Significant outcomes for children’s quality of life included, reductions in worrying about their mothers’ safety and being frightened of the perpetrator”.* Kelly, L. and Westmarland, N. (2015) Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programmes: Steps Towards Change. Executive Summary. London and Durham: London Metropolitan University and Durham University.

Additional gains in the wider Domestic Violence sector include;

- The introduction of new DV legislation which improves the protections available to victims of domestic violence under both civil and criminal law with the creation of a new offence of coercive control.
- Establishment of the Garda National Protective Service Bureau and the roll out of Protective Service Units (DPSU’s) will improve the care and support offered to victims.

Despite these developments significant challenges remain. Domestic abuse is complex. Ending it requires committed leadership and active collaboration across multiple agencies at National, regional and local levels. The resources required for active collaboration are easy to underestimate, or even overlook. Absence of same can result in inefficient responses and multiple missed opportunities to increase safety and wellbeing for women and children in domestic violence situations.

This plan attempts to address some of the current shortcomings in the management and delivery of DVPPs by MOVE Ireland.

PRIORITIES

PRIORITY 1: Increase the safety of women and children at risk of domestic abuse through on-going professional provision of DVPPs to best practice standards.

Ensure Effective & Professional Delivery of CHOICES

Maintain on-going review of CHOICES, via feedback from facilitators, partner contact workers and clients.

Undertake a training needs analysis on an annual basis with staff and deliver training to meet needs identified.

Enhance the online resources available to MOVE Ireland

Further develop the on-line capacity of the organisation to operate in a secure and effective manner.

Ensure alignment with best practice standards

Demonstrate alignment against standards both within the UK (RESPECT) and in Europe through the Working with Perpetrators and European Network. (WWP-EN)



PRIORITY 2: Ensure Sustainability, Consolidate and Extend Programme Delivery.

The current model of delivery needs to be reviewed in order to ensure sustainability, consolidate existing work and offer programmes in areas where none currently exist.

Ensure Sustainability through Consolidation.

Identify configuration of programmes that leads to lesser reliance on sessional roles.

Take Up Role of LEAD DVPP Provider.

Produce a briefing paper in Partnership with MEND and NEDVIP:
Undertake an analysis of DVPP's in Ireland and develop a National Vision for Leadership.

Identify DVP Interventions suitable for more rural locations.

Research Models of Best Practice for working with DV Perpetrators in lesser populated areas where groups are not viable.

Pilot After Care Groups in suitable areas

Examine the feasibility of developing after care groups.

Expand the Delivery of Partner Support Groups where feasible.

A support group currently operates in the Dublin area. The feasibility of running groups elsewhere will be explored.

MOVE CHOICES Training Unit

Develop capacity of **MOVE** Ireland to deliver the CHOICES training in partnership with MEND and NEDVIP.

PRIORITY 3: Develop Pathways to MOVE Programmes.

Professionals coming into contact with abusers need to be aware that programmes exist, that they are proven, evidence based and have the skills themselves to identify and motivate men to seek help. Men suitable for DVPPs also need awareness of where they exist and how to access these services.

Develop a focused Communications and Media Strategy.

MOVE will consider how to reach target audiences with messaging relating to the impact DVPPs have for men, women and children.

Interagency Collaboration

Identify suitable pilot initiatives aimed at targeting particular populations to raise awareness about **MOVE** Ireland and the services it provides. Potential partners could include: An Garda Síochána, TUSLA, Mental Health Services.

Maximise Website & On-line opportunities

Examine successful on-line DVPP interventions that raise awareness of DV and have the potential to change behaviour.

Train Frontline Professionals in recognizing and working with perpetrators

Move Ireland will Develop and roll out 1 & 2 - day training programmes for frontline staff.

"Research has found that staff who encounter through their work, men who are abusive to Women lack knowledge and the skills to engage with these individuals. This is evident among services such as An Garda Síochána, General Practitioners, and Health Service workers such as public health nurses".

Referring Men, an exploration of front-line workers' needs for referring abusive men to MEND domestic abuse intervention programmes, Men's Development Network, 2010.

PRIORITY 4: Measure Success: Share our Expertise and Knowledge.

There is a growing recognition of the important role that DVPPs can play in increasing the safety of Women and Children.

Demonstrate how success should be measured in Ireland, in terms of impact, reduction of abuse, harm, fear and crime, increase in women and children's safety, autonomy and mobility.

Make data from CHOICES Evaluation available to inform Government Policy. Review current evaluation measures to evaluate the impact of CHOICES and revise where necessary considering good practice.

PRIORITY 5: Actively contribute towards the prevention of male violence against women and children.

Collaboration with Key Agencies.

Develop working relationships with services including woman's services to reduce the incidence of DV in Ireland.

Expand into Prevention Work more broadly.

Discuss co-delivery of prevention programmes with other services working in this area.

Consider Opportunities for engaging in areas which focus on exploring gender norms

Work in partnership with other organisations to explore masculinity, gender roles and men. i.e. White Ribbon and other projects.



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