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Division	Policy/project/initiative	Description	Update
Crim Just / VWU	Appropriate Adults	Introduction of a statutory Appropriate Adult service to support vulnerable accused, victims and witnesses with communication needs during police procedures.	The regulations were laid before the Scottish Parliament on 1 November 2019, and are intended to come into force on 10 January 2020. This is the same date that a new duty on the police to request Appropriate Adult support for vulnerable adults in custody commences. Local authorities will be responsible for delivering Appropriate Adult services and for training practitioners, while the Care Inspectorate will be responsible for assessing the quality of Appropriate Adult provision. Additional funding of £1 million per annum has been agreed for local authorities, with £500,000 already allocated this financial year. The Care Inspectorate will received funding of £180,000 in relation to the quality assessment function
Connected Communities	Hate Crime	Consultation on the recommendations from Lord Bracadale's Review of Scottish Hate Crime legislation with a view to consolidate all current legislation and consider updating aggravators and extending to other characteristics.	Public consultation ran from 14 November 2018 to 24 February 2019. During that period, a series of 11 public consultation events plus a number of stakeholder events were held. Consultation responses will be used in determining the proposed Hate Crime Bill. The responses were published on the SG website on 24 June 2019 with the consultation analysis report was published on 27 June 2019. Hate Crime Bill was publicly announced in the Programme for Government in September 2019.
Adult Mental Health/ Public Mental Health and Suicide Prevention	Collaborative Response to Distress	Work programme being developed to improve collaboration between Police, Health & Social Care and other partners to people who present in emotional or mental health Distress. The work aims to develop a more strategic approach in order to deliver user-focused pathways for people presenting to public services in Distress. A proposal to establish a Distress Action Group, comprised of senior leaders across the Health, Social Care and Justice sectors was agreed by the Health and Justice Collaboration Improvement Board in March 2019, and is now being progressed by Scottish Government. The Action Group will: Provide strategic leadership; Promote the shared vision for the system; Coordinate engagement with partners to secure buy-in; Generate learning on the barriers to joint working between health and justice partners; and, Report to Ministers and the Health and Justice Collaboration Board. The Action Group includes senior representation from: NHS Boards Chief Executives Group, Integrated Joint Boards Chief Officers Group, Police Scotland, Scottish Police Authority, NHS 24, Scottish Ambulance Service, COSLA, Scottish Government, Social Work, NHS Information Services Division, The Distress Brief Interventions Programme and Third Sector. The Group is geared pragmatically and will progress this work through a series of workshops.	There are already significant initiatives at both local and national level aimed at improving the collaborative response of services to individuals who present in emotional or mental health Distress. These include the Distress Brief Interventions programme, the development of NHS 24s Mental Health hub and local Community Triage and other similar arrangements. The Health and Justice Collaboration Improvement Board (HJCIB) established a 'Policing and Mental Health Sub-Group' in 2018, to consider how collaboration between police and health services could be improved in relation to mental health. The Sub-Group presented a paper setting out principles and priorities for developing a stronger 'collaborative response to distress', recognising that 'distress' requires a collaborative response from a wide variety of partners and does not always require a clinical response. The paper looked at ways of strengthening the evidence base, gaps in current provision and the development of new approaches. In March 2019 the HJCIB approved the creation of the new Distress Group to develop and progress a programme of work. This Group has now been established and is taking forward the work through a series of workshops. There are significant crossovers between this work and wider work under way to address issues of mental health and protecting vulnerable people. The lifespan of the Group is expected to be three years, with a modular approach delivering tangible outcomes throughout this period.

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Civil Law & Legal System/ Family Law	Children (Scotland) Bill	The Children (Scotland) Bill was introduced on 2 September 2019. The Bill is informed by the consultation on Reviewing the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 last year. One of the aims of the Bill is to ensure that, where there has been domestic abuse, victims and their children are sufficiently protected in civil court proceedings in relation to contact and residence.	The Bill contains provisions prohibiting the personal conduct of a case in family proceedings involving vulnerable witnesses. The Bill also contains provisions allowing the court in family proceedings to issue directions in relation to vulnerable witnesses, such as the use of screens, live television links, or supporters.
Civil Law & Legal System/ Family Law	Family Justice Modernisation Strategy	The Family Justice Modernisation Strategy (FJMS) was published on 3 September 2019. It is also informed by the consultation on Reviewing the Children (Scotland) Act 1995. The FJMS sets out work that is ongoing by Scottish Government and others; work that can be done via secondary legislation or by improved guidance; areas covered by the Children (Scotland) Bill; and areas that are for longer term work.	In addition to the provisions in the Bill, the FJMS sets out further work that Scottish Government and others are undertaking to protect victims of domestic abuse. This includes preventing repeated litigation in family cases, improving the interaction between criminal and civil courts in the context of domestic abuse, and ensuring civil courts are provided with information on domestic abuse.
Criminal Justice Reform Unit	Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) (Scotland) Act 2019	The main purpose of the Act is to improve how child and vulnerable witnesses participate in our criminal justice system by enabling the much greater use of pre-recording their evidence in advance of the criminal trial. Some of the other changes made by the Act will affect all vulnerable witnesses.	On Monday 18 November 2019, the first Commencement Regulations for the Act were laid in Parliament, and will come into effect on 20 January 2020. The Regulations will ensure that any child witness under the age of 18 giving evidence in the most serious cases will be allowed to have it pre-recorded, sparing them the trauma of giving evidence during a trial. This first phase of implementing the new pre-recording rule will cover certain cases in the High Court. The Cabinet Secretary opened the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service's new Glasgow Evidence and Hearings Suite on Monday 18 November. The suite provides facilities to let child witnesses pre-record their evidence and for vulnerable witnesses to give evidence remotely away from the formality of a court room. The suite also provides hearing rooms for the Additional Support Needs Tribunal.
Criminal Justice Reform Unit	Jury Research	Conducting Jury Research into the dynamics of jury decision making in Scotland's Unique Scottish Criminal justice System was a recommendation of Lord Bonomy's Post Corroboration Safeguards Review.	The findings of this research were published on 9 October 2019 and the Scottish Government hosted a short launch event on that day. This marked the beginning of more widespread engagement with justice organisations, legal professionals, the third sector and people with experience of the criminal justice system to seek their views on the findings and any implications for potential future criminal justice reforms. Interest in the engagement process can be registered by contacting juryresearch@gov.scot .

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Safer Communities	Scottish Violence Reduction Unit's Navigator Programme	The programme aims to interrupt the the cycle of violence for both victims and perpetrators. Navigators currently operate in 4 Accident & Emergency departments in Scotland and reach out to patients who present with injuries as a result of violence and chaos. Navigators offer them immediate support at the time of need (in A&E) and then do follow up work with individuals by 'navigating' them to support services (such as drug and alcohol, housing, employment etc). Navigator programme is in this years PFG	All of this information is available to the public along with 2 progress reports. 6 month report - http://actiononviolence.org/sites/default/files/Navigator%20evaluation_0.pdf 12 month report - http://actiononviolence.org/sites/default/files/Navigator%2012%20month%20report%20%28%29_0.pdf
Defence, Security & Cyber Resilience Division/ Cyber Resilience Unit	Safe, Secure and Prosperous: A Cyber Resilience Strategy for Scotland	Cyber crime is sometimes mistakenly perceived as a victimless crime, but it can cause emotional, physical and financial trauma. The aims of this strategy are to build the cyber resilience of citizens and organisations in Scotland, in order to benefit from the opportunities of using digital technologies safely and securely.	SG has put in place a number of action plans, working with partners such as Police Scotland, Education Scotland, local authorities, businesses and charities to support individuals and organisations to become more resilient when using digital technologies. Their focus is to raise standards of online and digital safety across our public, private and third sectors and awareness raising through the learning and skills action plan: https://www.gov.scot/policies/cyber-resilience/ . SG, Police Scotland, National Cyber Security Centre put out fraud alerts through their communication channels and Police Scotland are playing an important role in helping to make Scotland a nation that is more resilient to cyber attacks and cybercrime.
Criminal Justice Division	New domestic abuse legislation	Introduction of the new domestic abuse offence along with other reforms to improve the criminal justice system's response to domestic abuse	Act came into effect on 1 April 2019.
Criminal Justice Division	Introduction of new drug driving offence	New drug driving offence came into force across Scotland on 21 October 2019, introducing drug drive limits.	A public awareness raising campaign targeting drivers ran from commencement of the new offence on 21 October through to 10 November, and will re-run over the festive period, with more information for stakeholders available at: https://roadsafety.scot/topics/young-drivers/stakeholders/
Criminal Justice Division	Reforms to system of criminal conviction disclosure	The Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2019, ("the MoO(S) Act 2019"), received Royal Assent on 30 July 2019. Part 2 of this Act includes progressive reforms to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 in Scotland.	We are considering the timetable for commencing the reforms to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 under Part 2 of the Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2019. In order for implementation of the reforms, the content of certificates issued by Disclosure Scotland will need to change to reflect the new disclosure periods. Scottish Government justice officials are working closely with Disclosure Scotland on implementation planning and a commencement date will be announced in due course.

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Child Protection Unit, DCAF	Review of the criminal offence of child ill-treatment and neglect	SG to propose changes to modernise section 12 ("cruelty to children") of the Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act 1937. Consultation closed 14 Nov and next steps will be announced shortly.	The Scottish Government proposes to revise the offence to broaden the behaviours within the scope of the offence to criminalise emotional and psychological abuse/neglect of a child. This will bring the protections for children in the criminal law into line with our modern day understandings of the impact of emotional harm and childhood neglect.
Defence, Security and Cyber Resilience/ Organised Crime Unit	Scotland's Serious Organised Crime Strategy. https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-serious-organised-crime-strategy/	The overarching aim of the Strategy is to reduce the harm caused by serious organised crime. The SOC Taskforce, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, comprises representatives from key stakeholders across the public, private and third sectors. Serious organised crime in itself is largely not recognised by the general public but it impacts across the whole of society. Consequently work to deliver the Strategy will impact on many organisations and individuals.	The Strategy has 4 distinct strands: Divert, Deter, Detect and Disrupt. Each strand has an action plan which identifies a range of activities designed to achieve the outcomes set out in the Strategy. The Divert strand aims to divert people from becoming involved in serious organised crime and using its products. Working with a range of partners on the Divert subgroup, including third sector organisations, the Taskforce is working to ensure that there are appropriate interventions in schools, colleges, and communities to support young people at risk away from serious organised crime, that communities are more aware of serious organised crime and how to mitigate its risks, and that there is an increased reporting of concerns by individuals. https://www.gov.scot/policies/crime-prevention-and-reduction/serious-organised-crime/
Community Justice Engagement and Public Protection Unit	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPAs) and management of violent and sexual offenders in the community	Ongoing policy support for MAPPAs arrangements, including ongoing engagement with practitioners and responsible authorities. This work has a clear focus on public protection.	
Community Justice / Community Sentences and PASS	Extension to Presumption Against Short Sentences (PASS)	<p>The presumption against short sentences is in line with our aim that prison should be reserved for serious or dangerous individuals and that short periods of imprisonment should only be imposed where there are no other alternatives.</p> <p>On 26 June, the Scottish Parliament approved an order to extend the presumption from sentences of 3 months or less to sentences of 12 months or less. The order came into force on 4 July 2019 and applies to offences committed on or after this date. The order was only laid once additional safeguards for victims, as contained within the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018, had come into force.</p>	The extended presumption against short sentences came into force on 4 July and applies to offences committed from then. The impact of the extended presumption is being monitored and Justice Analytical Services intend to publish data on a regular basis. We will update the Taskforce on the timing of the publication of this information once it is confirmed. The impact of the extended presumption is expected to be gradual.

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Community Justice / Electronic Monitoring Bill	Management of Offenders Act	The Management of Offenders(MOO) Bill will make a number of changes with wider rehabilitative benefit, including to reduce disclosure periods to allow more people to move into employment. The electronic monitoring changes will allow GPS tracking and remote alcohol monitoring. This will over time allow new monitoring capabilities for those on orders or on licence in the community, including potentially GPS exclusion zones. Once those new powers and technologies are in place, work to develop the service wil need to be done with stakeholders including victims groups.	The MoO Act passed on Tuesday 25 June and received Royal Assent on 30 July. A number of sections which introduce the improvements to Home Detention Curfew have already been commenced (e.g. new offence of remaining unlawfully at large, improved powers of recall for SPS) in October 2019. A new electronic monitoring contract has been signed with G4S (to start 1 April 2019). This will include a requirement to provide new capabilities such as GPS and remote substance monitoring. It is important that we are led in the use of these by clear policy aims and the ongoing development of the electronic monitoring service will be taken forward in conjunction with partners, including victims groups. That will influence the timing of commencement of the remaining parts of the legislation and the initiation of any new service or pilots.
VAWG and Barnahus Unit	Trauma-Informed Training	<p>Developing an adversity and trauma-informed workforce, including implementing national trauma training, is a Programme for Government commitment. This work includes professionals who work in the criminal justice system.</p> <p>In the context of developing bespoke resources for justice partners and the legal professionals, various strands of activity are on-going. Key stakeholders involved in this include NHS Education for Scotland, SWA, the Scottish Womens Rights Centre, a partnership between SafeLives, Caledonian and ASSIST and the Law Society of Scotland.</p>	<p>In June 2018, the Deputy First Minister announced £1.35 million investment to launch a National Trauma Training Programme to support the Scottish workforce to respond to psychological trauma. This training is consistent with “Transforming Psychological Trauma”, the first Knowledge and Skills Framework for the Scottish workforce, published last year by Scottish Government/NHS Education Scotland. NHS Education Scotland have worked with forensic medical examiners, the Judicial Institute and will be working with the Law Society of Scotland and SWRC to delivery bespoke training resources to help develop our approach to those who have suffered trauma. Training for Police Scotland staff began in December 2018; SafeLives having successfully tendered to deliver the training. SG funding of £825,107 is committed over 2018/19 and 2019/20 to support this work. On 30th January (2019), the Judicial Institute for Scotland announced plans to provide new refreshed training for all sheriff and judges ahead of the new domestic abuse offence coming into force. The Scottish Government hosted a roundtable in early 2019 for NHS Education Scotland, the Law Society for Scotland and other stakeholders from the legal profession to discuss opportunities to develop a bespoke trauma-informed training resource for solicitors to count towards continued professional development (CPD). There was agreement to develop a short trauma-informed animation, and officials are working in partnership with the SWRC to develop the content and specification of that. We are considering supporting the development of an e-learning package around domestic abuse and the new legislation for our non-Justice partners, including those across social work, housing, health and the education sector. A survey has been circulated to partners to understand their current training needs.</p>

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VAWG and Barnahus Unit	Forensic Medical Examinations	The Scottish Government has introduced the Forensic Medical Services (Victims of Sexual Offences) Bill to the Scottish Parliament. The Bill will clarify the legal basis for Health Boards to deliver forensic medical services and will allow consistent access to services for people who choose to report to the police as well as to those who do not or who are undecided. This is known as self-referral.	The Chief Medical Officer for Scotland, Dr Catherine Calderwood, chairs a Taskforce to provide national leadership for the improvement of healthcare and forensic medical services for adults, children and young people who have experienced rape, sexual assault or child sexual abuse. Over £8.5m has been committed over a three year period to 2020/21, to support Health Boards to embed the Healthcare Improvement Scotland Standards. Amongst other things the CMO Taskforce is supporting a new initiative to develop the role of nurse sexual offence examiners in Scotland.
VAWG and Barnahus Unit	Higher Education and Further Education	The Equally Safe in Higher Education Toolkit provides resources for institutions to tackle gender based violence; all institutions in Scotland are expected to adopt the Toolkit and factor a gendered analysis into their approach to the issue of abuse.	The Equally Safe in Higher Education Toolkit, developed by the University of Strathclyde, was launched in April 2018 and its adoption and adaption by the sector is underscored by the Ministerial Letter of Guidance from the Scottish Government to the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and in subsequent Outcome Agreement Guidance issued by the SFC to colleges and universities. Funding was announced to support the University of Strathclyde to work with institutions as they adopt and adapt the Toolkit. In September 2018, the Deputy First Minister launched gender based violence support cards highlighting where to get help for someone disclosing GBV. Regional events in 2018/19 will bring together learning around fresher's week activities (which will form a resource for universities and college) and further encourage local collaboration. The work is driven forward by the Equally Safe in Colleges and Universities Ministerial Working Group and has also led to the establishment of a Community of Practice amongst the further and higher education sector and wider third and public sector. This Group is informed by the voices of young people through the National Union of Students (NUS) and lived experience from Ms Fiona Drouet who campaigns for the adoption of the #emilytest. Early adopters of the Toolkit include the Fearless Edinburgh Group, Robert Gordon University, University of the Highlands and Islands, University of the West of Scotland and University of Aberdeen. Work is also underway with a number of colleges including Glasgow Kelvin College and Ayrshire College.
VAWG and Barnahus Unit	Barnahus	The Scottish Government has asked Healthcare Improvement Scotland, in partnership with the Care Inspectorate, to develop Scotland-specific standards for Barnahus, based on the European PROMISE quality standards which outline best practice for countries seeking to apply the Barnahus concept. This will help us to fully understand what is required to improve our collective response to child victims and provide a roadmap for developing our approach to Barnahus.	The Scottish Government has asked Healthcare Improvement Scotland, in partnership with the Care Inspectorate, to develop Scotland-specific standards for Barnahus, based on the European PROMISE quality standards which outline best practice for countries who wish to develop the model. Officials are monitoring this process and driving it forward.

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VAWG and Barnahus Unit	First Minister's National Advisory Council on Women and Girls	<p>The key aims is to improve access to justice for women and girls experiencing men's violence by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a world-leading process for complainers of sexual violence. • Criminalise serious misogynistic harassment, filling gaps in existing laws • Create a consistent and inclusive model to ensure that women experiencing domestic abuse have sufficient access to expert legal advice and legal aid. 	<p>The first report and it's recommendations are available here: https://onescotland.org/nacwg-news/2018-first-report-and-recommendations/ On the first point, please see the entry on Forensic Medical Examinations. The Scottish Government's consultation on Lord Bracadale's recommendations for reform of the law on hate crime seeks views on how best to tackle misogynistic harassment. On the final point, a consultation around changes to the legal aid system in Scotland, including questions around Scottish Legal Aid Board targeted intervention which could cover domestic abuse type cases, closed on 19th September. The responses are currently in analysis.</p>
VAWG and Barnahus Unit	Privacy Issues relating to Victims of Rape or sexual assault	<p>Scottish Government aims to strengthen the case for maintaining the dignity and privacy of complainers, in relation to both access to their sensitive records and sexual history evidence</p>	<p>Following WF, complainers whose sensitive records are being sought can access legal aid to exercise their rights. The Advice and Assistance (Proceedings for Recovery of Documents) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 help in this regard. Further, safeguards in Scots law mean the court must give explicit approval for character and past behaviour evidence to be used in sexual offence cases.</p> <p>Arrangements to intimate to complainers and others that an application for an order for recovery of their medical or other sensitive documents in connection with criminal proceedings is being taken forward by SCTS and COPFS; SCTS are committed to implement a process whereby the court will notify witnesses in the sheriff court whose sensitive records are being requested as part of a recovery of document action. This process is already in place for witnesses in the High Court.</p> <p>A judicially-led review has been established to further improve how sexual offences cases are conducted through the courts, under the leadership of Lady Dorrian and involving relevant justice and third sector representatives, including the Scottish Government. The first meeting took place on 30th April, and they expect to report in early 2020.</p>

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VAWG and Barnahus Unit	Attitudes to rape/ sexual assault	Awareness of gender-based violence has increased over recent years, particularly with the high profile nature of movements like the #metoo campaign. However, SG is keen to ensure that harmful myths and stereotypes surrounding violence against women and girls are addressed appropriately.	The Scottish Social attitudes Survey 2014: Attitudes to Violence against Women in Scotland' report presented findings on the attitudes of the Scottish public to a range of forms of violence against women, and indicated that there was a need for improved understanding of the issues. Updated data from the latest survey is anticipated to be available in Autumn 2020. SG funded a high profile public awareness campaign led by Rape Crisis Scotland to tackle the misconceptions about how victims respond to rape and sexual assault. The I Just Froze campaign addresses the myth there is a right or wrong way for people to react during or after an attack. Independent jury research was published in October 2019 which suggested that 'rape myths' may have an influence on juries' decision making. The Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm Act introduced statutory jury directions in certain sexual offences trials to address issues related to how juries perceive any delays in reporting of sexual offences and help them understand the entirely normal reactions victims of these horrendous crimes can experience. A leading coalition of UK women's groups published a new YouGov survey of UK adults' attitudes to rape and sexual violence https://yougov.co.uk/topics/resources/articles-reports/2018/12/01/publics-attitudes-sexual-consent . The End Violence Against Women Coalition commissioned the YouGov survey of around 4,000 people in order to examine why rape is still so difficult to tackle at a time when reports to police are increasing exponentially.
VAWG and Barnahus Unit	Delays to trials involving sexual offences in the High Court	It is a Scottish Government priority to find ways to reduce the trauma and improve the experience of victims within the criminal justice system. In particular, we are seeking to reduce the amount of time complainers must wait for their case to move through the justice system, and ensure that communication with complainers is improved.	We working with justice partners to promote a system which identifies and address gender biases and encourages women's active participation at all levels of the criminal justice system. Equally Safe contains a number of key Justice Actions focused on ensuring an effective Justice response to victims and tackling perpetrators. One of the actions owned by SCTS is to consider criteria to minimise transfer of High Court trials where cases involve sexual offences. In 2018/19 £0.8m funding was allocated to COPFS to recruit additional fiscal and other staff to help respond to immediate pressures associated with cases already in the system, and enhance the information and support it provides to complainers in sexual offences cases. £0.3m funding was allocated to SCTS to employ additional judiciary and court staff to facilitate the progress of High Court cases involving sexual offending.

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VAWG and Barnahus Unit	Support for rape complainers when engaging with the criminal justice system	The Scottish Government has commissioned research to help build the evidence base on people's experiences of the justice system to support particularly vulnerable people to give their best evidence.	The Scottish Government recognises the key role that advocacy services play in helping victims come forward and engage with the justice process which is why we fully support the RCS National Advocacy Project (RCS) which support victims through the criminal justice process. Between 2015-18 the Scottish Government provided an additional £1.85m to RCS to place an additional advocacy supporter in every centre in Scotland. In February 2018, the Scottish Government announced £1.7m (2018-20) to RCS to continue the project and enable additional advocacy support workers in areas which need it most. The Scottish Government want to consider new ways of taking evidence and are exploring a pilot with partners (COPFS, Police Scotland and RCS) of recording of complainers' initial statement to the police, to be used as evidence later in a trial. A working group chaired by Scottish Government has been established to support this work. Rape Crisis are acting as a conduit to those with lived experience to shape the appropriate advocacy support required for victims who access the pilot. We have funded research by SCCJR which will help to build the evidence base on people's experiences of the justice system to support particularly vulnerable people to give their best evidence. The early findings of Justice Journeys were presented to Scottish Government in April 2019, with particular insight into communication, court experience and reform. SCCJR will present these initial findings at the upcoming meeting of the VTF.
VAWG and Barnahus Unit	GDPR	The situation and risks around GDPR have been acknowledged, and meetings with key stakeholders have been held. The Justice Board GDPR leads are working together to consider if further action is required, and a Scottish Government workshop on information sharing between statutory agencies and the third sector is planned for mid 2019.	The situation and risks have been acknowledged, and meetings with key stakeholders have been held. The Justice Board GDPR leads are working together to consider if further action is required.
VAWG and Barnahus Unit	Rape Complainers Pilot	Exploring a pilot of recording of rape complainers' initial statement to the police, to be used as evidence in chief in any subsequent trial	A working group including representation from COPFS, Police Scotland, Rape Crisis Scotland and Scottish Government (including Justice Analytical Services) is exploring a pilot of recording rape complainers' initial statements to police. The Group has met 7 times and work has focussed on agreeing a proposal which will seek the necessary approval from Law Officers and Police Scotland's Force Executive to pilot the visual recording of witness statements provided by adult complainers of rape/attempted rape to officers of Police Scotland. The agreed aims of the pilot are to:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visually record adult rape complainers' statements • Ensure that the visually recorded interview is of a standard which could be used as a 'prior statement' in evidence in chief; and • Consider the likely impact of the use of visually recorded interviews on any court proceedings

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VAWG and Barnahus Unit	Access to legal advice for victims of GBV	The Scottish Government supports the Scottish Women's Rights Centre; established in March 2015, to support a project to provide improved access to justice through the provision of support and legal advice on civil matters to women who had experienced gender based violence.	The SWRC has been successful in supporting women affected by gender-based violence, solicitors working with the same, and provision of a helpline for those victims. The SWRC has expanded its services during 2019, and now provides a legal helpline four days per week, four legal surgeries (Lanarkshire, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Forth Valley), advocacy services, online legal guides, the FollowIt app and the Sexual Harassment Legal Service. SWRC have engaged in multi-agency meetings to establish surgeries in Dundee and Inverness. They aim to increase access to legal support in other locations, particularly rural areas where availability can be limited.
VAWG and Barnahus Unit	Advocacy Project	There are a number of service providers currently within Scotland who provide vital assistance and advocacy for victims of gender based violence.	We recognise the key role that advocacy services play in helping victims come forward and engage with the justice process. An Independent Advocacy Scoping Exercise For Victims Of Violence Against Women And Girls' was published in 2017. The gaps identified were: o Geographical gaps in court advocacy where there is little or no service currently o Gaps in court advocacy for children and young people in relation to domestic abuse. o Gaps in services for particular identified groups such as BME and LGBT communities A scoping report working group was set up following the publication of the Equally Safe Delivery Plan, and Scottish Government officials are due to meet with stakeholders in mid 2019 to discuss future steps.

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CMO Taskforce	Improvement of services for adult and child victims of rape and sexual assault	<p>The Chief Medical Officer chairs a Taskforce for improving services for adult and child victims of rape and sexual assault. This follows the 2017 HMICS report which provided a strategic overview of forensic medical and healthcare services for victims of sexual crime. The Taskforce vision is for consistent, person centred, trauma informed healthcare and forensic medical services and access to recovery for anyone who has experienced rape or sexual assault in Scotland.</p> <p>The Scottish Government's commitment to improving provision for victims is set out in the 2019/20 Programme for Government. It makes a specific commitment to continue to improve the experience of victims by introducing legislation to improve the way in which forensic medical examinations and associated healthcare is delivered, taking a trauma-informed approach and introducing a self-referral model for victims of sexual crime who wish to have a forensic medical examination without first reporting a crime to the police. The work being undertaken by the Taskforce and its subgroups is central to how this vision and PfG commitments will be delivered.</p>	<p>The Forensic Medical Services (Victims of Sexual Offences) (Scotland) Bill was introduced to Parliament on 27 November. The Bill will place a statutory responsibility on health boards for the delivery of forensic medical services. The Bill will also enable health boards to retain certain forensic evidence. This may support any future criminal justice process, should a victim not wish to report the incident to the police or is undecided about doing so (self-referral). The Chief Medical Officer met with Rape Crisis Chief Executive, Sandy Brindley and survivors to listen to their experiences of forensic medical examination services. This event coincided with the introduction of the Bill.</p> <p>A key priority for the CMO Taskforce is to support health boards to develop a multi-disciplinary workforce so that appropriately qualified and experienced nurses are able to undertake forensic medical examinations of victims of sexual crime and give evidence in court, as doctors currently do. Following Cabinet Secretary and Lord Advocate approval, the Taskforce will deliver by taking forward a new initiative that will be hosted by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde to develop the role of nurse Sexual Offence Examiners in Scotland. It is anticipated this will start early next year. This will help to build a multi-disciplinary workforce for the future. This approach is vital to supporting the sustainability of services in rural and island communities as well as increasing the number of females available to undertake this important work.</p> <p>To support Boards readiness for self-referral, a new subgroup under the CMO Taskforce has been established to develop guidance for health boards to support implementation of the self-referral provisions in the Bill. The group is chaired by Jillian Galloway, NHS Tayside and held its first meeting on 11 December.</p>
Child Protection Unit, DCAF	Expert Group on Preventing Sexual Offending Involving Children and Young People	The Scottish Government established an Expert Group on Preventing Sexual Offending Involving Children and Young People in January 2018 with the aim of considering the evidence and current responses relating to harmful sexual behaviour involving children and young people, as well as potential further actions to prevent and respond to such behaviours.	The Expert Group is expected to share a final report with Scottish Ministers, setting out a number of cross-cutting recommendations for actions to address and prevent sexual offending involving children and young people.

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Crimjus: Digital and strategy unit	Criminal Justice Digital Transformation mapping	<p>The Criminal Justice System Digital Transformation Roadmap project (stage 1) aims to identify and understand key priorities and planned reforms of each criminal justice organisation and present them as a system level plan. This will allow justice partners to consider firstly, the likely cumulative impact on the system of those reforms and secondly, to what extent at a system level the plan will contribute to the achievement of the Justice Vision and Priorities agreed by justice partners and published in 2017. As part of this work the project considered the impact of current and planned transformation projects on victims and witnesses. The project recognised that there is a significant and collective effort by the national Justice Board, SG Justice, Criminal Justice partners, and Third Sector to continually look at opportunities to strengthen the justice system through reform, modernisation, and transformation. The project highlighted that a number of projects which directly impact on victims and witnesses was comparably small to the total number of transformation projects taking place, though it is recognised that there will be numerous indirect impacts. Throughout the project, engagement with policy teams, VSS and Rape Crisis Scotland highlighted not only the strong desire to but also ways in which to improve experiences for Victims and Witnesses and the likely challenges to achieving this. More generally, there is room to strengthen system level strategic thinking to support digitally enabled transformation activity across the system and develop a framework for system level governance to assess, mitigate and manage system wide risk.</p>	<p>The final report and associated documents was considered by the national Justice Board at its meeting on 28 March. Members were invited to consider a number of recommendations that aim to better coordinate transformation priorities across the system and deliver better services to Victims and Witnesses. Justice Board members welcomed the report and recommendations. The most fundamental recommendation is that partners should together establish an outline 'Future State' for criminal justice. There is considerable potential and opportunity for a shared future vision for the system to enhance the deliverability of the outcomes and priorities already articulated in "Vision and Priorities" by layering detail and providing a practical focus for reform activity. With an agreed target state, developing and prioritising system transformation plans could become both meaningful and achievable. In conclusion, the outcome of the road mapping report confirmed there is more work to be done (stage 2) in coordinating and bringing system-wide coherence to digital transformation activity.</p>
Care, Justice & Protection:Redress Team	Redress for Survivors of In Care Abuse	<p>DFM announced in October 2018 that there will be financial redress for survivors of historical child abuse in care settings. The intention is to introduce a statutory redress scheme before the end of the current Parliament, with legislation to be introduced in the first half of 2020. Alongside this we have developed an Advance Payment Scheme for survivors aged 70 and over or who are terminally ill. The scheme opened for applications on 25 April 2019. The Advance Payment Scheme comes ahead of planned legislation for a statutory redress scheme, which the Scottish Government intends will pass its final Parliamentary stages before March 2021. A 3 month consultation prior to legislation is due to begin in September 2019.</p>	<p>A Ministerial Group has been established to ensure close working across relevant parts of Government with an interest in Redress.</p>

Scottish Government

Division	Policy/project/ initiative	Description	Update
Crim Just / VWU	Victim Surcharge Fund	Powers in the Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014 to introduce a victim surcharge, payable by offenders when convicted on certain offences, as specified by Scottish Ministers. Aiming to have powers in force in Autumn 2019.	From 25 November 2019 people who commit offences that incur a court fine will pay an additional amount – the victim surcharge. Amount payable by offender is proportionate to amount of fine. Surcharge will be collected by SCTS and banked into the Victim Surcharge Fund. Payments from the fund will start to be made six to 12 months later. Victim support organisations will be able to apply to the fund to cover the costs of providing short-term and practical support such as new windows and locks for housebreaking victims or funeral expenses for families of murder victims. Applications will have to be in line with Guidance which will be published by May 2020. Feedback on a first draft of the Guidance has been sought from victim organisations, with further engagement and consultation planned before the finalised Guidance and application process is agreed.
Crim Just / VWU	Deaths Abroad	Engagement with individuals who have lost a loved one overseas in suspicious circumstances. Looking at support provided at home and abroad and how it could be improved.	Cabinet Secretary for Justice has met various families and politicians to discuss these issues. Also links into work of UK All-Party Group on Deaths Abroad and Consular Services, who published their report on 2 November. SG are considering the findings and how we can work alongside UK government and other agencies to improve how victims and their families are supported following the death of a relative overseas. Taskforce can consider issues common to all victims e.g. timely support and information. Others issues require specialist consular support.
Criminal Justice	Joint Investigative Interviews (JIIs)	To take forward the recommendations from the Evidence and Procedure Review to improve the quality of JIIs and to facilitate their more frequent use as evidence in chief.	Oversight on the progression of the justice sector aspects of the recommendations is managed through SG led Governance and Reference Groups. Funding has already been provided to improve current facilities, and for Police and Social Work to make progress on a joint training project. One of the pilots for the new JII Training course has already commenced. Feedback to date has been very positive (if any member of group would be interested in learning more about the content of the course please email Jeff.Gibbons@gov.scot). Further work has been undertaken of the revised guidance. The Scottish has also agreed to fund the new COSLA based JII National Implementation Manager post, to lead efforts, in partnership with Police Scotland and Local Authority colleagues, to facilitate the introduction of a new practice and delivery model for the Joint Investigative Interviewing of Children (JII) across all parts of Scotland.

Scottish Government

Division	Policy/project/initiative	Description	Update
Community Justice	Consultation - Transforming Parole in Scotland	The consultation focuses on four key themes: strengthening the voice of victims and their families in the parole process; decision making and the transparency of decisions; supervision, review and recall of individuals; and independence, governance and accountability arrangements of the Parole Board for Scotland.	<p>The consultation report was published on 22 November and identified a number of actions to be taken forward. An Implementation Group is being set up which will have a number of workstreams with the main aim of delivering the actions. We will be approaching a number of key stakeholders to join the group. We hope to have the first meeting in the New Year. A detailed route map is being developed with key milestones to keep the project on track. The actions identified include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring options for victim attendance at parole hearings; • Matters relating to victims safety being incorporated into rules (rule 8); • Exploring use of GPS technology with Parole Board (early discussions have taken place with Parole Scotland); • Publication of decisions and reasons; • Improving visibility of the Parole Board; • Improving sharing of information; • Undertaking a rewrite of the Parole Board rules – taking in changes from the Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2019 and consultation actions; • Carrying out a targeted consultation, as suggested by the Parole Board, on transferring the Parole Board to the Scottish Tribunals; and • incorporating a review process into the rewrite of the Parole Board rules.
Equalities Unit	Equally Safe	A roundtable is planned in the summer to develop our collective approach to men and boys- as potential victims of abuse, as perpetrators of it and as allies in standing up to it and calling our unacceptable behaviour. This will include a focus on gender stereotyping and toxic masculinity and how this is harmful to both men and women	

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SCTS	EPR - New Summary Criminal Model (CJR 1)	Project (P)	The aim is to implement the vision of a "new model" for summary crime (as detailed in the original "Evidence and Procedure Review" and the reports from the subsequent working groups).	LIFESPAN - 5 – 10 years to progress reforms on the scale of EPR	In the long run, the new model should help to significantly speed up the operation of the summary courts, and deliver a tangible reduction in the delays currently experienced by victims and witnesses
			The new model requires - much stronger case management by the judiciary	The guiding principles have been agreed and set out in Practice Note 2 of 2019 . Pilots in 3 sheriff court locations (Dundee, Hamilton and Paisley) start from Jan 2020 and will run over the next 18 months.	Cases will be resolved earlier, and less witnesses will be cited - in the pilot areas
			The new model requires - far greater use of digital technologies	Scoping of the digital changes will commence once the evaluation reports become available from the case management pilots.	If a decision is taken to proceed with a national rollout - cases will be resolved earlier, and less witnesses will be cited - in all areas
SCTS	EPR - New purpose built facilities (CJR 2)	Project (P)	Design and build a new 'Evidence and Hearings Suite' in Glasgow so that children & vulnerable witnesses can access a more child friendly and trauma informed environment (as an alternative to giving evidence in a courtroom).	The Evidence and Hearings Suite in Glasgow is now complete and opened for bookings from October 2019.	The new suite will support the presumption in favour of pre-recorded evidence, ensuring that best evidence is secured while reducing the trauma for witnesses by keeping children and vulnerable witnesses out of the court environment.
			Glasgow lessons learned are being used to inform development of a similar Evidence and Hearings Suite in the new Inverness Justice Centre.	The Suite in the new Inverness Justice Centre is expected to be operational from spring 2020	" "
			Glasgow lessons learned will inform the installation of fixed recording equipment into existing hearing rooms in Aberdeen and Edinburgh	"Fixed Recording" options to be installed in Aberdeen and Edinburgh from spring 2020	The use of fixed recording equipment will make "recording" less intrusive for children and vulnerable witnesses attending these locations
SCTS	EPR - Greater use of pre-recorded evidence (CJR 2)	Project (P)	The Scottish Parliament approved the legal presumption in favour of prerecording so:	LIFESPAN - 5 years for a phased rollout to child witnesses (with an extension to adult vulnerable witnesses possible by regulation)	The increased use of pre-recorded evidence goes to the core of keeping children and vulnerable witnesses out of the court environment
			High Court - the court will scale up its ability to resource the additional "ground rules hearings", and the "commission hearings" at which the recordings are made	The new rule is being commenced from 20 Jan 2020 for children <18 cited to appear in the High Court	" "
			Sheriff and Jury Courts - the court will scale up its ability to resource the additional "ground rules hearings", and the "commission hearings" at which the recordings are made	Commencement of the new rule is expected from Jul 2021 for child complainants <16 cited to appear in Sheriff & Jury Court	" "

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SCTS	Live TV links	Project (P)	Digital Rollout - general upgrades to the digital infrastructure that the SCTS provides to enable witnesses to appear in court via live TV links (in lieu of having to make a personal appearance in court)	Lifespan - Ongoing	Improving the quality of live TV links enhances the user experience for those witnesses who appear outwith the courtroom, and for any jurors who may need to assess the credibility of that witness
SCTS	Criminal Justice Portal	Project (P)	Digital Rollout – ongoing enhancements to the existing portal that provides read only access (to criminal justice partners) - for those with a legitimate business reason to view subsets of data within the internal SCTS case management system (COPII)	Lifespan - Ongoing	This portal provides an ability for some Criminal Justice Partners to access key information in real time and to support the service standards for provision of key information to witnesses
SCCJR	Taking Stock of Violence in Scotland (Scottish Govt funded)	Research (R)	Compilation of key research over past ten years on range of contexts of violence (relationships, young people, night time economy, etc.) to update understanding and changes in concepts, concerns and trends of violence	end March 2019 – final report submitted, publication date being negotiated, looks like September.	Identifies contexts in which violence likely to occur; identifies key groups targeted and engaged in violence; includes but not limited to gender/domestic violence; offers a resource for understanding what we have learned over last decade. A draft report was submitted in March and feedback received. We are now integrating feedback and depending on review of this, aim to publish in September.
SCCJR	'Justice Journeys': Survivors of Sexual Violence Lived Experience of court and justice processes (Scottish Govt and ESRC funded)	Research (R)	Victim-survivors' end-to-end experiences of the criminal justice system, in depth interviews with victim-survivors about their experiences of criminal justice; uses collaborative, arts-based methods to support participants in writing and representing their 'journey'	2019/2020 (provisional info available in 2019); report published 22 August 2019, available here: https://www.sccjr.ac.uk/publications/justice-journeys-informing-policy-and-practice-through-lived-experience-of-victim%e2%80%90survivors-of-rape-and-serious-sexual-assault/	Provides first person experiences, detailed case studies of victim perspectives of sexual/domestic violence; presents information about experiences of criminal justice responses to victimisation that can inform practice and policy
SCCJR	IMPRODOVA: Front line responses to domestic violence across Europe (European Horizon 2020 funded)	Research (R)	A 36-month European Commission funded research and innovation project focused on how police and other frontline responders (e.g. medical and social work professionals) respond to domestic abuse in 8 European countries. The research involves 8 countries (Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Portugal, Scotland, Slovenia), and 16 project partners	around April 2021	Comparative, international information about responses to violence and victimisation; focus on practices and challenges for first responders; expected outputs include toolkits and other practical assistance.

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SCCJR	Domestic abuse and child contact: the interface between criminal and civil justice (Scottish Govt Funded) PI Prof Jane Mair	Research (R)	Research examining the points of articulation (and dislocation) between civil and criminal law in domestic abuse cases through a specific focus on child contact proceedings especially in light of changing definitions of DA (e.g. coercive control).	end August 2019	Offers specific information about Scottish proceedings and professional perspectives; will produce policy and practice recommendations about better coordination of civil and criminal proceedings.
SCCJR	Children and young people's experiences of victims in the criminal justice system: a qualitative research project (NSPCC funded)	Research (R)	Children and young people's experience of the criminal justice system (England and Wales) when they are victims or witnesses in allegations of abuse. Also will capture parent/carer views.	Revised completion date December 2019.	will build understanding and case studies that give insight for policy makers, professionals and the public, to support improved experiences.
SCCJR	Identifying the presence of children and young people who have been trafficked and establish their routes to arrival (Scottish Govt funded)	Research (R)	Working with key stakeholders to identify the broader context of child trafficking in Scotland. The overall aim of the research is to: Provide a comprehensive understanding of how many children and young people have been identified as being trafficked across Scotland; Establish routes into trafficking (geographically; demographically and socially)	Research has now been completed, report being finalised with expected publication in the Autumn.	Mapping extent, areas and populations in Scotland affected by trafficking of children and young people; will inform ability to generate preventive and enforcement responses. This study has now been completed and a final (prepublication) presentation made to the Child Trafficking Steering Group in May 2019.
SCCJR	Lives Sentenced: How people experience and make sense of punishment (ESRC)	Research (R)	This research on people experiencing short sentences exposed profound and pervasive experiences of trauma in childhood and adulthood, often connected to criminal victimisation, including rape, being held hostage by a partner, the murder of family members, being stabbed and domestic violence. Adult traumatisation could mean a return to offending, because of self-medication with drugs and/or alcohol.	Phase 1 (2014) completed with 37 interviews, phase 2 (2016) completed with 17 interviews, phase 3 (2018/19) funded by CJScotland) completed with 9 interviews. Follow-up contacts made with the family or support staff of four further participants, who have passed away.	Offers indirect evidence supporting presumption against short sentences; indirect evidence support for trauma informed approaches with offenders and victims; shows extent of overlap between victims and offenders; includes experiences of men and women; has produced a graphic novel appropriate for range of audiences and a website.

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SCCJR	Measuring Justice: Defining Concepts, Developing Practice (Scottish Government funded)	Research (R)	Research gathering evidence on how user experiences of justice are and can be measured with an eye on informing development of policy tools. User includes victims, witnesses, offenders and others. Court and policing research is the focus so far	end May 2019; seeking extension to November 2019	Evidence will be collected to inform development of policy tools for measuring (qualitative and quantitatively) user experiences of justice settings; differentiates but notes overlaps in user status; adopts lens of procedural justice and person centred services to frame understanding.
SCCJR	Community Experiences of Organised Crime (Scottish Government funded)	Research (R)	The 18-month study looked at serious organised crime (SOC) in specific areas, as well as more 'mobile' forms of SOC. The research clarifies range of ways communities are affected by and victimised by SOC, identifies good practice and makes a series of recommendations to enhance Scotland's collective response to SOC	Completed 2018	Report published; event planned 29 March to disseminate to stakeholders; makes clear nuanced understandings of victimisation and gray areas of SOC.
SCCJR	Working with women and girls: researching experiences of vicarious traumatisation Wellcome Trust Funded	Research (R)	Empirical research on experiences of working with criminal justice involved women and girls. Based on 35 in depth interviews with prison officers, key workers and service providers conducted in a variety of custodial and community based settings across Scotland, providing a preliminary understanding of how a process of vicarious traumatisation (VT) may manifest in the personal and professional spheres of those working with women and girls. Aids understanding of how VT can impinge on efficacy of staff efforts to help those with whom they work.	Complete	Reveals that practitioners are delivering intensely emotional labour in complex and diverse settings in work environments that are often trauma saturated. Bearing witness to accounts of past and current victimisation, whilst supporting women and girl through bereavement, abandonment and loss as well as supporting their engagement with criminal justice processes requires considerable resilience and vigilance as well as structure support; offers a resource for understanding VT in criminal justice contexts, particularly those where trauma informed services have been rolled out.
SCCJR	Crime and Victimization Research Overview (AQMen Research Centre),	Research (R)	Researchers have been conducting quantitative analyses of demographic, political, social and economic changes, and comparing with data from other countries to assess crime drop and victimisation changes in Scotland	Ongoing	Provides robust statistical analyses of changing trends of crime and victimisation; can link victimisation to inequalities data

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SCRA	Joint SCRA and VSS initial contact letter to victims of children/young people referred to SCRA	Initiative (I)	The first letter sent to victims of children/young people referred to SCRA due to their offending behaviour is now jointly logo'd by SCRA and VSS and explains the victim's right to ask for : 1) limited information about the referred child/young person and information about the Children's Hearing System from SCRA, and/or 2) emotional or practical support from VSS. The letter encloses victim information leaflets from each of SCRA and VSS	started mid-2018 and being monitored 3-monthly	Example of good joint working that is victim-centred bearing in mind that the case-specific information that can be provided to the victim is limited due to the age of the referred child/young person but that victims still require support and general 'system' information
	Protecting the welfare principle for young offenders	Initiative (I)	During consideration of victims' interests, ensuring there is no erosion to the principle of a welfare approach being taken to children and young people referred to SCRA due to concern for their offending or seriously harmful behaviour.	Long Term (>3 years)	By continuing to distinguish victims of children/young people from victims of adults in respect of the case-specific information the victim is entitled to but ensuring that victims of children/young people are provided with adequate supports and general information about the Youth Justice System including the Children's Hearings System

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Police Scotland	European Day for Victims of Crime	Good Practice	Annually, Police Scotland work in partnership with VSS in organising a series of actions / messaging in recognition of European Day for Victims of Crime which occurs on 22 nd February. Police Scotland provide daily messaging both internally and externally. Messaging is centred on promoting the work carried out by VSS to support victims and witnesses throughout the criminal justice process whilst reinforcing to officers and police staff their roles and statutory responsibilities in providing victims with their rights in respect of accessing that support.	No deadline	This may be of benefit to the Victims Taskforce as it may promote other members to participate in the campaign which would increase the reach to victims and displays cohesion amongst partners in respect of improving experiences of victims
Police Scotland	Homicide Service		Police Scotland are working in partnership with VSS and COPFS to design a tri-patriate protocol on how the new Homicide Service will operate		
Police Scotland	Video Recorded Interviews of vulnerable witnesses	Project (P)	From 2016 Police Scotland has been represented on SCTS Evidence and Procedure Review Working Groups and thereafter the Scottish Government Vulnerable Witness (Criminal Evidence) (Scotland) Bill Working Group. The former led to the joint project between Police Scotland and Social Work Scotland to create a new Scottish model for Joint Investigative Interviewing (JII) of children when child protection procedures are initiated. A pilot extending the use of VRI will soon commence in two Local Policing Divisions in Scotland. Experience and learning from this will help shape and influence future approaches.		

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Scottish Women's Aid	Round table on police risk assessment	Initiative (I)	Planning a seminar/roundtable about police risk assessment that is sensitive to coercive control – this will improve system capacity to identify criminality under new law		
Scottish Women's Aid	Training academy for Equally Safe	Project (P)	Building capacity: we are creating a training academy for implementation of Equally Safe. The core element is gender competence, which will underpin the other units that correspond to the different forms of VAWG. As part of this work we will do segmentation research to illuminate how to discuss message constructively about women's inequality with wider publics and then to link this with ending domestic abuse and other forms of VAWG.		
Scottish Women's Aid	Improving Justice in Child Contact	Research (R)	Leading (with University of Edinburgh's Centre for Research on Families and Relationships) a 5-nation project on Improving Justice in Child Contact (with Portugal, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Romania).		
Scottish Women's Aid	Training for CJS	Initiative (I)	Training judges, sheriffs, social workers, SCRA, Children's Reporters, etc. about gender, coercive control, new law.		
Scottish Women's Aid	Training on new laws and coercive control	Initiative (I)	Disseminating training (funded by Justice) to local partnerships about the new law and coercive control.		
Scottish Women's Aid	Ask me' Roll out	Project (P)	Rolling out "Ask Me!—community mobilisation pilots in Highlands (Lochaber and Caithness and Sutherland WA).		

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Scottish Women's Aid	Participation in Equally Safe	Project (P)	Finishing up large-scale consultation project in Highlands and Islands asking women and children with lived experience of VAWG how they would like to participate in the implementation of Equally Safe. (Findings coming to Joint Strategic Board in March.)		
Community Justice Scotland	In collaboration with SG - Restorative Justice Action Plan	Project (P) International Connection (IC)	Helsinki Mediation Office, Address: Iso Roobertinkatu 21 (3rd floor), 00120 Helsinki www.sovittelutoiminta.fi/in_english Operates national mediation service using RJ approaches. We have also developed good working links with other service providers and government organisations in Finland on a range of related initiatives, including with the Finnish Community Sanctions Office in relation to community sentencing and with KELA in relation to Universal Basic Income pilot.		Organisations delivering restorative justice services in Northern Ireland, under challenging circumstances Northern Ireland Alternatives - http://www.alternativesrj.org/ Useful summary and analysis of RJ best practice examples found in Belgium and Northern Ireland – J. Shapland et al (2017) – “Developing restorative policing: using the evidence base to inform the delivery of restorative justice and improve engagement with victims - Learning lessons from Belgium and Northern Ireland”
Community Justice Scotland	Development of the Second Chancers Campaign	Project (P)	Development of the Second Chancers Campaign https://secondchancers.tv/ . Launched 2018 and ongoing - people with lived experience of community sentences and the justice system speaking about their experiences. From the Second Chancers campaign, two stories may be of particular interest and value to the Taskforce - Kevin https://secondchancers.tv/kevin-story/ and Kirstie https://secondchancers.tv/kirstie-story/		
Community Justice Scotland	Preventing future victimisation through supporting the development of effective services by preventing and reducing offending	Initiative (I)	In order to achieve this priority, CJS seeks to identify and promote best practice on community justice from local, national and international sources on services for people with convictions, their families, victims and communities. This will be of most practical and immediate relevance to the victims taskforce, we will aim feed in transferable learning from relevant areas within community justice and from national and international best practice, and to use the work of the taskforce in our policy and practice development.		

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Parole Board	Greater transparency in parole process.	Initiative (I)	Greater transparency in the parole process generally but with specific reference to victims. Accommodation is a key issue here also. So far as it is within the competence and control of the Board, Chairs have agreed in principle that summaries of decision minutes should be available to victims (and more widely). It is yet to be decided how that will happen but processes are to be tested in March and April 2019 where Chairs will redact decision minutes for publication and where members unconnected with the decision will carry out the redaction exercise.	The Parole Board's new website has been launched with a specific victim's area that will allow information and resources to be published. The Board's procedural guidance for members will also be published on the website. The Board, with input from VSS and SPS, has undertaken a project to look at the practical issues around victim attendance at tribunals which will inform any move in this direction as a result of actions arising from the parole consultation. Two victims have attended at a Tribunal hearing to observe and have responded positively to the experience. The Parole Board continues to promote its outreach activities and deliver information sessions to interested parties. This has recently included input at social work training events, law society conferences and the HMIPS annual conference. The release decision is now intimated to the prisoner on the day it is made allowing for prompt intimation to victims. The Parole Board is engaging with Victim Support Scotland to refine and improve a victim referral process.	
Scottish Prison Service	Keeping Victims better informed	Project (P)	To ensure victims are better informed about those who have offended against them. Arrangements are now in place to provide victims of life sentenced offenders with an additional opportunity to make representations in relation to temporary release. Victims can now make representations in person or orally. Victim Support Scotland will support the victim to do so if they request.	This process was introduced by SPS in May 2019 and is now embedded.	To date, 11 victims who were eligible to or had indicated their wish to make representations, were contacted and offered the opportunity to make representations in person. Of the 11 individuals contacted, 8 did not respond to these offers, however 3 did take up the opportunity to make representations.
Scottish Government / Work that Social Work Scotland are contributing to	Reform of vulnerable witnesses legislation	Project / Legislative / Practice Change	Proposals to extend opportunities for vulnerable witnesses to give evidence in advance, via video link and by commission.	Bill with Parliament	In respect to court process, reforms directly relevant to victims. May shape how victims may provide evidence, and the shape of criminal trials more generally
Scottish Government / Police Scotland / Local Government / Social Work Scotland	Joint Investigative Interviews of Children	Project / Practice Change	Introduction of a new training (and likely delivery structure) for the Joint Investigative Interviewing of children, by police and social workers, in cases of abuse.	Development of training completed and trailed by September 2019; implemented in full by 2021.	A key process related to child witnesses and victims.

Catalogue of relevant initiatives, projects, research and international good practice organisations are involved in

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Organisation	Project <i>What the initiative or project is know as</i>	Type of initiative Research (R) Project (P) Initiative (I) International Connection (IC)	Description (250 words max) <i>Brief description as to aims of the project, current progress and who is involved.</i>	Timeframe and key dates <i>Detail lifespan of the project and any key deadlines</i>	Relevance to Taskforce <i>Why does the taskforce need to know about it, what (if any) support is required.</i>
Scottish Government Work that Social Work Scotland are contributing to /	Ending of short sentences	Reform	Scottish Government intention to scrap sentences of 12 months or less	end - 2019	Those convicted of certain offences will no longer be subject to custodial sentences; possible impact on victims, as individuals may still living in community, etc.
Scottish Government / Work that Social Work Scotland are contributing to	Age of Criminal Responsibility	Legislative	Raising the age of criminal responsibility to 12 or 14, removing those younger than this from prosecution and a criminal record; individuals will be supported through the Children's Hearing System.	Implementation of Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019 underway.	Raising the age of criminal responsibility will have profound impact on how Scotland responds to children and young people involved in harmful behaviour, with related affects for victims and witnesses.
Scottish Government / IJBs / Work that Social Work Scotland are contributing to	Health and Social Care Workforce Plan	Planning	Scottish Government led initiative to identify the resources needed to provide quality 21st century health and social care.	Under development	Will influence recruitment and resource allocation, with knock on impacts on the availability of social workers, etc.
Scottish Government / Work that Social Work Scotland are contributing to	Management of Offenders	Legislative	Provision for electronic monitoring of offenders and as to certain other restrictive measures imposable on offenders; to make provision about periods and processes as regards disclosure of convictions by offenders;	See Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2019	How offenders are managed has direct impact on victims.
Scottish Government / Work that Social Work Scotland are contributing to	Hate Crime reform	Potential legislative	Reform of hate crime legislation, to include new categories, and how hate crimes are responded to.	Consultation on legislative reform	Will extend the potential for individuals to be victims of a hate crime.

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Scottish Government / Home Office / Local Authorities / Work that Social Work Scotland are contributing to	ViSOR	Initiative	ViSOR (the 'dangerous persons database') is the Home Office's recognised IT system designed to support MAPPA by assisting co-operative working between the Responsible Authorities in their joint management of individuals subject to the arrangements.	Changes being rolled out	Relates to how offenders are managed, which is of interest to victims
COPFS	Quality Improvements in investigation and reporting of crime	Ongoing work	Ongoing work by COPFS with Police Scotland to improve the quality of investigations and reporting of criminal cases, thereby reducing the number of cases reported with insufficient evidence or requiring further enquiries before prosecutorial decisions can be taken; including training for officers and joint working required to improve timescales for forensic and cyber analysis.	Work ongoing through the COPFS Local Court/Police Scotland Quality Group. A Police Reporting Standards Project is being established to take this work forward.	Improvements in the quality of investigations and cases reported will reduce cases in which no action can be taken or where further enquiries cause delay, thereby reducing journey times for victims and improving their justice experience.
COPFS	Implementation of Inspectorate of Prosecution Recommendations in relation to the Investigation and Prosecution of Sexual Crime	Ongoing implementation	Ongoing work by COPFS to implement the 12 recommendations of the Inspectorate of Prosecution in Sexual Crime cases, principally in relation to reducing journey times of investigations and prosecutions, improving content and frequency of communication with complainers and implementing a court management strategy for victims as part of the Victim Strategy.	Work has been ongoing on implementing the recommendations since November 2017 with significant progress made in relation to all recommendations, including reducing journey times and improving the content and frequency of communication with complainers. The general principles of a court management strategy have now been agreed, but further work is ongoing around the recording process for this, guidance for staff and appropriate communication with complainers regarding the strategy.	Changes and improvements introduced in terms of implementing the recommendations will improve key areas around the victims' experience of the justice process.
COPFS	Barnahus	Project	The Scottish Government is examining options for implementation of a 'Barnahus' model in Scotland.	The 'Barnahus' concept involves the delivery of services to child witnesses under one roof shortly after a criminal offence is reported to the police. From a criminal justice perspective the crucial element is the notion of 'a single forensic interview' that encapsulates all of the child's evidence. Implementing this model in Scotland will be challenging due to the adversarial nature of the Scottish criminal justice system. Healthcare Improvement Scotland have prepared draft standards for Barnahus which are currently the subject of review.	Progressing this project to secure improvements for children involved in the criminal justice process involves input from the key justice agencies and many of the victim stakeholder organisations represented at the Taskforce.

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COPFS	Improved information for witnesses through the development of a Witness Portal	Project	Work is underway by COPFS to develop a public facing Witness Portal that allows for witnesses to access their statements and receive other relevant information. This project fits within the Government's overarching digital strategy and involves collaboration with Government, SCTS, Police Scotland and key victim stakeholders. It would, bring significant benefits to witnesses in terms of improved access to criminal justice information, and in gaining access to their statements, to assist them in their role as witnesses.	Ongoing	This work by COPFS will help support and shape a wider and longer-term strategic vision to deliver digital information services to justice system users via a separate project involving COPFS, Scottish Government, Victim Support Scotland and other key stakeholder partners.
COPFS	Specialist support for victims with learning disabilities through implementation of the Criminal Justice Disability Project.	Project	The Criminal Justice Disability Project, a sub-group of the Justice Board and involving all the key justice agencies, identified improvements to be made to improve the experience of victims with learning disabilities. Progress has been made in implementing the Project's recommendations but further work is required by justice agencies to complete the necessary improvements.	<p>The Criminal Justice Disability Project (CJDP) published its final report in June 2018. The majority of the recommendations from the report have now been fully addressed or were progressed to a point where further implementation would be monitored via individual organisations.</p> <p>The project team acknowledged that a major benefit from this work has been the significant improvement in partnership working across the criminal justice organisations and with disabled people, either directly or via those who represent them.</p> <p>The justice partners continue to work collaboratively on improving access to justice for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders, other neurodiverse conditions and BSL users.</p>	This group of victims are extremely vulnerable and can be severely impacted by crime, especially by hate crime and sexual offences, however, specific vulnerabilities and specialist support needs are often overlooked in terms of the criminal justice system response. The Project's recommendations, when implemented in full, will improve the justice experience for this group of vulnerable victims.

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COPFS	Improvements in the use of pre-recorded evidence to reduce the need for witnesses to attend court;	Project and ongoing work	(i) Improvements in the quality of Joint Investigative Interviews (JIIs) - Joint Investigative Interview Project looking at improvements in training of staff conducting interviews and quality of JIIs, both in terms of quality of interview and technical recording; (ii) Increased use of evidence by commissioner; (iii) Increased use of visually recorded interviews (VRIs) by the police to visually record statements of complainers so that these can be used as evidence in chief in criminal proceedings in order to reduce trauma to vulnerable witnesses through the re-telling of their evidence. Scoping of necessary improvements and resource requirements is required.	(i) Pilot projects to test the new JII training courses are due to commence in North Strathclyde and Lanarkshire in March 2020. COPFS will be involved in providing feedback to Police and Social Work regarding the quality of JIIs produced as part of the pilot projects; (ii) The VW (CE)(S)Act 2019 will come into effect in relation to High Court cases on 20 January 2020. Training is being provided to COPFS staff who will be implementing the Act with further guidance to follow; (iii) COPFS continues to work with Police Scotland to extend the use of VRI to 16/17 year old complainers and witnesses likely to be subject to the rule in section 271BZA of the 2019 Act.	Greater use of visually recorded interviews and improving the quality of those interviews is vitally important to fulfilling the aims of the Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) (Scotland) Act 2019. Commissioner hearings will continue to take place after the service of an indictment and therefore will not facilitate early capture of evidence. High quality visually recorded interviews carried out shortly after a crime is reported, which can then be used as the witness' evidence, are the best way to reduce trauma and improve victim experience. Extending the use of VRIs to all children under 18 is important but will require to be planned and resourced. This is a significant area of work which will greatly impact on victim experience of the CJ system