

Work stream 1 – Victim Centred Approach	Taskforce Lead – Victim Support Scotland
<p><b>Description:</b> The development of a new ‘victim centred’ approach (VCA), involving collaboration between all Taskforce members and structured and targeted engagement with victims, witnesses and their families. The introduction of measures to reduce the need for victims to have to retell their story to several different organisations. Improve information resources that are available for victims. Improve the sharing of data between bodies and look at digital tools to improve the support and information provided to victims.</p>	
<p><b>Update:</b> The Transforming Service for Victims and Witnesses project, commissioned by SG, COPFS and Victim Support Scotland (VSS) and led by Thrive, has now been completed and the report has been published. At the September 2020 Victims Taskforce meeting the VCA Governance Group, chaired by VSS, was asked to revise its workplan on the basis of the recommendations made this in report.</p> <p>The VCA Governance Group considered the Thrive report at their meeting in October 2020. It was agreed that the recommendations helped to crystallise some of the issues which the Taskforce had been discussing over the last two years, and which were now also being considered as part of the Recover, Renew, Transform (RRT) agenda. It is also recognised that some of the recommendations require consideration from other strategic groups, for example the National Justice Board.</p> <p>It was noted that some of the terminology, whilst common in the service design sphere, might jar with victims/survivors and that the Group would not necessarily endorse the detail of the recommendations but would consider that the report provides useful stimulus and context for implementation of a wide range of work already underway or being planned. This is particularly relevant in relation to digital transformation, refreshing the vision and priorities for the justice system and developing a more trauma-informed workforce.</p> <p>In relation to its own agenda, the Governance Group agreed to further consider the specifics of the report in tandem with the earlier recommendations of the Thomson report in order to inform an options paper on moving forward on the Victim Centred Approach; and in the revision of their workplan.</p> <p>The recommendations from the Thrive report are summarised below:</p>	

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1. Digital technology – system-wide system information architecture based on the ‘tell us once’ principle. **Recognised that this should be considered by the National Justice Board and RRT programme.**
2. Develop and support collective leadership for system change. **Victims Taskforce as well as the National Justice Board should consider ways of doing this.**
3. Create role of Criminal Justice Customer Management Lead – reporting to the National Justice Board. **The group noted that the term ‘customer’ was not appropriate here. This role is something for the National Justice Board to consider.**
4. Refresh governance and delivery processes investing in capacity and capability in transformation through the application of agile and service design approaches. **RRT programme should consider this and the other workstreams in the Taskforce as well as this one.**
5. Focus on priority, cross-cutting programmes. Deliver of a small number of high-impact, cross cutting programmes. **VCA workstream agreed this was an important recommendation and as such are focussing themselves on Action 1a.**
6. Review government funding of support organisations. **SG to consider.**
7. Trauma-informed approaches as standard practice. **Separate workstream in Taskforce aligns well with this recommendation.**

**Victim Engagement:** Rape Crisis Scotland’s Survivor Reference Group and VSS’s Victims Reference Group are both willing to feedback on specific pieces of work e.g. updated communications etc.

Action - Reference	(S/M/L)	Owner(s)	Progress	Next Steps
<b>Action 1a</b>  Develop an options paper for how a victim centred approach could be implemented with recommendations / costed options – using information gathered through the following sub-actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of recommendations in the ‘Review of Victim Care in the Justice</li> </ul>	S for options paper  L for full solution	SG / VSS	The WS1 group agreed that this action should be the main area of focus taking into account the recommendations in the Thrive report – mainly recommendations 1, 5 and 7.  An options discussion paper is being produced on what the different approaches might be.	Options paper to be developed. Next governance meeting scheduled for Jan 2021.

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<p>System in Scotland' by Lesley Thomson QC to determine what has been achieved, what is left to do and who should be the action owner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Map existing service provision, across the criminal justice agencies, other statutory services and the third sector, including advocacy services - with a particular focus on new and emerging models such as the Service for Families Bereaved by Crime, Justice Centres and Barnahus, and on identifying gaps in provision (specialism and geographical) and existing and future resource requirements</li> <li>• Consider how the Transforming Services for Victims</li> </ul>			<p>Transforming Services for Victims and Witnesses report by Thrive completed and published.</p>	
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<p>and Witnesses report can inform the development of a victim centred approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the potential role for digital solutions, including portals currently being developed by SPS and COPFS</li> </ul>				
<p><b>Action 1b</b></p> <p>A systematic review of: a) of hard copy leaflets and publications; b) online materials; c) official correspondence aimed at victims and witnesses of crime and their families to ensure they are: victim-centred; consistent; up-to-date; and use clear and compassionate language.</p>	S	SG leading	Officials have carried out an information gathering exercise to establish an approach to review publications/material provided to victims as they progress through the Criminal Justice system. This work is being used to develop options on next steps.	<p>Review of communications scoped.</p> <p>All relevant communications listed and prioritised.</p> <p>Actions assigned.</p> <p>Consultation with relevant groups.</p>
<p><b>Action 1c</b></p> <p>A review of the process of developing and publishing the CJA’s annual standards</p>	S	SG, Criminal Justice Organisations, Victim Support Organisations		

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of service. Consider earlier engagement with VSOs and methods to enable victims to inform the standards themselves.				
<p><b>Action 1d</b></p> <p>Review information / data sharing arrangements and protocols between criminal justice agencies (CJAs) and Victim Support Organisations (VSOs) to provide victims with a more joined-up service. This will include a particular focus on GDPR issues facing VSOs</p>	M	SG	<p>VSS is currently reviewing its Information Sharing Protocols with Police Scotland as part of a wide-ranging joint project (see relevant agenda item Dec 2020 Taskforce meeting).</p> <p>In addition the joint protocol between VSS, COPFS, SCTS and Police Scotland around vulnerable witnesses is also being reviewed</p>	Linked to Action 1a and recommendation 1 and 4 of the Thrive report. The scope of this work may change depending on options paper.
<p><b>Action 1e</b></p> <p>Improve how victims experience interactions with the Scottish Prison Service and the Parole Board for Scotland on temporary release, release and parole, to ensure victims are treated with dignity and respect, receive timely and</p>		SPS/ PBS/ VSS	<p>Due to the Coronavirus pandemic progress has stalled with implementation of the actions from the Parole consultation – Transforming Parole in Scotland.</p> <p>Work has since recommenced and</p>	The amendments to the Parole Board rules will include, a requirement for the Parole Board to take victims safety and welfare into account when considering release; a new procedure to allow victims to attend parole hearings; and a process for the publication, and delivery to victims, of a

<p>targeted information and are part of decisions that affect them, where appropriate.</p>			<p>amendment to the Parole Board rules of procedure is underway.</p> <p>VSS awaiting further communication from SPS re Victim Notification Scheme (VNS) developments.</p>	<p>summary of the reasons for a decision in a case.</p> <p>VSS proposal at September 2020 Taskforce meeting that a fundamental review of the VNS be undertaken from the perspective of a trauma-informed lens.</p> <p>SG committed to bringing all relevant partners together to discuss the VNS and determine where improvements could be made. Victim support organisations will be front and centre in that process.</p>
<p><b>Action 1f</b></p> <p>At a local and national level consider the ways in which the advocacy support model can be embedded in the justice system, including consideration of unmet needs (barriers to accessing to support), gaps (geographical, type of victim) and identify opportunities to enhance partnership working and increase clarity and</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>RCS</p>	<p>This action linked to 1a and the options paper.</p>	

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<p>understanding about the roles of advocacy workers.</p> <p>In addition, consider the feasibility of introducing a system of legal advice for complainers..</p>				
<p><b>Action 1g</b> Consistent recording mechanisms require to be included within the build of the agreed national crime recording system to provide a central repository which facilitates more accurate review / audits on whether or not Criminal Justice partners are complying with its statutory duties under the Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014.</p>				
<p><b>Action 1g – Revised</b> Improve Police Scotland’s response to victims of crime ensuring referral to appropriate support organisations, training, awareness, joint working locally, etc.</p> <p>Wider criminal justice agencies links to 1a above.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Police Scotland / VSS</p>	<p>Significant joint project between Police Scotland being undertaken.</p> <p>Update being given at Dec 2020 Taskforce meeting.</p>	

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Work stream 2 – Training / Trauma-informed Workforce	Taskforce Lead – Community Justice Scotland/Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service
<p><b>Description:</b> Feedback from victims strongly suggests that there is a lack of compassion in the CJ system. Victims describe how any negative experiences can become the most memorable and this impacts on other engagements with the system as a whole.</p> <p>Work in some organisations and across other policy areas is championing trauma-informed approaches in supporting people who have experienced significant trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences, such as the <a href="#">NHS Education for Scotland and SG National Trauma Training Framework</a>. This approach is already influencing training and practice in a justice context - for example, Community Justice Scotland are using their statutory training function to develop trauma-informed social workers. However, though there is valuable work ongoing across Scotland and within the justice sector, there has been limited joining up across sectors and national organisations particularly in relation to working with victims of crime.</p> <p>There is significant potential for further development of trauma-informed practice in other areas of the justice system where victims make contact, from early engagements with police, attendance at court, and beyond. This work stream would seek to build upon existing resources and approaches to identify and establish wider development of trauma training within and across justice organisations who come into contact with victims, to support the development of a trauma-informed workforce.</p>	
<p><b>Update:</b> The aim of this workstream is to identify both best practice and gaps in the provision of training on recognising and responding to the impact of psychological trauma across the justice sector. Action 2b was to conduct a mapping exercise to understand the work already being done, the knowledge and skills of the organisations workforce and to identify barriers and gaps in knowledge and skills within said workforces.</p> <p>Since the Taskforce in June 2020, this mapping exercise was circulated to all Taskforce members by the Secretariat.</p> <p>SG funding is being provided to NHS Education Scotland (NES) from October 2020 to enable Dr Caroline Bruce, Principal Educator within the National Trauma Training Team to help drive forward development of a trauma informed and trauma responsive workforce in justice services. Caroline has begun work to fully analyse the responses to the mapping exercise.</p>	

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<b>Victim Engagement:</b> To be agreed – A key element in developing the Knowledge and Skills framework will be to gather views and perspective from people with lived experience of trauma and the justice process as a victims and/ or witness. We will engage initially through the victims reference group and survivor reference group that have been convened by VSS and RCS respectively.				
<b>Action - Reference</b>	<b>(S/M/L)</b>	<b>Owner(s)</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
<p><b>Action 2a</b></p> <p>Identify joint strategic lead for delivery of work stream</p> <p>Seek work stream members; suggest training/learning leads from national partners as most effective in delivering outcomes for this work stream</p> <p>Clarify outcomes and objectives/deliverables</p>	S/M	CJS – working with SG NES and specific members representing the legal profession/ justice organisations (Police Scotland, SCTS, Law Society of Scotland, COPFS) and SWA (related to training for domestic abuse legislation)	All these actions have been achieved. A work stream 2 subgroup has been put in place with key national partners within the membership. The group is co-chaired by SCTS and Community Justice Scotland(CJS).	The subgroup will continue to meet regularly to provide strategic oversight for the workplan.
<p><b>Action 2b</b></p> <p>- establish what good practice already exists within Taskforce organisations</p> <p>- develop a skills and knowledge framework for the Justice system</p>				

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- identify training needs based on a developed framework</li> <li>- Identify the knowledge and skills required to manage the impact of exposure to trauma on staff</li> <li>- Draft outline of learning objectives required for different staff, including leaders</li> </ul>				
<p><b>Action 2b revised</b></p> <p><b>As above and the following additional action:</b> The subgroup will provide support to the NES post* and consider implications for represented organisations and the wider justice system.</p>	M/L	<p>Taskforce Working Group leads – CJS, SCTS, with SG and NES, supported by working group representatives from legal profession/ justice organisations (Police Scotland, SCTS, Law Society of Scotland) and SWA (related to training for domestic abuse legislation). Dr Caroline Bruce, supported by Working Group</p>	<p>SG funding provided to NHS Education Scotland (NES) from October 2020 enabling Dr Caroline Bruce, Principal Educator within the National Trauma Training Team to help drive forward development of a trauma informed and trauma responsive workforce in justice services.</p>	<p>Work has begun to analyse the responses to a mapping exercise involving members of the Victims Taskforce. Caroline will follow up these responses with a series of interviews with Justice leaders and also individuals with lived experience of the Justice system.</p> <p>An update will be provided to the Taskforce meeting on 10 December 2020.</p>

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**\* NES Post Outcomes**

- To develop a clear understanding of the workforce in the justice system, and a framework for the knowledge and skills they need to enable them to do no harm (minimise re-traumatisation), support recovery, gain and ensure best evidence is captured, and make best decisions based on this evidence
  
- To develop and pilot Trauma Informed Justice Leaders Training to support Justice leaders' capacity to evaluate their own organisations and systems and the needs and challenges involved in creating an integrated trauma informed justice system, taking into account impact of competing priorities such as public protection and rules of evidence. This will include introducing the five key drivers of trauma informed systems, taking a trauma informed lens to justice systems and organisations, and evaluating staff group training needs.
  
- To support leaders to identify and join up current good practice and available high-quality training in line with the TPT K&S Framework.
  
- To identify any areas of need for development and delivery of training in line with TPT Framework necessary for creation of an integrated and sustainable trauma informed and responsive workforce approach for victims and witnesses accessing the justice system. This should be achieved through training and education, enhance and improve the capacity and capability of the justice workforce to provide a trauma informed trauma responsive approach to people coming in contact with their services.
  
- To ensure that evidence-based support for staff is in place to ensure safe and effective implementation
  
- To ensure that the voices of people with lived experience is incorporated in this process.
  
- Aid the integration of knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, guidance, staff resources and practice within the justice system, as deemed appropriate, through the provision of advice and consultancy expertise.

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<b>Work stream 3 – Sexual Offences / Gender Based Violence</b>	<b>Taskforce Lead – Rape Crisis Scotland / Scottish Women’s Aid</b>
<p><b>Description:</b> – The Gender Based Violence work stream will work with justice partners and victims organisations to promote a system which identifies and address gender biases and encourages women’s active participation at all levels of the justice system.</p>	
<p><b>Update:</b> Most of the actions under Work Stream 3 were on hold as a result of COVID-19. However, work is underway by work stream leads and the Scottish Government with regards to our response to COVID-19 and Gender Based Violence. Over the last few months progress of actions under WS 3 has been guided by the impacts from the current pandemic and the wider work on recovery planning.</p> <p>Some progress has been made in relation to Action 3a and 3b in relation to taking forward engagement on these issues. A roundtable discussion was held by the SG and chaired by work stream lead Sandy Brindley (RCS) on safeguarding of privacy rights for victims of sexual crimes. A seminar on Improving Justice in Child Contact was also held by work stream lead SWA on 9 November and a roundtable hosted by SG took place on 2 December on child contact and COVID-19. A report from these engagements will be shared in due course.</p> <p><b>Work stream leads will meet with SG officials to undertake a review of this work plan and consider any revisions to the existing actions following the next meeting of the VTF on 10 December. An updated work plan will be shared in the new year.</b></p> <p>** W3, W4 = workstream 3, workstream 4</p>	
<p><b>Victim Engagement:</b></p> <p>RCS Survivor Reference Group may be consulted once issues have been explored.</p> <p>Other victims’ groups may have an interest in these issues and W3** secretariat will work with the Taskforce secretariat to ascertain best way of engaging with allied survivor groups.</p>	

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<p><b>Action 3a</b></p> <p>Explore the justice system (end to end) and mechanisms available for safeguarding privacy rights for victims, where article 8 rights are engaged.</p> <p>For example, sexual character and history and current procedures, access to medical or sensitive records including phone records and current mechanisms to ensure the individual’s rights are upheld whilst balancing the right of the accused to a fair trial.</p> <p><b>Rationale</b></p> <p>Improve the experience of the justice system for complainers and others as well as appropriate consideration of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.</p> <p>Where authorised by the court, sexual character and history evidence can be raised in sexual offence cases. The most recent research is quite dated (2007), but the Burman, Nicholson and Brooks</p>	S	SG/RCS	<p>Bilateral discussions have been held between RCS, researchers and SG regarding recent research report on Independent Legal Representation(ILR) for s.275 applications.</p> <p>Edinburgh University and Warwick University together with RCS were granted funding by JAS to undertake up to date research into the use of sexual history and character evidence in Scottish criminal trials.</p> <p>A round-table was held on 30 November to discuss recent research, reflections on recent case law, current data gaps and views on the introduction of ILR for complainers when a s.275 is made.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scottish Government - consideration research and recent case law (ongoing).</li> <li>2. Work with JAS to review findings from funded research to analyse the use of private data in Scottish sexual offences proceedings.</li> <li>3. Paper shared with the Victims Taskforce at an appropriate time including reflections from roundtable and progress.</li> </ol>

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<p>research stated that 7 out of 10 complainers in the most serious sexual offence trials were ‘virtually guaranteed’ to be questioned on their sexual history and character.</p> <p>Appropriate protection of any complainer’s privacy and dignity and an understanding that sexual offence complainers may be at high risk from <i>re-victimisation</i> through the criminal justice process.</p> <p>Current process may be perceived as a barrier for victims coming forward to report crimes against them.</p>				
<p><b>Action 3b</b> Juror attitudes: This work should be informed and sequenced with the outcomes of the ongoing research on juries which reported, Oct 2019.</p> <p>This action may link to recommendations issued within the Judicially Led Review on the management of sexual offences.</p> <p><b>Rationale</b></p>	S	SG/RCS	Work has been paused due to COVID-19.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consideration of research – engagement with Analytical Services and W4**</li> <li>2. Consider action: e.g. written directions, consideration of public awareness campaign.</li> <li>3. Discussion with partners for e.g. researchers, SCTS and Judicial Institute.</li> </ol>

<p>Beliefs and attitudes that jurors might take into the deliberation room in rape cases, and whether this impacts their evaluation of evidence and determination of verdict.</p> <p>Views may be held as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A lack of physical resistance may indicate consent</li> <li>• A victim of rape may 'freeze' in response to the attack</li> <li>• A lack of calling for assistance may indicate consent</li> <li>• False allegations are routine</li> <li>• A delay in reporting is indicative of a false allegation</li> </ul>				
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<p><b>Action 3c</b></p> <p>Addressing re-victimisation of children and their mothers in the context of court ordered contact.</p> <p><b>Rationale</b> SWA state that the single biggest reason that women seek legal advice and requires responses from all aspects of the justice system.</p> <p>Scottish Women’s Aid are leading on a new project to provide domestic abuse-competent legal aid to survivors across Scotland.</p> <p>Funded by the <b>Legal Education Foundation and in partnership with Just Right Scotland</b>, the year-long project is building a case for a new model for victim-survivors.</p>	S	SG/SWA	<p>SG have been engaging with key organisations including Shared Parenting Scotland, Scottish Women’s Aid the Family Law Association about the family court process and ancillary services such as child contact centres particularly during current pandemic - regarding the impact that contact centre closures has had on many families.</p> <p>SWA hosted a seminar – Improving Justice in Child Contact (IJCC) – How to Make Change on 9 November – attended by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Minister for Older People and Equalities.</p> <p>On 2 December, SG convened a roundtable on family courts and ancillary services to explore impacts and response to COVID-19.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Follow progress of the <i>DA Competent Legal Aid To Survivors Project</i> and implementation of the Children (Scotland) Act 2020 and the work set out in the Family Justice Modernisation Strategy.</li> <li>2. Provide update to the Victims Taskforce as required, including reports from recent SWA seminar and SG roundtable.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Action 3d</b></p> <p>Improve the provision of advocacy for victims of domestic abuse and sexual</p>	S	SG/SWA/RCS	<p>Work has been paused due to COVID-19 however it’s this will resume in the new year.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hold roundtable to agree outcomes – statutory and third sector.</li> </ol>



<p>violence within the criminal justice system.</p> <p><b>Rationale</b> Consistency of advocacy provision across Scotland continues to be variable, as highlighted by the SG commissioned scoping study. There is a need to develop policy which includes a clear definition of advocacy, integration of support within relevant pathways for victims and basic minimum requirements.</p>				
<p><b>Action 3e</b></p> <p>Improve effective multi-agency working to support high risk victims of domestic abuse</p> <p><b>Rationale</b></p> <p>Consistency of Multi agency working (often called MARAC) continues to be variable, and there are no centrally defined expectations of what constitutes best practice in terms of MARAC, risk assessment and information sharing.</p>	S	SG	SG held a workshop with key stakeholders on 18 November to discuss key themes arising from the MARAC consultation and how we can work together to improve our practice in this area.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Further engagement following publication of MARAC consultation by end 2019.</li> <li>2. Consider report from recent workshop and explore next steps.</li> </ol>

<p><b>Action 3f</b></p> <p>Judicially- led review of sexual offences – on-going participation by RCS, SWA and SG within the group.</p> <p><b>Rationale</b></p> <p>We expect the Group to make a number of recommendations which may fall within the remit of the VTF.</p>	M	SG/RCS	Work has been delayed due to COVID-19.	Awaiting report - expected by end of 2020.
<p><b>Action 3g</b></p> <p>Meet with RCS Survivor Reference Group interim report and Justice Journey's research authors.</p> <p><b>Rationale</b></p> <p>Whilst work is on-going to address some of the recommendations in these reports, this action would provide an opportunity to formally feedback on activities being taken forward by W3 and consider further emerging issues since publication of each document.</p>	M	RCS	Work has been delayed due to COVID-19	Round table hosted by RCS..

Work stream 4 – Research	Taskforce Lead – SCCJR / SG Justice Analytical Services			
<p><b>Description:</b> Taskforce members have expressed an interest in considering what gaps in the research exist and a possible consideration to commission further research on topics of greatest relevance/interest to the Taskforce.</p> <p>Going forward this workstream will continue to focus on gaps but also will ensure that existing and new research is informing policy and practice. This will make sure that research continues to inform the work of the Taskforce and that work streams are founded on a sound evidence base and are able to access the most recent evidence.</p> <p>Over time this work stream should continue to update members on key developments and assist members in drawing on the research base.</p>				
<p><b>Update:</b> SG Justice Analytical Services (JAS) have continued work <b>developing questionnaires to capture information about the ‘experiences of witnesses (including witnesses who are children) at court’ in order to meet the reporting requirement at section 14 of The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018.</b></p> <p>JAS are also one of the practice partners for a new international study funded by the ESRC to examine global responses to domestic violence and abuse during the Covid-19 pandemic. The research is led by the University of Edinburgh and a final report will be available by January 2022’.</p> <p>JAS has conducted qualitative research that gathered evidence from a number of frontline services providing support to victims since 30 March 2020. The third report “Coronavirus (COVID-19): domestic abuse and other forms of violence against women and girls during Phase 3 of Scotland’s route map (11 August 10 to 11 October 2020)” was published on 05 November.</p>				
<p><b>Victim Engagement:</b> Much of the research work referenced below has involved direct engagement with victims or with organisations representing victims.</p>				
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<p><b>Action 4a</b></p> <p>Mapping concepts, contexts and gaps in violence research.</p>	S	<p>Scottish Government Justice Analytical Services in</p>	<p>SCCJR compiled details of relevant research which has been conducted around victims and victimisation and have shared this with the taskforce.</p>	<p>JAS and SSCJR will take forward work with workstreams and academics to assess how existing research has</p>

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<p>The workstream is continuing to connect with other academics and organisations outside the VT to continue our aims of identifying ongoing relevant work and relatedly, to identify gaps.</p> <p>Scottish Government Justice Analytical Service and SCCJR would like to work with other workstreams and to consider the existing evidence base and the currently commissioned research and agree on priority evidence gaps and to develop a plan for addressing these.</p>		<p>collaboration with SCCJR</p>	<p>Updates on new work are provided for each taskforce meeting .</p> <p>As part of the programme of JAS research grant funded projects,, SCCJR’s research on ‘<i>Measuring Justice: Defining Concepts, Developing Practice</i>’ will shortly be published. This report should provide valuable guidance on developing relevant frameworks and measures around justice outcomes.</p>	<p>helped shape policy and practice with an aim of producing a report by end March 2021.</p> <p>This work, involving surveying both practitioners within workstream and academics aims to establish whether perceived gaps in the evidence base exist in reality or whether there is a lack of knowledge or effective dissemination of existing research and its applicability to practice. The outcome of the work will be recommendations on where evidence gaps exists as well as work to ensure that existing evidence is used to ensure maximum impact.</p>
<p><b>Action 4b</b></p> <p>Developing and conducting research on victimisation</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Scottish Government Justice Analytical Services in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There has been considerable amount of research initiated or concluded on victims and victimisation over course of the taskforce, with recent work focuses particularly on the effects of</li> </ul>	

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<p>Continue to develop a coherent body of research around victimisation and its impact on individuals and communities; reflect on innovative practice and contribute to understanding and supporting societal responses.</p>		<p>collaboration with SCCJR</p>	<p>COVID on the justice system. In particular</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the SG Justice Analytical Services grant call on <b>‘understanding and taking action to improve people’s experience of justice’</b> we have published two reports (and one forthcoming) and have four new grant projects specifically around victims and victimisation due to start in 2021.</li> <li>• The Scottish Government Scottish Government commissioned SCCJR researchers (Dr Susan Batchelor and Dr Caitlin Gormley) to carry out a study on Repeat Violent Victimisation. This is a qualitative study, initially over a 16 month period but unfortunately has had to be extended due to Covid 19. One of the aims of the study is to help improve support for victims in Scotland, by providing evidence on the support needs and experiences of those who are victims/survivors of the most hidden and stigmatised forms of violence, and who therefore tend to be less likely to seek and access services</li> </ul>	
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work has begun around developing measures and evidence on monitoring cyber education to improve people’s ‘cyber hygiene’, which aims to prevent people from both becoming victims and equipping people with the cyber tools to work in the field and use technology wisely</li> <li>• The Scottish Government has conducted qualitative research that gathered evidence since 30 March 2020 from a number of frontline services providing support to victims. This research offers insight into the impact of the COVID-19 crisis and Coronavirus restrictions on people experiencing domestic abuse and other forms of VAWG (particularly women in prostitution and Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE)). Three reports have been published on this work.</li> <li>• In addition, a number of international reviews have been carried out in relation the impact of COVID on the justice system, many of focus on the effect on victims.</li> <li>• Results from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2018/19 - the main</li> </ul>	
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			<p>national survey on victimisation - were published in June 2020 with results for the 2019/20 survey due in Spring 2021. Fieldwork for the survey had to be suspended in March 2020 and there will be no results for 2020/21. However to fill this gaps – and crucially to understand more about the experience of victims during COVID, the Scottish Government have carried out a national telephone survey and will publish results form this in early 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oona Brooks and Michele Burman produced a paper on the delay of trials - link to the SCCJR <a href="#">press release</a> and to the paper.</li><li>• Susan McVey is involved in a large project on Understanding Inequalities which looks at various issues and groups in relation to inequality <a href="https://www.understanding-inequalities.ac.uk/about">https://www.understanding-inequalities.ac.uk/about</a></li><li>• The Scottish Government has awarded funding to a group of University of Glasgow researchers to look into the current and longer-term impact of social distancing and other behavioural measures on vulnerable</li></ul>	
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Timescale: short term (by April 2021), medium term (by April 2022) and longer term (beyond April 2022)

			<p>groups. The research team, led by SCCJR’s Prof Sarah Armstrong with co-principal investigator Dr Lucy Pickering, will focus on four key groups; the disabled and chronically ill; criminal justice populations; domestic abuse and sexual violence survivors; and refugees, asylum and destitution-affected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children and young people in Scotland, during the COVID-19 pandemic, is the focus of a new University of Stirling study.</li> <li>• The project – funded under the Scottish Government’s Rapid Research in COVID-19 programme – will provide understanding of how social distancing measures and economic constraints have impacted the lives of vulnerable children, young people, and their families. That knowledge will help inform third sector social care responses, ensuring those in need of support continue to receive it.</li> </ul>	
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<p><b>Action 4c</b></p> <p>Contribute to society change in identifying and responding to victimisation</p> <p>Continue to work across academic communities, with policy makers and practitioners to disseminate research findings and engage with improved practices across organisations and communities.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Scottish Government Justice Analytical Services in collaboration with SCCJR</p>	<p>All of the research referred to in Actions 4a and 4b have outputs associated with them, which have been shared through the the taskforce updates.</p> <p>However we recognise that more can be done to ensure that the important messages and conclusions which can be drawn from the research reach practitioners and inform future policy. As part of the action under 4a we will be assessing how well existing research is being disseminated and considering ow this can be improved to ensure maximum impact.</p>	<p>Based on the results of the surveying work to be carried out by March 2021, develop a plan for improvements in dissemination.</p> <p>Following on from stakeholder feedback on the visual presentation of statistics, Scottish Government is considering how to gather views on presentation of statistics and research on justice, especially in relation to victims. The aim is to ensure that evidence can be presented in a straightforward way that presents clear messages, but is also sensitive to the subject matter.</p>
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Work stream 5 – Specific Projects	Taskforce Lead – SG / Others			
<p><b>Description:</b> Discrete projects suggested by Taskforce members Those working on these items are likely to look at what action can be taken to drive forward, provide momentum or kick-off work in these areas, whilst ultimate responsibility for delivery sits with individual organisations. In most instances the value the Taskforce will add to these items will be its ability to work collaboratively across the sector.</p>				
<p><b>Update:</b></p>				
<p><b>Victim Engagement:</b>            5a – The Taskforce may wish to seek the views of the Victims / Survivor’s Reference Groups as part of the process to consider the case for the introduction of a Victims Commissioner.             5b - To be discussed with SCID, VSS and BRAKE to determine most suitable best mechanism to engage with victims / relatives of road traffic offences and what specific questions we would want to ask.</p>				
To Action – Reference	(S/M/L)	Owner(s)	Progress	Next Steps
<p><b>Action 5a</b></p> <p>Consideration of the case for the introduction of a new Victims’ Commissioner for Scotland. This has been suggested by victims and MSPs.</p> <p>This suggestion was last considered, but not supported, by Parliament during the passage of the Victims and Witness (Scotland) Act 2014.</p>	S	SG	<p>September 2019 – Taskforce discussed a <a href="#">paper</a> and sought further information on role / responsibilities of other Commissioners in UK.</p> <p>Spring 2020 – Taskforce Secretariat met with Domestic Abuse Commissioner Office; Victims Commissioner for England and Wales Office and Ministry of Justice officials, to understand more clearly roles and responsibilities</p>	December 2020 – Taskforce to discuss options paper at December meeting.

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The Cabinet Secretary has stated that the case for a Victims Commissioner will be reviewed by the Taskforce.			of the Commissioners and their offices.  November 2020 – Updated discussion paper shared with Taskforce members for views ahead of December meeting.	
<b>Action 5b</b> Removal of disqualification under the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 - bereaved families/victims injured not informed. Creation of a new opt-in system, similar to the VNS, whereby victims ask to be kept informed when a request to remove a disqualification is received by the court.				
<b>Action 5b – Revised</b>  Consideration of current support available to victims of road traffic offences and their families with a view to identifying where improvements could be made.	M	S.C.I.D / SG / Transport Scotland	October 2019 – SG grant funding to BRAKE - the road safety charity increased from £10k to £48k (and £46k in 2020) to fund development and publication of the <i>Information and advice for bereaved families and</i>	- Meeting to be set up with SCID and BRAKE to discuss FLO training / NRVS.  - Follow up with Police Scotland Family Liaison Officers and COPFS Fatal Accident Unit to learn more about their role and support provided to victims.

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<p>Includes a suggestion by Scotland's Campaign Against Irresponsible Drivers (SCID) relating to the removal of disqualification under the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 where victims / families are not informed. Consider the case for creation of a new opt-in system (similar to the Victim Notification Scheme) whereby victims ask to be kept informed when a request to remove a disqualification is received by the court.</p>			<p><i>friends following death on the road in Scotland</i> booklet and distribution to Police Scotland. Also to fund specialist and focussed support through the National Road Victim Service (NRVS) to bereaved and seriously injured road crash victims affected by road death in Scotland.</p> <p>March 2020 – SCID, VSS and SG meeting to discuss support for victims of road crashes and their families.</p> <p>Work then paused due to Covid.</p>	<p>- SG to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SG to re-examine legislative issues around Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 and early return of driving licence for banned drivers.</li> <li>• Current position on Victim Impact statements for victims of road traffic offenders</li> </ul>
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