

Intergovernmental Agreement on Co-operation on Criminal Justice Matters:

Work Programme Jan 2026 - Jan 2028

YOUTH JUSTICE 2026-28

Activity	Outcome
<p>1. Exchange information on policy and practice developments in relation to children in the justice system, with a particular focus (in year 1) on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • early intervention and diversion programmes; • the development and implementation of bail support / supervision schemes; and • tackling offending behaviour by children with racist or anti-immigrant sentiments. 	<p>Evidence of information exchanged which will allow shared learning, best practice exchange and effective policy and service development.</p>
<p>2. Develop and share evidence and research, linked to common policy and service priorities and objectives, including identification of best practices and advancements in measurement of outcomes, across the two jurisdictions.</p>	<p>Evidence of research completed or shared which influences the development of policy or practice in either or both jurisdictions.</p>
<p>3. Develop practical co-operation between services through the sharing of practice, including guidance and training, and visits to facilities.</p>	<p>Evidence of practice exchange, information sharing and visits to facilities.</p>

FORENSIC SCIENCE 2026-28

Activity	Outcome
1. FSI and FSNI summer workshop to develop a joint strategic set of priorities.	
2. Continue to develop mutual business continuity support between the services.	Evidence of improved resilience in delivery of services.
3. Develop knowledge transfer opportunities in analytical methods. This will consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance of European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI). • Continued engagement in support of ongoing exchange of drugs and toxicology information recognising all-island drug distribution and toxicology trends. 	Evidence of process improvements based on exchanges.
4. Collaboration on business delivery models and projects between the services, consisting of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing of Lessons Learnt and Post Project Evaluation from FSI new Laboratory/Accommodation project to inform design and build stages for FSNI Atlas (new accommodation) Project. 	FSNI Atlas Project informed by recent peer experience and best practices.
5. Support delivery of the European UNLOCK (fUNDamental forensiC Knowledge) project to enhance European knowledge base and competencies in forensic science disciplines through development and delivery of training programmes and resources.	Evidence of enhanced knowledge of forensic science knowledge and techniques in participants.

PUBLIC PROTECTION 2026-28

Activity	Outcome
1. Co-operate in knowledge sharing and collaborative engagement on topical, new and emerging issues in the delivery of criminal justice.	Evidence that knowledge exchange and good practice have been shared between CJ agencies.
2. Strengthen our collaboration in the development of interventions to enhance public protection and address offending in agreed areas, across agencies on a cross-border basis.	Evidence of work undertaken in agreed areas
3. Continue to create opportunities for staff training, development and well-being across agencies, on a cross-border basis	Evidence of training and development opportunities actioned.
4. Continue to build criminal justice leadership capacity across the agencies on a cross-border basis.	Evidence of leadership capacity building facilitated.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & SOCIAL DIVERSITY 2026-28

Activity	Outcome
<p>1. Increase opportunities for enhanced cross border awareness raising and operational activity between the policing services by creating a small joint PSNI/AGS Steering Group.</p> <p>This will hold quarterly meetings relating to operational policing good practice including the challenges in supporting and protecting minority communities impacted by hate.</p> <p>This will include sharing legislative updates, joint commissioning of statistical reports and approaches to working with and supporting victims, witnesses and their communities in relation to the protected characteristics of that jurisdiction. Activities will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good practice, trends and engagement with the following groups: • Minority Ethnic communities (Religion/Race Hate); • Travellers; • LGBTQ+ communities; and • Persons with disabilities/impairments • Issues with Refugees/Asylum seekers relating to Hate Abuse; and • Joint operations and meetings to address shared issues of hate abuse particularly in geographical areas sharing a border. 	<p>Increased joint operational activity and awareness of diversity through sustained cooperation between both police services in the two jurisdictions on the island of Ireland.</p> <p>Specific outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly information sharing on all aspects of hate abuse – cross border and with partner agencies; • Engagement events with key partners to promote better joint response to issues impacting minority communities cross-border; and • Enhanced understanding of minority community experiences; • Learning from good practices from both jurisdictions.
<p>2. Explore opportunities for cooperation, good practice and knowledge sharing in the areas of radicalisation to violent extremism and paramilitarism via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing formal and regular communication pathways between PSNI and AGS for to exchange information and activity linked to extremism; and 	<p>Evidence that knowledge exchange and good practice have been shared by the Joint Steering Group with internal partners, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint analytical work to consider gaps in activity; • Sharing of specific strategies to tackle various strands of radicalisation and extremism (in conjunction with JATF); • To build on the establishment of cross border Operational /

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Utilisation of existing cross border structure such as JATF for tackling extremism, paramilitarism and politically motivated crime. etc.	<p>Neighbourhood meetings to address cross border crime and issues of concern to border communities; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where appropriate, consider coordination of operational activity in response to specific shared challenges e.g. protest activity and events by specific groupings.
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SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS 2026-28

Activity	Outcome
<p>Strategic responses to victims' policies:</p> <p>1. <u>2x General Support for Victims PAG meetings per year</u> to share information on strategic responses to victims, which will allow shared learning, best practice exchange and discussion to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall strategies and action plans to address issues related to victims;• Legislative developments;• Supports / protections in place for victims;• Improvements to information sharing with victims and practical supports in the criminal justice system;• Improvements to capturing data and feedback from victims;• Improving our understanding of the needs, interests and experiences of victims to include consideration of rural and neuro diverse needs;• Any relevant research undertaken in either jurisdiction in respect of victims of crime and their access to supports; and• Victims representation and advocacy – learning from the establishment of a Victims and Witnesses of Crime Commissioner (NI) and Victims Forum (IE).	<p>Increased awareness and understanding of the strategic response to victims' policies.</p>

<p>Addressing domestic abuse:</p> <p>1. <u>Information shared on addressing domestic abuse</u> which will allow shared learning, best practice exchange and discussion at Support for Victims PAG meetings, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall strategies to address domestic abuse • Supports/protections in place for victims (services, legal remedies, supports in civil and criminal justice processes) • Legislative developments • Courts/Prosecution authorities related issues • Police structures and measures to tackle the problem • Awareness raising and promotional campaigns to tackle the problem (education/prevention work) • Intervention work to address abusive and offending behaviours • Particular initiatives e.g. domestic abuse protection notices and orders, domestic abuse courts, Domestic Homicide Reviews • Risk assessment • Prevalence data <p>2. Share learning event – <u>domestic abuse protection orders (NI) and DV Removal Orders (ROI)</u></p>	<p>Increased awareness and understanding from work being undertaken on addressing domestic abuse.</p>
<p>Addressing sexual violence:</p> <p>1. <u>Information shared on addressing sexual violence</u> which will allow shared learning, best practice exchange and discussion at Support for Victims PAG meetings, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall strategies to address sexual violence; • Supports/protections in place for victims (services, supports in criminal justice processes, compensation); • Research and prevalence data; • Legislative developments (including disclosure); • Police structures and measures to tackle the problem; • Courts/Prosecution authorities related issues 	<p>Increased awareness and understanding from work being undertaken on addressing sexual violence.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of recommendations arising out of the review of Sir John Gillen and Tom O’Malley B.L.; • Awareness raising and promotional campaigns to tackle the problem (education/prevention work); • Risk assessment, sex offender treatment programmes and offender management programmes; • Awareness raising and promotional campaigns to tackle the problem of online harms. <p>2. To develop plans to hold a bi-lateral conference / on-line seminar, led (if possible) by North / South Justice Ministers, to share experience, learning and best practice in relation to pilots / programmes which have been established on any of the areas above to improve supports to victims in the criminal justice system, including the implementation of recommendations from the O’Malley and Gillen Reviews.</p>	<p>Conference / on-line seminar to take place by end 2027.</p> <p>Increased awareness and shared information on learning relating to pilots and programmes established from the O’Malley and Gillen Reviews.</p>
<p><i>Domestic Homicide Review Implementation/Operationalisation</i></p> <p>1. <u>Information shared on the implementation and operationalisation of DHRs</u> which will allow shared learning, best practice exchange and discussion at Support for Victims PAG meetings, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning from the established NI DHR model (scope, thresholds, resourcing assumptions, accountability mechanisms; publication approach); • Legislative developments; • Implementation of Irish DHR model; • Cross-border cases. <p>2. Shared learning event (following NI’s Thematic Review) on Domestic Homicide Reviews (to include discussion of DHRs which have a cross-border element) by end 2027.</p>	<p>DHR mechanisms in NI and IE with governance for cross-cutting recommendations and accountability mechanisms.</p>

<p>Addressing human trafficking:</p> <p>1. Information shared on addressing human trafficking, which will allow shared learning, best practice exchange and discussion at Support for Victims PAG meetings, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exchange of experience and best practice, AGS and PSNI, and DPP offices;• Challenges in provision of information and supports to victims, including those who are victims of sexual violence or enforced prostitution;• Referral and support mechanisms;• Supports for victims within asylum and protections systems;• Victims' representation and advocacy – exchange of experience on consultation with victims and stakeholders.	<p>Increased awareness and understanding on work being taken forward on addressing human trafficking.</p>
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