

Hon Karen Chhour, Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence

Title: Update on discussions around the next Action Plan

Date: 19 August 2024

File reference

2024/114905

Summary

1. Over the past month, engagement with some FVSV Ministers on the direction and emerging content in the second Action Plan has taken place. Feedback from these discussions may require alternative options to be explored regarding the development and implementation of the Plan.
2. We'd like to discuss these options with you at the officials meeting on 19 August, prior to confirming the agenda and focus for FVSV Ministers on 29 August.

Purpose

3. To update you on recent conversations with your Ministerial colleagues about the second Action Plan and provide some options regarding next steps ahead of FVSV Ministers meeting on 29 August.

Background

4. Following the development of draft content for the second Action Plan, we have undertaken discussions with some FVSV Ministers, including Ministers Upston, Mitchell, and Goldsmith. Meetings have also been requested with the Ministers of Health and Education.

Feedback provided

5. There is an potential timing issue related to the upcoming Budget 25 process and the timing of submissions for future investment, and the delivery of the second Action Plan. A spend review is currently underway that will bring together information on the FVSV budget package spend and associated evaluative practice. This will provide us with a more fulsome understanding of the existing spend, ensuring more effective and efficient reprioritisation of resources, as needed. This is an important input into the second Action Plan and we now need to consider how we reconcile the different timing issues and position the Plan to support future budget bid processes.

6. FVSV is emerging as an critical area that is well positioned to respond to several different workstreams, including Target Delivery Plans, social investment, and social sector commissioning. We need to be able to accelerate across these streams now to meet the expectation and demand for immediate action. Ministers were clear that we need to better understand the relationship between the action plan and these different priorities.
7. Primary prevention was identified as a key priority for the second Action Plan by Minister Upston. It is currently not within scope of the Plan but will be an ongoing priority for agencies (e.g. ACC and MSD).
8. Given the expectations of the government for more immediate delivery (as reflected at the 30 June Strategy Cabinet Committee), we may need to take a dual-track approach, that enables a focus on both short- and long-term progress. These issues will be important to work through with FVSV Ministers at the upcoming meeting on 29 August.

Options for progressing the second Action Plan

9. It is likely that FVSV Ministers will raise the above points as part of your discussion on 29 August. This potentially challenges us to think differently about how we progress the plan, particularly considering the appetite for immediate progress. That said, we need to be mindful of expectations set with the FVSV specialist sector throughout our engagement process to date.
10. There are three potential options to discuss with you, which may respond to the feedback provided.

a) Option 1: Status Quo

Proceed as planned by publishing a standalone 5-year Action Plan later in the year. We will continue to refine content following broader FVSV discussion and feedback with stakeholders. Although this option may provide greater clarity to communities, FVSV specialist sector, and Ministers on the specific programmes of work, there will be misalignment with the spend review (notwithstanding the social investment programme and Justice Sector Target Delivery Plans), which may impact on our ability to deliver the priorities in the Plan. We also may not be able to evidence the rapid shift to delivery as expected.

b) Option 2: Phased Approach (Recommended)

Adopt a phased approach that sets out our five-year strategic priorities (e.g. protecting children and young people through early intervention and prevention) to communicate the government's intentions, alongside immediate action to deliver work programmes that can be rapidly progressed (accelerating local and regional multi-agency approaches) in a 2-year period. This approach would enable more immediate action and provide clear strategic intent, but may not wholly meet community/sector expectations for a full Plan.

c) Option 3: Deliver a Single Integrated Programme of Activity

Solely focus on integrating government approaches to deliver more effective local and regional multi-agency responses. This would be a 1-2 year programme that seeks to integrate social sector commissioning, justice sector target delivery plans, and social investment priorities with a single coordinated focus. Delivering this option will put us in a strong position to demonstrate progress quickly, although may not meet community and sector expectations – particularly for priorities that sit outside multi-agency responses (e.g. sexual violence).

Next Steps

11. We would like to talk through these options with you including pros and cons at the officials meeting on 19 August, prior to confirming the agenda and papers for FVSV Ministers on 29 August.

Contact Details

Please contact Emma Powell on 9(2)(a) if you have any questions.