

## **Tough New Controls To Keep Public Safe From Violent Offenders And More Support For Victims Of Rape**

Strong new civil orders to further protect the public from violence and additional support for victims of sexual assault were announced today by Policing Minister David Hanson at the launch of an updated strategy to tackle violent crime.

The publication of An Action Plan to Tackle Violence – One Year On marks the introduction of Violent Offender Orders (VOOs) to help prevent violent individuals re-offending by disrupting their patterns of offending behaviour.

Under the terms of VOOs serious offenders who have reached the end of their prison sentences or licence and who may be at risk of re-offending can be banned from places, events, and from contacting specified people for between two and five years.

Like sex offenders they must tell police if they move home, change their name, or go abroad. Breaking the terms of a VOO is a criminal offence punishable by five years in prison.

Police can apply to a magistrates court to grant a VOO. Offenders must have served at least 12 months in prison for serious violent offences including manslaughter, attempted murder, GBH, or malicious wounding.

Policing Minister David Hanson MP said:

“Violent crime can have a devastating effect on victims and on communities. Violent Offender Orders are a valuable tool to help protect the public and disrupt offending behaviour.

“VOOs will build on other public protection measures and reduce this risk so the most violent offenders can be managed beyond the end of their sentence or probation.

“Violent Crime has fallen by 41 per cent since 1997. However, we continue to look at ways to tackle the issue. Today’s updated strategy and this funding will help us further drive down levels of violence as well as help the victims who have been affected by sexual crime.”

During a visit to St Mary’s sexual assault referral centre (SARC) in Manchester today, David Hanson awarded government funding of £3.2m to help victims of sexual violence.

A total of £1.67m will help establish eight new Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs),

support 15 existing SARCs and fund 43 Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs) to offer practical support for victims of sexual violence.

Clinical Director of the St Mary's Centre, Dr Catherine White said:

"St Mary's Centre, Manchester was the first SARC to be established in this country and has been at the forefront of developing comprehensive services for the victims of rape and sexual assault.

"This funding will not only allow for the development of enhanced services here in Manchester but also ensure that rape and sexual assault victims have access to SARC services across all of the UK."

The remaining £1.6m has been allocated today to 39 members of Rape Crisis England & Wales and The Survivors' Trust by the Government Equalities Office. These charities provide specialist services, such as counselling and advocacy, to women and men who have been raped or experienced sexual violence.

Announcing the funding allocations today, Solicitor General Vera Baird QC MP, said:

"Rape is a devastating crime that traumatises victims and shatters lives. We can only continue to tackle it strongly as we are determined to do with the help of the experienced and well-trained voluntary sector."

The introduction of VOOs and latest funding allocation is part of the Government's commitment to reduce all violent crime. The strategy was set out in the cross government violent crime action plan – 'An Action plan for Tackling Violence 2008-2011' – published last year.

An updated plan 'An Action Plan for Tackling Violence – One year On' which is published today shows strong progress on all the original measures. The new plan sets out additional actions with an emphasis on prevention to complement work in priority areas of tackling serious youth violence and violence against women.

Meanwhile, violent crime continues to fall. Crime statistics published last month show violence against the person is down six per cent on the year before.

## NOTES TO EDITORS

- 1.** VOOs are legislated for in the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 and came into force on 3 August 2009. They are civil preventative orders which may impose prohibitions, restrictions or conditions on individuals from going to any specified premises or other place; attending any specified event; or having any contact with any specified individual.
- 2.** Persons subject to a VOO also become subject to its notification requirements which are very similar to those of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. These notification requirements are commonly referred to as the sex offenders register. A person subject to a VOO must notify the police of certain information within three days of it coming into force and within three days of various changes occurring, including moving home and changing their name.
- 3.** The 'An Action Plan for Tackling Violence: One Year On' updates the government's 'An Action Plan for Tackling Violence 2008-2011' published last year. The update outlines of progress delivering 51 key actions to tackle violent crime including the rollout of the National Ballistic Intelligence Service (NABIS) and the beginning of the Child Sex Offender disclosure scheme being piloted in Cambridgeshire, Cleveland, Hampshire and Warwickshire.
- 4.** It strengthens the previous action plan in five strategic cross departmental areas with 45 new actions such as developing a strengthened approach to information sharing in Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and actions to tackle violence throughout the health service. 'An Action Plan for Tackling Violence 2008-11: One Year On' is available from [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/)
- 5.** The Home Office received a number of successful applications for £75,000 to set up new SARC's for the funding year 2009/10 from the following organisations:  
Northamptonshire police; Suffolk constabulary; Norfolk constabulary; Lincolnshire police; Staffordshire constabulary; Cumbria police; Hertfordshire constabulary; South West Essex PCT/Essex police.

6. The Home Office has also awarded funding to the following existing SARC organisations:

Organisation	Location	Funding
Ynss Saff	Cardiff, Wales	£31,990
Amethyst SARC,	North West London	£30,000
CASA (Care After Sexual Assault) suite,	Yorkshire and Humber	£25,000
St Mary's SARC, Manchester	Greater Manchester	£25,000
The Treetops centre	Cosham, Hampshire	£20,000
Meadows SARC	Durham	£16,605
New Swindon Sanctuary	Swindon, Wiltshire	£15,000
New Pathways	Carmarthen	£12,505
Helen Britton House	Middlesborough	£5,800
The Topaz centre	Nottingham	£5,505
Twelves company	Plymouth	£5,000
New Pathways	Swansea	£3,180
New Pathways	Risca, Gwent	£2,000
Derbyshire Rape Crisis/ Millfield House SARC	Codner, Derbyshire	£1,500

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7. The Home Office has awarded £860,000 funding for the following new and existing Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA) posts for 2009/10. ISVAs support victims of sexual violence and abuse. They work with criminal and civil Justice agencies, health services, the voluntary sector and Victim and Witness Services to enable victims to access the services they need; and ensure victims are kept informed and supported as their case progresses through the criminal justice system.

Name of applicant organisation	Government Office Region
Safe and Sound Derby	East Midlands
Derbyshire Rape Crisis	East Midlands
Lincolnshire Police	East Midlands
Nottingham Rape Crisis Centre	East Midlands
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	East of England
SW Essex PCT	East of England
Haven Camberwell	London
Haven Paddington	London
Haven Whitechapel	London
Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre Croydon	London
Respond	London
Women's Trust	London
Eva Women's Aid	North East
Reach Newcastle	North East
Women's Support Network	North East
Armistead Centre	North West
Cumbria Constabulary	North West
Lancashire Constabulary	North West
Merseyside RASA and Merseyside SARC	North West
Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre Cheshire	North West

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SAFE Place Merseyside	North West
St Marys Manchester	North West
Family Matters – NW Kent	South East
Southampton Rape Crisis and Star Project	South East
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary	South West
The Bridge SARC, Avon and Somerset	South West
Twelves Company	South West
Women’s Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre Cornwall	South West
NW SARC	Wales
Ynys Saff, Cardiff and Vale SARC	Wales
Coventry RASAC	West Midlands
Rape and Sexual Violence Project (Birmingham)	West Midlands
Rugby RoSA	West Midlands
Safeline Warwick	West Midlands
Sandwell Women’s Aid	West Midlands
SAVANA in North Staffordshire	West Midlands
Worcestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre	West Midlands
Barnsley Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Helpline	Yorkshire and Humber
Bradford Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Survivors Service	Yorkshire and Humber
Doncaster Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service	Yorkshire and Humber
Grimsby and Scunthorpe Rape Crisis	Yorkshire and Humber
Kirklees Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service	Yorkshire and Humber
South Yorkshire SARC	Yorkshire and Humber

9. The Government Equalities Office (GEO) has announced funding for the following organisations:

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Grant award</b>
Aylesbury Vale Rape Crisis	Aylesbury	25,858.00
Basingstoke Rape & Sexual Abuse Crisis Centre	Basingstoke	5,500.00
Bradford Rape Crisis & Sexual Abuse Survivors Service	Bradford	30,956.00
Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre	Cambridge	33,188.00
Cornwall Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre	Cornwall	50,000.00
CRASAC (Coventry Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre)	Coventry	50,000.00
Crisis Point	Walsall	34,632.00
Doncaster Rape & Sexual Abuse Counselling Service	Doncaster	50,000.00
Family Matters	Kent	20,000.00
First Step	Leicester	25,507.60
Gloucestershire Rape Crisis Centre	Glos	23,680.00
HEAL (Helping Everyone Abused Live)	Colchester	11,675.00
HOPE Healing Our Past Experiences	Scarborough	38,200.00
Hull Rape Crisis	Hull	50,000.00
Lantern Project	Wallasey, Wirral	50,000.00
New Pathways	Merthyr Tydfil	26,398.00
One in Four	London	50,000.00
Peterborough Rape Crisis Counselling Group	Peterborough	35,000.00
Quetzel	Leicester	30,000.00
Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre (Croydon)	Croydon	50,000.00
Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre (Guildford)	Guildford	34,451.00

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Rape & Sexual Abuse (RASA) Centre	Merseyside	33,230.00
Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre N Wales	N Wales	50,000.00
Rape Crisis (Wycombe, Chiltern & S Bucks)	Wycombe	50,000.00
Rugby RoSA	Rugby	50,000.00
Safeline	Warwick/national	15,000.00
SALT South West (Sexual Abuse Listening Service)	Plymouth	15,140.00
SARAC	Burton	50,000.00
SHE – Survivors Helping Each other	Newark	39,180.00
Sheffield Rape & Sexual Abuse Counselling Service	Sheffield	27,000.00
Southampton Rape Crisis	Southampton	50,000.00
Supporting Survivors of Abuse	Wirral	21,403.00
Survivors UK	National	50,000.00
Survivors Network (Sussex)	Brighton	38,718.20
Tyneside Rape Crisis Centre	Tyneside	36,047.00
Watford Rape Crisis	Watford	5,000.00
West Cumbria Rape Crisis	West Cumbria	20,000.00
Women's Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre	Cornwall	50,000.00
Worcestershire Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre	Worcs	50,000.00