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Inter-agency

No agency on its own can address the complexities of domestic violence effectively. Many organisations have a role to play in preventing domestic violence, protecting and supporting victims and holding perpetrators to account.

Research indicates that strategies and actions on domestic violence should encompass a wide range of government departments, statutory agencies and other organisations.

In Northern Ireland inter-agency co-operation is well established. The key to success is identifying local needs and designing local responses:

- ◆Women's Aid Federation works regularly with other organisations to improve services to victims;
- ◆Local domestic violence forums involving the statutory, voluntary and community sectors work in each Health & Social Services Trust:
- ◆The Regional Steering Group is responsible for the Government's overarching strategy *Tackling Violence at Home.*

The key themes of *Tackling Violence at Home* are:

- ◆Prevention working to prevent domestic violence occurring in the first place and from reoccurring.
- ◆Protection and Justice increasing legal protection for victims and their families
- ◆Support developing support for those affected to rebuild their lives

Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland is committed to interagency co-operation and brings its experience and strengths to joint working with all its partners. Over the last year, the Federation has supported local forums to complete publications, conduct training and publicity events and prioritise their plans.

The Women's Aid Federation supports the development of effective action. Over the next year the Federation looks forward to supporting local and regional implementation of *Tackling Violence at Home* – all with the aim of making changes and improvements for women and children and our goal to end domestic violence.

