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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Public Protection Committee
DATE	28 th April 2021
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Aberdeen Violence Against Women Partnership Progress Report
REPORT NUMBER	CUS/21/085
DIRECTOR	Andy Macdonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Derek McGowan, Chair of Community Justice Group
REPORT AUTHOR	Carron McKellar, Co-Chair of Violence Against Women Partnership
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Public Protection Committee on the progress of the Aberdeen Violence Against Women Partnership (AVAWP).

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 That the Committee:

- a) note and endorse the information contained within this report and appendices;
- b) note that in future an annual assurance report will be presented to the Committee by the Chief Officer.

3. PROGRESS REPORT

- 3.1 The Aberdeen Violence Against Women Partnership (AVAWP) reports through the Community Justice Group and in 2020 had the Strategic Priorities and Action Plan approved through the Public Protection Executive Group. It is co-chaired by Police Scotland and Grampian Women's Aid and is the key multi-agency driver of implementation of the Scottish Government and COSLA's Equally Safe strategy across Aberdeen City. This report highlights the progress and work of the partnership towards meeting the aims of the strategy which are aligned to Equally Safe and the additional work undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic and associated restrictions.

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- 3.2 The COVID-19 restrictions and their implications have continued to be the focus of the AVAWP. As highlighted in the previous progress report, the restrictions inadvertently resulted in the potential for victims of abuse to be in the company of new or existing abusers for prolonged periods, whilst not being seen by friends, family or professionals, thus increasing opportunities for abuse. Furthermore, victims of abuse may have been able to report abuse due to the proximity of their abuser or may have been under the impression that normal pathways to support may not have been available due to the restrictions. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Supplementary National Violence Against Women Guidance](#) published by the Scottish Government and COSLA which assisted in formulating the response to the restrictions and associated risks.
- 3.3 In line with the AVAWP Communications Strategy, media campaigns have continued by the partnership, highlighting that services are still open and available, while identifying pathways to support with the AVAWP web page hosted on the Aberdeen City Council website providing a wide variety of information and support linked to gender based violence.
- 3.4 Media campaigns and initiatives have been crucial during this period with regards preventative messaging and also ensuring victims are aware of the support and assistance available to them. Collectively, and as an example, a media awareness raising campaign was launched to promote safety messaging in relation to sexual offending to coincide with the relaxing of lockdown restrictions, in respect of the hospitality sector.
- 3.5 The Scottish Government Domestic Abuse campaign, in conjunction with Police Scotland and Safer Scotland, was well supported by the AVAWP. This included local messaging being translated into the 10 most requested languages and sent out through community channels to ensure the messages were as wide-reaching as possible. Additionally, articles published in local community newsletters and distributed to locality areas, aiming to reach those who may not have internet access. With local radio supporting the campaign, this preventative multi-faceted public messaging was continued to ensure focus remained on helping the most vulnerable in our communities.
- 3.6 December saw the partnership's focus turn to '16 Days of Action'. With restrictions in place, partners worked collectively to ensure the continued support of this national campaign in Aberdeen. Aside from the additional enforcement aspect of this, events were carried out virtually and included awareness raising, training to practitioners, police officers and volunteers, and a well-received multi-agency webinar aimed at victims and those seeking support.
- 3.7 Certain services have reported increased demand, particularly at times when lockdown restrictions eased whilst others report demand similar to previous years. The combined issue of 'hidden harm' and potential 'delayed demand' post COVID-19 restrictions is one which is closely monitored by the partnership.

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3.8 Following the Strategic Priorities and Action Plan being approved, the AVAWP has recently developed four key subgroups to take forward the priorities identified in the Action Plan. Two of these subgroups are pan-Grampian and led by Police Scotland and NHS Grampian, recognising the strength in having consistency across the North East in two key areas. The remaining two are driving the work carried out under the Improvement Project entitled 'Tackling Domestic Abuse' which aims to us a whole population approach to increase the aware of domestic abuse by 2021, reduce the number of children who are witness to domestic abuse by September 2022 and decrease the number of reported incidents by 30% in 2026.

3.8.1 **Data, Performance and Quality Assurance Group**

This is a multi-agency pan-Grampian group being led by Police Scotland. The ACC Digital team is supporting the creation on a VAWP Data dashboard for each of the Grampian areas. To begin with, only domestic abuse information is being collated and, although still in the process of collecting management information around domestic abuse and identifying gaps, it is starting to compare data from 2020. Data on the other forms of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) will be collected once domestic abuse data has been finalised. It should be noted that this is a local management tool and the data collated is not for publication beyond the respective VAWPs at this time. This group is currently meeting every 6 weeks and will be integral in steering the direction of the partnership as it strives to meet the objectives set out in the Action Plan.

3.8.2 **Training, Learning and Development Group**

This is also a multi-agency pan-Grampian group and is being led by NHS Grampian. The group is currently collectively evaluating what training is available in each of the Grampian areas and identifying gaps in training need with a view to creating a virtual training programme of local and national learning and development opportunities. The aim is to provide practitioners and volunteers with the knowledge to respond appropriately when working with individuals affected by gender-based violence or abuse. Planning is in place for a multi-agency VAWG conference to be held later this year to start looking at the impact of COVID on VAWG. Speakers from Safe Lives and University of Aberdeen have already been confirmed.

3.8.3 **Rejecting Violence and Perpetrator Focus**

Led by Criminal Justice Social Work, this multi-agency subgroup is linked to the Improvement Project – Tackling Domestic Abuse – and its aim is to decrease number of incidents of domestic abuse by 30% by 2026. Monthly meetings have recently commenced alongside the other subgroup which is linked to the Improvement Group (see below). A cross-cutting communications campaign is in the early stages of planning and will include: awareness raising to target perpetrators of domestic abuse; what is harmful behaviour; and awareness raising of ACC Domestic Abuse Team for survivors.

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3.8.4 Equal Citizens and Effective Interventions

Led by Children and Families Social Work, this multi-agency subgroup is also linked to Improvement Project ‘Tackling Domestic Abuse’. It aims to reduce number of children who experience domestic abuse by September 2022 and is meeting monthly alongside the subgroup mentioned above. As highlighted, the cross-cutting communications campaign is in the early stages of planning and, relevant to this group, will include: awareness raising to target social work professionals’ knowledge of domestic abuse the impact on children; and a referral pathway to Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

3.9 In line with other public protection partnerships, a draft Risk Register has been developed for the AVAWP. It incorporates acknowledged risks which have been identified and are currently being mitigated through the work of the groups mentioned in this report and will be tabled at the next partnership meeting for final comment.

3.9.1 In January 2021, the two co-Chairs and the Lead Officer for the AVAWP briefed elected members. The focus of this briefing was domestic abuse and it covered the recent change to legislation, the partnership’s strategy and action plan, and the impact of Covid-19. This was well-attended and there was much engagement. It is anticipated will be repeated towards the end of the year and potentially include other aspects of VAWG.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial matters arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal matters arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Financial	None for this report		
Legal	None for this report		
Employee	None for this report		
Customer	None for this report		
Environment	None for this report		
Technology	None for this report		

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Reputational	Incorrect data, if publicised, could lead to reputational issues for the partnership	L	The local data produced is in its infancy and currently for management purposes only with no plans to publicise it at this early stage in the development of the dataset. Oversight, scrutiny and analysis of the data has rectified initial discrepancies.
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7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report
Prosperous Economy	None
Prosperous People	<p>The functions of the Aberdeen Violence Against Women Partnership are that Aberdeen embraces equality and mutual respect, and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls; Women and girls thrive as equal citizens – socially, culturally, economically and politically; Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising the safety and wellbeing of women, children and young people; Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls ,and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response. Having a robust data set is key for effectively taking forward this agenda.</p> <p>Stretch Outcome 3, Key Driver 3.2 and Stretch Outcome 9, Key Driver 9.4, are particularly impacted by this report.</p>
Prosperous Place	None

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Customer Service Design	None

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Organisational Design	None
Governance	Appropriate oversight of services delivering public protection provides assurance to both the organisation and the public in terms of meeting the council's statutory duties, and also contributes to compliance with agreed standards.
Workforce	A proactive learning approach is taken to support staff understanding of the range of domestic abuse and child protection issues identified locally and nationally.
Process Design	None
Technology	None
Partnerships and Alliances	Services to vulnerable people are delivered on a multi-agency basis and the scrutiny, challenge and learning requires all agencies to work in partnership with each other.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	Not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	Not required

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

10. APPENDICES (if applicable)

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Appendix 1. [Aberdeen Violence Against Women Partnership Action Plan and Strategy](#)

Appendix 2. Aberdeen City – COVID19 – Domestic Abuse Communications Campaign Plan

Appendix 3. AVAWP Risk Register (DRAFT)

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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Aberdeen Violence Against Women Partnership Strategy 2018-2021

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

DOCUMENT CONTROL	
Author	Aberdeen Violence Against Women Partnership
Governance	Community Justice Group

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Effective date	
Reviewed	
Next Review	

Foreword

The Aberdeen Violence Against Women Partnership aims to tackle violence and abuse against women and girls in all of its forms. Equally Safe shapes our thinking and planning to tackle gender inequality and promote work in making women and girls safer, stronger and more able to strive.

The aims of the Violence Against Women Partnership will contribute towards the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan in raising aspirations, building a better future for children and young people, empowering and connecting communities as well as addressing the behaviours of perpetrators.

Kevin Walker

Detective Chief Inspector

Chair of the Violence Against Women Partnership

Defining violence against women

“There is one universal truth, applicable to all countries, countries and communities, violence against women is never acceptable, never excusable, never tolerable” Ban Ki-moon (Secretary General of the United Nations 2007-2016)

Violence against women and girls is not confined to any particular political or economic system, but it is prevalent in every society in the world. It cuts across boundaries of wealth, race and culture. It is an

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expression of historically and culturally specific values and standards which are today still executed through many social and political institutions that foster women's subservience and discrimination against women and girls.

The Aberdeen Violence Against Women Partnership (AVAWP) has adopted the Scottish Government definition which identifies violence against women as follows:

“Gender based violence is a function of gender inequality, and an abuse of male power and privilege. It takes the form of actions that result in physical, sexual and psychological harm or suffering to women and children, or affront to their human dignity, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of their liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. It is men who predominantly carry out such violence, and women who are predominantly the victims of such violence. By referring to violence as ‘gender based’ this definition highlights the need to understand violence within the context of women’s and girls’ subordinate status in society. Such violence cannot be understood, therefore, in isolation from the norms, social structure and gender roles within the community, which greatly influence women’s vulnerability to violence”

It is recognised that the abuse perpetrated against women is much wider than physical violence so the word “violence” in this document encompasses, but is not limited to:

- Physical, sexual and psychological abuse occurring in the family, within the general community or institutions, including: domestic violence, coercive and controlling behaviours, rape, incest and child sexual abuse.
- Sexual harassment and intimidation at work and in the public sphere; commercial sexual exploitation, including prostitution, pornography and trafficking
- Dowry related violence
- Female genital mutilation
- Forced and child marriages
- Honour crimes
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Other sexual crime including cyber enabled crime¹

¹ There has been a significant increase in the proportion of ‘Other sexual crimes’ that were cyber enabled (i.e. the internet was used as a means to commit the crime) increasing from 38% in 2013-14 to 51% in 2016-17. For both cyber enabled crimes and non-cyber enabled crimes of ‘Communicating indecently’, ‘Cause to view sexual activity or images’, more than 80% of victims were female and around 95% of perpetrators were male in 2016-17. Almost three-quarters of the victims of cyber enabled crimes of this type in 2016-17 were under 16.

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This does not deny that women use violence and coercive control against a male or female partner. It also does not deny that men use violence and control against other men, including male partners. It simply recognises that women are disadvantaged disproportionately because of the abuse they experience.

The terms 'women' and 'girls' will be used throughout this strategy. It is acknowledged that a person's internal sense of gender may differ from the sex assigned at birth. The terms therefore refer not only to cisgender women and girls (whose gender identity reflects the sex assigned at birth) but also includes sexual/gender minorities – terms that refer to individuals whose sexual orientation is outside the heterosexual mainstream and whose gender identity/expression does not fit into the distinct categories of male or female, or cisgender. This encompasses transgender identities, as well as those exhibiting a non-conforming expression of gender.

We are developing our intersectional approach by increasing recognition of the particular experience of different groups of women and girls, better understanding the additional vulnerabilities and barriers that exist for those with intersectional identities, and through engagement with different groups and stakeholders to understand these issues better.

Governance and Reporting

A Chairperson and Vice Chairperson (or joint chair) shall be elected from the AVAWP membership. The appointment of the Chairperson(s) and Vice Chairperson shall be limited to a maximum of 2 years, with the option of being re-elected beyond this time period.

Meetings will be chaired by the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson. In the event that the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson stands down, all members of the AVAWP will be invited to nominate existing members for appointment to either of the posts. All nominations must have a proposer and a seconder and in the event that more than one nomination is received for either of the posts then a vote will be taken at the next scheduled AVAWP meeting. Only full members present will be entitled to cast a single vote. The nomination with the highest number of votes will be elected to the vacant post.

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The AVAWP shall meet at least once every three months with additional meetings called as necessary.

The activities of the AVAWP shall be promoted by a Co-Ordinator/ Lead Officer.

As part of the wider strategic vision, it is hoped that links will be forged with other strategic partnerships such as Child Protection Committee, Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, Adult Protection Committee and Community Justice Group. A strong multi-group strategic vision will help promote joint-working between the differing groups.

Role and Remit

This Strategy aims to establish the issues related to violence and abuse against women, or gender based abuse, in Aberdeen and identify the priorities to be addressed by the AVAWP. This partnership aims to respond and be actively involved in consultations at both a local and national level.

Violence Against Women is a major societal and public health issue which is recognised at both national and international level. The AVAWP recognises that partnership working is essential for providing a comprehensive response to violence against women.

By working together agencies can intervene more effectively with the men who perpetrate abuse, with women, children and young people harmed, and with the wider community in order to promote prevention and earlier intervention.

Working collaboratively with key partners across all sectors, the AVAWP aims to eradicate violence against women in Aberdeen and make it a place where women and children can, with support when necessary, live free from the inequalities and harm associated with gender based violence in accordance with: the Human Rights Act 1998; the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989; the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention); and the Scottish Government Equally Safe Strategy.

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The AVAWP aims to:

- Ensure that gender inequality is integrated into the planning processes of partner agencies.
- Raise public awareness of violence/ abuse against women and ensure that its related harms are better understood.
- Work with children and young people to challenge attitudes towards violence/ abuse against women.
- Influence public attitudes so that people are no longer prepared to tolerate violence/abuse against women
- Encourage and support all partner agencies to take into account the views of women and children in families affected by violence/ abuse against women when developing services.
- Strive to achieve a policy of co-operation and co-ordination of services between agencies.
- Identify gaps in service provision and make recommendations for the development of future services in Aberdeen.
- Ensure that identified appropriate training is provided to staff from all agencies so that they can recognise violence/ abuse against women and give appropriate support to those affected.
- Reduce the extent and impact of violence/ abuse against women and on those affected in the family and wider community.
- Identify mechanisms whereby perpetrators can be held accountable for their behaviour.
- Develop and monitor the delivery of an Action Plan and Strategy in line with the Scottish Government Equally Safe Strategy

Policy and Strategy Context

Work to prevent and eradicate violence/abuse against women and girls is interwoven into a range of Scottish Government strategies, programmes and frameworks. But the principle one is 'Equally Safe' which specifically seeks to address violence/abuse against women.

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Equally Safe

The Scottish Government, in partnership with COSLA published 'Equally Safe: Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls'. The vision is of a strong and flourishing Scotland where all individuals are equally safe and respected, and where women and girls live free from all forms of violence and abuse – and the attitudes that help perpetuate it.

The strategy highlights the need for every area of Government and wider society to play a role in tackling this issue. It calls on the engagement of Police Scotland, NHS, community planning partnerships as well as the civil and criminal justice systems, social work, housing, media, businesses, employers, trade unions and third sector organisations to play their part in creating a society where all women and girls can feel safe, respected and equal in our communities.

To achieve the aims of the strategy, work will be shaped around the equally safe four key priorities:

1. Scottish society embraces equality and mutual respect, and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls
2. Women and girls thrive as equal citizens: socially, culturally, economically and politically
3. Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and promoting women's safety and wellbeing
4. Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls and perpetrators of such violence received a robust and effective response

The framework provides a shared understanding of the causes, risk factors and scale of violence and abuse against women and girls, and highlights the need to prioritise prevention. It recognises the need to work collaboratively with partners by making best use of available resources and with clear governance and process. It has therefore been used as the basis for developing local outcomes.

Outcomes will be further developed and delivered through dedicated work streams and overseen by the AVAWP.

Local Context

Profile of Aberdeen

In 2014, it was estimated that there were 228,990 people living in Aberdeen. This number is expected to increase. The city has a diverse population, with 15.9 % of people not born in the UK. In addition, children (aged 0-15) make up 15% of its population.

With the traditional success of the oil and gas sector, unemployment in the city is low. Although, as a consequence of the industry, the city contains some of the most affluent areas of Scotland, some of the country's most deprived areas are in Aberdeen.

In 2017-18, there were 59,541 incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland an increase of 1% from 2016-17. Where gender information was recorded, around four out of every five incidents of domestic abuse in 2017-18 had a female victim and a male accused.

Locally, there were 2773 incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Aberdeen in 2017/18. This was an increase of 251 from the previous financial year (*Scottish Government publication, 'Domestic Abuse in Scotland 2017-18'*).

Moreover, the incidents involving sexual crimes has steadily increased in recent years. Sexual crimes can include rape, attempted rape, sexual assault, crimes relating to prostitution, sexually coercive conduct and taking and distributing indecent images. Changes in legislation and a greater reporting of incidents to police following exposure of national enquiries have undoubtedly contributed to this. In 2017/18, out of the 12,487 sexual crimes recorded by police nationally, 623 relate to Aberdeen (*Scottish Government publication, 'Recorded Crime in Scotland 2017-18'*).

Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP)

The vision and strategic priorities set out within the LOIP provide a clear focus for Community Planning Aberdeen. To create 'a place where all people can prosper', there are four priority areas for strategic working in the LOIP :

1. Aberdeen prospers
2. Children are our future
3. People are resilient, included and supported when in need
4. Empowered, resilient and sustainable communities

The activities of the AVAWP will promote the strategic objectives of the LOIP.

Our Strategic Priorities

Priority 1

Aberdeen embraces equality and mutual respect, and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls

Our Objectives

- Positive gender roles are promoted
- People enjoy healthy, positive relationships
- Children and young people develop an understanding of safe, healthy and positive relationships from an early age
- Individuals and communities recognise and challenge violent and abusive behaviour
- Raised public awareness of violence/ abuse against women and its related harms are better understood.

This priority is fundamental in tackling the problem of violence against women and girls, recognising ingrained and entrenched social beliefs must be challenged if we are to effect societal change.

One of the key roles for partners is to increase awareness of the issue of gender based abuse and the appropriate responses, both in the form of criminal justice measures and in the provision of high quality support for women and children harmed.. Education is also key to engendering an attitudinal shift and it is imperative that work is done with young people in order to educate the next generation on what constitutes abuse and why this is unacceptable in any form.

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A culture shift must take place across all sectors of society if we are to create a climate where: women feel their voices have been heard; they can thrive as equals; communities have a better understanding of the issue of gender based abuse; appropriate interventions are available for perpetrators; and victims feel safer.

Local Outcomes

- A greater proportion of people of all ages are aware of issues regarding violence against women and gender based abuse, and believe it is unacceptable.
- Wider society is empowered to challenge abusive and violent behaviour.

Priority 2

Women and girls thrive as equal citizens – socially, culturally, economically and politically

Our Objectives

- Women and girls are safe, respected and equal in our communities
- Women and men have equal access to power and resources
- Ensure that gender inequality is integrated into the planning processes of partner agencies.

A modern society should see equality and fairness as a given. Our aspiration is for our society to be less patriarchal through; promoting equality in the workplace by bridging the gender pay-gap; tackling the causes of poverty and inequality which disproportionately affect women; giving women a voice and supporting them to have the confidence to use it. A wide attitudinal shift from top down to bottom up is required if we are to effect the change needed to see women treated equally across society.

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Local Outcomes

- Local employers have robust policies and procedures in place, relating to gender equality, diversity, flexible working and sexual harassment.
- Women and girls feel safer in their communities, schools and at work

Priority 3

Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising the safety and wellbeing of women, children and young people

Our Objectives

- Justice responses are robust, swift, consistent and coordinated
- Women, children and young people access relevant, effective and integrated services
- Service providers competently identify violence against women and girls, and respond effectively to women, children and young people affected

All partners involved with the Aberdeen Violence Against Women partnership play a vital role in delivering services to promote the safety and wellbeing of those harmed by violence, abuse and controlling behaviours.

The third sector has offered pioneering services including advocacy, refuge provision, advice and counselling and it is clear that there are some support networks in place for women and children who have been affected by violence.

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As has been previously stated, early identification and intervention is crucial in addressing the issues and local and statutory agencies must be supported to ensure that there is adequate provision of support services in their areas. Increased information sharing and a data based analytical response must be embedded in the work of the partnership and this has to be a priority going forward. Early intervention leads to better outcomes and less of a strain on the public purse and will also lead to a decrease in repeat offences.

Local Outcomes

- Increased awareness of early signs of abuse across all sector, with service providers able to intervene sensitively and effectively.
- More people in the wider community, of all ages, are confident in identifying early signs of abuse.

Priority 4

Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls, and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response

Our Objectives

- Justice responses are robust, swift, consistent and coordinated
- Men who carry out violence against women and girls are identified early and held to account by the criminal and civil justice system.
- Relevant links are made between the experience of women, children and young people in the criminal and civil system.

It is clear that domestic and sexual abuse cannot be tolerated and for many women a swift and proportionate criminal justice response can help victims feel validated, safe and aid their recovery.

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The role of Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) cannot be downplayed in tackling this issue and a zero-tolerance approach must be taken in bringing perpetrators to justice.

In order for the justice system to play its full role though we need to ensure that support is available from 'report to court' for victims, that women are encouraged and supported to report abuse and that a renewed faith and confidence is felt in the judicial system. It is crucial that the incidents of violence and abuse are identified at the earliest point, that women are listened to, fully informed and supported in making decisions about their (and their children's) safety, and that a swift, robust and fair judicial process takes place.

A range of interventions should be in place to both work with perpetrators and to provide support to those harmed by domestic and sexual abuse. Such interventions should be proportionate to the risk posed by perpetrators and meet the needs of victims. The Caledonian System is one such intervention which provides a programme (usually 2 years) to higher risk male perpetrators of domestic abuse in tandem with support and safety planning for women and children harmed. The Moving Forward Making Changes programme works with sex offenders for a period of 3 years. Both programmes are aimed at changing perpetrators' thinking and behavior in order to reduce their risk of reoffending.

Local Outcomes

- Women, children and young people have increased confidence in the judicial system
- There is an increased range of mandatory and non-mandatory interventions that challenge and support perpetrators of violence against women

Engagement

Ongoing consultation and engagement with stakeholders is important to the success of the AVAWP. We recognize the importance of listening to women who have used services. This allows us to further develop services in the city to ensure the needs of women, children and young people are being met appropriately and effectively.

Monitoring and Evaluation

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Progress towards this strategy will be reviewed regularly by the AVAWP through its annual action plan. Annual reviews will ensure the strategy is in line with changing local and national policies and priorities.

A performance framework has been developed to support the AVAWP's priorities and objectives. Data from this will also be fed into the national framework.



ABERDEEN VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PARTNERSHIP

ACTION PLAN 2018-21

DOCUMENT CONTROL	
Author	Aberdeen City Violence Against Women Partnership
Governance	Community Justice Group

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Effective date	
Reviewed	
Next Review	

Aberdeen Violence Against Women Action Plan 2018-21

VISION

Our vision is for a strong and flourishing city where all individuals are equally safe and respected, and where women and girls live free from all forms of violence and abuse – and the attitudes that help perpetuate it.

PRIORITIES

We aim to work together in Aberdeen in order to ensure:

Aberdeen embraces equality and mutual respect, and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls	Women and girls thrive as equal citizens – socially, culturally, economically and politically	Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising the safety and wellbeing of women, children and young people	Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls, and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response
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LOCAL OUTCOME IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2016-26

Stretch Outcome	Key Drivers	Improvement Project Aim	Key Improvement Measures
3. 95% of children (0-5 years) will reach their expected developmental	3.2 Keeping young children safe.	Reduce number of children who are witness to domestic abuse by 2022.	Number of health visitor routine inquiry's that

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milestones by the time of their child health reviews by 2026			indicate domestic abuse in the home Number of domestic abuse reports with children regarded as present
9. 25% fewer people receiving a first ever court conviction each year by 2026	9.4 Changing attitudes about domestic abuse in all its forms	Using a whole population approach: i. Increase awareness of domestic abuse by 2021 ii. Reduce number of children who are witness to domestic abuse by 2022 iii. Decrease number of reported incidents by 30% by 2026	Number of awareness raising events tackling domestic abuse % of secondary schools with mentors in violence prevention scheme in place Number of reported domestic abuse incidents

Aberdeen Violence Against Women Partnership have listed priorities which will focus the group’s activities towards the aims of Equally Safe as well and contributing towards the above elements of the Aberdeen Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

OUTCOMES			
Positive gender roles are promoted	Women and girls are safe, respected and equal in our communities	People enjoy healthy, positive relationships and children develop an understanding of safe, healthy, and positive relationships from an early age	Individuals and communities recognise and challenge violent and abusive behaviour
Women and men have equal access to power and resources	Justice responses are robust, swift, consistent and coordinated	Women, children and young people access relevant, effective and integrated services	Men who carry out violence against women and girls are identified

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			early and held to account by the justice system
Service providers competently identify violence against women and girls, and respond effectively to women, children and young people affected	Men who carry out violence against women and girls change their behaviour, and are supported to do so	Women, children and young people's voices are heard and their rights respected	Relevant links are made between the experience of women, children and young people in the criminal and civil justice systems

UNDERPINNING ACTIVITIES				
Working in partnership	Using improvement methodology	Delivery of VAWG training	Data collection & analysis	C P

PRIORITIES				
THE CITY EMBRACES EQUALITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT, AND REJECTS ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AND ABUSE AGAINST WOMEN				
1	Action	Ownership	Evidence	Dem
a	Gather information and evidence on the range of VAWG prevention activities currently being undertaken and make recommendations to fill identified gaps and promote consistency across Aberdeen			
b	Promote the 'mentors in violence prevention' scheme across the city's secondary schools			
c	Work with parents and carers to support early recognition and identification of VAWG Development			
d	Targeted prevention work with those with additional vulnerabilities to forms of VAWG, e.g. those with care experience, learning disabilities, young people			

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e	Link with other public protection focused initiatives to promote prevention			
f	Promote consistency of responses to VAWG across services			
g	Provide ways for people to report experiences of VAWG anonymously			
h	Number of health visitor routine inquiry's that indicate domestic abuse in the home			
i	Review how MARAC meetings and other VAWG related groups are resourced			
j	Implement a strategic approach to White Ribbon in Aberdeen			
k	Formulate a Communication Plan to promote the work of the Violence Against Women Partnership			
l	Promote awareness raising events tackling domestic abuse across the city <i>(LOIP)</i>			

WOMEN AND GIRLS THRIVE AS EQUAL CITIZENS – SOCIALLY, CULTURALLY, ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY

2	Action	Ownership	Evidence	Dem
a	Implement workplace policies to reduce tolerance of VAWG in the work place and support affected employees			
b	Workplaces respond effectively to employees who are perpetrators of VAWG			
c	Engage with education/employment leads & other relevant stakeholders to promote gender equality in career pathways/positive destinations.			
d	Promote effective use of Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) to ensure policies, processes & services do not discriminate against women & identify ways to promote gender equality through them			
e	Deliver training & awareness raising activities on gender equality & diversity			
f	Map work currently going on within schools to promote gender equality & healthy positive relationships			

INTERVENTIONS ARE EARLY AND EFFECTIVE, PREVENTING VIOLENCE AND ABUSE, MAXIMISING THE SAFETY AND WELLBEING AND YOUNG PEOPLE

3	Action	Ownership	Evidence	Dem
a	Implement MARAC Action Plan			

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b	Effectively support children and young people affected by VAW			
c	Improve responses to adult survivors of child sexual abuse and sexual violence from children's services			
d	Scope and ensure trauma informed services for adults and children			
e	Develop approaches to reduce sexual exploitation			
f	Develop integrated approaches to survivors of VAW (and their children) with drug and alcohol problems			
g	Sustain (or improve) quality of current third sector services			
h	Extend provision of third sector services			
i	Workplaces promote the safety and wellbeing of their staff who are survivors of VAW			
j	Training Plan implemented to improve responses to survivors of VAW in Aberdeen			
k	Statutory sector agencies measure how their interventions increase safety and wellbeing of survivors			
l	Housing Policy and processes to better meet the needs of those affected by domestic abuse Housing			
m	Ensure awareness of Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse in Scotland (DSDAS) across the agencies			
n	Ensure effective links in place with the No Recourse, North East network.			
o	Develop a practitioner's guide with the Child Protection Committee for Domestic Abuse and Child Protection in relation to the Safe and Together model & ensure training/awareness raising takes place			

MEN DESIST FROM ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AND ABUSE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS, AND PERPETRATORS OF SUCH VIOLENCE AND EFFECTIVE RESPONSE

4	Action	Ownership	Evidence	Demands
a	Multi-agency training and awareness raising to ensure agencies and staff are supported to respond to perpetrators of sexual violence and domestic abuse			

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b	Effectively support children and young people affected by VAW			
c	Develop a more proactive approach in relation to interventions and support for perpetrators pre, on and after conviction, to reduce offending behaviours			
d	Specific prevention programmes are offered to men through SPS			
e	Perpetrator focused interventions increase the safety of women and children affected by domestic abuse			

PPC Report – Appendix 2

Aberdeen City – COVID19 – Domestic Abuse Communications Campaign Plan

Aim: To put out simple, clear messaging to reach as wide an audience as possible, in a range of formats/languages, etc, commencing end April 2020.

Key messages

How to get help:

- Services are open for business
- Service contact details/ helplines– including national helpline (24/7), Police and local services (ACVO [Tracker](#) & Toolkit*)
- Details of wider supports, eg financial
- Make clear that people with coronavirus symptoms can still access support
- How to report concerns about others

'Stay Safe' and 'Planning suggestions' (from Toolkit*)

[Scot Govt Dom Ab Toolkit*: <https://www.cps.scot/media/3327/april-2020-domestic-abuse-toolkit.pdf>]

Methods of communication

Partner websites

Community magazines (SHMU)

Community radio (SHMU)

Press?

Civic Forum contacts (David Henderson)

Posters in supermarkets/ pharmacies?

ACVO bulletin

Social Media

The table below sets out the detail of the planned communications and information about 'reach'. Additional information about the campaign follows.

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Timescales?	What is the message? <i>(Numbers in brackets relate to messages in Appendix)</i>	Who is the target audience?	How will this be communicated?	What needs to be done, by whom?
w/c 27th April 2020				
Mon 27 th	Whole AVAWP message	Northfield/Middlefield localities	Copy to Community Mags (SHMU)	Poster/s & info – ACVO
Tues 28 th	Help is available	Wider public	SG campaign poster – FB post.	Police Corporate comms
Wed 29 th	Whole message	Wider public	Media release	ACC Comms team
Thurs 30 th	Every 9 minutes message and Quote from DSU Forrester...	Wider public	Police Scotland fb pages Or press	Police Corporate comms
	(1) DA not acceptable	Wider public	FB & Twitter – 5pm	ACC Comms Team
Fri 1 st May	Whole AVAWP message	Minority groups Community groups such as Sure Start, women’s groups, religious groups, toddler groups Communities	ACVO Bulletin Via Civic Forum contacts	ACVO VV to send to David Henderson
Sun 3 rd May	(2) DA is not your fault	Wider public	Twitter, 3pm	ACC Comms Team
w/c 4th May 2020				
Tues 5 th	Whole AVAWP message	Tillydrone/Seaton locality partnership	Copy to Community Mags SHMU	Poster/s and info – ACVO
Wed 6 th	(2) DA is not your fault	Wider public	FB, 4pm	ACC Comms Team
Thurs 7 th	Help is available	Wider public	SG campaign poster – FB pages	Police Comms Team
w/c 11th May 2020				
Wed 13 th	(6) If things are difficult	Wider public	Twitter, 12.25pm	ACC Comms Team
Thurs 14 th	Every 9 minutes message and Quote from DSU Forrester...	Wider public	Police Scotland website/fb pages. Visible until the following Tuesday	Police Corporate comms
	(7) Many services + key numbers	Wider public	FB, 1pm	ACC Comms Team
Fri 15 th	Whole AVAWP message	Minority groups	ACVO Bulletin	ACVO

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Timescales?	What is the message? <i>(Numbers in brackets relate to messages in Appendix)</i>	Who is the target audience?	How will this be communicated?	What needs to be done, by whom?
		Community groups such as Sure Start, women's groups, religious groups, toddler groups		
w/c 18th May 2020**				
Mon 18 th	(8) At home shouldn't mean at risk	Wider public	Twitter, 11am	ACC Comms Team
Tues 19 th	Help is available	Wider public	SG campaign poster – FB? To remain until Friday	Police Comms Team
Wed 20 th	DA & Child Protection – see below [#]	Wider public	Twitter	ACC Comms Team
Fri 22 nd	Whole AVAWP message	Minority groups Community groups such as Sure Start, women's groups, religious groups, toddler groups	ACVO Bulletin	ACVO
	(3) Every year – stats	Wider public	FB, 2.15pm	ACC Comms Team
w/c 25th May 2020				
Mon 25 th	DA & Child Protection – see Appendix [#]	Wider public	FB	ACC Comms Team
Thurs 28 th	(4) Partner hurt you?	Wider public	FB & Twitter	ACC Comms Team
Fri 29 th	DA not acceptable	Wider public	Twitter	SFRS
June 2020				
End June	Whole AVAWP message	Mastrick locality partnership	Copy to Community Mags SHMU	Poster/s and info – ACVO
June onwards	Translations of myths	Non-English speakers	Snippets on SHMU radio	Susan M/ SHMU
July 2020				
Thur 2 nd	(1) DA not acceptable	Wider Public	FB	ACC Comms Team
Sun 5 th	(4) Partner hurt you?	Wider Public	Twitter	ACC Comms Team
Tue 7 th	(4) Partner hurt you?	Wider Public	FB	ACC Comms Team
Thur 16 th	(6) If things are difficult	Wider Public	Twitter	ACC Comms Team
Fri 17 th	(3) Every year – stats	Wider Public	FB	ACC Comms Team

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Timescales?	What is the message? <i>(Numbers in brackets relate to messages in Appendix)</i>	Who is the target audience?	How will this be communicated?	What needs to be done, by whom?
Tue 21st	(3) Every year – stats	Wider Public	Twitter	ACC Comms Team
Sat 25th	(6) If things are difficult	Wider Public	FB	ACC Comms Team
Fri 31 st	What goes on behind closed doors	Wider Public	Twitter	ACC Comms Team
August 2020				
Mon 3rd	What goes on behind closed doors	Wider Public	FB & Twitter	ACC Comms Team
Sun 16th	(7) Many services + key numbers	Wider Public	FB & Twitter	ACC Comms Team
Sun 22nd	(2) DA is not your fault	Wider Public	FB & Twitter	ACC Comms Team
Fri 28th	(6) If things are difficult	Wider Public	FB & Twitter	ACC Comms Team

Additional info re Reach of campaign

**1000 leaflets distributed between 14th and 21st May with CFine food parcels – to households excluding single men.

P&J article on Cyrenians/ Caledonian.

ACC Social Media Messages – April to August 2020

1. Domestic abuse is not acceptable! It is not your fault and you are not alone. We can help, visit <https://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/domesticabuse/> for more information
If you are in danger and it is an emergency, call 999 or 101 in non-emergencies
2. Domestic abuse is not your fault. If you or anyone you know is experiencing domestic abuse you must get help. Find out more <https://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/domesticabuse/>
3. Every year around 58,000 to 61,000 people across Scotland experience domestic abuse. You are not alone, we are here to help you. Find out more <https://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/domesticabuse/>
4. If your partner or ex has ever hurt you or your child, locked you in, held you so you cannot move, or hurt you in other ways Then we can help you. Find out more <https://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/domesticabuse/>

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5. There are many free and confidential services available to help people in Aberdeen who are experiencing domestic abuse. Please visit <https://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/domesticabuse/> for more information

6. If things are difficult for you or a family member at home right now, find out where to get support <https://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/domesticabuse/>

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