

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Public Protection Committee
DATE	7 October 2020
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Aberdeen Violence Against Women Partnership Progress Report
REPORT NUMBER	CUS/20/170
DIRECTOR	Customer Services
CHIEF OFFICER	Early Intervention and Community Empowerment – Derek McGowan (Chair of Community Justice Group)
REPORT AUTHOR	Neil McDonald, Co-Chair of Violence Against Women Partnership
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.2

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Public Protection Executive Group on the progress of the Aberdeen Violence Against Women Partnership.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 That the Committee:
- note the information contained within this report.

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.
- 3.2 The COVID-19 restrictions imposed in March 2020, required an enhanced meeting regime for the AVAWP, which moved to monthly meetings. Immediate risks and a coordinated response to the implications of COVID-19 restrictions were managed through the AVAWP.
- 3.3 Scottish Government and COSLA published 'Coronavirus (COVID-19) Supplementary National Violence Against Women Guidance' and the issues and priorities highlighted in this report have been managed and reported upon through the AVAWP. In addition, guidance for local practitioners was created

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and issued and a VAWP specific section of the Adult Protection Risk Register was developed, although future planning is for AVAWP to develop a specific Risk Register in due course.

- 3.4 A further notable development during this period was the creation of an AVAWP web page, hosted on the Aberdeen City Council web site and a wide spread media campaign highlighting the availability of all services during any phases of 'lockdown'. A coordinated Communications Strategy is in the process of being developed.
- 3.5 AVAWP have now returned to the original quarterly meeting schedule with structures and plans in place for progression of the Strategic Priorities and Action Plan.
- 3.6 The appointment of the AVAWP Development Officer has been a significant development that has and will facilitate progression of the objectives of the partnership.
- 3.7 The issue of 'hidden harm' and potential 'delayed demand' post COVID-19 restriction is one which is closely monitored by the AVAWP. All statutory authorities and third sector agencies report on demand and risks at the AVAWP meetings and any significant concerns or service gaps will be reported through appropriate channels.
- 3.8 The AVAWP has proven to be of great benefit for the coordination of activities during the COVID-19 restrictions and is well placed to progress the Strategic Priorities and Action Plan in the coming months.

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		

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Technology	None for this report		
Reputational	Incorrect data, if publicised, could lead to reputational issues for the partnership	L	The data produced is for management purposes only with no plans to publicise it. Oversight, scrutiny and analysis of the data has rectified initial discrepancies.

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
Organisational Design	None

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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)

None

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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