

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 1 MARCH 2022**

**ANGUS COUNCIL - 10 MARCH 2022**

**ANGUS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2020 to 2021**

**REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**ABSTRACT**

This report presents the first Angus Violence Against Women Partnership (AVAWP) Annual Report for March 2020 to April 2021. Equally Safe is Scotland's national strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls, with local Violence Against Women partnerships providing the multi-agency forum to deliver this. Chief Officers across Angus individually and collectively have responsibility to ensure that there are clear reporting processes in place between AVAWP and the Chief Officers Group.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Scrutiny and Audit Committee:

- (i) Scrutinise and comment on the contents of the Angus Violence Against Women Partnership (AVAWP) Annual Report 2020 to 2021 (appended to this report)
- (ii) Consider the key trends and areas for development emerging from the report

It is recommended that Angus Council:

- (i) Review the content of the Angus Violence Against Women Partnership (AVAWP) Annual Report 2020 to 2021
- (ii) Note the Council's cross departmental responsibilities in relation to addressing violence against women and girls

**2. ALIGNMENT TO CORPORATE PLANS**

This report aligns to the following strategic priorities identified within the Council Plan:

- (i) To maximise inclusion and reduce inequalities
- (ii) Our communities to be strong, resilient, and led by citizens

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 On 18 October 2018, Angus Council unanimously approved a motion from Cllr Bell relating to tackling gender-based violence (the [minute](#) of meeting refers). The work of the Angus Violence Against Women Partnership (AVAWP) was commended at that time.
- 3.2 This is the first annual report produced by AVAWP covering the period April 2020 to March 2021. The report presents the work undertaken in Angus by individual agencies and in partnership to deliver national, Tayside-wide and local outcomes to prevent and eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls.
- 3.3 The nationally convened Equally Safe Joint Strategic Board expect all local authorities in Scotland to have a Violence Against Women Partnership in place. The national Violence Against Women Partnership Guidance jointly published by the Scottish Government and

COSLA sets out minimum standards for each Violence Against Women Partnership and helps ensure partnerships are working in line with the priorities set out in Equally Safe.

- 3.4 The Annual Report has been approved by AVAWP on 16 November 2021 and the Angus Chief Officer Group on 24 January 2022, the multi-agency governance group with operational accountability for protecting people arrangements in Angus.
- 3.5 AVAWP hold a risk register that is reviewed minimally quarterly and reported to Angus Chief Officers Group. There are no exceptional risks noted within this report.

#### **4. CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 During the reporting period, AVAWP continued to work together to promote awareness of and improve practice in relation to all forms of gender-based violence.
- 4.2 Of note during the reporting period:
- The first Independent Chair for AVAWP was appointed in January 2021
  - Significant increase in Gender Based Violence Activity across Angus over the past year
  - Use of digital means and social media to increase awareness. A short social media clip to raise awareness of domestic abuse in Angus during the Covid pandemic was shared over 6000 times
  - Development of AVAWP data collection and proposal for a specific subgroup to progress this
  - Digitalisation and reformatting of learning resources to meet the needs of the workforce during Covid restrictions and being unable to deliver face to face learning
  - Development and implementation of multi-agency Good Practice Guidance in Domestic Abuse
  - Development of Guidelines for Responding to gender Based Violence in Youth Settings
  - Development of The Gender Trap, a learning programme to highlight conscious and unconscious bias around gender and this impacts throughout life
  - Ongoing promotion and integration of the Safe and Together principles
- 4.3 Areas for development and progression:
- Further development of the AVAWP workforce learning and development resources
  - Work to ensure the AVAWP priorities, business and practice is informed by those who use services
  - Development of AVAWP dataset to allow for analysis of activity and identification of priorities

#### **5. PROPOSALS**

The Committee scrutinises and comments on the content of the AVAWP Annual Report April 2019 to July 2020 and considers the key trends and areas for improvement arising from the report. The Independent Chair of the AVAWP will be in attendance at Committee.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report

#### **7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

An Equality Impact Assessment is not required as this is an annual report summarising multi-agency work over the year.

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List of Appendices: Angus Violence Against Women Partnership Annual Report for 2020 to 2021