

Glen Clova Project became fully operational in 2019. Funding was provided by Angus Council for the 3-year period 2019 – 2022 and extended into year 4, 2022 – 2023. The Coronavirus pandemic had an impact on all services and whilst Glen Clova offered direct support services throughout, the level of referral, activity and support was impacted.

The following summary demonstrates the breadth of work undertaken by the project from January 2019 to September 2022, a period of 3 years 9 months.

### Referrals

- 155 referrals were received for women in the period. At any one time, the service actively works with an average of 50 women with the women receiving support for approximately 12 months
- 54% of women had at least one child with 44% of these women being recorded as having more than one child; women referred with first pregnancies are not included in this figure
- A third of referrals (highest numbers) came from Children and Families Social Work demonstrating children within the family have been identified as in need or at risk
- A further 20% came from Justice Social Work for women either on the periphery of offending or completing statutory orders and requiring further support to continued non-offending
- 20% of referrals were made from NHS Maternity for concerns for pregnant women and/or their unborn baby

### Presenting issues

Fifty-two percent of referrals note one presenting issue with the most referred single criteria relating to pregnancy support. Forty-eight percent of women were recorded as having more than one presenting issue.

- 30% of referrals note a history of poor engagement with services with these women considered 'hard to reach' and therefore at risk of not engaging to meet their own needs or that of their children
- 27% note the woman is aged 16-25 and experiencing significant social disadvantage such as relationship breakdown, homelessness, substance use or mental health issues
- 20% noted the woman was 16-25 AND at risk of abusive relationships, exploitation suicide or accidental death
- 22% of women were considered to have support needs in respect of parenting which if not addressed would likely have a significant adverse impact on their children
- 36% of referrals identified the woman as high risk of entering the criminal justice system

The relationship between particular criteria is strongest between 'Woman is aged between 16 – 25 years and is experiencing significant social disadvantage such as

family relationship breakdown, homelessness, substance misuse, mental health difficulties, unemployment and/or poverty' and 'Woman is aged between 16 – 25 years and is at risk of abusive relationships, sexual exploitation, suicide or accidental death' with 57 percent of the referrals that had the former criteria having the latter.

### **Service Impact**

The data demonstrates the complex issues of the women referred to Glen Clova with wider impacts particularly in the areas of:

- Supporting women to meet the needs of and reduce risk to, their children therefore reducing the risk of children being received into care and/or having poorer social, emotional, and educational outcomes
- Supporting women who are deemed hard to reach and at high risk of non-engagement with services; these are women that a range of other agencies have been unable to engage in support
- Providing services to vulnerable young women at risk from domestic abuse, substance use, poor mental health, and homelessness; risks both to the woman themselves and if not addressed, leading to much more costly interventions i.e., mental health treatment, homelessness, sexual exploitation
- Preventing women becoming involved in offending and requiring more costly statutory supervision, prison, community costs etc.

There are some areas that require further exploration to ensure the maximum reach to the most vulnerable families including those women who are lone parents, have a child with a disability, are 16-25 and have large family groups as this is in line with recently launched Whole Family Wellbeing Program (and fund) and presents an opportunity to consider further the biggest impact the Glen Clova project can have. This together with retaining a focus on supporting women to stay out of the criminal justice service provides us with an opportunity to prevent costly escalations for families in Angus.

This report supplements the independent evaluation report completed by Dr Breige Nugent.

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Child Protection, Care and Justice

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