

ANGUS COUNCIL

**SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE 22 AUGUST 2023
ANGUS COUNCIL 7 SEPTEMBER 2023**

ANGUS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2021 to 2022

**REPORT BY MARGO WILLIAMSON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE ANGUS COUNCIL AND MEMBER OF
ANGUS CHIEF OFFICERS' GROUP**

ABSTRACT

This report presents the Angus Violence Against Women Partnership (AVAWP) Annual Report for April 2021 to March 2022. [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

1.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny and Audit Committee:

- (i) Scrutinises and comments on the Angus Violence Against Women Partnership (AVAWP) Annual Report 2021 to 2022 (appended to this report)
- (ii) Considers the key trends and areas for development emerging from the report

1.2 It is recommended that Angus Council:

- (i) Reviews the content of the Angus Violence Against Women Partnership (AVAWP) Annual Report 2021 to 2022 (appended to this report)
- (ii) Notes the Council's cross departmental responsibilities in relation to Gender Based Violence (GBV)

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 The previous AVAWP annual report was the first one for AVAWP and covered the period [April 2020 to March 2021](#).

3.2 This Annual Report of AVAWP for the period April 2021 to March 2022 presents the work undertaken across Angus by a range of partners to deliver local, Tayside and national initiatives, policies and frameworks to improve the lives of women and children living with Gender Based Violence. AVAWP also supports work with those who commit Gender Based Violence.

3.3 The Annual Report was approved by AVAWP on 9 May 2023 and the Angus Chief Officer Group on 27th July 2023.

3.4 Members should be aware that the AVAWP holds a risk register which is reviewed at least four times each year and reported to Angus Chief Officers' Group. There are no exceptional risks noted within this report.

4. CURRENT POSITION

4.1 AVAWP have continued to work together to improve Gender Based Violence practice in Angus throughout the reporting period.

4.2 Of note during the reporting period are:

- The total number of recorded police domestic abuse incidents has dropped by 1% nationally, however has risen by 12% in Angus. Potential reasons for this increase are being explored but could be due to improvements made in relation to the Police response to Domestic Abuse, including doubling of specialist Domestic Abuse Officers and two officers being a dedicated Angus resource.
- Nationally the average age of domestic abuse victims is between 31 and 35 years old. In Angus the average is lower at between 26 and 30 years.
- The subgroups of AVAWP restructured and realigned priorities during this period to allow for better strategic oversight. The subgroups are now; Self Evaluation and Continuous Improvement, Practice Development, Prevention and Protecting People Workforce Learning and Development.
- Safe and Together Champions model further rolled out in partnership with Angus Child Protection Committee.

4.3 The AVAWP Strategic Plan 2020-2023 is based around the core business functions of Violence Against Women Partnership as set out in Equally Safe. The plan remains flexible to take into account any future trends arising within the Angus area.

4.4 Areas for development and progression:

- AVAWP recognises that there is a greater role for data to play within the Partnership and will continue to develop a local dataset. This will allow for identification of local priorities and support the writing of the 2023-2026 strategic plan.
- Prioritise prevention and early intervention to prevent lifelong disadvantage.
- Further align with other Protecting People Committees to ensure a whole family approach and less duplication of work.
- Engage with boys and men to promote their role in eradicating Gender Based Violence.

5. PROPOSALS

It is proposed that members scrutinise and comment on the content of the AVAWP Annual Report April 2021 to March 2022 and consider key trends and areas for improvement arising. 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 screening assessment has been carried out, no full EIA is required as this is a report for information and scrutiny.

REPORT AUTHOR: Laura Winter, Team Leader, Protecting People

EMAIL DETAILS: ProtectingPeopleAngus@angus.gov.uk

List of Appendices: Angus Violence Against Women Partnership Annual Report for 2021 to 2022.