



Angus Violence Against Women Partnership

Annual Report
April 2021 - March 2022

Contents	Page
Foreword by the Independent Chair	2
Chief Officer's Response	3
Introduction	4
The National Context	4
Covid-19	4
AVAWP overview and strategic priorities	5
Gender Based Violence Statistics 2021-2022	7
AVAWP Subgroup Updates	8
Progress towards our strategic priorities	11
Self-Evaluation and Performance	21
Key priorities for 2022-2023	25

Appendix 1 – Glossary of Acronyms

Appendix 2 - Safe and Together Prompt Card Tool

Foreword by Independent Chair of Angus Violence Against Women Partnership

As Independent Chair of the Angus Violence Against Women Partnership (AVAWP), I am delighted to introduce the Partnership's Annual report for the period, April 2021 – March 2022.

This report sets out a summary of the work of the Partnership and that of the key agencies who work tirelessly in Angus responding to the needs of women and girls who have experienced some form of gender based violence. It is vital that local services are in place to support victims, improve their wellbeing and reduce the risks that they are faced with often on a daily basis. The response of agencies within the Partnership to this very concerning trend of violence against and exploitation of women and young girls is outlined in the report and whilst much work is being done in this regard, there remains much to do in the future.

Prevention and education are key elements to reduce the impact of gender based violence against women and girls and some of the work ongoing is documented in this Report. Specifically, the increasing levels of sexual exploitation and the violence or threats of violence associated with this is a major concern going forward and as outlined in the report, this is one of the key challenges being addressed by AVAWP.

AVAWP meetings are very well attended and there is a real determination across all represented agencies to work together and to provide a supportive and caring response to victims of domestic violence in all its forms to ensure their safety and enhance their future life prospects. Whilst good progress is being made in Angus in this regard, as the report highlights, the Partnership faces a number of future challenges. However as Independent Chair of AVAWP I remain confident that with a professional, structured and co-ordinated approach by all agencies, a positive impact can be made on reducing the level of gender based violence and domestic abuse locally, and thus improving the lives of many who are unfortunately impacted upon by this.

Ewen West

Independent Chairperson

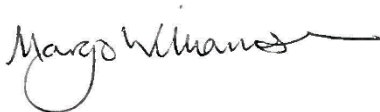
Angus Violence Against Women Partnership

Chief Officer's Response

Angus Chief Officers are pleased to receive the second annual report of the Angus Violence Against Women Partnership. We have seen an increased visibility of the issue of gender based violence with significant multi-agency awareness raising and training through 16-days of activism and Safe and Together and other partnership activity this year. We recognise the considerable efforts all partners are making to reduce violence, abuse and exploitation towards women and girls and understand that changing our culture across the multi-agency workforce and in wider society will take time.

Angus Chief Officers fully support the work of this Partnership in tackling gender based violence and are confident that the right steps are being taken to influence and deliver change.

We once again thank partners for their work and thank the Independent Chair Mr West, for his continued leadership on this important area of work.



Margo Williamson
Chief Executive
Angus Council



Claire Pearce
Executive Director of Nursing
NHS Tayside



Phil Davison
Chief Superintendent
Divisional Commander
Police Scotland

Introduction

This is the second Annual Report by the Angus Violence Against Women Partnership (AVAWP) and will cover the period April 2021 – March 2022. This report provides an overview of both the national and local context and focusses on progress towards the outcomes identified in the strategic plan 2021 – 2024.

The National Context

Equally Safe is the joint strategy of the Scottish Government and The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls. The vision of Equally Safe is *“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”*.

AVAWP is the multi-agency forum to deliver on Equally Safe at a local strategic level. No single partner alone has the resource, skill or reach to achieve the aims of Equally Safe and it is only through strong partnership working that this can be achieved.

The [National Violence Against Women Partnership Guidance](#) is designed to promote an effective and strategic approach to reducing violence against women and girls and its negative impact on individuals and communities and support local partnerships to develop effective local strategies and activities in keeping with Equally Safe to tackle violence against women and girls in all its forms. The guidance notes 6 minimum standards that Local VAWPs are expected to work towards and identifies the core activities that all VAW partners will be expected to undertake.

Covid-19

During the April 2021 – March 2022 period, Covid-19 remained a significant challenge to service delivery. Following the vaccination roll out from January 2021, many services were preparing for full transition back to pre-Covid service delivery, only to have to take several steps back with the identification of new variants of the virus later in the year. Towards the end of the reporting period, services were once again taking steps to re-establish in person support and group work in communities.

Partners made every effort to ensure that people at risk were aware of support services and how to access these services during the pandemic. It was identified that vaccination centres and GP surgeries were the most accessed service during this time and publicity materials were targeted towards these sites.

Staff working across AVAWP partner organisations identified significant difficulties in identifying people at risk and providing appropriate support in a timely manner due to Covid-19 restrictions meaning in person support was limited and staff absence further impacted service delivery. This was an identified risk during Covid-19 and attempts made to increase social media messaging and other communications.

As of April 2022, it is hoped that services can now continue to re-establish effective in-person service delivery making best use of the learning from alternative methods of service delivery gained during the pandemic.

Angus Violence Against Women Partnership (AVAWP)

AVAWP is a strategic partnership which forms part of [Protecting People Angus](#). The partnership meets quarterly and is attended by strategic and operational partners involved in working with women, families, and perpetrators of gender based violence.

AVAWP is led by an Independent Chair and reports on progress towards it's aims to the Local Government Improvement Service and Angus Chief Officers Group.

In addition to the quarterly AVAWP meetings, a number of subgroups meet regularly to progress actions identified in the AVAWP strategic plan. During 2021, the subgroups of AVAWP were refreshed and restructured to ensure there was no duplication of efforts and that the groups had appropriate membership to carry out the tasks allocated through the AVAWP strategic plan.

The [current strategic plan covers the period 2021-2024](#) and is reviewed annually. The AVAWP strategic plan has four key priority areas which provide direction to the partnership and subgroups. The priority areas are outlined below. Within each area, there are number of identified actions which the strategic plan takes account of.

PRIORITY AREA 1

Angus residents embrace equality and mutual respect, and reject all forms of violence against women and girls

PRIORITY AREA 2

Women and girls thrive as equal citizens in Angus: socially, culturally, economically and politically

PRIORITY AREA 3

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

PRIORITY AREA 4

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

Gender Based Violence Statistics



Total number of domestic abuse incidents

↓ **Scotland**
Down 1% for 2020-21 to 64,807

↑ **Angus**
Up 12% for 2020-21 to 1,237

In Angus



of victims of domestic abuse were **women**



82% of incidents involved a **female victim** and a male suspected perpetrator



15% of incidents involved a **male victim** and a female suspected perpetrator



88%

of incidents occurred in a home or dwelling



47%

of incidents occurred at the weekend

Sexual crimes account for **5%** of all crimes recorded in Scotland in 2021-22.

Common age group for victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse.



Scotland
31-35

Angus
26-30

The number of sexual crimes recorded by the police **Increased** in 2020-21 to 2021-22.



Source: Police Scotland and relate to 1st April 2021- 31st March 2022

AVAWP Subgroup Updates 2021-2022

A restructure of AVAWP Subgroups was undertaken in early 2021 and approved at an AVAWP development session, the new structure of subgroups, aims to streamline AVAWP activities, reduce the overall number of meetings that partners are required to attend and ensure progress towards the strategic aims of the partnership. Updates from each of the newly formed subgroups can be found below.

Prevention Subgroup

The prevention subgroup has delegated responsibility for work around; proactive public engagement, preventative educational work, awareness raising amongst men and supporting women from vulnerable groups to access appropriate support and education.

During the first year of operation, the prevention subgroup's key successes include:

- Development of guidance for responding to gender based violence in youth work settings
- Delivering a programme of learning events to mark the 16 Days of action against gender based violence
- Re-Launching the White Ribbon status campaign in Angus
- Continued work towards designing an 'employers pledge' aimed at raising awareness of and creating a supportive environment towards GBV issues in workplaces across Angus.
- Taking part in the Equally Safe in Practice pilot where gender equality training was delivered to elected members and managers from the chief executive downwards.

Going forward, this group will focus on:

- Engaging young people in conversations around GBV issues through prevention work in schools and youth work settings
- Work to raise awareness of the experience of women with additional support needs who have faced gender based violence and to identify specialist support for this group of women
- Continue to work towards achieving White Ribbon status in Angus
- Continue the roll out of the Equally Safe in Practice gender equality training, and an additional 2 modules
- Continue to plan and raise awareness of GBV issues, more widely and not limited to, 16 Days



Protecting People Angus Workforce Learning and Development Subgroup

The learning and development framework was updated every 2 months with newly available learning resources to ensure the workforce had access to the most up-to-date and relevant materials.

The group focussed on re-establishing the core learning programme, and a range of training sessions were made available either virtually or via-e-learning.

These included:

- Coercive Control
- Engaging with Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse
- What is sexual violence?
- Best Practice in Domestic Abuse – Safe & Together
- Introduction to commercial sexual exploitation
- Introduction to trauma and working therapeutically with trauma
- Young People and Pornography
- Domestic Abuse legislation
- Springing the Gender Gap

The subgroup also worked closely with the Open University to promote a range of free modules across the Angus workforce. This included topics such as:

- Understanding society
- Challenging ideas in mental health
- Working in diverse teams
- Does prison work?

The Learning & Development Newsletter continues to be issued monthly direct to frontline members of the workforce and now has over 1000 subscribers.

From feedback received from the workforce, there is some concern about the capacity the workforce has for undertaking learning and development while managing ever increasing workloads. Going forward, the subgroup will look at how learning is made available to ensure that the workforce can access effective learning resources in a way which best suits their needs.

Practice Development Subgroup

During 2021-2022, the practice development subgroup has undertaken a mapping exercise and identified areas of good practice and priorities for improvement.

The key priorities and actions that were identified for this subgroup were:

- Embedding routine enquiry around gender based violence in primary care settings and other universal services.
- Develop a protocol for case review to share learning and examples of good practice from local cases.
- Promoting the 'Good Practice in Domestic Abuse' guide to a wider range of frontline staff.

The subgroups membership has been developed to ensure that the people with the right expertise to move the above actions forward are involved, these actions are ongoing.

Self-evaluation and Continuous Improvement Subgroup

The Self-evaluation and continuous improvement (SECI) subgroup drafted a Terms of Reference and workplan based on the AVAWP strategic plan, both of which were approved by AVAWP. The group also pulled together a draft dataset for consideration by all multi-agency partners. The tasks of this group in relation to data has been a challenge and lack of national agreed datasets to draw upon has impacted the progress.

The key actions for the coming year for the SECI are too:

- Establish a core membership of suitable representation to take forward the dataset work
- Work with the draft dataset, ensuring all AVAWP members can work to this and provide data around in a timeously manner
- Test use of the dataset and provide update and comparisons on a quarterly basis

PROGRESS ON PRIORITIES

PRIORITY AREA 1: Angus residents embrace equality and mutual respect, and reject all forms of violence against women and girls

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence (16 Days) 2021



From 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day, the 16 Days of Action is a time to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls around the world.

AVAWP have embraced the 16 Days as an opportunity for public awareness raising of violence against women and for upskilling the local workforce on gender based violence issues. In 2021, a comprehensive programme of learning events was organised by the Prevention Subgroup which was complimented by online communications with AVAWP partners sharing information on the campaign, local support services and stories of female empowerment.

The programme was launched by very special guests, Luke and Ryan Hart who sadly lost their mother and sister to gender based violence. Luke and Ryan shared their powerful story and gave an overview of the proactive campaigning that they do to help end gender based violence.

Throughout the 16 Days, a range of sessions were held to highlight local and national good practice, campaigns and share information on services available for Angus women.

Covid-19 restrictions meant that it was most appropriate to host 16 Days sessions online. In 2022, AVAWP aim to hold a combination of online and in person training with a greater focus on public awareness raising.

PRIORITY AREA 2: Women and girls thrive as equal citizens in Angus: socially, culturally, economically and politically

Angus Council – Equally Safe at Work

AVAWP partner, Angus Council have been working towards the Equally Safe at Work Bronze accreditation.

Equally Safe at Work is an innovative employer accreditation programme It supports employers to improve their employment practice to advance gender equality at work and prevent violence against women.

Angus Council is working towards an action plan of 48 requirements such as public support by the Chief Executive and Council Leader, reviewing policies through a gender lens, arranging focus groups, collecting data on flexible working and creating channels for employees to share if they have been subject to violence. A survey has been issued to all staff (to be repeated one year later to compare answers). A cross departmental working group has been established to lead on this work.

AVAWP Employers' Pledge

In order to engage with employers who are not represented on AVAWP and encourage gender equity in workplaces across Angus, an employer's pledge is being produced by AVAWP via the Prevention subgroup. Local employers will be approached and asked to pledge their support to ending gender based violence and to promote equality in the workplace. A working group was convened to drive this forward. A template gender based violence policy has been drafted by the working group for distribution to businesses who sign the pledge.

A survey has been produced for survivors of gender based violence, aiming to gather views on how employers have responded to employees facing gender based violence and what would help survivors feel more supported. Once launched, the survey findings will inform AVAWP's work under priority area 2.

Police Scotland – Strategy to tackle violence against women and girls



Police Scotland's strategy to tackle violence against women and girls is being developed, alongside partners in all sectors, to achieve a vision for Scotland as a society where women and girls live free from all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation, and harassment. Police Scotland's approach to tackling domestic abuse is recognised as an exemplar world-wide, as is the perpetrator focused approach to prevention epitomised in the ground-breaking *That Guy* campaign. However, although progress has been made, there is more work to do to support culture change and the rights of women and girls to feel safe. A public engagement exercise will inform the strategy to further improve the Police response.

PRIORITY AREA 3: Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising the safety and wellbeing of women, children and young people in Angus.

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

MARAC is a local meeting where representatives from statutory and non-statutory agencies meet to discuss individuals at high risk of serious harm or homicide as a result of domestic abuse. The meeting provides a safe environment for agencies to share relevant and proportionate information about current risk and develop a coordinated action plan.

The primary focus of the MARAC is to safeguard the adult victim. However, the MARAC will also make links with other agencies to safeguard children and manage the behaviour of the perpetrator. Ensuring that the victim is supported throughout, and their needs represented at the MARAC is crucial to managing risk, improving and maintaining safety, and reducing repeat victimisation.

The number of cases discussed at MARAC during the reporting period is 86.

During 2021-2022, Police Scotland, Tayside Division doubled its cadre of Domestic Abuse Liaison officers who assess every report of domestic abuse in terms of risk and effective safety planning, ensuring that victims are offered and fully understand access to advocacy services. As the lead agency, Police Scotland work with MARAC partners to ensure that all domestic crimes and incidents are subject to robust quality assurance processes to ensure that [Domestic Abuse \(Scotland\) Act 2018](#) offences are correctly identified and investigated in accordance with national standards.

Dundee and Angus Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre



Women's Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre

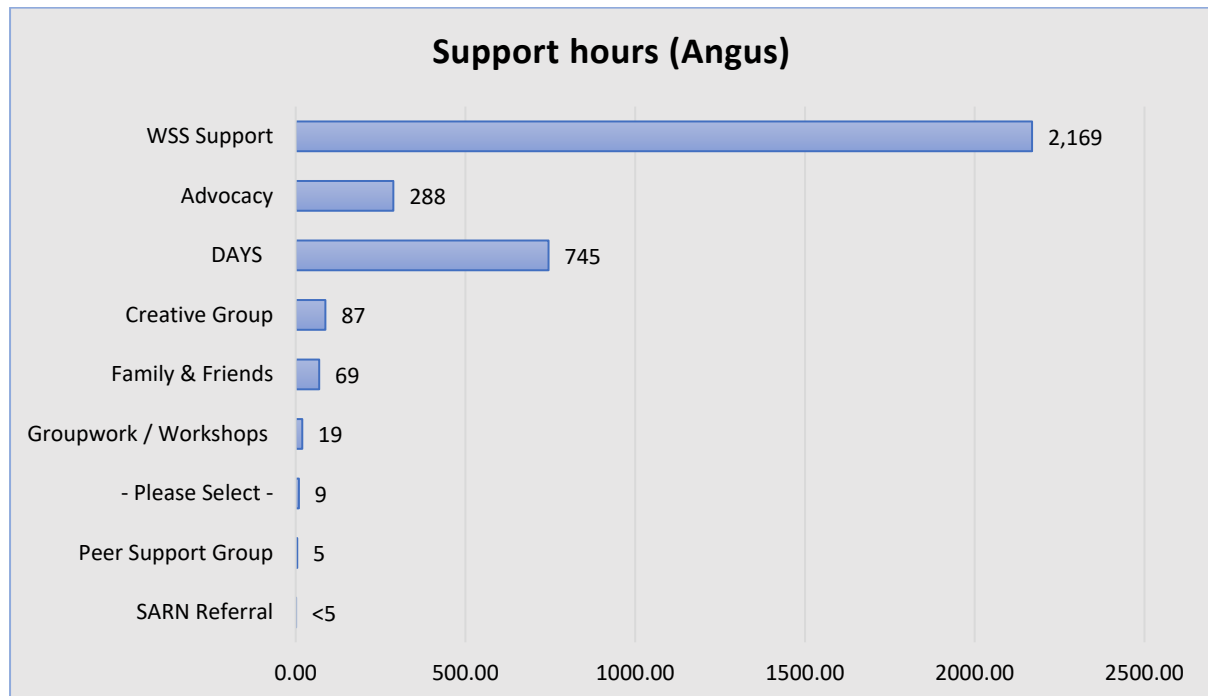
Dundee & Angus

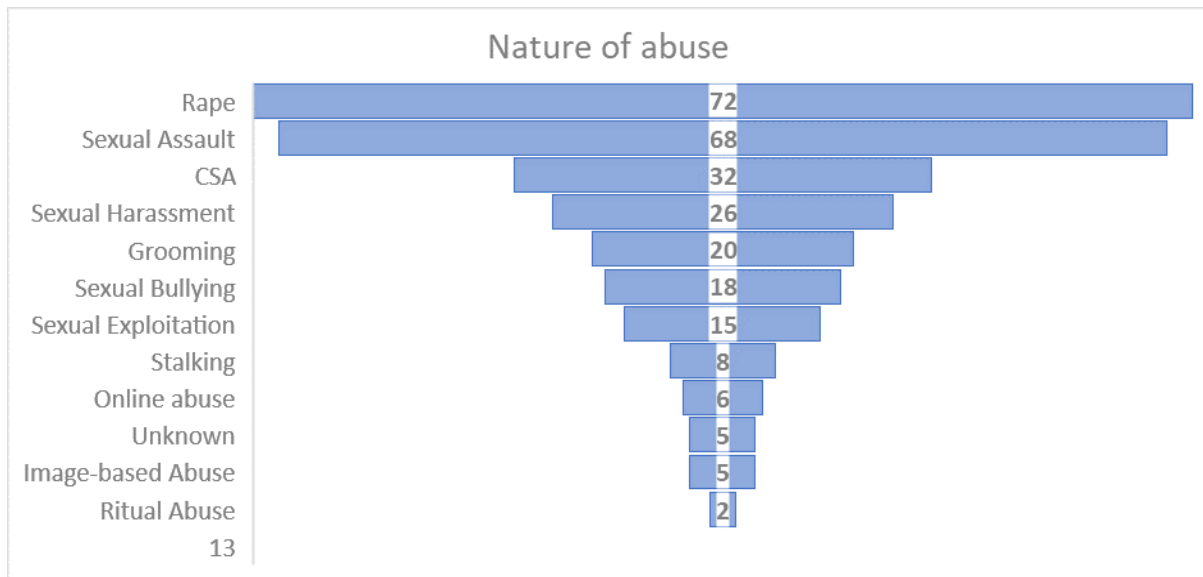
Dundee and Angus WRASAC are a dynamic team of 34 staff members, 10 volunteers and student on placement throughout the year. WRASAC provide a range of services to survivors of sexual violence, abuse and exploitation which includes the Women's Support Service.

There have been changes in staffing throughout 2021-2022 in WRASAC. For the Angus dedicated service, there is currently 1 staff member working 35 hours as an Angus outreach worker and 1 staff member doing 5 hours. Women are currently waiting around 5/6 months for support and as an organisation, WRASAC are seeking further funding for Angus workers to meet the demand for the service.

WRASAC are looking to continue to strengthen and develop the Angus service and are looking at having a premises in Angus so that women can access support at an Angus based WRASAC centre.

Over this period of time WRASAC have supported 191 survivors and provided 3392 hours of support.





Angus Women's Aid

Angus Women's Aid (AWA) is a specialist linked domestic abuse agency which provides trauma responsive services to women, children and young people in Angus affected by domestic abuse/coercive control.

Referrals received by AWA in this period:

Children (under 16)	380
Young Women (16-25)	101
Women (26 and older)	545

During this period, AWA established our Domestic Abuse Advocacy Service focussing on short term crisis intervention and safety.

Through the Covid-19 pandemic and its restrictions AWA continued to offer face to face services to women, children and young people with the appropriate risk assessments and PPE, in addition to online services. We continued to accept refuge referrals and were part of the UK wide initiative which offered free rail travel to women who were fleeing domestic abuse. Whilst the restrictions meant we could not offer to take women to key appointments we negotiated arrangements with local taxi firms whereby AWA would cover the cost of the taxi fare to enable women to travel safely to critical appointments.

Due to increased levels of anxiety amongst children and young people AWA negotiated a test of change with one of our funders and this enabled us to offer resilience building sessions in school to children, AWA had been in schools throughout lockdown where staff in the hubs had identified a need so was well versed in all necessary procedures.

One of the key trends we noted during the pandemic was the increase in the reporting of domestic abuse in young people's own relationships. Girls told us that during lockdown they had lost all support from friends and classmates and that their parents may have thought that the continual messaging and phone calls from their boyfriend was "cute" but it was in fact coercive control. During the period 2021-2022 AWA received 101 referrals for young women who had experienced domestic abuse, 80 of these were referrals from Police Scotland.

Adult women also noted the increased use of technology to stalk, harass and intimidate by partners and ex-partners. There was particular concern about the use of technology to control younger women and the increasing levels of violence that was being seen in these relationships. This was shared and all agencies across Angus began to monitor and record so that a better picture could be formed to better inform use of resources and service development.

NHS Tayside

NHS Tayside recognises it has a pivotal role to play in the appropriate identification and management of VAWG/GBV since virtually all survivors of abuse, both female and male, will interact with health services at some point - as such early intervention is a key focus of the NHS Tayside response. A dedicated VAWG Advisor post was created in November 2020 as part of the NHS Tayside Adult Protection Team to take this work forward.

NHS Tayside has developed a Gender Based Violence Action Plan (2022-2023) which identifies a range of key actions which outlines the health board's role & legislative duties in providing an appropriate, safe and consistent response to those who have experienced domestic abuse or gender based violence. This action plan includes activity ranging from capacity building for front-line staff, to data and intelligence gathering, developing guidance for NHS staff on gender based violence issues and preventative educational programmes in schools and colleges. The action plan also highlights NHS Tayside as an employer and how we support any member of our workforce who may be experiencing interpersonal violence. The action plan acknowledges that partnership working is essential to achieving the objectives and the links with all three local Tayside VAWPs.

Angus Council Housing Service

Angus Council's housing division made a commitment as part of the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) campaign [Make a Stand](#) to implement a domestic abuse policy. The policy was drafted based on the recommendations from the Change, Justice, Fairness research, the CIH Domestic Abuse Guidance for Social Landlords and following discussions with key stakeholders.

The policy supports the aims set out in the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) by focusing on preventing homelessness wherever possible and maximising other opportunities for women experiencing domestic abuse to access settled accommodation. It sets out how the Housing Division will provide a proactive housing response to preventing and addressing domestic abuse. The Housing Division works collaboratively with AVAWP partners to provide a co-ordinated and supportive response to ensure survivors have access to a range of housing options, advice and specialised services.

PRIORITY AREA 4: Men in Angus desist from all forms of violence against women and girls and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response



Angus Safe and Together Roll Out

Safe and Together (S&T) is a model used to work with families where domestic abuse is present. It is based on recognising that domestic abuse is a parenting choice made by the perpetrator. Safe and Together is guided by three main principles:

- 1 – Keeping the Child Safe and Together with the non-offending parent
- 2 – Partnering with non-offending parent as a default position
- 3 – Intervening with perpetrator to reduce risk and harm to the child

Angus began to embed this model in 2017 by training 20 champions. Since then, it has grown with, as of April 2022, over 35 champions in both frontline and strategic positions. Champions take a role within their own team or organisation for 'championing' the model and come together regularly to provide support and to develop tools and learning opportunities for the wider multi-agency workforce. The model is also now included in the [National Child Protection Guidance](#) as a best practice model.

The champions have worked together to produce a Prompt Card Tool for practitioners engaging in discussion with the survivor and the perpetrator. (appendix 2) This is based on the my world triangle used within children's services. A further tool is being developed about domestic abuse typologies and will be launched in late 2022 alongside a multi-agency learning video.

During 2021 champions delivered 13 learning sessions to Social Work Children and Families staff on various topics including domestic abuse typologies, domestic abuse and the role of housing, Impact of language, partnering with survivors of domestic abuse and mapping survivors' strengths. Evaluation of the training model was positive leading to multi-agency roll out in 2022.

Regular briefings on Good Practice in Domestic Abuse and Safe & Together Principles are delivered by champions to a multi-agency audience as part of the champions training programme which sees training delivered monthly.

Angus Council Justice Services

During 2021-2022, Angus Council Justice Services continued to engage with perpetrators and survivors of domestic abuse. Justice services deliver programmed interventions including focussed 2:1 work with perpetrators of domestic abuse through the Fergus programme.

The Fergus Programme is designed to support men to desist from domestically abusing women and children through intense offence focussed intervention. The model promotes the delivery of a holistic service to men, women and children who have been affected by, and involved in, the experience of domestic abuse offering access to tailored support to survivors of domestic abuse whilst tackling the perpetrator's behaviour with them directly.

Dedicated services are provided through The Glen Clova and Glen Isla projects to support women with a range of life challenges, including the impact of domestic abuse. During the reporting period, small scale group work recommenced following the relaxation of Covid restrictions allowing women to benefit from valuable peer support, supported by staff who are skilled trauma informed practitioners.

Alongside Children and Families Services, Justice social work have adopted a Safe and Together approach to working with perpetrators of domestic abuse. This alignment of approach has supported the development of a whole family approach across social work services.

Significantly, around half of all Justice Social Workers and Community Justice Assistants have completed the Safe and Together 4-day CORE training and continue to deliver training to multi-agency partners around 'Engaging with Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse'.

Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC)

Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC) meetings were introduced nationally by Police Scotland in 2013, in accordance with Priority 4 of the Scottish Government Equally Safe strategy, which seeks to ensure perpetrators 'receive a robust and effective response'.

The aim of MATAC is to effectively tackle offending by perpetrators who present the greatest risk of harm, in order to achieve positive outcomes for victims and their families through coordinated partnership work to identify and investigate domestic abuse perpetrators using relevant and legitimate police tactics.

MATAC takes place in all 13 Police Scotland Local Policing Divisions and usually held four weekly, meaning approximately 186 MATACs are scheduled in Scotland annually.

White Ribbon Campaign



MEN WORKING
TO END VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN

Angus continues to work towards achieving White Ribbon status. White Ribbon Status is awarded by White Ribbon Scotland to Areas, Towns, Universities, Colleges and other similar bodies who demonstrate over a period of time that they have engaged in activities designed to educate men about violence against women (VAW) and involve them in helping to bring VAW to an end.

White Ribbon is a male led campaign aimed at educating men to encourage personal and collective reflection and behaviour change.

During 2021-2022, eight people were trained by White Ribbon Scotland to be 'speakers'. White Ribbon speakers are volunteers who are trained in taking White Ribbon messaging out into workplaces, community venues, schools, colleges and other settings. Many of the speakers have agreed to go on to sit on the Angus White Ribbon Steering Group.

Due to staff changes and absence in the Protecting People Angus team, the progress towards achieving White Ribbon status has been slower than first hoped. However, there is still strong commitment from AVAWP to push ahead with the campaign with a revised target date for achieving White Ribbon status of June 2024.

Self-Evaluation and Performance

Police Scotland Data

Annual data from Police Scotland shows numbers of incidents of Domestic Abuse incidents and Sexual Offences in Angus. Table 1 below shows that, Domestic Abuse incidents in Angus local policing area have increased sharply in 2021-2022.

This increase may be partly attributable to improvements made in relation to the Police response to Domestic Abuse, including doubling the cadre of specialist Domestic Abuse Officers and two officers being a dedicated Angus resource. This increase in specialist resource has allowed Police to enhance the response to Domestic Abuse with additional guidance being provided to response officers in relation to the identification of the often hidden coercive and controlling behaviour DASA offences. It has also enabled the introduction of a revised quality assurance process for all domestic crimes and incidents to ensure that the service we deliver to victims is in accordance with national standards.

Table 1

Domestic Abuse Incident Statistics Year on Year	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	% Change in last year
Total Incidents - Police Scotland	62907	65251	64807	-0.68%
Total Incidents - Angus LPA	1179	1107	1237	11.74%

The reporting period 2021-2022, also saw an increase in sexual offenses in Angus.

Table 2

Sexual Offences Statistics Year on Year	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	% Change in last year
Total Sexual Offences Recorded - Scotland	13364	13131	15049	14.61%
Total Sexual Offences Recorded - Angus LPA	358	324	352	8.64%

AVAWP are highly concerned to see these increases and in recognition that that a proportion of gender based violence crimes go unreported, these figures may not fully reflect the full extent of violence against women and girls in our communities.

Annual National Data Return

Each year, every Violence Against Women Partnership in Scotland is asked to complete a return to the Local Government Improvement Service, detailing progress made towards the Equally Safe Quality Standards.

As part of this return, each partnership must state if they 'meet', 'partially meet' or 'do not meet' each of the quality standards.

In 2021-2022, AVAWP met or partially met 38 of 40 standards, and did not meet 2 quality standards. The standards not met by AVAWP in the reporting year were:

Standard 1.6 *"The VAW Partnership has processes in place to engage with colleges and universities in the local authority area and works with them to identify opportunities for partnership working in preventing gender based violence on campuses."*and,

Standard 3.11 *"The VAW Partnership works to ensure that adequate levels of funding are available for specialist VAWG services, that contribute to the local outcomes and activities that have been identified by members of the Partnership."*

The self-evaluation process has helped to identify areas for development in 2022-23, including engaging with Dundee & Angus college to have a representative on AVAWP and explore the possibility of undertaking more preventative work on the colleges Angus campuses and developing closer links with third sector partnerships and exploring options for securing funding for vital support services.

Through self-evaluation, AVAWP also highlighted particular local strengths, including multi-agency partnership working, the safe and together champions model and local work with perpetrators.

During 2021-2022, there were a total of 1081 referrals to VAW services in Angus. Of this total number of referrals, 40% were children aged 0-15 years, 9% were aged 16-25 years and the remaining 51% were 26 and over. Police were the biggest referrer, with 47% of total referrals coming from Police. In the 0-15 years age group, the most referrals came from education or 'other' – 85% of all child referrals came from these sources.

Services in Angus were effective in improving women and girl's feelings of safety and wellbeing through interventions. Women were asked at the point of exit from a service about improvements to their wellbeing and if they felt safer. A total of 1013 women reported feeling safer or were assessed as being lower risk. 932 women and children reported or were assessed as having improved levels of wellbeing following engagement with support services.

In Angus, our perpetrator services received referrals for 127 individuals. Of the total, 21 became participants of an intervention. The interventions take on average two years to complete. During the reporting period seven perpetrators successfully completed the intervention and all others continued on the pre-programme work. These interventions were Court mandated following conviction. The Fergus programme continues offer high quality interventions to perpetrators of gender based violence.

Learning from the Data

AVAWP uses data from a range of sources including numbers of referrals to AVAWP partner agencies and public engagement/ surveys, crime statistics and emerging trends in frontline workloads.

This data will form the basis of discussions at AVAWP development days in 2021-2022 and as a partnership, we will act on this. AVAWP are concerned about the increasing in reported domestic abuse and sexual offences and will continue to explore the underlying causes.

The SECI group will work towards having a clear multiagency dataset to enable a fuller picture of the Angus context.

AVAWP Strengths and Challenges

Strengths:

- Workforce Development; a range of core and additional learning opportunities are delivered regularly. Good partnership working in this area
- Safe and Together Champions Model
- Key partners developing new Violence Against Women and Girls policies (eg. Police and NHS)
- Restructure of subgroups to meet emerging priorities
- Work towards gender equality in workplaces across Angus

- Partnering and sharing good practice across Tayside
- Improved strategic overview
- Learning from the pandemic, informing best practice in use of alternative methods of service delivery

Challenges:

- Lack of public and workforce awareness of AVAWP and local partners
- Increasing risks from online sources (especially for young people)
- Long waiting times for some support services
- No mechanism for the voices of those with lived experience to be heard by AVAWP
- Commercial sexual exploitation; lack of data/intelligence and understanding of the issue within an Angus context
- Communication and information not always being cascade through organisations by representatives
- Difficult budgetary landscape for VAWG services following the pandemic
- Limited data collection

Key priorities for 2022-2023

During 2022-2023, it is hoped that Covid-19 will no longer have a significant impact on the way we work. This should allow services to refocus and reprioritise, using the learning from the challenges of the pandemic to adapt services where appropriate. It is hoped that the reducing threat from Covid-19 will allow for more public engagement work will be possible this coming year. AVAWP partners are looking forward to being more visible in communities throughout 2022-2023.

Lack of data around VAWG in Angus has been identified by partners as a concern and a barrier to good practice. Partners have highlighted the need for collection and collation of good, standardised data across the partnership. Prioritising this will help us to target resources effectively and consider new ways of working to address emerging themes.

The work towards developing routine enquiry in frontline services across our communities and case review protocols will be refocussed and seven-minute briefings for staff will be developed where there is significant learning and/or good practice to share.

AVAWP will continue to strive to develop and strengthen our local support services for women and girls to ensure that high-quality support can be delivered as soon as possible following initial referral.

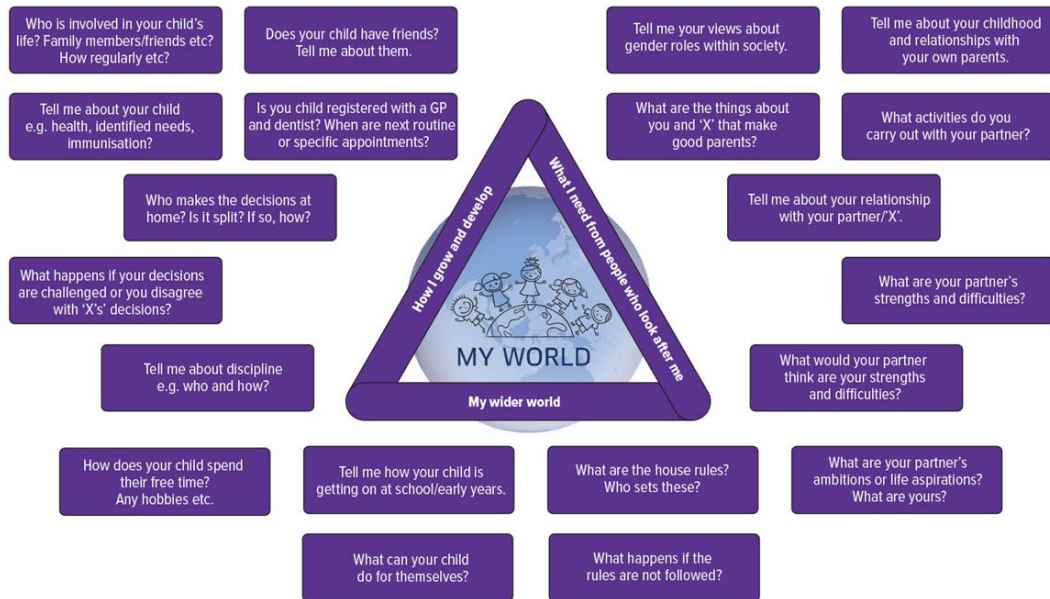
Across the Protecting People Committees in Angus, there has been a move to ensure people with lived experience have opportunities to participate in and have influence over forming the direction of the committees. In 2022-2023, AVAWP would like to explore how survivors of gender based violence might become more involved in the work of our committee. Ideally, survivors' views would be well known and represented at AVAWP and be held at the heart of decision making. AVAWP will begin to explore the best way of working participatively with survivors to ensure that priorities and strategy meet local need. As a committee, AVAWP recognise that it is not easy to do this work in a way that is meaningful, trauma informed and sustainable and this may take a few years to embed participative practice across the committee and all subgroups.

Appendix 1 : Glossary of Acronyms

ACPC	Angus Child Protection Committee
AAPC	Angus Adult Protection Committee
ADP	Alcohol and Drug Partnership
AVAWP	Angus Violence Against Women Partnership
CLOG	Chairs and Lead Officers
COG	Angus Chief Officer Group
CP	Child Protection
CPC	Child Protection Committee
CPO	Child Protection Order
CYP	Children and Young People Subgroup
DA	Domestic Abuse
GCP2	Graded Care Profile 2 (Neglect assessment tool)
GIRFEC	Getting It Right For Every Child
ICR	Initial Case Review
IRD	Inter-Agency Referral Discussions
L&D	Learning and Development
LNA	Local Needs Analysis
LO	Lead Officers
MAPPA	Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MATAC	Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination
NQSW	Newly Qualified Social Worker
PD	Practice Development Subgroup
PPA	Protecting People Angus
P&P Subgroup	Practice and Policy Subgroup
PRAM	Pre-birth Referral Allocation Meeting
S&T	Safe and Together Model
SCR	Significant Case Review
SCRA	Scottish Children's Report Administration
SECI	Self Evaluation and Continuous Improvement Subgroup
SMART	Specific – Measurable – Attainable – Measurable – Time Bound
SSSC	Scottish Social Service Council
TIP	Trauma Informed Practice
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VAWP	Violence Against Women Partnerships
VPD	Vulnerable Person Database
AWA	Angus Women's Aid
WLD	Workforce Learning and Development Subgroup
WRASAC	Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre

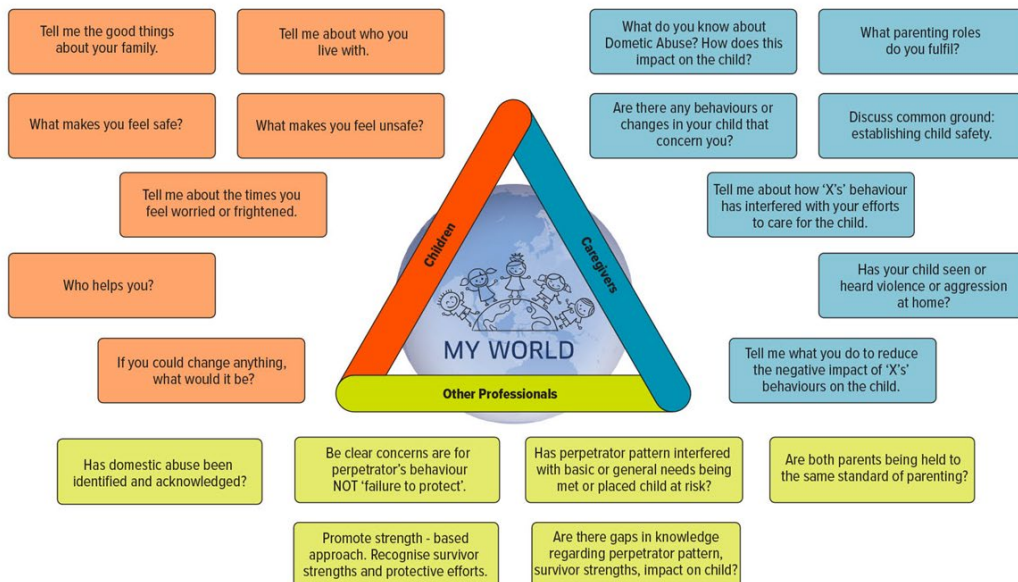
Appendix 2: Safe and Together Prompt Card Tool

Angus Domestic Abuse Good Practice - Discussion prompts for engaging with perpetrators



Adapted from the original Scottish Government My World Triangle resource, available from www.gov.scot/policies/girfec

Angus Domestic Abuse Good Practice - Discussion prompts for Domestic Abuse concerns



Adapted from the original Scottish Government My World Triangle resource, available from www.gov.scot/policies/girfec