

# **Inverclyde Violence against Women Multi Agency Partnership**

**Violence against Women Strategy  
2017-2022**



**This document can be made available in other languages, large print, and audio format upon request.**

Arabic

هذه الوثيقة متاحة أيضا بلغات أخرى والأحرف الطباعية الكبيرة وبطريقة سمعية عند الطلب.

Cantonese

本文件也可應要求，製作成其他語文或特大字體版本，也可製作成錄音帶。

Gaelic

Tha an sgriobhainn seo cuideachd ri fhaotainn ann an cànanan eile, clò nas motha agus air teip ma tha sibh ga iarraidh.

Hindi

अनुरोध पर यह दस्तावेज़ अन्य भाषाओं में, बड़े अक्षरों की छपाई और सुनने वाले माध्यम पर भी उपलब्ध है

Mandarin

本文件也可应要求，制作成其它语文或特大字体版本，也可制作成录音带。

Polish

Dokument ten jest na życzenie udostępniany także w innych wersjach językowych, w dużym druku lub w formacie audio.

Punjabi

ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ, ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਅਤੇ ਆਡੀਓ ਟੇਪ 'ਤੇ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਹੋਇਆ ਵੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੇ ਲਿਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ।

Urdu

درخواست پر یہ دستاویز دیگر زبانوں میں، بڑے حروف کی چھپائی اور سننے والے ذرائع پر بھی میسر ہے۔



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## Foreword by Superintendent Bob Kennedy; Chair of Inverclyde Alliance Outcome Delivery Group 2

Violence against Women in any form has no place in Scotland and impacts adversely on health and wellbeing, limits freedom of potential and violates human rights. Violence against Women is underpinned by gender inequality, and in order to prevent and eradicate it from society we must focus our efforts on delivering greater gender equality, tackling perpetrators, and intervening early and effectively to prevent violence and abuse. Our aim is to harness the expertise of all partners to allow for a committed approach to tackling Violence against Women in any form and using all of the resources and skills of our combined staff to support victims and pursue those who would cause harm to any person in order to bring them before the courts and change the attitudes that perpetuate this unacceptable behaviour.

There is significant evidence that demonstrates the links between domestic abuse and emotional, physical and sexual abuse of children. In recognition of this, in Inverclyde we have established the Vulnerable Young Persons' Group to look specifically at children who may be at risk from Child Sexual Exploitation. We have also worked together to establish a strong MARAC for high risk victims of Domestic Abuse and ensure that perpetrators are targeted through the MATAC process. Through the dedicated Public Protection Unit, Police Scotland continues to work collectively to eradicate Gender Based Violence and challenge offending behaviour whenever this is uncovered.

This strategy will serve as a focal point giving clear direction to all partners in our pursuit of a strong and flourishing Inverclyde where all individuals are equally safe and respected, and where women and girls live free from all forms of violence and abuse.

# **1. What we are trying to achieve**

## **1.1 Vision and aim**

The vision of Inverclyde Violence against Women Multi Agency Partnership is to live in an area where all individuals are equally safe and respected, where women and girls live free from all forms of violence and abuse of any kind and no child or young person should have to experience gender based violence or live with its impact.

Our aim is to work in partnership with all services to prevent and eradicate all forms of violence against women. We recognise the insidious and deep rooted nature of the problem and the need to invest in significant economic, social and cultural change over a long term period. This requires ongoing commitment from partners and the community to effect cultural change.

## **1.2 Definition**

‘Violence against women and girls encompasses (but is not limited to):

- physical, sexual and psychological violence
- occurring in the family (including children and young people), within the general community or in institutions, including domestic abuse, rape and incest;
- sexual harassment, bullying and intimidation in any public or private space, including work;
- commercial sexual exploitation, lap dancing, stripping, pornography and trafficking;
- child sexual abuse, including familial sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation and online abuse;
- so-called ‘honour based’ violence, including dowry related violence, female genital mutilation, forced and child marriages, and ‘honour’ crimes.’

‘Gender based violence is a function of gender inequality and an abuse of male power and privilege. It takes the form of actions that result in physical, sexual and psychological harm or suffering to women and children, or affront to their human dignity, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. It is men who predominantly carry out such violence, and women who are predominantly the victims. By referring to violence as “gender based” this definition highlights the need to understand violence within the context of women’s and girl’s subordinate status in society. Such violence cannot be understood, therefore, in isolation from the norms, social structure and gender roles within the community, which greatly influence women’s vulnerability to violence. The definition includes women and girls across all protected characteristics defined by equality legislation – age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, and sexual orientation.’ (Equally Safe, 2016) *(A Glossary of Terms is available in Appendix A).*

### **1.3 Scale of the problem**

While we recognise that there are many incidents that go unreported, there is significant evidence to demonstrate that violence against women and girls continues to be a serious issue in Scotland. In 2014-2015 statistics in Scotland show that:

- Police recorded 59,822 incidents of domestic abuse - 79% of incidents involved a female victim and male perpetrator.
- Police recorded 1,901 rapes/attempted rapes in Scotland - where the gender was known, 95% involved a female victim.
- Recorded crimes increased by 13% to 15,580 in relation to convictions for ‘breach of the peace.’ This was partly as a result of offences with a

domestic abuse aggravator, especially in relation to stalking or threatening and abusive behaviour. Convictions for sexual offences increased by 8% to 1,145. This is partly due to an increase of 13% in the number of people proceeded against for these offences. It also includes a 40% rise in the number of convictions of rape/attempted rape and a 16% increase in convictions for sexual assault.

- 1 in 5 children in the UK will have experienced domestic abuse by the time they reach 18.
- 4% of women and 1% of men had experienced serious sexual assault since the age of 16 and 13% of women and 2% of men had experienced at least one type of other sexual assault since the age of 16. There were 6% of adults reported experiencing at least one form of stalking and harassment in the last 12 months (the overall risk was equal for men and women but risk varied depending on the type).
- In a study by the NSPCC, girls experienced more frequent and severe emotional, physical and sexual partner violence than boys (one in three 13 to 17 year old girls reported some form of sexual violence). Girls reported high levels of coercive control and unlike boys, reported that their welfare was severely detrimentally affected.
- 79% of cases of Forced Marriage recorded by the UK Government involved female victims.
- Of children and young people referred to the Scottish Children's Reporter administration, the most common grounds for referral include 'close connection with a person who has carried out domestic abuse' and 'victim of a schedule 1 offence.' (These are primarily offences comprising neglect or physical, sexual, or emotional harm towards children).



## **1.4 Young women & girls**

We recognise that young women and girls are at risk of violence specifically as a result of their gender. There are issues that are prevalent in their lives such as 'sexting' while some young women and girls are subject to child sexual abuse (including child exploitation), and revenge porn. Young women disproportionately experience intimate partner violence compared to young men and report much greater negative impacts as a result. Prevalence and easy access to pornography in the lives of young people contributes to reinforcing gender norms that play a key role in perpetuating violence against women and girls.

## **1.5 Children & young people**

The definition we have adopted explicitly includes children of all genders as subject to harm through violence and abuse. Violence against women and girls can have significant consequences on children and young people's lives, including (but not limited to) those that are harmed through violence and abuse perpetrated by adults in their lives. There is significant evidence showing links between domestic abuse and emotional, physical and sexual abuse of children and children themselves can experience domestic abuse as coercive control of the whole family environment, not just the mother. The effects of this abuse may continue even if the perpetrator no longer lives in the family home.

It is important that we challenge the common assumption that there is a 'cycle of violence' by which young men and women who experience the abuse of their mothers go on to abuse their own partners or become victims. Percentages of abusive men who have and have not experienced domestic abuse growing up are very similar.

Children and young people increasingly living in digital communities brings a range of threats, requiring new approaches as their nature and prevalence increases.

However violence and abuse is experienced, it impacts negatively on the life chances of children and young people. To address this, a focus on prevention, early intervention and provision of support services for survivors is required. Adults have a responsibility to make sure that children are safe, protected and their rights are respected, including their right to have a say in all matters affecting them. They should be able to access services in their own right and have an individual and collective voice in relation to services they receive.

## **1.6 Links between gender & other characteristics**

Apart from gender, women and girls have other protected characteristics increasing their risk of violence and abuse and causing inequalities. Homophobia, biphobia or transphobia can lead to lesbian, bisexual and transgender women and girls being targeted due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. Additionally transgender women and girls can be at increased risk of hate crime and transphobic harassment leading to high levels of vulnerability, social isolation and barriers to accessing services. In some minority ethnic communities traditional gender roles are stronger and cultural practices involving violence and abuse such as Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage are more prevalent. Disabled women and girls are more vulnerable to exploitation and coercion while older women may be caring for, or cared for by, their abuser. Refugee or asylum seeking women may be affected by abuse before or during their journey to Scotland. There are forms of abuse, including that perpetrated by adults against children that can occur where there are balances of power that go beyond

gender and minority status, such as: age, physical strength, position of trust and socio economic status. These issues need to be considered future work to prevent violence against women.

## **1.7 Violence against men**

Our gendered approach recognises that women and girls are disproportionately affected by particular forms of violence experienced as a result of their gender. We do, however, recognise that many men and boys are victims of violence and abuse. Some boys experience abuse as set out in section 1.5, while some men are victims of domestic abuse, rape, sexual assault, sexual exploitation and forced marriage. Our societal view of what constitutes masculinity makes it difficult for men to disclose that they are victims of abuse and seek help. Violence or abuse towards gay and bisexual men and boys also targets their sexual orientation. On a fundamental level, the social constructs of femininity and masculinity contribute to the continuation of violence against women in society.

Inverclyde VAW MAP condemns all forms of violence and abuse. It is however important to recognise that certain forms of violence are disproportionately experienced by one gender and require a strong strategic focus. Men have a critical role in challenging violence and gender norms and promoting gender equality in society. Men should also be entitled to support when they experience violence and abuse.

## **2. Where we are now**

### **2.1 International Context**

Our approach in Scotland is rooted in the UN's own understanding of violence against women and girls. It is our moral duty to take action against violence against women and girls and to uphold the rights of women, children and young people. It is also our legal duty as set out by several international treaties and human rights obligations.

*(A summary of these can be found in Appendix D ).*

### **2.2 Scottish context**

Preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls is essential to achieve the Scottish Government's overarching purpose - 'to focus government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth.' 'It contributes to the Scottish Government's strategic objectives – in particular, Safer and Stronger, Healthier, and Wealthier and Fairer - and to a number of the national outcomes contained in the National Performance Framework.' Equally Safe also provides a strategic framework for the delivery of the Scottish Government's Equality Outcome on tackling violence against women.' It also sits at the heart of the First Minister's emphasis on achieving full gender equality. Scotland's approach to tackling violence against women and girls has been recognised internationally, in particular because of the gendered analysis that underpins our approach. There has been significant investment in the issue and key partners have transformed their practice over recent years. This is welcome but has not as yet led to a sustained reduction in violence against women and girls. Equally Safe is aimed at achieving that reduction and ultimate eradication. The approach to eradicate

violence against women and girls links across a number of Scottish Government policies.  
*(A summary of these are included under Appendix C).*

## 2.3 Inverclyde context

Inverclyde Council's vision is '**Getting It Right For Every Child, Citizen and Community.**' As part of the Nurturing Inverclyde approach, the Council, along with its partners in the Inverclyde Alliance want all our children, citizens and communities to be:

**Safe** - Protected from abuse, neglect or harm and supported when at risk. Enabled to understand and take responsibility for actions and choices. Having access to a safe environment to live and learn in.

**Healthy** - Achieve high standards of physical and mental health and equality of access to suitable health care and protection, while being supported and encouraged to make healthy and safe choices.

**Achieving** - Being supported and guided in lifelong learning and; having opportunities for the development of skills and knowledge to gain the highest standards of achievement in educational establishments, work, leisure, or the community.

**Nurtured** - Having a nurturing place to live and learn, and the opportunity to build positive relationships within a supporting and supported community.

**Active** - Having opportunities to take part in activities and experiences in educational establishments and the community, which contribute to a healthy life, growth and development.

**Respected and Responsible** - Citizens are respected and share responsibilities. Citizens are involved in decision making and play an active role in improving the community.

**Included** - Overcoming social, educational, health and economic inequalities and being valued as part of the community.

## Local Policies:

- MARAC Operating Protocol (2016) - *working document available from VAW Coordinator, sharon.sale@inverclyde.gov.uk*
  - Domestic Abuse Protocol (2015)
  - Responding to Forced Marriage & Honour Based Violence (2016)
  - Domestic Abuse & Child Protection Practice Guidelines (2012)
  - Female Genital Mutilation Guidance on Best Practice (2016)
- (All available at:  
<http://www.inverclydechildprotection.org.uk>)

## 2.4 Achieving equality

Gender inequality is a root cause of violence against women and girls and there continues to be inequalities between men and women despite positive advances to address the issue. The gender pay gap of 9% (calculated as the median on full time earnings) is one example and, as well as women being overrepresented in lower paid sectors and underrepresented in senior posts. Women do not currently have the same life chances as men for a number of reasons including institutional sexism and disproportionate levels of economic dependence. To help address these issues, the Scottish Government has launched an extensive programme of work aimed at increasing employability, addressing the gender pay gap, improving the flexibility of work and reducing occupational segregation. They have a gender balanced cabinet and are working towards achieving this on boards by 2020 within public, private and third sectors. They have also legislated through the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, to increase the level of funded early learning and childcare provision to support parents into and within the workforce.

## 2.7 Prevention

In Inverclyde we have a significant focus on **primary** prevention as an approach to affecting cultural change. This focus aims to change behaviour, build knowledge and skills of individuals and ultimately affect a shift in attitudes in the structural, cultural and societal contexts where violence and abuse occurs. Adopting this approach challenges the notion that violence against women and girls is inevitable and attitudes that condone and excuse it, allow perpetrators to deny what they do and blame the victims. This complements our work around equalities requiring a long term determined effort and an acceptance changes are not going to happen overnight. Other forms of prevention are also needed: **secondary** prevention; preventing violence and abuse from recurring and **tertiary** prevention; reducing the impact of violence and abuse after it occurs. While ultimately we want to see an eradication of violence against women and girls, early intervention and provision of mainstream and specialist services are crucial. Women and girls must be kept safe and victims and survivors supported to recover from their experiences.

## 3. Achievements in Inverclyde 2012-2017

### 3.1 Child Protection

There are strong links between Domestic Abuse and Child Protection. The effects on children directly or indirectly witnessing domestic abuse can result in many negative developmental outcomes, emotional distress, and behavioural difficulties.

The Child Protection Conference on Wednesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2013 addressed the theme of Domestic Abuse. Speakers and workshops were around the impact of Domestic Abuse on Children and

Young People, the service response, recovery, Culture Change, Domestic Abuse during pregnancy, The Child's Journey, Working with Perpetrators and Mentors in Violence Prevention. The main outcomes from the conference were that there was a Child Protection Committee (CPC) Improvement Plan ongoing agenda item - 'Children Affected by Domestic Abuse Improvement Area.' The CPC agreed that each priority area for improvement would have a short life working group to lead on implementation of the plan. For Children Affected by Domestic Violence a small working group has been established to report back to both the CPC and the Violence against Women Multi-Agency Partnership.

Areas of work delivered through the Improvement Plan were:

- A short life working group was established to oversee the implementation of the improvement plan. Working Group HSCP Lead for Gender Based Violence, CPC Lead Officer, Violence Against Women Co-ordinator.
- The review of the multi-agency screening process was completed and revised procedures adopted.
- The use of the Safe Lives (Formerly CAADA'Dash Risk Checklist') by core agencies was piloted with evaluation pending.
- Consideration was given to the use of the Safe and Together Model and principles within Inverclyde.
- Inverclyde Forced Marriage Guidance was revised, key messages were publicised on line and directly with school staff.

Referrals to the Reporter where children identified have 'close connection with a person who has carried out domestic abuse' remain high in the context of child protection. For the first time in the



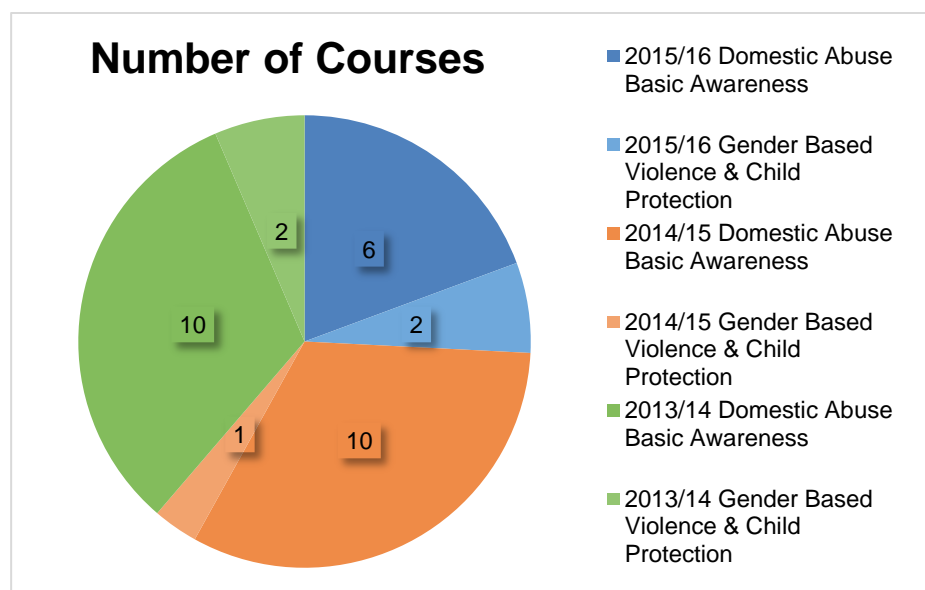
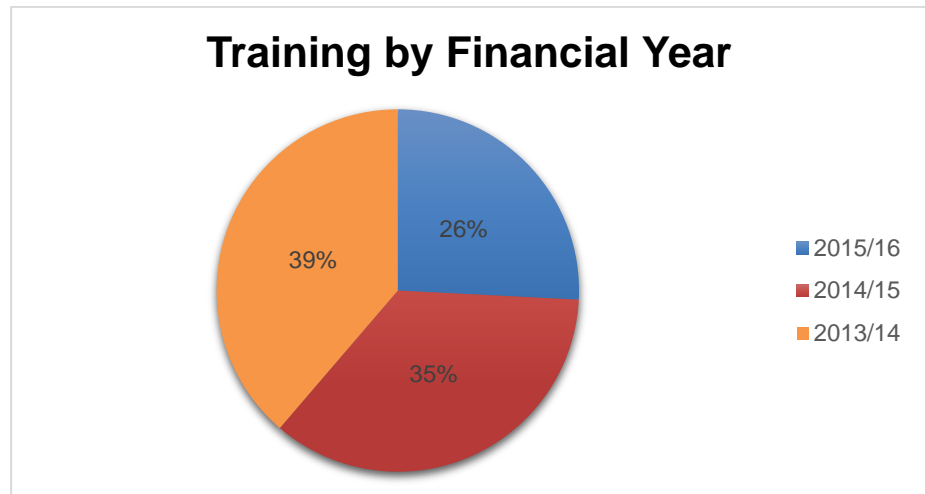
academic year 2015/16 this was the most commonly recorded ground for referral to the Reporter.

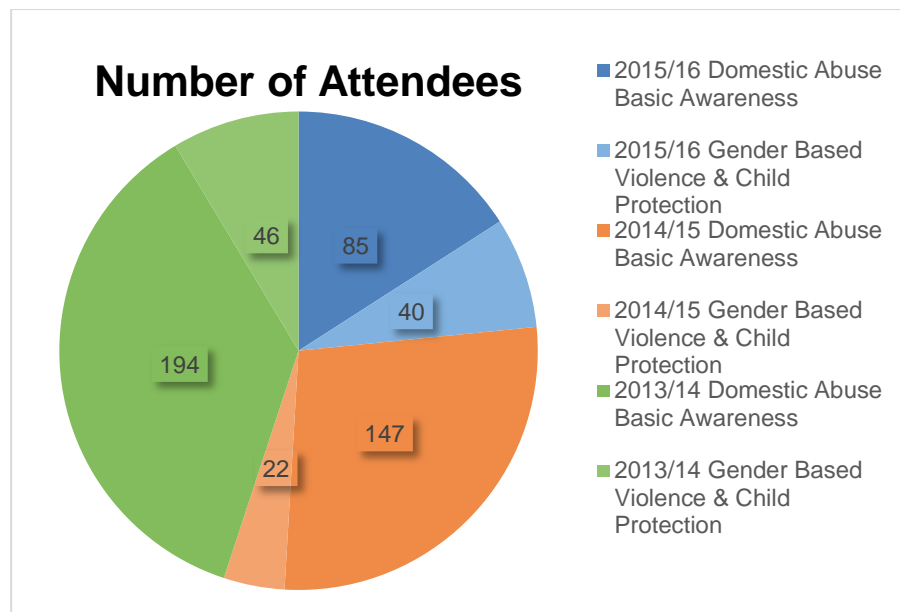
***Non-Offence Referrals with Reporter Decisions by Grounds (Inverclyde)***

| Grounds 2011 Act  | 2013/14<br>(April - March) | 2014/15<br>(August - July) | 2015/16<br>(August - July) |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) Lack of parental care   | 135                        | 211                        | 149                        |
| (b) Schedule 1 offence committed in respect of the child  | 22                         | 24                         | 19                         |
| (c) Close connection with person who has committed schedule 1 offence                                   | Under 5                    | 6                          | 9                          |
| (d) Same household as a child victim of schedule 1 offender   | 8                          | 5                          | 5                          |
| (e) Exposure to persons whose conduct is likely to be harmful to child                                  | 13                         | 48                         | 42                         |
| (f) Close connection with person who has carried out domestic abuse                                     | 124                        | 197                        | 264                        |
| (g) Close connection with Sexual Offences Act offender  | Under 5                    | Under 5                    | 6                          |
| (h) provided with accommodation by local authority and special measures are needed to support the child | Under 5                    | Under 5                    | 0                          |
| (k) Misuse of alcohol   | Under 5                    | 12                         | 5                          |
| (l) Misuse of a drug  | 14                         | Under 5                    | Under 5                    |
| (m) Conduct harmful to self or others   |                            | 70                         | 23                         |
| (n) Beyond control of a relevant person   | 59                         | 93                         | 47                         |
| (o) Failed to attend school   | 38                         | 55                         | 53                         |
| Other*  | 164                        | 80                         | Under 5                    |

\* Other includes grounds covered by the 1995 Children Scotland Act

**3.2 Training & Awareness:** There is a significant ongoing demand for training in relation to Domestic Abuse/Violence against Women. In the past 3 financial years the following has been delivered:





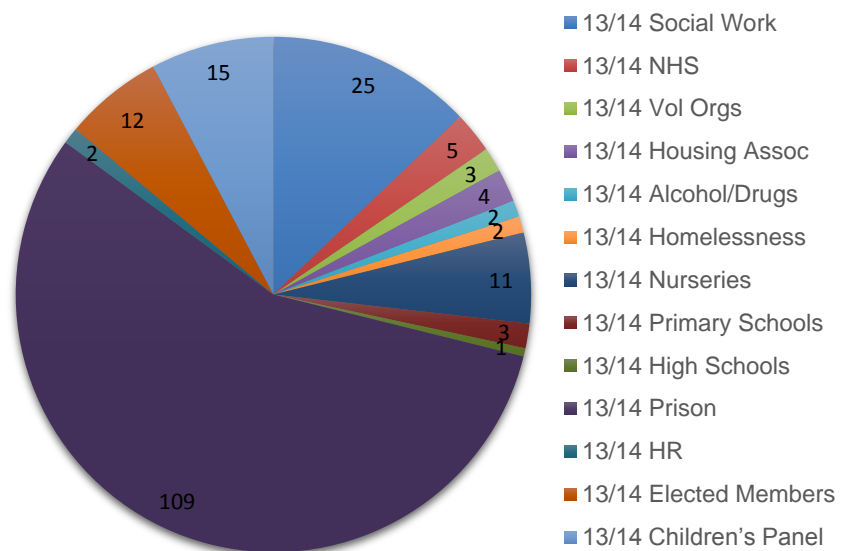
Domestic Abuse Basic Awareness is a course targeted at those in the general contact workforce. The course is therefore targeted towards individuals working in the Inverclyde area who have received no previous training on Domestic Abuse. The aim of the half day course is to build an understanding of the nature and scope of Domestic Abuse as a Gender Based issue and its impact on those experiencing it. It is intended to provide participants with the confidence and knowledge to deal with the issue of Domestic Abuse in a work setting. Following the training, participants should be able to:

- 3.2.1 Define Domestic Abuse and its different forms
- 3.2.2 Understand the indicators and dynamics of Domestic Abuse
- 3.2.3 Consider the barriers to disclosure
- 3.2.4 Understand the inequalities to accessing Services
- 3.2.5 Have an awareness of local services and how to access them

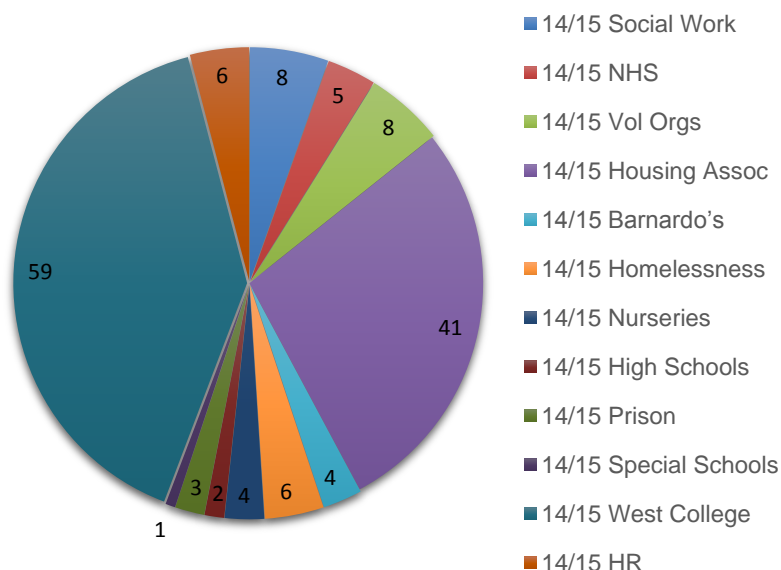
The Domestic Abuse Basic Awareness training chart shows the prison was the setting with the highest number of participants in 2013-2014. This was due to training being delivered to all staff in the prison during

the year to enable them to respond better to women prisoners if they disclosed Domestic Abuse. In 2014-2015 there was a demand from West College Scotland for training to be provided to students from HNC and Diploma courses in Education and Childcare. In addition, the Local Housing Strategy identified a need for all Housing Association staff locally to receive training on Domestic Abuse. This was delivered over 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 with both years showing significant numbers of participants from this sector. Year on year excluding these types of anomalies, Social Work is the service with the consistently highest number of attendees.

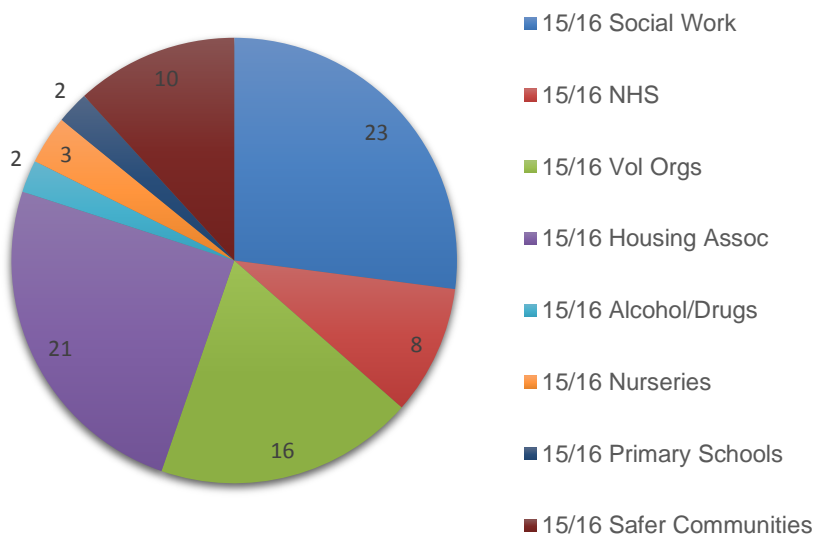
### Attendance by Sector for DA Basic Awareness in 2013/14



### Attendance by Sector for DA Basic Awareness in 2014/15



### Attendance by Sector for DA Basic Awareness in 2015/16



The Gender Based Violence (GBV) & Child Protection aims to increase knowledge of the potential impact of GBV on children and to increase participants' ability to engage communicate, observe and work effectively

with children, young people and their families affected by gender based violence. The focus is on the interface between GBV and child protection. The course aims to help practitioners develop the following core competencies:

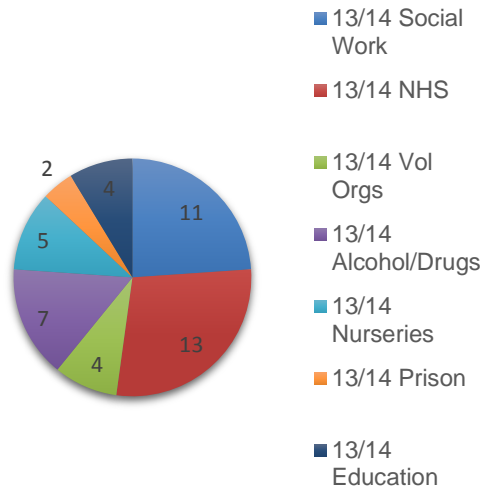
- *Protect and promote the well-being of children and young people.*
- *Access all relevant aspects of local child protection procedures.*
- *Contribute to identifying and implementing potential interventions.*

It is intended that by the end of this course participants will have:

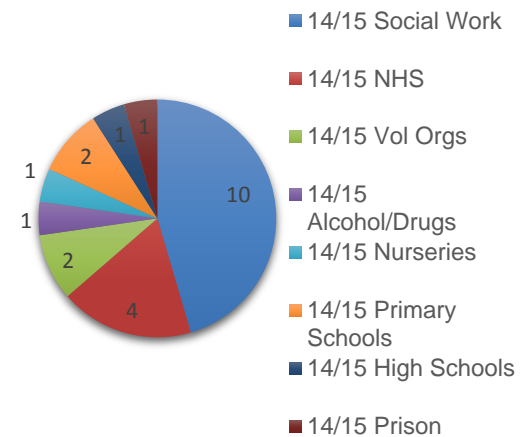
- *Defined gender based violence.*
- *An understanding of the scale of the problem.*
- *An understanding of the impact of GBV on children.*
- *An understanding of the relationship between GBV and child protection.*

The majority of participants on the GBV and Child Protection training were from NHS and Social Work in 2013-2014. In 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 Social Work staff made up the bulk of participants on the training.

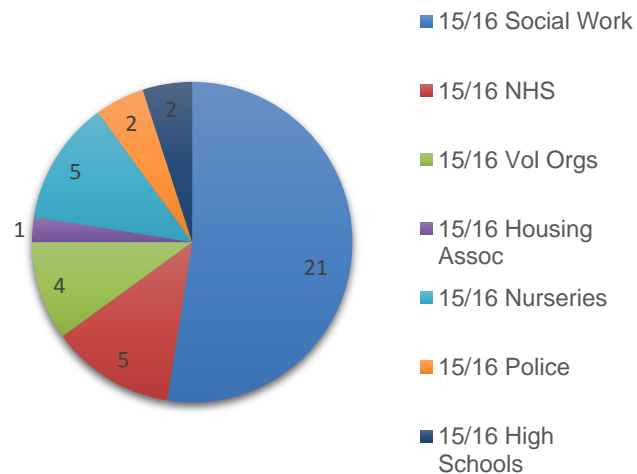
### Attendance by Sector for GBV & Child Protection in 2013/14



### Attendance by Sector for GBV & Child Protection in 2014/15



### Attendance by Sector for GBV & Child Protection in 2015/16



### **3.3 MVP**

The Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Bystander Approach frames men's abuse of women as a societal problem that roots lie in the institutional structures and cultural practices of a male-dominated society. This approach is partly based on the premise that men's silence in the face of other men's abusive or violent behaviour gives "implicit consent" to such behaviour. Thus, the MVP approach emphasises changing social norms as the key to prevention.

- To change attitudes and behaviour around the violence agenda particularly in relation to gender based violence and bullying prevention.
- to support and empower peers in schools, to speak up, challenge violence and change social norms.
- To support all High Schools in Inverclyde to develop and deliver MVP on an ongoing basis.

Development and sustainability of MVP has been and continues to be very successful. There is an Inverclyde MVP Implementation Group with representation from CLD, Safer Communities, Education (including Educational Psychologist service) and Leads from all High Schools. In addition there is an MVP Training Sub Group responsible for delivering training on a yearly basis to teachers who in turn train MVP Mentors in their schools. All High Schools are now on board and delivering MVP with young people gaining Youth Achievement or Dynamic Youth Awards for their involvement in the programme.

### **3.4 Perpetrator Work**

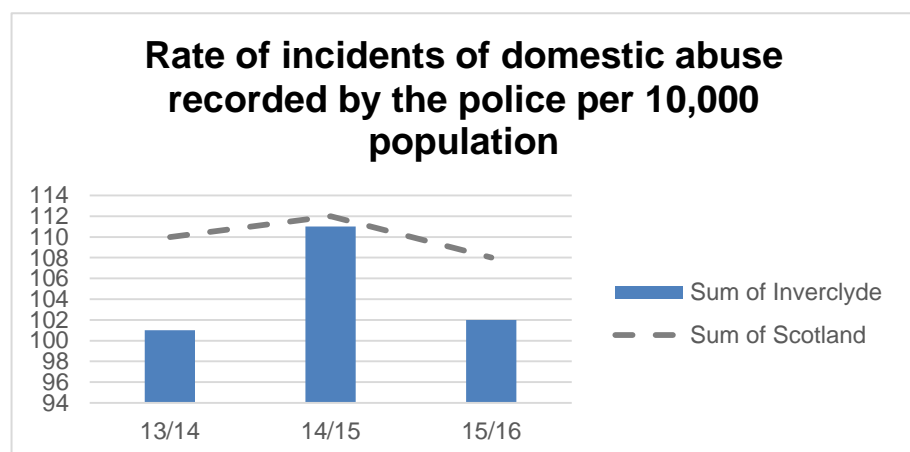
The Child Protection Conference included a workshop delivered on work with perpetrators. This workshop was delivered by a Programme Manager from another council area, and the Clinical Psychologist who developed the programme and provided training and peer support to staff delivering it. Following the



conference, a Perpetrator Working Group was set up and it was agreed that Criminal Justice Social Work would invest funding in training and peer support to staff to give them the skills to deliver one to one and group programmes to perpetrators of Domestic Abuse who are on court orders. Due to staff changes and further training requirements, the Intimate Management of Partner Violence Risk (IMPVR) delivery was reduced. The training needs for Criminal Justice Social Work staff, in working with perpetrators of domestic abuse was reviewed and in December 2016 all qualified Social Work staff became trained in the programme. All male offenders convicted of a Domestic Abuse offence and receive a Community Payback Order will be assessed for suitability to undertake the programme Criminal Justice Social Work are currently working with the inverclyde VAW MAP to establish ways in which appropriate support can be offered to victims of perpetrators who are undertaking the IMPVR.

### 3.5 Support for women & children

In 2013/2014 Police Scotland recorded 811 Domestic Abuse Incidents. This increased to 889 in 2014-2015 reduced to 812 incidents in 2015-2016.

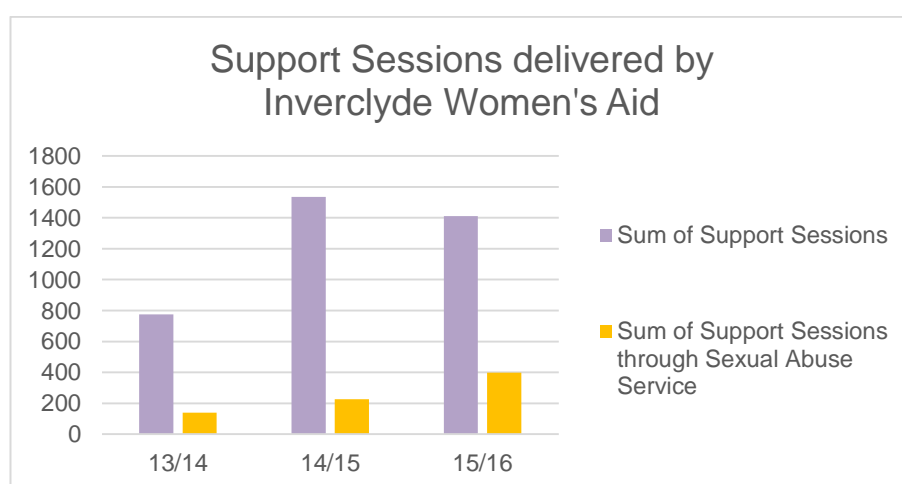
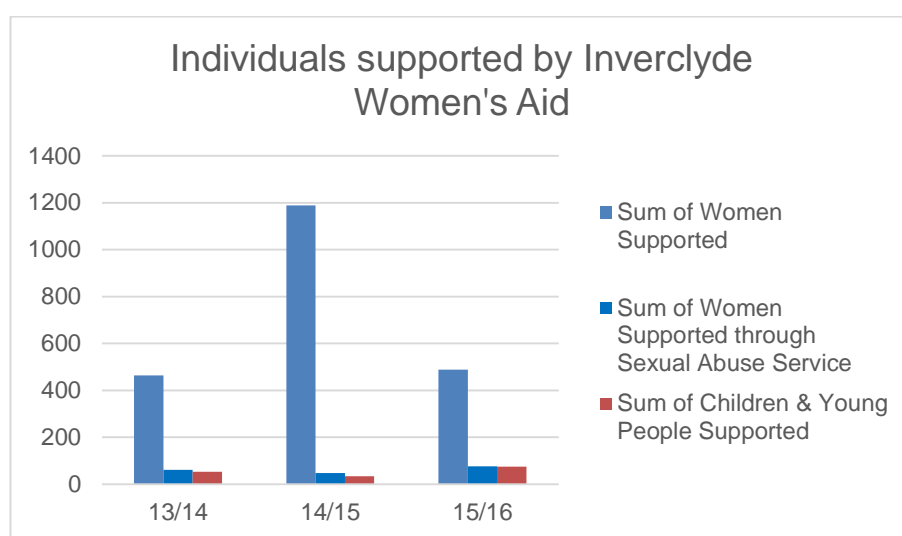


Inverclyde Women's Aid (IWA) provided 915 support sessions in relation to Domestic Abuse in 2013-2014 to 525 women. (including 140 sessions to 61 women

though the Sexual Abuse Service (SAS)). There were 53 children and young people supported in this year through refuge and outreach.

In 2014-2015 there were 1762 sessions provided to 1235 women (including 227 sessions to 47 women through the SAS). Additionally there were 34 children and young people supported through refuge and outreach.

Finally in 2015-2016 IWA provided 1809 sessions to 564 women (including 398 sessions to 76 women through the SAS). There were 75 children and young people supported through refuge and outreach. *(A list of useful contact numbers is included in Appendix B.)*



### **3.6 Routine Sensitive Enquiry & Learning Disability**

Work is ongoing with Adult Protection, Learning Disability staff and NHS GG&C to develop a piece of work around reviewing systems and identification of GBV issues for clients with a learning disability. There was a national event hosted by NHS Scotland called 'Spotlight on VAW and Learning Disability' on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The event showed a real desire to modify working practices to support women with learning disabilities who are affected by VAW. There was some discussion about how this could be done in practice. One example was to set up a Risk Indicator Checklist (RIC) with modified questions to ensure that information can be accessed to assess risk and consider what support can be offered.

### **3.7 Participation work**

Local services are evaluated to identify on an ongoing basis how they might be developed and improved. The VAW Coordinator has worked with IWA to improve the monitoring and evaluation of council funded services. IWA carried out a piece of research called 'Women's Journey to Independence and Choice' in 2016. A Youth Participation Strategy has also been developed to be used by all agencies across the area.

### **3.8 MARAC**

The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) was developed in Inverclyde in September 2013 chaired and supported by ASSIST. MARACs were developed by safe Lives and are nationally recognised as best practice for addressing cases of Domestic Abuse at very high risk of serious harm and Domestic Homicide. A priority of the Scottish Government's Equally Safe Strategy 2016 is that

‘Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising the safety and wellbeing of women, children and young people’ and MARAC contributes to achieving this. Using the MARAC process and knowledge and expertise of different agencies, the identified risks will be either reduced or managed in the most appropriate way. The aims of the MARAC are to:

- ✓ Share information to increase the safety, health and well-being of victims (adults and their children).
- ✓ Determine whether the perpetrator poses a significant risk to any particular individual or the general community.
- ✓ Jointly implement a risk management plan that provides professional support to all those at risk and reduces harm.
- ✓ Reduce repeat victimisation.
- ✓ Improve agency accountability.
- ✓ Improve support for staff involved in high risk domestic abuse cases.
- ✓ Identify situations that indicate a need for Child Protection or Adult Support and Protection procedures to be initiated.

## **Risk Assessment**

In order for a MARAC process to work effectively, there needs to be a common understanding of risk among the participants. There are many factors that will cause a victim to be categorised as **high** risk of serious harm or domestic homicide. Sometimes factors may be in isolation and in other cases there may be multiple factors but each victim must be considered individually and in context. Risk factors can be divided into 5 main categories:

- ✓ Nature of the abuse - emotional, physical or sexual.
- ✓ Historical patterns of behaviour - previous convictions or abusive behaviour.
- ✓ Victim's perception of risk – specific fears for themselves, children or pets.
- ✓ Specific factors associated with an incident – use of weapon, threats to kill.
- ✓ Aggravating factors – drugs, alcohol, financial problems.

Responsibility for appropriate actions rests with individual agencies. They should only take immediate action deemed necessary to increase the victim and child's safety. The role of the MARAC is to facilitate, monitor and evaluate effective information sharing to enable appropriate actions to increase public safety. MARAC accepts referrals from victims over 16 who are experiencing domestic abuse and assessed as being at high risk of serious injury or homicide.

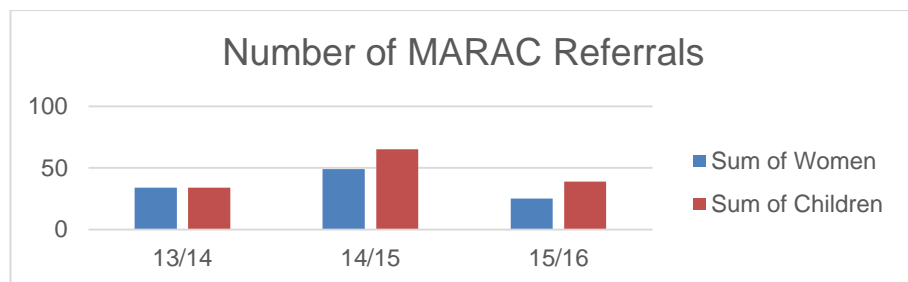
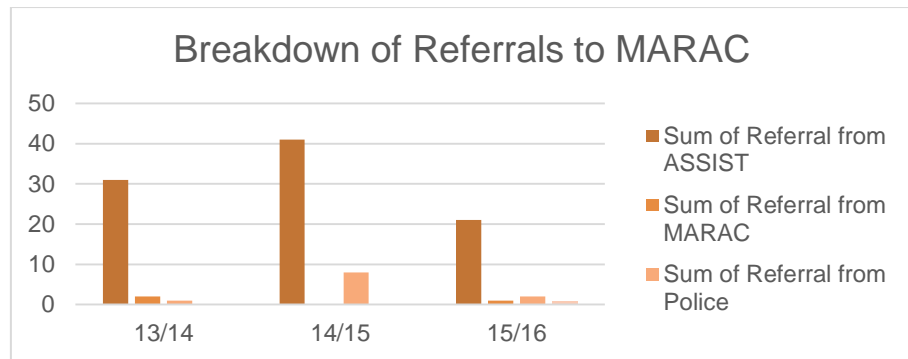
ASSIST was no longer able to coordinate the MARAC process from August 2015. In response to this, a development group was set up. It was decided that the VAW Coordinator would take on role as MARAC Coordinator and Safer Communities Service identified a member of staff to take on the role of MARAC Administrator. A MARAC Governance Group was set up and it was agreed it would meet quarterly. Police Scotland agreed to Chair the MARAC and the Governance Group.

The MARAC Coordinator worked in partnership with the Safer Communities Systems Officer and the Council's IT section. The Community Safety Manager from Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership was very helpful and supportive and provided a wealth of information to assist us in setting up our MARAC

database in Inverclyde. This was a positive example of joint working between neighbouring local authorities.

The MARAC database is secure and only accessible by the MARAC Coordinator and Administrator. The referral form is accessed via an online link and completed referrals go automatically into the database. Information in relation to MARAC referrals is only shared through secure e-mail. The MARAC system records information on referrals, actions on cases, and produces reports to inform members.

The Risk Indicator Checklist (RIC) is used to measure the level of risk that an individual is experiencing at any point in relation to Domestic Abuse. The RIC helps staff decide whether a victim should be referred to MARAC. Training was delivered by our local SafeLives trainer supported by the MARAC Coordinator) in September 2016 which was attended by 8 Children and Families Social Workers and 2 Police Officers and the focus was on the RIC and the best way to support victims. The feedback was very positive and participants felt that it would be a useful tool to enable them to identify Domestic Abuse and measure risk in their work with clients. Participants agreed to pilot the use of the RIC in Children and Families Social Work over the next 6 months and it will be evaluated at the end of this period when a decision will be made regarding how it could be rolled out further. One of the aims of the training is to provide more opportunities for people to be referred no matter where they access services, by ensuring as many services as possible across Inverclyde are aware of the MARAC process. There were 34 women and 34 children discussed at MARAC in 2013-2014 (31 referrals from ASSIST, 2 MARAC to MARAC and 1 from Police Scotland). In 2014-2015 there were 49 women and 65 children (broken down between 41 from ASSIST and 8 from Police Scotland). Finally in 2015-2016 there were 25 women and 39 children discussed (21 from ASSIST, 2 from Police Scotland, 1 MARAC to MARAC and 1 from Social Work).



### 3.9 Forced Marriage (FM) & Honour Based Violence (HBV) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Forced Marriage Multi Agency Guidance has been developed, approved through appropriate fora and published on relevant websites to raise awareness. Lead staff in relevant services have been identified, named in the guidance and trained to respond to Forced Marriage. They are aware of their responsibilities in relation to Forced Marriage and know where to access information. There was also a session delivered to a Secondary Head Teachers meeting so that staff can respond if they come across it in their schools. The original Guidance was updated to include Honour Based Violence (HBV) in response to an Inverclyde case. This provided the opportunity to improve the Guidance which is available on the Child Protection website alongside the FGM Guidance.

### 3.10 CEDAR

CEDAR (Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse Recovery) in Inverclyde is a psycho-educational, multi-agency initiative for children and young people who have behavioural, emotional and social difficulties as a consequence of their experience of domestic abuse. CEDAR provides a therapeutic 12-week group work programme for children and young people in recovery from domestic abuse, alongside a concurrent group work programme for their mothers.

CEDAR listens to and learns from children, young people and their mothers/carers about their experience of the project. This learning has developed and shaped the future of CEDAR in Inverclyde. An independent evaluation of CEDAR Inverclyde was completed in July 2015. Some of the key findings are:

- Without the support and intervention from the CEDAR Project of Inverclyde many women would have found life difficult. 46.87% suggested life would have been 'unimaginable,' 'difficult,' or 'hard,' without the support of the Project.
- 44% stated it had improved their patience with their child and felt more confident as parents.
- 78% of women specifically associated attending group work with improved confidence in their parenting abilities. Coping strategies, understanding challenging behaviours and setting clearer boundaries were examples recorded of this improved confidence.
- 92% of children and young people commented that the group work undertaken had facilitated an improvement in their knowledge and understanding of domestic abuse.
- 100% of children and young people could identify an improvement in their understanding concerning personal safety in general, safety awareness and safety planning. There is evidence that this area had resulted in longer term change for children and young people.



- 71% of children and young people also discussed the ability to communicate difficult thoughts and feelings since the group work programme with their mother, or their friends.
- Significant improvement was experienced between women and their children in relation to being able to discuss domestic abuse together. 78% of women identified that because of group work it had become easier to communicate with their child specifically about experiencing domestic abuse, or about the child's emotions.

CEDAR Inverclyde utilise the wellbeing child framework (GIRFEC, 2008) to inform the assessments of children and young people. They listen to the views of the child and emphasise that it is their choice whether to engage with the service. They utilise feedback from children and young people before and after completing the group work programme specifically based on GIRFEC (2008). The CEDAR programme has been funded for 5 years from June 2016 until June 2021.

## **4. Where we want to be**

### **Inverclyde: Strategic Priorities**

#### **4.1 Priority 1:**

Communities in Inverclyde embrace equality and mutual respect, and reject all forms of violence against women and girls.

- Positive gender roles are promoted.
- People enjoy healthy, positive relationships.
- Children and young people develop an understanding of safe, healthy and positive relationships from an early age.
- Individuals and communities recognise and challenge violent and abusive behaviour

## **4.2 Priority 2:**

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

- Women and girls are safe, respected and equal in our communities.
- Women and men have equal access to power and resources.

## **4.3 Priority 3:**

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

- Women, children and young people access relevant, effective and integrated services.
- Service providers competently identify violence against women and girls and respond effectively to women, children and young people affected.

## **4.4 Priority 4:**

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

- Justice responses are robust, swift, consistent and coordinated.
- Men who carry out violence against women and girls are identified early and held to account by the criminal and civil justice system.
- Relevant links are made between the experience of women, children and young people in the criminal and civil system.

## **5. How we will we get there: Action Plan Priorities**

### **5.1 Priority 1: Communities in Inverclyde embrace equality and mutual respect, and reject all forms of violence against women and girls.**

#### **5.1.1 Positive gender roles are promoted**

- ✓ MVP training is delivered to teachers to enable them to deliver to senior pupils in High Schools who, in turn deliver to younger pupils to challenge behaviour in relation to Gender Based Violence.

#### **5.1.2 People enjoy healthy, positive relationships**

- ✓ Programmes are delivered to pupils in High Schools to raise awareness and challenge attitudes in relation to Sexual Bullying and abuse in relationships with young people.

#### **5.1.3 Children and young people develop An understanding of safe, healthy and positive relationships from an early age**

- ✓ Deliver programmes in Primary Schools on healthy relationships.

#### **5.1.4 Individuals and communities recognise and challenge violent and abusive behaviour**

- ✓ Ongoing opportunities are taken to develop work in the community to deliver messages on VAW.
- ✓ Training and awareness sessions are delivered regularly in Inverclyde.

**5.2 Priority 2: Women and girls in Inverclyde thrive as equal citizens: socially, culturally, economically and politically**

**5.2.1 Women and girls are safe, respected and equal in our communities**

- ✓ There is raised awareness of Violence Against Women issues including Forced Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation and Honour Based Violence.

**5.2.2 Women and men have equal access to power and resources**

- ✓ The Violence Against Women agenda is underpinned by Equalities priorities

**5.3 Priority 3: Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising the safety and wellbeing of women, children and young people**

**5.3.1 Women, children and young people access relevant, effective and integrated services**

- ✓ MARAC meetings are held every 4 weeks, well attended by multi agency representatives and responding to victims need for improved safety.
- ✓ Inverclyde Women's Aid offers refuge provision & support for women and their children, women's outreach service, children and young person's service, CEDAR, sexual abuse service and therapeutic counselling service.
- ✓ Children 1<sup>st</sup> provide a therapeutic intervention service to children and young people affected by Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse.

### **5.3.2 Service providers competently identify violence against women and girls and respond effectively to women, children and young people affected**

- ✓ Domestic Abuse Basic Awareness training is offered on a multi-agency basis two to three times per year giving staff knowledge and confidence to identify and deal with Domestic Abuse disclosures.
- ✓ Gender Based Violence & Child Protection training is offered twice yearly on a multi agency basis to highlight the links between GBV and Child Protection.
- ✓ Safe Lives training is provided to key staff to enable them to use the Risk Indicator checklist to identify the current risk of victims of domestic abuse and make a judgment on whether they would benefit from being referred to MARAC.
- ✓ Forced Marriage Guidance is in place locally with leads identified in each service and ongoing briefing sessions to update on current cases.
- ✓ Routine Sensitive Enquiry gives women opportunities to disclose in a safe environment.

## **5.4 Priority 4: Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response**

### **5.4.1 Justice responses are robust, swift, consistent and coordinated**

- ✓ The Police Scotland Domestic Abuse Task Force (DATF) provides a national proactive, intelligence-led perpetrator-focussed approach to investigations. The Task Force combines both uniformed and detective officers to

investigate historic and protracted Domestic Abuse enquiries.

- ✓ Specialist Domestic Abuse Investigation Units (DAIUs) have been established in every Local Policing Division. The emphasis of DAIUs is on pro-activity and investigations against perpetrators.
- ✓ Police operate the Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme across Scotland.
- ✓ MATAC efficiently and effectively targets repeat Domestic Abuse perpetrators - those who present the greatest risk of harm to victims. At meetings, effective decision making ensures resources are deployed to tackle individuals who pose the greatest risk to victims of Domestic Abuse, using any and all means at the group's disposal. Clear lines of communication, ownership and accountability ensure that victims and their children remain safe.

#### **5.4.2 Men who carry out violence against women and girls are identified early and held to account by the criminal justice system.**

- ✓ MARAC helps Police Scotland identify and deal with perpetrators due to information being shared by other services.
- ✓ Police Scotland target perpetrators through MATAC (Multi Agency Tasking & Coordinating) and Domestic Abuse Task Force.
- ✓ The Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme helps identify when perpetrators of Domestic Abuse, known to Police Scotland, are in new relationships and measures can be taken to protect potential victims.
- ✓ Third Party Reporting systems are in

place to give members of the public the opportunity to report concerns about Violence Against Women.

#### **5.4.3 Relevant links are made between the Experience of women, children and young people in the criminal and Civil system.**

- ✓ MARAC identifies children at risk and looks at measures that can be put in place to protect them.
- ✓ Through training and awareness, services are more able to identify adults, children and young people affected by domestic abuse.
- ✓ Domestic Abuse incidents recorded by Police Scotland where children are present, are passed to the Children's Reporter and checks are carried out by Social Work.
- ✓ Children and Young people of women supported by Inverclyde Women's Aid are also supported, either through refuge or outreach.
- ✓ CEDAR project works with children and mothers in the recovery stage of domestic abuse, in tandem.
- ✓ Children 1<sup>st</sup> is working with children affected by domestic abuse and sexual abuse, providing one to one therapeutic intervention to work through issues.

## **6. A partnership approach**

The Inverclyde Violence Against Women Multi Agency Partnership meets on a two monthly basis and is represented by a number of local agencies:

|       |                      |
|-------|----------------------|
| HSCP: | Homelessness Service |
|       | Children's services  |
|       | Alcohol Service      |
|       | Criminal Justice SW  |

Inverclyde Alliance

Inverclyde Child Protection Committee

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Inverclyde Council: | Education |
|---------------------|-----------|

|                                       |
|---------------------------------------|
| Community Learning<br>and Development |
|---------------------------------------|

Safer Communities

Inverclyde Women's Aid

Oak Tree Housing

Police Scotland

ASSIST

Greater Glasgow & Clyde NHS

SPS Greenock

Children 1st



## **7. Measuring progress**

We will measure our progress in relation to our vision, aim and strategic priorities through identified Action Plan priorities. The Action Plan is developed each financial year and monitored throughout the year at Violence Against Women (VAW) Multi Agency Partnership (MAP) meetings. At the end of the year an Outcomes Report is developed to demonstrate how Action Plan priorities were met.

## 8. International Context

» the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (known as **the Istanbul Convention**) is an international treaty for women's rights. Although the UK signed the Istanbul Convention in June 2012, it has stalled on ratification so is not legally bound by its provisions;

» the Global Platform for Action calling on Governments to take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls;

» the **Human Rights Act**, which incorporates the protections set out in the European Convention on Human Rights into Scots law;

» the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (**CEDAW**), an agenda for action to end all forms of discrimination against women; and

» the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** (UNCRC), an international human rights treaty that grants all children and young people aged 17 and under a comprehensive set of rights.

Scotland is committed to meeting the benchmark set by these international treaties and obligations and aspiring to create an inclusive Scotland that protects, respects and realises the human rights of everyone. While our focus is on preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls; we recognise that all over the world women and girls are experiencing abuse and violence every hour of every day. The United Nations International

Sustainable Development Goal 5 sets out to achieve gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls applying to all countries. Scotland plays its part as a responsible global citizen advocating for the fulfilment of gender equality worldwide and an end to all forms of violence against women and girls.

## **Appendix A**

### **Glossary of terms**

**Domestic Abuse:** Domestic abuse (as gender based abuse) can be perpetrated by partners & ex-partners and can include physical abuse (assault & physical attack including a range of behaviour), sexual abuse (acts which degrade & humiliate women & are perpetrated against their will, including rape) and mental & emotional abuse (such as threats, verbal abuse, racial abuse, withholding money & other types of controlling behaviour such as isolation from family & friends).' (The Scottish Executive (2000)

**Rape:** If a person penetrates another person's vagina, anus or mouth to any extent, either intentionally or recklessly without consent or any reasonable belief that they consent, the offence is known as rape.

**Sexual Assault:** If a person penetrates the vagina, anus or mouth of another person by any means and to any extent, either intentionally or recklessly, touches them sexually, engages in any other form of sexual activity in which there is bodily contact (including by means of an implement or through clothing), ejaculates semen onto them or emits urine or saliva onto them sexually, without their consent or any reasonable belief that they consent, this is defined as Sexual Assault.

**Sexual Abuse:** Sexual Abuse (also referred to as molestation), is the forcing of undesired sexual behavior by one person upon another. When that force is immediate, of short duration, or infrequent, it is called sexual assault. The offender is referred to as a sexual abuser or molester. The term also covers *any* behaviour by *any* adult towards a child to stimulate either the adult or child sexually. When the victim is younger than the age of consent it is referred to as child sexual abuse.

**Child Sexual Abuse:** Child sexual abuse is any type of sexual assault on a child under 16. It takes many forms: explicit sexual talk; showing pornography; sexual touching; lack of privacy to bath or undress; masturbation; and sexual intercourse. In more than three quarters of cases, an adult the child knows and trusts commits the abuse. The vast majority of abusers are men but women are also capable of sexual abuse.

***Incest:*** Incest is sexual intercourse between close relatives. The type of sexual activity and the nature of the relationship between people that constitutes a breach of law or social taboo vary with culture and jurisdiction. When incest involves an adult and a child it is considered to be a form of child sexual abuse and is illegal in every developed country including the UK.

***Ritual Abuse:*** Most abuse is ritualised in some way and, generally, people accept that children can be subjected to a range of terrifying and repetitive abusive experiences. One definition of Ritual Abuse is when one or more children are abused in a highly organised way, by a group of people who have come together and subscribe to a belief system that, for them, justifies their actions towards that child. This usually extends into family involvement and may have been practiced as a religion or a way of life for years.

***Sexual Harassment and Intimidation at Work and in the Public Sphere:*** Sexual Harassment can include: someone making degrading, abusive remarks or gestures; being leered or stared at; being subjected to sexual jokes and sexual propositions; having to listen to comments about personal sexual activity or sexual preference; and, experiencing unwanted touching and bodily contact. Although Sexual Harassment happens everywhere, it is very common at work, which can make it especially distressing and difficult to deal with.

***Commercial Sexual Exploitation:*** Activities such as pornography, Prostitution, Stripping, Lap Dancing, Pole Dancing and Table Dancing are forms of Commercial Sexual Exploitation. These activities have been shown to be harmful for the individual women involved and have a negative impact on the position of all women through the objectification of women's bodies. This happens irrespective of whether individual women claim success or empowerment from the activity. It is essential to separate sexual activity from exploitative sexual activity. A sexual activity becomes sexual exploitation if it breaches a person's human right to dignity, equality, respect and physical and mental wellbeing. It becomes commercial sexual exploitation when another person, or group of people, achieves financial gain or advancement through the activity. In the last 10 years over 300 adult entertainment clubs have opened up all over the UK with 21 in Scotland. This increase in venues offering adult entertainment involving nudity is part of the increased normalisation of the sex industry and exploitation of women for sexual purposes. Thanks to aggressive marketing from the industry, many lap dancing venues are

promoted as upmarket gentlemen's clubs. They advertise glamorous jobs for women based on making huge amounts of money. Pole dancing/fitness classes are promoted as the sexy way to keep fit, increase your confidence and to please your man! However the reality of being involved in the lap dancing industry is rarely discussed. For many women working in lap dancing clubs the reality is not so glamorous or empowering.

***Dowry-Related Violence:*** Dowry-related violence is a serious problem that affects the lives of women and girls. Dowry includes gifts, money, goods or property given from the bride's family to the groom or in-laws before, during or anytime after the marriage. Dowry is a response to explicit or implicit demands or expectations of the groom or his family. The United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women defines dowry-related violence or harassment as "any act of violence or harassment associated with the giving or receiving of dowry at any time before, during or after the marriage" (Good Practices in Legislation on "Harmful Practices" against Women, UN DAW, 2009). The violence and deaths associated with dowry demands can constitute Domestic Abuse. Similar to acts of Domestic Abuse, the acts used in dowry-related offences include physical, emotional, and economic violence, as well as stalking and harassment as means to obtain compliance or to punish the victim. Women often struggle with bringing successful claims of Dowry Related Violence, as emotional and economic violence are difficult to prove in a court of law. However, Dowry Related Violence is distinct from Domestic Abuse in that the husband or current partner may not be the only perpetrator of Dowry Related Violence or death. In-laws, former spouses, or fiancés may also commit acts of Dowry Related Violence. While dowry is practiced in many different of the world, dowry-related violence is most prevalent in South Asia, in the nations of India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. The most common forms of dowry-related violence are physical assault, marital rape, acid throwing, wife burning, and other forms of violence. Perpetrators may also use methods of starvation, deprivation of clothing, evictions, and false imprisonment as a method of extortion. They often use violence disguised as suicides or accidents, such as stove or kerosene disasters, to burn or kill women for failing to meet dowry demands. Survivors of dowry-related violence often require similar services as survivors of domestic abuse. These women will require transport to shelters, emergency services, support programs, and legal assistance.

**Prostitution:** In the UK prostitution itself (the exchange of sexual services for money) is not a crime, but a number of related activities, including soliciting in a public place, kerb crawling, owning a brothel, pimping and pandering/procuring, are crimes. It is illegal to buy sex from a person younger than 18, although the age of consent for non-commercial sex is 16.

**Pornography:** Pornography is a multi million pound industry and produces 68 million search engine requests each day. It is now part of our popular culture, with images used in advertising, music videos and mainstream films and porn stars promoted as international celebrities. The porn industry produces more hardcore material that is both overtly cruel toward women and yet more widely accepted than ever. At the same time our culture denounces other forms of Violence Against Women. The dominant culture tries to justify Pornography saying that those who are anti-porn are somehow at fault, prudes, anti-sex, not “getting the message” or just “not with it”. This minimising of opposition acts as a silencing tactic and can deter people from becoming activists (Women’s Support Project 2011).

**Trafficking:** Strathclyde Police has recently established a Vice and Anti-Trafficking Unit which is intended to enable a more co-ordinated and effective approach to tackling Trafficking and Lothian and Borders Police has established a Serious Organised Crime Unit, one aim of which is to target human trafficking. In Scotland the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 contains an offence of Sexual Coercion which enables police and prosecutors to target traffickers who knowingly force or coerce someone else to engage in sexual activity. The Act also makes clear that sex is unlawful where the victim agrees or submits to sex because of violence or the threat of it, or where the victim has been unlawfully detained by the accused. Reducing the demand for trafficking is important in furthering prevention. As part of our effort to combat human trafficking for sexual exploitation it is necessary also to tackle the demand for exploitative forms of prostitution which helps create the demand for trafficking.

**Female Genital Mutilation:** Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)/cutting is a harmful traditional practice that reflects deep-rooted gender inequality and represents a societies control over women. Within these cultures it is believed that FGM preserves a woman’s virginity; ensures marital fidelity and prevents sexual behaviour that is considered deviant. It is also seen as a practice that makes girls “clean” and beautiful; removes parts of the genitalia perceived as “masculine”, such as the

clitoris. FGM is an extreme form of violence against women. Globally widespread, it is a predominant in Africa, Asia and the Middle East and, to a lesser extent, within some immigrant communities in Europe, North America and Australasia. Many countries, including the UK, having signed up to international conventions on FGM are obliged to take legal action against it. The Dignity Alert Research Forum (DARF) is an organisation based in Edinburgh that campaigns against FGM and provides support and information to people women affected. Inverclyde Child Protection Committee produced Female Genital Mutilation - Guidance on Best Practice in June 2011.

***Forced and Child Marriages:*** A Forced Marriage is one where one or both parties are coerced into the marriage against their will and under duress. Duress includes both physical and emotional pressure, ranging from emotional pressure exerted on victims by family members, to more extreme cases involving assault, being held unlawfully captive, rape, and in some cases the threat of murder. Forced Marriage is a violation of internationally recognised human rights provisions and a form of violence against women; it cannot be justified on any religious or cultural basis. A clear distinction must be made between a Forced Marriage and an arranged marriage. An arranged marriage is one in which the families of both spouses are primarily responsible for choosing a marriage partner for their child or relative, but the final decision as to whether or not to accept the arrangement lies with the potential spouses. Both spouses give their full and free consent. The tradition of arranged marriage has operated successfully within many communities for generations. The Forced Marriage (Protection and Jurisdiction) (Scotland) Act 2011 makes provision for protecting persons from being forced into marriage without their free and full consent. Forced Marriage Protection Orders can require those responsible to stop or change their behaviour. The courts have a wide discretion regarding the terms of the order, thus enabling them to respond flexibly and effectively to the circumstances of individual cases. They are also able to attach powers of arrest to orders, where there has been violence or threats of violence, or where there is a risk of significant harm to the victim. Failure to comply with an order may be punishable by imprisonment. The Act would also set out responsibilities of all agencies dealing with Forced Marriage issues. One particularly significant feature of the Act is that it enables third parties to make an application for a Forced Marriage Protection Order on behalf of the victim. This recognises that victims may feel unwilling or unable to take action against perpetrators who may be members of their family. The Forced Marriage Network Scotland



brings together cross agency representatives to address the issues and share good practice.

***Honour Crimes:*** Honour killing is the murder of a person accused of "bringing shame" upon their family. Victims have been killed for refusing to enter a marriage, committing adultery or being in a relationship that displeased their relatives. In many instances, the crimes are committed by family members against a female relative. More cases have reached the UK courts in recent years but a number of crimes still remain unresolved or undetected. In some parts of the world, women who have been raped have also been murdered for the 'dishonour' of being a victim and the 'disgrace' it brings to their family. Honour killing is believed to have originated from tribal customs where an allegation against a woman can be enough to defile a family's reputation - 'a life without honour is not worth living.' "Honour" crime involves violence, including murder, committed by people who want to defend the reputation of their family or community. Honour killing is the murder of a person accused of bringing shame upon his or her family. It happens worldwide, from South America to Asia. The exact figure of how many men and women have been killed in the name of 'honour' is unknown. Not all countries keep official statistics and it's a crime that can be difficult to detect. But it's believed that the numbers of deaths are in the thousands. None of the world's major religions condone honour-related crimes. But perpetrators have sometimes tried to justify their actions on religious grounds. "People try to blame **Muslims**, **Hindus** or **Sikhs** but it tends to happen in families where there are the strongest ties and expectations. It's a very strong cultural issue." Leaders of the world's faiths have also strongly denounced a connection between religion and honour killings.

## ***Appendix B***

### **Useful Contact Numbers**

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Alcoholics Anonymous  | 0845 769 7555         |
| Alzheimers (Dementia Support)                               | 0808 808 3000         |
| AMIS (Abused Men in Scotland)                               | 0808 800 0024         |
| Archway (sexual assault referral/support clinics)           | 0141 211 8175         |
| Barnardos Nurture Services (Inverclyde)                     | 01475 728493          |
| Barnardos Families Support/Thrive (Inverclyde)              | 01475 892194          |
| Base 75 - Women in Prostitution/Sexual Exploitation         | 0141 204 0737 or 0735 |
| Advice & Benefits Service Inverclyde                        | 01475 715299          |
| Breathing Space Helpline                                    | 0800 83 85 87         |
| National LGBT Domestic Abuse Helpline                       | 0800 999 5428         |
| Child Protection NSPCC Helpline                             | 0808 800 5000         |
| Cloch Housing   | 01475 783637          |
| CRISIS (Mental Health Support)                              | 0141 812 8474         |
| CRUSE Bereavement   | 0845 600 2227         |
| Domestic Abuse & Forced Marriage Helpline                   | 0800 027 1234         |
| Drinkline   | 0800 917 8282         |
| National Drugs Helpline                                     | 0800 587 5879         |
| Elder Abuse Response Helpline                               | 0808 808 8141         |
| Family Mediation Service                                    | 0141 332 2731         |
| Financial Fitness   | 01475 729239          |
| Glasgow Translation and Interpreting Service                | 0141 276 6850         |
| Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid (for Asian Women)                  | 0141 353 0859         |
| In Care Survivors Service Scotland                          | 0800 121 6027         |
| Inverclyde Advocacy Service                                 | 01475 730797          |
| Inverclyde Alcohol Services                                 | 01475 715353          |
| Inverclyde Carers Centre                                    | 01475 735180          |
| Inverclyde Centre for Independent Living                    | 01475 714350          |
| Inverclyde Community Drugs Team                             | 01475 499000          |
| Inverclyde Community Mental Health Team                     | 01475 558000          |
| Inverclyde Council (Out of Hours)                           | 01475 717 171         |
| Mind Mosaic Counselling & Therapy                           | 01475 892208          |
| Inverclyde Homelessness Centre                              | 01475 715880          |
| Inverclyde Royal Hospital (A&E)                             | 01475 504451          |
| Inverclyde Safe Harbour (emotional support)                 | 01475 892197          |
| Inverclyde Social Work Standby                              | 0300 343 1505         |
| Inverclyde Women's Aid Service                              | 01475 888505          |
| Inverclyde Women's Aid Sexual Abuse Service                 | 01475 888110          |
| Jewish Women's Aid  | 0800 591 203          |
| LGBT Helpline Scotland                                      | 0300 123 2523         |
| Mens Advice Line (Domestic Abuse Victims)                   | 0808 801 0327         |
| Moving On (Substance Misuse)                                | 01475 735200          |
| National Association for People Abused in Childhood (NAPAC) | 0800 085 3330         |
| National Debtline   | 0808 808 4000         |
| NHS 24  | 111                   |

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Oak Tree Housing                                       | 01475 807000           |
| Parentline Scotland                                    | 0808 800 2222          |
| Rape Crisis Glasgow                                    | 0141 552 3201          |
| Rape Crisis Scotland Helpline                          | 0808 801 0302          |
| Riverclyde Homes                                       | 01475 788887           |
| Respect (Perpetrators)                                 | 0808 802 4040          |
| Routes Out of Prostitution                             | 0141 276 0737          |
| Samaritans (Free to Caller)                            | 116 123                |
| Sandyford Sexual Health Service                        | 0141 211 8130          |
| Scottish Transgender Alliance                          | 0131 476 9006          |
| Scottish Women's Rights Centre (free legal advice VAW) | 08088 010 789          |
| Seniorline (Advice for older people)                   | 0800 470 8090          |
| Shakti Women's Aid                                     | 0131 475 2399          |
| Shelterline (Housing)                                  | 0808 800 4444          |
| Sheriff Clerk's Office                                 | 01475 787073           |
|  | 101 (999 in emergency) |
| Police Scotland  | 0141 532 6118          |
| Police Scotland Concern Hub Management                 |                        |
| Special Needs in Pregnancy Service (SNIPS) at IRH      | 01475 504833           |
| Victim Information and Advice                          | 0844 561 3406          |
| Victim Support National Helpline                       | 0845 3030 900          |
| Victim Support Inverclyde                              | 01475 787300           |

### ***Services for Children and Young People***

|   |  |
|---|--|
| CEDAR Inverclyde                        | 01475 729220   |
| Childline                               | 0800 11 11   |
| Breathing Space Helpline                | 0800 83 85 87  |
| Domestic Abuse Helpline                 | 0800 027 1234  |
| Domestic Abuse Website for Young People | <a href="http://www.thehideout.org.uk">www.thehideout.org.uk</a> |
| Inverclyde Women's Aid Outreach         | 01475 888505   |
| Inverclyde Children 1st                 | 0141 418 5690  |

## ***Appendix C***

### **Relevant Policies;**

#### **National**

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Violence Against Women         | Equally Safe: Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls (2016)  |
| Equality                       | Race Equality Framework; Disability Delivery Plan; Programme of work aimed at reducing discrimination against and improving attitudes to Gypsy/Travellers.  |
| Health                         | Equally Well; Mental Health strategy; alcohol and drugs partnerships; Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Framework; the Keys to Life learning disability strategy  |
| Social Justice & Fair Work     | Fairer Scotland action plan; adult and Youth Employability; tackling homelessness   |
| Justice                        | Making Justice Work; Building Safer Communities, violence reduction; Reducing reoffending Programme; Implementation of the recommendations of the Commission on Women Offenders; tackling human trafficking and exploitation Police Scotland Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse in Scotland |
| Education Children & Families; | Curriculum for Excellence; Positive Behaviours in Schools; Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2014) the Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) framework; the Early Years Framework and Collaborative; the   |

National Action Plan to tackle Child  
Sexual Exploitation; maternity policy;  
Children's Hearings

## **Appendix D**

### **Relevant Laws**

There are a number of laws which contribute to the prevention of violence against women and girls. These include:

- The Human Rights Act (1998)
- Vulnerable Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2004
- Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation (Scotland) Act 2005
- Protection of Children and Prevention of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2005
- Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007
- Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009
- Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2011
- Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011
- Forced Marriage etc. (*Protection and Jurisdiction*) (Scotland) Act 2011
- Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
- Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014
- Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015
- Criminal Justice Scotland Act 2016  
Crime of Domestic Abuse/Coercive Control  
(pending - target June 2017)  
(All Acts can be accessed at:  
<http://www.legislation.go.uk>)
- The Istanbul Convention  
(Aims to strengthen international protections for women at risk of various forms of violence. The UK became a signatory back in 2012 but it has yet to 'ratify' the Convention - i.e. formally adopt it into domestic law.)  
<http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/210/signatures>