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**Report to: Council**

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**Date of Meeting: 10 August 2023**

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**Subject: Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy**

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**Report by: Scott McDonald, Senior Manager, Justice Services**

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## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1. To approve the Clackmannanshire Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2023-2026.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Council:
- 2.1.1 Approves the Clackmannanshire Council Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2023-2026 (**Appendix 1**).
  - 2.1.2 Approves the plans for development of the Delivery Plan to support the Strategy by August 2024 (para 3.6).
  - 2.1.3 Approves the repurposing of £115,000 from the discretionary fund earmarked reserve to fund a Violence against Women and Girls Partnership officer for 2 years and support the partnership to raise awareness, build capacity and work together (para 3.9).

## **3.0 Background / Considerations**

- 3.1 The Clackmannanshire Violence against Women and Girls Partnership (the Partnership) consists of representatives from a range of public and third sector organisations involved in tackling gender based violence against women and girls. The Partnership is currently chaired by the Strategic Director, People. The Leader of the Council, Councillor Forson is a member of the Partnership and is Champion for Equalities. The purpose of the Partnership is to provide a multi-agency mechanism to deliver on *Equally Safe: Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls* at a local strategic level. Membership of the Partnership is listed in **Appendix 2**.

- 3.2 Scottish Government defines violence against women and girls as including (but not limited to):
- Domestic abuse
  - Sexual Violence (including harassment, sexual assault and rape, and child sexual abuse)
  - Commercial sexual exploitation
  - Child sexual exploitation
  - So called "Honour"-based violence, including female genital mutilation and forced marriage. (Scottish Government 2022)
- 3.3 Clackmannanshire is the smallest county within mainland Scotland and yet we continue to have high numbers of calls to Police Scotland about domestic abuse incidents. In 2021-22 Clackmannanshire was fourth highest per 10,000 of population at 146. (Scottish Government 2022)
- 3.4 During 2022-23, the Partnership has developed a new Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy which will last for 3 years. The strategy was developed through collaboration with partners in the Partnership, alongside other agencies involved in tackling VAWG locally, consultation with those with lived experience and through support from the Improvement Service. The Strategy aligns with national policy set out in Equally Safe: Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls (Scottish Government 2016) and associated Delivery Plan (refreshed in 2022), which outlines 'the joint commitment of the Scottish Government and COSLA to preventing and eradicating all forms of violence against women and girls and tackling the underpinning attitudes that perpetuate it (Scottish Government 2022)'. Equally Safe identifies 4 key priorities:-
- Scottish society embraces equality and mutual respect, and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls;
  - Women and girls thrive as equal citizens – socially, culturally, economically and politically;
  - Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising the safety and wellbeing of women, children and young people;
  - Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls, and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response
- 3.5 The VAWG Strategy identifies 7 key priorities to be taken forward in partnership in Clackmannanshire in order to address violence against women and girls:-
- Raise awareness in our community of what Gender Based Violence is and what support services are available;
  - Listen to those with lived experience;
  - Work with people who experience and commit GBV;
  - Address positive relationships in all educational establishments;
  - Train our staff;
  - Work Together: Partnerships and Gender Equal Policies in place;
  - Monitor how effective we are in progressing the above.
- 3.6 In order to address local priorities, the Partnership have agreed a number of high level outcomes that also align with the Equally Safe national priorities set

out on page 4 of the Strategy. The Delivery Plan for working towards these outcomes will be developed over the next 12 months led by a number of Task and Finish Groups that feed in to the VAWP. Groups will use a co-production approach to ensure that the related actions and performance measures reflect views and the needs of people with lived experience of violence against women and girls. Further, the current roll out of multi-disciplinary training on the Outcomes Star will facilitate the use of shared assessment tools across public and third sector agencies working with perpetrators and survivors and to enable better measurement of progress against individual outcomes. It is important that these developments are reflected in the development of the delivery Plan.

- 3.7 Scottish Government is due to publish a renewed Equally Safe Strategy and delivery Plan in the Autumn of 2023 in addition to providing a response to the extensive recommendations of the recent [Report from the Independent Strategic Review of Funding and Commissioning](#) of VAWG services. Development of the Local Delivery Plan to support this Strategy over the coming year will allow the VAWGP to ensure that performance and reporting locally aligns with national frameworks for delivery.
- 3.8 In addition to development of the Strategy, there has been significant proactive work undertaken within Clackmannanshire to address Domestic Abuse. As well as contributing to the 16 Days of Action as part of Forth Valley, we continue to run 3 pilot schemes:- Non Court Mandated Caledonian Programme, the STRIVE support for Women and Perpetrators and the new Men's Self Referral helpline launched in January 2023 (information flyer attached in **Appendix 3**). All three pilots have national attention with neighbouring authorities looking for input and information relating to these. Positively these services are being accessed and funding has been agreed to be extended for a further 6 months by Scottish Government and partners from Housing, Police Scotland and Alcohol and Drug Partnership.
- 3.9 Currently Clackmannanshire Council receives £13,000 to fund a VAWG post. This is significantly disproportionate to the level of domestic abuse incidents reported. In order to progress the Strategy and the Plan, it is proposed that £115,000 from the discretionary fund earmarked reserve is allocated which will cover the full time costs of Violence against Women and Girls Partnership officer and support the partnership to raise awareness, build capacity and work together. This will allow the work to progress at pace while more sustainable funding streams will be pursued nationally.
- 3.10 These reserves had previously been earmarked for work at West End Park Alloa, but due to an underspend on this project, these funds can be released.

#### **4.0 Sustainability Implications**

- 4.1. No sustainability implications are identified.

#### **5.0 Resource Implications**

- 5.1. *Financial Details*

5.1.1 £115,000 will be allocated from reserves over the next 2 years

## 5.2. Staffing

5.2.1 In consultation with partners we are looking to develop and introduce a 2 year full time Violence against Women and Girls Partnership officer. This is in line with COSLA recommendations relating to Equally Safe.

## 6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes  (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No

## 7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box )

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all  
Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life  
Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential  
Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

## 8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?  
Yes  No

The strategy has been produced through collaboration with the VAWG Partnership, alongside other agencies involved in tackling VAWG locally, consultation with those with lived experience and through support from the Improvement Service. A full EQIA will be carried out alongside development of the Delivery Plan to support the Strategy.

## 9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers.

Yes  No

## 10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

Appendix 1 – Clackmannanshire Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2023-2026.

Appendix 2 – Membership of Clackmannanshire VAWGP

Appendix 3 – Information flyer for Men’s Self-Referral Helpline

## 11.0 Background Papers

11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes  (please list the documents below) No

*Equally Safe: Scotland’s strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls (Scottish Government 2016)*


*Equally Safe Short Life Delivery Plan, Summer 2022-Autumn 2023 (CoSLA, Scottish Government 2022)*

*Violence Against Women and Girls - Independent Strategic Review of Funding and Commissioning of Services: report (Scottish Government 2023)*

### Author(s)

| NAME           | DESIGNATION                      | TEL NO / EXTENSION |
|----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Scott McDonald | Senior Manager (Justice Service) |                    |

### Approved by

| NAME           | DESIGNATION                 | SIGNATURE   |
|----------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Lorraine Sanda | Strategic Director (People) |  |



# Clackmannanshire Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Plan 2023-26



Clackmannanshire  
Council

[www.clacks.gov.uk](http://www.clacks.gov.uk)

Comhairle Storrachd  
Chlach Mhanann

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**FOREWORD:**

**Lorraine Sanda, Director of People Clackmannanshire Council and Chair of the VAW Partnership:**

*As Chair of the Clackmannanshire Violence Against Women Strategic Partnership, I am pleased to present our Strategic Plan for 2023-2026.*

*The Clackmannanshire Violence Against Women Strategic Partnership has come together, with the support of the Improvement Service, and with renewed strength and commitment to develop this plan. It sets out a vision that:*

**WOMEN AND GIRLS IN CLACKMANNANSHIRE ARE EQUALLY SAFE AT HOME, AT WORK AND IN THE COMMUNITY.**

*This Strategy and Action Plan sets out the collective commitment of partners to actions and robust monitoring and evaluation over the next three years. The circumstances during and following the COVID-19 pandemic, and now the challenges of a cost of living crisis, have sharpened our focus on promoting the safety and well-being of women and their families. We know there has been progress and successes, but there remains a great deal of work to be done. The Partnership is not shying away from that challenge.*

*By working collaboratively, across all our organisations, and with our partners, we can deliver significant change for women, children and young people affected by violence and abuse.*

## SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 2014 the Scottish Government published *Equally Safe: Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls*. It was produced in partnership with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA), Police Scotland, Health Scotland and specialist Violence Against Women (VAW) support groups like Scottish Women's Aid and Rape Crisis Scotland. In 2016 the national strategy was updated and a framework providing guidance for implementation was included. A further refresh of the Equally Safe Delivery Plan in 2022 outlined the 'joint commitment of the Scottish Government and COSLA to preventing and eradicating all forms of violence against women and girls and tackling the underpinning attitudes that perpetuate it' (Scottish Government 2022). The Plan sets out the priorities for VAW Partnerships to tackle the sharp increase in demand for domestic abuse services following the pandemic. Additionally the cost of living crisis has further increased the vulnerability of women. *Equally Safe* provides strategic direction to tackle all forms of gender-based violence and abusive behaviour and each local authority is tasked to work collaboratively with key partners in the public, private and third sectors to prevent and eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls.

*Equally Safe* has four key priorities:

1. Scottish society embraces equality and mutual respect, and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls;
2. Women and girls thrive as equal citizens – socially, culturally, economically and politically;
3. Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising the safety and wellbeing of women, children and young people;
4. Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls, and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response.

*Equally Safe* recognises that women and girls are disproportionately affected by various forms of violence and abuse precisely because they are women and girls, and that, perpetrators of such violence are overwhelmingly male. In respect of domestic abuse, 80% of perpetrators are male.

It recognises that this violence is an abuse of power and stems from deep rooted and systemic gender inequality and the subordinate position women occupy in society in relation to men.

Men, boys and non-binary individuals may also be victims of violence and abuse and the Clackmannanshire VAWG Partnership is committed to ensure there are appropriate services responding to the needs of survivors of all of such violence.

### The Scottish Government's Definition of Gender Based Violence is:

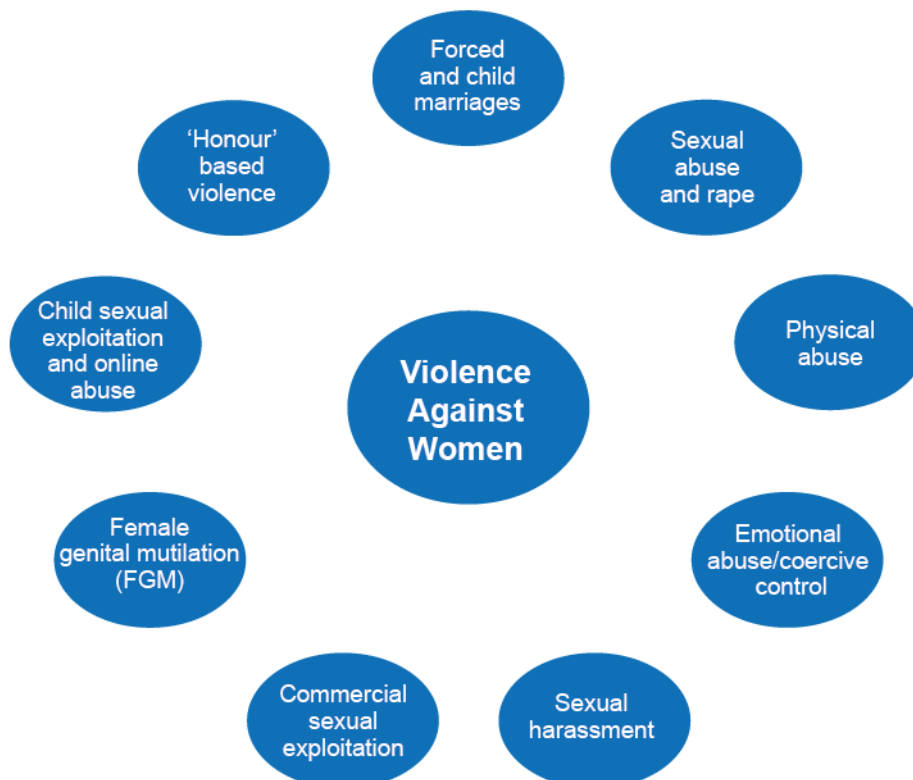
*“Gender-based violence is a function of gender inequality, and an abuse of male power and privilege. It takes the form of actions that result in physical, sexual, and psychological harm or suffering to women and children, or affront to their human dignity, including threats of such acts, coercion, or 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 of such violence. 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.*”

Throughout this strategy, we use the term ‘violence against women and girls’ (or VAWG) as a convenient and widely used way of referring to an issue which, by its very nature impacts on women, children and families.

### What is Violence Against Women and Girls

Equally Safe defines violence against women and girls as including (but not limited to):

- Domestic abuse
- Sexual Violence (including harassment, sexual assault and rape, and child sexual abuse)
- Commercial sexual exploitation
- Child sexual exploitation
- So called "Honour"-based violence, including female genital mutilation and forced marriage. (Scottish Government 2022).



### **Victim Blaming Statements:**

“She stayed with him too long”

“She must have know the kind of person she was marrying”

“She must have said something to make him snap”

“She probably had a boyfriend he found out about”

*Whilst these people certainly weren't saying that what happened to her was okay, justifiable, or understandable, they were 100% victim blaming. And that's 100% not OK.*

*Source: National Coalition Against Domestic Violence*

### **What is Domestic Abuse?**

#### ***The definition of domestic abuse used by Scottish Government is:***

*'Any form of physical, verbal, sexual, psychological or financial abuse which might amount to criminal conduct and which takes place within the context of a relationship. The relationship will be between partners (married, cohabiting, civil partnership or otherwise) or ex-partners. The abuse can be committed in the home or elsewhere, including online.*

*It is acknowledged that domestic abuse as a form of gender-based violence is predominantly perpetrated by men against women. This definition also acknowledges and includes abuse of male victims by female perpetrators, and includes abuse of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people within relationships*  
*Scottish Government*

### **What is Coercive Control?**

*Coercive control is a purposeful and sustained pattern of behaviour whereby one person within the relationship (most usually a man) seeks to exert power, control or coercion over another. A range of tactics are used such as isolating the partner from sources of support and social interaction, exploiting their resources (financial and emotional), depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour (Dobash & Dobash, 1993, 2004; Stark, 2006; Johnson, 2006; Hester, 2009)*

### **What is Child Sexual Exploitation?**

*Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of child sexual abuse in which a person(s) of any age takes advantage of a power imbalance to force or entice a child into engaging in sexual activity in return for something received by the child and/or those perpetrating or facilitating the abuse.*

*Source: Scottish Government*

### **What is Honour Based Violence?**

*Honour-based violence (HBV) is the term used to refer to a collection of practices used predominantly to control the behaviour of women and girls within families or other social groups in order to protect supposed cultural and religious beliefs, values and social norms in the name of 'honour'.*

*There are often multiple perpetrators (family, community).*

*When perpetrators come from within the family it means the family home is not a safe place for victims: It can lead to a deeply embedded form of coercive control, built on expectations about acceptable and unacceptable behaviours. Control is often established without overt violence against the victim. For example, family members may threaten to kill themselves or ostracise the victim.*

*Perpetrators are often partners or ex-partners, or family members and most victims experience abuse from multiple perpetrators, including parents and siblings.*

*Sources: HMICFRS and Karma Narvana 2014*

### **What is Commercial Sexual Exploitation?**

*Commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) includes a wide range of often linked sexual activities which (typically) men profit from or buy from women and which objectify and harm women. It includes prostitution, phone sex, internet sex/chat rooms, stripping, pole dancing, lap dancing, peep shows, pornography, trafficking, sex tourism and mail order brides.*

*Source: Public Health Scotland 2021*

### **What is the impact on survivors?**

The World Health Organisation (WHO) describe gender-based violence as a global health problem of epidemic proportions. Domestic abuse is costly, in both financial and human terms. The costs are high, principally because opportunities for early intervention and prevention are missed routinely, leading to more expensive interventions later.

In addition to the significant monetary impact of dealing with domestic abuse, there are distressing human and social costs. The ripple effects are long-term and far reaching; not just for the individuals and their children, but for the wider community. Domestic abuse features heavily in the lives of children on the Child Protection Register, looked after children, children living in kinship care placements, adopted children, young offenders and in those displaying bullying and disruptive classroom behaviour.

Domestic abuse is also a feature in the lives of many people with mental health issues, people who use alcohol and drugs problematically and women offenders. It is a factor in many violent crime figures, including murder and serious sexual offending, and in a substantial number of homeless applications and disputed child contact cases in the court system.

### **Rates of Domestic Abuse in Scotland**

Police Scotland recorded 64,807 incidents of domestic abuse in 2021-22, a decrease of 1% compared to the previous year. This is the first year this figure has shown a decrease since 2015-16.

In 2021-22, 39% of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland included the recording of at least one crime or offence.

The type of crime or offence that was most frequently recorded as part of a domestic abuse incident in 2021-22 was Common Assault, accounting for 32% of all crimes and offences recorded. This was followed by Threatening and Abusive behaviour accounting for 21% of crimes and offences.

The cost of domestic abuse to the Scottish public purse in 2021 was £2.3 million, whilst the cost of all forms of VAWG was £4million.

### Who were the victims?

The following statistics are based on the most up to date data available at the time of strategy development.

*In 2021-22 more than 4 out of 6 (81%) of victims of domestic abuse were female.*

### What was the gender of victims & suspected perpetrators?

- *81% of incidents involved a female victim and a male suspected perpetrator;*
- *14% of incidents involved a male victim and a female suspected perpetrator;*
- *The remaining 5% of victims and suspected perpetrators were of the same gender.*

### Where did incidents occur?

*89% of domestic abuse incidents occur in the home or a dwelling.*

### When do incidents occur?

*Nearly half (48%) happen over the weekend – Friday, Saturday and Sunday.*

### Incidents of Domestic Abuse per 10,000 population:

*On average there were 118 incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland per 10,000 population in 2021-22. At a local authority level, Dundee City (172), West Dunbartonshire (161) and Glasgow City (147) recorded the highest incident rates per 10,000 population. Clackmannanshire was in 4<sup>th</sup> place (146), a slight fall in the previous year's figures of 3<sup>rd</sup> place (158). Source: Police Scotland*

Whilst these figures give us information that has been reported to the police, research has shown that some victims of domestic abuse do not contact services for many years, for a variety of reasons, including a lack of awareness or a poor experience when seeking support. Findings show that domestic abuse is mistakenly viewed as a difficult relationship, separation or disagreement, rather than a perpetrator choosing to use a pattern of abuse and control towards their ex/partner and children. At times, individuals feel judged, blamed for the abuse or the impact on their children, and pressured to make decisions such as separating or moving home, without an understanding of the other risks or disruption that these dramatic responses create. Negative responses from services impact on an individual's decisions and safety, as they are less likely to approach services or see them as a support.

*'We need to EDUCATE our young people and CHALLENGE behaviours and attitudes*

*We need to stop PUNISHING victims with phrases like: "what was she wearing; why didn't she leave; I bet she was asking for it", these are NOT APPROPRIATE or helpful.*

**THIS IS EVERYBODY'S PROBLEM AND RESPONSIBILITY AND IT NEEDS TO END NOW'**

*SOURCE: Suzanne, Service User*

## SECTION 2 THE LOCAL PICTURE IN CLACKMANNANSHIRE

This strategy covers the period of 2023-2026 and links local strategic planning in Clackmannanshire to the national strategy to tackle violence against women & girls, “Equally Safe”.

**Clackmannanshire is the smallest county within mainland Scotland and yet we continue to have high numbers of calls to Police Scotland about a domestic abuse incident. In 2021-22 Clackmannanshire was fourth highest per 10,000 of population at 146.**

Although comparing reported incidents with actual incidents is complex, the high rate of domestic abuse reports in Clackmannanshire is consistent with other local indicators which measure adversity and disempowerment of women and girls: Clackmannanshire has among the worst trending rates in Scotland for the gender pay gap and rates of teenage pregnancies (2020) figures show Clackmannanshire is second highest in Scotland at 32.8 pregnancies per 1000 women (Public Health Scotland 2020). Therefore, other hidden violence, including sexual violence against women and girls is also likely to exist in Clackmannanshire and we need to be mindful of this when developing services.

The Clackmannanshire VAWG Partnership recognises:

- that men are statistically and overwhelmingly the main perpetrators of violence against women and children, other men, and themselves
- the majority of men are not violent or abusive
- that some women use violent and abusive behaviours
- that the meaning, use and consequences of violence by men and by women is not equivalent and cannot be understood in isolation, but as an expression of wider social factors
- the differences between men’s and women’s violent or abusive behaviour must be considered in the context within which it is perpetrated
- that prevention of Violence Against Women is everyone's responsibility

There has been a multi-agency approach to tackling Violence Against Women and Girls in Clackmannanshire since 1998. Originally established to focus specifically on domestic abuse, the Partnership’s remit was extended in recent years to encompass a wider Violence Against Women agenda: Stalking, Sexual Harassment, Rape & Sexual Assault, Honour Based Violence and recognising commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls as a form of VAWG.

This strategy outlines the development of a coordinated whole systems approach to violence and women and girls in Clackmannanshire and sets out our vision and proposed direction. A whole systems approach is based on the principle that no single agency or professional has a complete picture of the life of a victim, but many will have insights that are crucial to their

safety. It is paramount that agencies work together effectively and systematically to increase safety and hold perpetrators to account.

Gender inequality is a root cause of violence against women and girls, and there remain persistent inequalities between men and women in Clackmannanshire. In order to prevent and eradicate it from our communities we must focus our efforts on delivering greater gender equality, tackling perpetrators and intervening early and effectively to prevent violence.

People with lived experience give the most positive response about services when they are able to build a relationship with a professional who listens, empathises, is non-judgemental and understands the dynamics of domestic abuse. Most commonly, this is found within specialist domestic abuse services. However, professionals within these services can be overwhelmed by the volume of demand as a result: the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the cost of living crisis on our communities and our workforces and services have been incredibly difficult. The significant pressures, challenges and direct effects and harms are still being felt as we continue in our response to, and recovery from, the pandemic. We need to ensure that all professionals are able to offer safe and supportive advice to individuals affected by domestic abuse and that specialist services can be accessed where appropriate.

#### **Why do we need this co-ordinated approach to Violence Against Women and Girls?**

Research shows that 85% of those living with or who have lived experience of VAWG sought help from professionals five times on average in the year before they received effective help to stop the abuse. Regardless of whether the contact related to the abuse, each contact represents a chance for services to help the victim disclose and get help – a chance that was missed, leaving the victim to live with abuse for longer.

We will work closely with other community planning partnerships and forums to ensure that we are taking an integrated approach to tackling violence against women and girls. We will work particularly closely with public protection partnerships including adult and child protection and multi-agency forums for risk of violence (Multi – Agency Risk Assessment Conferences - MARAC) and tasking and co-ordinating (Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination Protocol - MATAC). We will also work alongside Scotland's national network for tackling violence against women.

Whilst this strategy has a focus on tackling violence against women and girls it also recognises that it has a key role to play in addressing the wider issue of gender inequality in Clackmannanshire and will do so by contributing to the outcomes set out in the following strategic partnership plans:-

- Local Outcome Improvement Plan for Clackmannanshire 2017-2027 (new plan under development)
- Children's Services Plan 'Keeping Our Promise' 2021-24,
- Clackmannanshire & Stirling ADP Delivery Plan
- Clackmannanshire & Stirling HSCP Strategic Commissioning Plan 2023-2033
- Clackmannanshire Community Justice Outcome Delivery Plan 2018-2023 (new plan under development).

The way that partners will work together to deliver this strategy will reflect the principles set out in the **Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2017/2027**. These set out how we will



operate as a partnership, how we will work collaboratively with our partners and how we will identify solutions which aim to take action to prevent violence against women and girls.

These are:

- A focus on fewer key priorities to tackle inequality where we can genuinely make a difference.
- Prevention and early intervention aimed at reducing causes of poverty and inequality and not just its symptoms.
- Inclusive economic growth that benefits everyone.
- Participation, engagement and co-production in identifying and delivering solutions.
- Strong partnership leadership, governance and accountability.
- Integrated and multi-agency approaches focussed on our targeted priorities.
- Promoting and championing what we do well in Clackmannanshire and building and continuing areas of good practice.

During 2021, the Scottish Government worked with a number of Local Authorities on developing pilot areas to develop a Wellbeing Economy, embedding alongside, the five pillars of Community Wealth Building. The Wellbeing Economy model forms the basis of a review of the Clackmannanshire LOIP which is due for publication later in 2023. This CJOIP will be reviewed to ensure alignment with the new LOIP when published.

#### **Alcohol & Drug Partnership:**

The Clackmannanshire and Stirling Alcohol and Drug Partnership is committed to working with the Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership to address violence against women and girls in a substance use context. Whilst alcohol and/or drugs do not cause violence against women and girls, they are secondary factors that can increase both the frequency and severity of violence. Local and national strategic approaches are clear that men do not abuse because of alcohol and drugs but they can lower inhibitions and exacerbate behaviours. Perpetrators can use substances to coerce and control women and women experiencing domestic abuse may also use alcohol and/or drugs as a coping mechanism.

Drug and alcohol services provide a valuable opportunity for early identification of victims and perpetrators of violence against women. Through working with the Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership, drug and alcohol services should be part of an integrated system that works together to keep women and children safe. The VAWG Partnership also recognises the invaluable resource that the recovery community represents and is committed to working with those who have lived experience to better understand the interaction between domestic abuse and substance misuse in order to create effective and realistic avenues for change.

#### **Community Justice Partnership:**

The Clackmannanshire Community Justice Partnership (CJP) are committed to working with the Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership to develop 'healthy relationships, healthy minds and healthy gender constructs' (*Clackmannanshire CJOIP 2018-2023*). There is a recognised and significant overlap to the reporting outcomes of the Community Justice Partnership and the Violence Against Women Partnership. Through working with the VAWGP, the CJP will ensure that the priorities of the VAWG Strategy are reflected in the new Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan for Clackmannanshire 2023-28. In addition, the CJP and VAWGP will aim to combine the work and actions of each partnership as far as possible, to enable greater understanding and support in achieving their outcomes.

### **SECTION 3**

#### **KEY SERVICES IN CLACKMANNANSHIRE & FORTH VALLEY**

**Clackmannanshire Women's Aid** is affiliated to Scottish Women's Aid, but remains an independent charity, who have been offering services to women and children in Clackmannanshire since 1976.

CWA offers support, information and safe refuge to women, children and young people impacted by domestic abuse. Survivors do not need to leave the perpetrator of abuse to engage with the service; what's important is that the survivor feels safe and supported.

Telephone: 01259 721 407

Email: [info@clackswomensaid.org.uk](mailto:info@clackswomensaid.org.uk)

**MARAC/IDAA:** CWA operate an Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate (IDDA) service. This service is aimed towards women and children who are subjected to medium to high risk of harm from an ex or currently partner.

The IDAA worker will take immediate action to support survivors of domestic abuse. To do this, the worker carries out an Initial Assessment and Risk Identification Checklist. The IDAA acts as an independent voice for the survivor and is able to present the survivor's needs, wishes and any relevant safety planning. The case may then be referred to a Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

At a MARAC, key agencies involved with a case meet to discuss survivors at high risk of domestic abuse. The Domestic Abuse Unit distributes relevant actions to provide increased safety, support and wellbeing to the survivor. The IDAA will pass this information back to the survivor and they will continue to work together until any risk of harm is dramatically reduced.

**Central Advocacy Service** provide an independent advocacy service to women and girls aged 16 years or over, who live in the Forth Valley area, who either: identify as or have been diagnosed with a learning disability, learning difficulties and/or autism AND who are experiencing or have experienced domestic abuse.

Telephone: 01324 633 321

Email: [info@centraladvocacypartners.org.uk](mailto:info@centraladvocacypartners.org.uk)

**Resilience Learning Partnership:** The TIER Pathway is a Resilience Learning Partnership initiative for people 18+ with lived experience of trauma. The aim is to support participants to explore and realise their goals and aspirations whether that be college, university, paid employment, voluntary work or further engagement with RLP & TIER.

Telephone: 01259 272 015

Email: [info@resiliencelearningpartnership.co.uk](mailto:info@resiliencelearningpartnership.co.uk)

**Forth Valley Rape Crisis** provide free and confidential information, advocacy and support to anyone 13 and over in the Forth Valley area (Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling) affected by sexual violence.

This includes survivors of sexual violence and their friends and families. They also provide advice, support and training to staff in other agencies who are working with survivors so they can provide a good response to survivors of sexual violence.

They aim to be inclusive and welcoming to all, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, gender identity, intersex status or sexual orientation.

Find out more about [how we can support you](#).

Telephone: 01786 439 244

Email: [support@forthvalleyrapecrisis.org.uk](mailto:support@forthvalleyrapecrisis.org.uk)

**Sexual Assault Response Coordination Service (SARCS)** is an NHS Service, located in The Meadows at Larbert, and is a service for adults and children who have experienced sexual assault, rape or gender based violence.

If you have been raped or sexually assaulted within the last 7 days and do not want to tell the police or are unsure about telling them now – you can self-refer to a SARCS. This means you don't need a GP or other healthcare professional to refer you to a SARCS – you can do this yourself.

You can phone a dedicated NHS telephone number 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and speak to a specially trained healthcare professional who can help to arrange the care you might need.

**You can find more information about how to self-refer to a SARCS and the telephone number to call on the [NHS Inform](#) website.**

#### **Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programmes:**

There is significant proactive work being undertaken within Clackmannanshire to address Domestic Abuse. **As well as delivering the Caledonian Domestic Abuse Programme as part of a statutory community based disposal for the Courts**, Clackmannanshire Justice Services continue to run 3 pilot schemes, Non Court Mandated Caledonian Programme, the STRIVE support for Women and Perpetrators and the new Men's Self Referral helpline launched in January 2023. Positively these services are being accessed and funding has been agreed to be extended for a further 6 months by Scottish Government and partners from Housing, Police Scotland and Alcohol and Drug Partnership.

To speak to someone call 01259 452200 and ask for THE PROGRAMME (Ready for Change)

Text the word PROGRAMME to: 0798 000 1534 (attach poster self referral?)

Email [programme@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:programme@clacks.gov.uk)

## SECTION 4

### CLACKMANNANSHIRE VAWG OUTCOMES AND DELIVERY PLAN DEVELOPMENT 2023-26

*The Clackmannanshire VAWG Strategic Partnership held two development days facilitated by the Improvement Service, in August and October 2022, to help us determine our priorities. They were attended by the majority of representatives from the Partnership.*

(The Improvement Service was established by the Scottish Government in 2005 as the national improvement organisation for Local Government in Scotland)

#### **The Key Priorities identified are:**

- 1. Raise awareness in our community of what GBV is and what support services are available;**
- 2. Listen to those with lived experience;**
- 3. Work with people who experience and commit GBV;**
- 4. Address positive relationships in all educational establishments;**
- 5. Train our staff;**
- 6. Work Together: Partnerships and Gender Equal Policies in place;**
- 7. Monitor how effective we are in progressing the above.**

Clackmannanshire continues to deliver a range of training that includes Safe and Together Briefings on the principles and components of the Framework and a 4 day Core Practice training. The model provides multi-agency training for all agencies and services who may work with someone living with or who has experienced domestic abuse. This provides a recognised approach to assessment and delivery of service which holds the perpetrator accountable for actions and behaviours. This approach is heavily embedded within the Caledonian System and provides staff with the necessary competences and skills in assessment, interviewing documentation and safe planning to ensure the required system change and cultural shift with cases of domestic abuse.

In addition the following training is also provided. Gender based Violence elearning and Public Protection is Everyone's Responsibility elearning. Responding to a disclosure of sexual assault and rape facilitated by Forth Valley Rape Crisis , MARAC, Coercive Control and Domestic Abuse ( Scotland ) Act, Under Pressure Training (for working with children and young people).

The current roll out of multi-disciplinary training on the Outcomes Star will facilitate the use of shared assessment tools across public and third sector agencies working with perpetrators and survivors and to enable better measurement of progress against individual outcomes. It is important that these developments are reflected in the development of the Delivery Plan.

Scottish Government are due to publish a renewed Equally Safe Strategy and Delivery Plan in the Autumn of 2023 in addition to providing a response to the extensive recommendations of the recent [Report from the Independent Review of Funding](#) for VAWG Services. Development of the Local Delivery Plan to support this Strategy over the coming year will allow the VAWGP to ensure that performance and reporting locally aligns with national frameworks for delivery.

In order to address the key priorities above, the Partnership has agreed a number of high level outcomes that also align with the four Equally Safe national priorities. These are set out in the table below. The Delivery Plan for working towards these outcomes will be developed over the next 12 months led by a number Task and Finish Groups that feed in to the VAWGP. Groups will use a co-production approach to ensure that the related actions and performance measures reflect the needs of people with lived experience of violence against women and girls.

| <b><u>Equally Safe Priority</u></b>  | <b><u>VAW Partnership High Level Outcomes 2023-2026</u></b>  |
|--|--|
| Scottish society embraces equality and mutual respect, and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls                         | <p>More people in the workforce and the community are aware of VAWG and have confidence in available support.</p> <p>Increased awareness amongst young people of GBV issues and where to get help.</p> <p>Increased skills and knowledge across the workforce to support women and children affected by VAWG using a trauma informed approach.</p> |
| Women and girls thrive as equal citizens – socially, culturally, economically and politically  | <p>More women take up earlier support for GBV issues.</p> <p>Fewer incidents of VAWG across Clackmannanshire.</p> <p>Reduction in inequalities in workplace as a result of GBV.</p> <p>More employers implement ES at Work.</p> <p>Local policies, processes and services promote equality for women and girls.</p>                                |
| Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising the safety and wellbeing of women, children and young people   | <p>Women and girls living with VAWG receive the right support, in the right place, at the right time.</p> <p>Policies and services to support survivors of VAWG are co-produced.</p>   |
| Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls, and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response | Earlier interventions for both perpetrators and survivors.   |

## References

*Building Resilience In the Face of Adversity in Clackmannanshire; Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan 2018-2023*; Clackmannanshire Alliance; 2018

*Child Sexual Exploitation Definition and Practitioner Briefing paper*; Scottish Government; 2016

*Coercive Control*; Dobash & Dobash, 1993, 2004; Stark, 2006; Johnson, 2006; Hester, 2009; accessed at <https://womensaid.scot/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/CoerciveControl.pdf>

*Commercial Sexual Exploitation*; Public Health Scotland; 2021; accessed at <https://www.healthscotland.scot/health-topics/gender-based-violence/commercial-sexual-exploitation>

*Current Picture and Statistics of Domestic Abuse and Violence in the UK*; Touchstone; 2022

*Domestic Abuse: statistics recorded by Police in Scotland – 2021/22*; Scottish Government; 2022

*Equally Safe: Scotland's Strategy for Preventing and Eradicating Violence Against Women and Girls*; Scottish Government; 2018

*Joint Protocol between Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service*; Police Scotland, COPFS; 2019

*Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, 2017-2027*; Clackmannanshire Alliance; 2017

*National Coalition Against Domestic Violence*; <https://ncadv.org>

*The Depths of Dishonour: Hidden Voices and Shameful Crimes – An Inspection of the Police Response to Honour-Based Violence, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation*; HMICFR; 2015

*Teenage pregnancies, 2020*; Public Health Scotland; published July 2022





### Membership of Clackmannanshire Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership

- Representative of Clackmannanshire & Stirling Alcohol & Drug Partnership
- Third Sector Agencies:
  - Clackmannanshire Women's Aid
  - Forth Valley Victims Support
  - Resilience Learning Partnership
  - CTSi
  - Forth Valley Rape Crisis
- Police Scotland
- NHS Forth Valley (GBV & Sexual Assault Service)
- Child Care Senior Manager
- Education Senior Manager
- Community Justice Coordinator
- Justice Services Senior Manager
- Housing Senior Manager
- Health & Social Care Partnership (2)
- Fire & Rescue Service
- Scottish Prison Service
- Elected Member
- MARAC Co-ordinator
- Clackmannanshire Council VAWG Lead Officer

The way that partners will work together to deliver this strategy will reflect the principles set out in the **Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2017/2027**. These set out how we will operate as a partnership, how we will work collaboratively with our partners and how we will identify solutions which aim to take action to prevent violence against women and girls.

These are:

- A focus on fewer key priorities to tackle inequality where we can genuinely make a difference.
- Prevention and early intervention aimed at reducing causes of poverty and inequality and not just its symptoms.
- Inclusive economic growth that benefits everyone.
- Participation, engagement and co-production in identifying and delivering solutions.

- Strong partnership leadership, governance and accountability.
- Integrated and multi-agency approaches focussed on our targeted priorities.
- Promoting and championing what we do well in Clackmannanshire and building and continuing areas of good practice.

Men's Self-Referral Helpline Flyer



**Ready for change?**

Worried about your behaviour within a relationship?

Would you like to be able to express how you feel safely?



**Individual support for men is now available**

Develop new skills to help you have a healthy and safe intimate relationship

To speak to someone:

call **01259 452200** and ask for **THE PROGRAMME (Ready for Change)**

**Text** the word **PROGRAMME** to: 07549 115 326

**Email** [programme@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:programme@clacks.gov.uk)

 **Clackmannanshire Council**  
[www.clacks.gov.uk](http://www.clacks.gov.uk)

Comhairle Siorrachd  
Chlach Mhanann

