



FIFE
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
Partnership

Fife Violence Against Women Partnership Annual Report 2023/24

Contents

- Chairs report Page 3
- National Context Page 4
- National StatisticsPage 5
- Equally Safe Data Standards AssessmentPage 5
- Local Context Page 6
- Priority 1 Key Achievements Pages 7-8
- Priority 2 Key Achievements Page 9
- Priority 3 Key Achievements Pages 10-13
- Priority 4 Key Achievements Page 14
- Looking forward -Goals for 2024-25 Page 15
- Links & Resources Page 16

Introduction / Chair's Report

I have been honoured to chair the Fife Violence Against Women Partnership for 4 years during a global pandemic when services came together to promote the safety of women and girls.

A highlight of the year was the Reclaim The Night march held in November 2023 with 200 people taking to the streets of Kirkcaldy. This collective show of support to end violence against women and girls demonstrated the commitment of the FVAWP to improve the lives of women and girls.

As the partnership moves forward with the revised Equally Safe strategy, I wish them every success in ensuring that women and girls feel empowered and supported to thrive as equal citizens.

Heather Bett, Chair of FVAWP 2020-2024

Senior Manager,
Community Children's Services, NHS

Taking over as Chair for 2024 onwards has been an exciting step for me. I've been involved in the work of the Partnership for a number of years within the Priority 3 group.

- I hope to bring energy and commitment to the work of the Partnership. As part of my role in Housing I had to redesign services for women experiencing domestic abuse. I learnt through this role that views of victim survivors are essential to help improve services. As part of this role I will be committed to ensure this is a crucial part of the work of the partnership.*
- I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the services that are part of the partnership for all their hard work and commitment.*
- I am looking forward to a busy year of work and continuing to work hard to improve services.*

Paul Short, Chair of FVAWP, 2024

Service Manager, Housing, Fife Council



National context

Equally Safe is Scotland's national strategy to prevent and eradicate violence against women and girls.

The strategy was refreshed and re-published in December 2023, supported by a [logic model](#) showing the strategic goals.

The logic model and local area Quality Standards continue to work to the following four 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 reject all forms of violence against women and girls and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response

This strategy's definition of VAWG includes the actual and threat of:¹²

- physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, and financial abuse occurring in the family, within the general community, and in institutions in both physical and digital spaces and places
- domestic abuse/coercive controlling behaviours, stalking, rape, incest, sexual harassment, bullying, and intimidation
- commercial sexual exploitation (CSE), including prostitution, lap dancing, stripping, pornography
- human trafficking, including for the purposes of domestic servitude, sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation, which may include gangs and organised criminal networks
- child abuse occurring within family settings, including domestic abuse, and sexual abuse by male family members including siblings
- child sexual abuse and exploitation including the production and sharing of indecent images of children
- honour-based abuse, including forced marriages, female genital mutilation (FGM), dowry abuse and 'honour based' coercive control and killings.

Boys experience domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and exploitation in significant numbers. That is why the Equally Safe strategy covers all children and young people.

This strategy recognises that women, children, and young people may experience multiple forms of VAWG simultaneously and across their lifetime.



National Statistics

14,602 sexual crimes were recorded by Police Scotland in 2022-23.ⁱ

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2019-2020 showed that only **22%** of victims/survivors of rape reported it to the police.ⁱⁱ

At least **37%** of the **14,602** sexual crimes recorded in 2022-23 by the police related to a victim under the age of 18.ⁱⁱⁱ

There has been a notable decrease in the extent to which people agree with rape myths since 2014. In 2019, **8%** of people in Scotland thought that 'women often lie about being raped' (down from 23% in 2014).

28% believed that 'rape results from men being unable to control their need for sex' (37% in 2014).^{iv}

However, this still equates to one in ten people in Scotland thinking that 'women often lie about being raped' and nearly one in three continuing to believe that 'rape results from men being unable to control their need for sex'.

3,830 sexual crimes were cyber-crimes in 2022-23.^v That has increased from 1,100 in 2013-14.

More than **one in six** women in Scotland has experienced online violence.^{vi}

64,807 domestic abuse incidents were recorded by Police Scotland in 2021-22.

Around **four out of five** of these incidents had a female victim and a male perpetrator.^{vii}

The 2019/20 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey found that **just under one-sixth (16%)** of those who experienced partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview said that the police came to know about the most recent (or only) incident.^{viii}

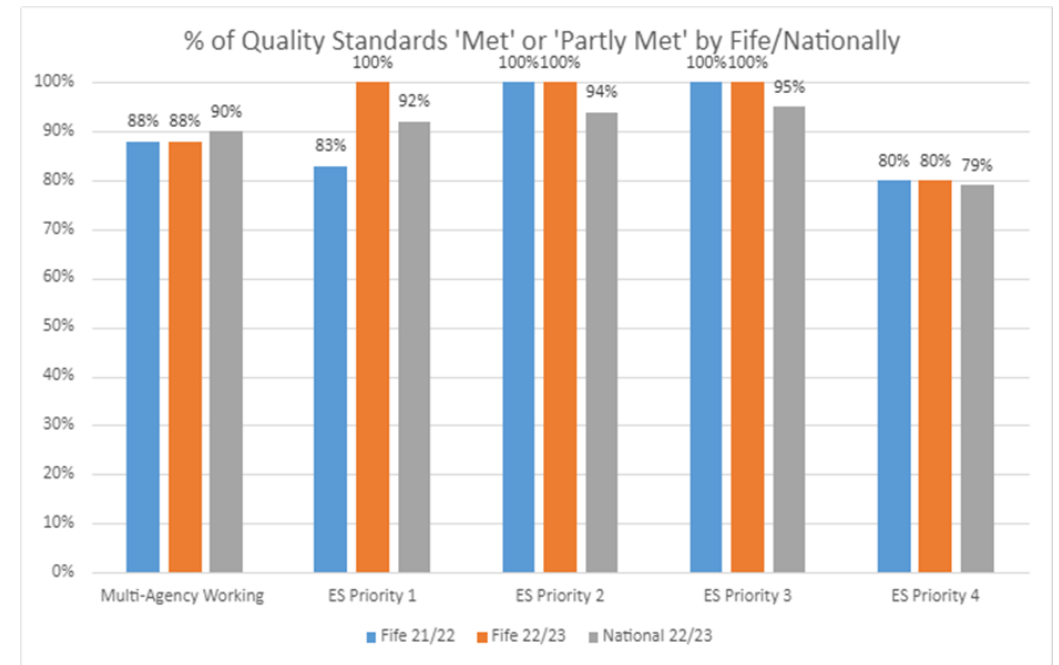
1,928 online child sexual abuse crimes were recorded in Scotland in 2022-23, a **6.6% increase** (20 more crimes) on the five-year mean.

In Scotland, **37%** of girls and young women aged 16 to 21 say that "I am often stared at and receive unwanted attention when I go outside", as do **12%** of 11- to 16-year-old girls.^{ix}

A quarter (24.5%) of women who have experienced financial abuse from a partner in the UK are **over 60 years** of age.^x

National Equally Safe Quality Standards

These are self-assessed by partners against a nationally agreed set of standards, signed off by the FVAWP Executive Committee and reported to the Improvement Service who provided a report showing comparative data for Fife in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (data for 23/24 is not yet available) compared to the national average in Scotland for the same periods. This information is included for each of the priorities below, as well as multi-agency working:



Please note this data assessment includes both standards met and partly met

Local context

- FVAWP's 2023-25 Action Plan outlines the work that will be done towards the four national priorities.
- The work is directed by an Executive Committee, made up of senior staff from partner organisations and services, and four working groups with a focus on each Priority. A number of working sub-groups focus on elements of each priority and feed into those work streams.
- The national framework has been used to self-assess progress locally, identifying strengths and weaknesses and forms the basis of [FVAWP 2023-25 Action Plan](#).
- FVAWP provides an annual data return to the Improvement Service on a range of quality standards based on these priorities, partnership working, and specific data measuring investment and activity in Fife. This annual report is structured around these Equally Safe Priorities and focuses on key achievements. A summary of last year's outcomes from our self-assessment can be seen on the previous page with a comparison to the national Scottish average results, and a full report can be requested from fvawp.co.uk

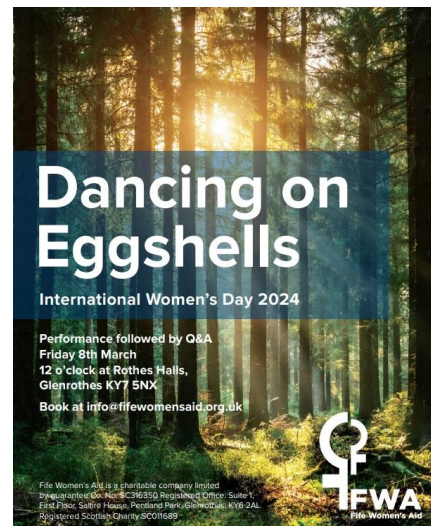


If viewing a digital copy, please click on logos above to access relevant partners' websites

Priority 1 Key Achievements

CP1.1 There is a continued presence of information about Violence Against Women and Girls, the causes and consequences and the role communities can play in tackling it across Fife.

- As part of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence, Fife's first Reclaim the Night march took place in November 2023, with approx. 200 people marching with us and 119 joining for an after event. Local speakers raised awareness of the work of the MVP programme in schools, FRASAC, Kirkcaldy Sroptimists and KASP. A wider programme of events was scheduled which included the What Were You Wearing exhibition, training sessions, workshops, etc.
- FRASAC led the social media campaign for Sexual Assault and Sexual Violence Awareness Week in February 2024. Two posts during the week were seen by 155 users, with 176 impressions.
- KASP led the social media campaign for Childhood Sexual Abuse Awareness month in September 2023 with posts that included case studies and feedback from survivors.
- International Women's Day saw two events hosted by partners on Friday 8th March with nearly 100 attendees across both events. Fife Centre for Equalities hosted a Celebration event with information stalls hosted by local organisations and workshops. Fife Women's Aid offered a performance called 'Dancing on Eggshells' which was created and performed by women who had experienced domestic abuse.
- The 'What Were You Wearing' exhibition was held in two Fife High schools facilitating great conversations with hundreds of young people around consent, healthy relationships, safety and issues of sexual abuse. A further three dates were held in community venues open to the public and practitioners with excellent feedback.



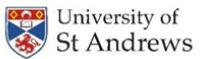
Priority 1 Key Achievements

IP 1.1 Fife Children and Young People's Gender Based Violence Primary Prevention Strategy supports the delivery of inputs across all education establishments in Fife.

A sub-group was formed to review the Strategy and expand the inclusion of community input, involvement of parents and carers and inclusion of lived experience in driving the direction of the strategy.

Inputs continued to be delivered in education settings:

- ❖ All 18 high schools now have MVP lead staff, able to train and support peer mentors. 7 staff from across FVAWP attended 'train the trainer' training that enables increased delivery of MVP staff delivery sessions. 80 school and community staff have been trained this year, including Active Schools staff. [Mentors in Violence Prevention](#) (MVP) is a peer mentoring programme that gives young people the chance to explore and challenge the attitudes, beliefs and cultural norms that underpin all forms of gender-based violence in our society.
- ❖ During the period April 2023 to March 2024 [NSPCC's Speak Out Stay Safe](#) virtual assemblies were delivered in 39 primary schools in Fife to around 7300 children.
- ❖ 4 High schools signed up to [Equally Safe at School](#) during 2023/24. Equally Safe at School has been developed for secondary schools to help them take a whole school approach to preventing gender-based violence, with staff and students working together with a shared understanding and commitment to equality and safety for all, and this makes progress towards the Curriculum for Excellence health and wellbeing outcomes, Getting It Right For Every Child and the Scottish Government's [Equally Safe](#) strategy to prevent and eradicate violence against women and girls. It will be delivered by FRASAC (Fife Rape and Sexual Assault Centre).
- ❖ During the academic year St Andrews University students and staff continued to raise awareness of the impact of gender-based violence and organised a range of events and activities to support GBV prevention work including:
 - A conference in November organised by the charity EmilyTest - the University received the EmilyTest Charter award, becoming the first university in the UK to receive this award.
 - They continued to deliver their Consent and Bystander training module which all students must complete upon starting their studies at the University – this was completed by 4040 students during the 2023/24 academic year.
 - They continued to work in partnership with FRASAC to provide students with access to a dedicated specialist support worker based in St Andrews.
 - Got Consent, a student-led initiative supported by a partnership between Student Services and the Students' Association, delivered 15 peer education workshops throughout the academic year with a total of 592 in attendance.



Priority 2 Key Achievements

CP 2.2 Fife Council to be an Equally Safe at Work employer

Fife Council successfully achieved Equally Safe at Work accreditation at the Bronze level in October 2023. The award is designed to create sustainable change in workplace practice and Fife Council hold the accreditation until November 2025.

The accreditation involved revision of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Harassment policies, undertaking staff surveys, addressing flexible working policies and showing leadership support.

- IP 2.1 Violence Against Women and Girls and Equalities are prioritised within Community Planning

FVAWP staff attended Fife Health and Social Care Partnership locality meetings to raise awareness of the partnership and start to build relationships.

A spotlight session focussed on Community Planning was delivered to the Priority 2 group, enhancing their knowledge and understanding of the community planning process and the policy drivers.



Priority 3 Key Achievements

- CP 3.1 Staff in universal and specialist services are confident in responding to violence against women, including children

FVAWP delivered training throughout 2023-24 as part of the Multi-agency [Training Framework](#).

This was accessed by partners across statutory and third sectors with a wide range of staff attending. FVAWP Training Programme can be accessed through [FVAWP webpages](#).

FVAWP Training 2023/24 (Webinars and in-person sessions attended and evaluated)	Attendees	Satisfaction (%)	Improved Understanding (%)	Highlight good practice? (%)	Increase knowledge of services/resources? (%)
Support Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse	6	100	100	100	100
Domestic Abuse and Protection of Children	34	100	100	100	100
MARAC	62	100	100	100	100
Engaging Safely with Male Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse	51	100	100	100	98
The Impact of Domestic Abuse in the Early Years	20	100	100	100	100
Identifying and Working with Stalking Behaviours	28	100	97	100	100
Under Pressure	30	100	97	97	94
Intimate Image Abuse	29	100	100	100	100
What Is Sexual Violence?	8	100	100	100	100
Commercial Sexual Exploitation - Housing	10	100	100	100	100
Commercial Sexual Exploitation – Mental Health	11	100	100	100	100
Commercial Sexual Exploitation – Sexual Health	13	100	100	100	100
Commercial Sexual Exploitation - Exiting	8	100	100	100	100
Total Attendees (including from second table)	821	100%	99.5%	99.8%	99.4%

FVAWP Training 2023/24 (e-learning completed but not evaluated)	Attendees
Domestic Abuse (DAART)	123
Becoming Trauma Informed	229
Human Trafficking	25
FVAWP Training 2023/24 (Webinars & Blended Learning)	Attendees
Safe and Together (Core Training - blending learning)	50
Safe and Together – 1 hour Overview	23
Equally Safe in Practice – Together for Gender Equality	29
Equally Safe in Practice - Understanding Sexual Violence	17
Equally Safe in Practice – Understanding Domestic Abuse	15

Training was delivered through a variety of platforms including e-learning, webinars blended learning, and 'in-person' options. We recognise the benefits from delivering training over a variety of platforms, as analysed from evaluations, and hope to continue our training programme with a blended approach to suit all learners. The feedback from evaluations is excellent.

We continue to review, develop, and add new training all the time and as part of this work we are looking to complete a consultation/training needs analysis survey with all partners in 2024/25 to review if there are any gaps partners have identified within the training programme.

The following national e-learning modules are also promoted in our training programme but it is not possible to monitor how many Fife staff have completed these courses:

- Sexual Violence Basic Awareness
- Introduction to Child Sexual Exploitation
- Awareness of Forced Marriage
- Recognising and Preventing FGM
- Developing Your Trauma Skilled Practice

Priority 3 Key Achievements

CP3.2 Effective multi-agency intervention for highest risk domestic abuse cases - MARAC (multi-agency risk assessment conferencing)

708 referrals were made to MARAC in 2023/24. 54% (355 cases involving 722 children) progressed to a full MARAC meeting; 29% were referred to specialist IDAA support at Fife Women's Aid, KASP or Shakti; and 17% were deemed 'not for MARAC'. These case resulted in 1482 tasks for partner agencies.

The MARAC Annual Report can be requested by emailing marac@fife.gov.uk

Through a MARAC review carried out last year a number of recommendations were identified, and we are pleased to report progression on some of recommendations including:

- A male Advocacy Service for high-risk male victims of domestic abuse referred to MARAC has been commissioned as a pilot project with support being provided by KASP
- MARAC has established connections with the LGBTQ+ community, working with the Hive to raise awareness of domestic abuse, risk assessment, MARAC processes and most importantly how to refer to MARAC. MARAC has seen an increase in referrals for LGBTQ+ victims in 2023/24
- Closer links with Shakti Women's Aid who offer advocacy to female victims from Black, Asian, and Minor Ethnic Communities
- Emergency MARAC meetings - A protocol for calling an emergency MARAC was not formalised prior to March, and this has now been written and agreed by the MARAC Operational Group
- Closer links with MATAAC (Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination), COPFS (Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service), and the VRMG (Violent Risk Marker Group)

IP 3.3 Review support for women and children with additional vulnerabilities ensuring VAW&G services are accessible to them

As part of this outcome a key action identified was to develop professional understanding of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and the needs of women selling or exchanging sex

FVAWP teamed up with the Women's Support Project to deliver bite size training sessions focusing on CSE and particular topics. The sessions delivered within 2023/24 were:

- CSE and Housing
- CSE and Mental Health
- CSE and Sexual Health
- CSE Exiting



FVAWP continues to work with the Women's Support Project to raise awareness of the drivers into CSE and barriers for women exiting commercial sexual exploitation, but also looking at how to disrupt men's demand.

FVAWP have developed and agreed a position statement that recognises commercial sexual exploitation (including prostitution, lap dancing, stripping, pornography and trafficking) as a form of violence against women and girls and notes its commitment to promoting the safety and wellbeing of women involved in selling or exchanging sex.

Priority 3 Key Achievements (cont.)

IP 3.1 Ensure all those who experience VAWG can access quality services when they need them, considering new challenges as they emerge. Services are accessible Fife-wide.

IP3.2 Increase understanding of a survivor's journey through systems and services in Fife with a view to supporting earlier intervention and a whole system approach to supporting women, children and young people experiencing VAWG

Within Priority 3 we formed a sub-group looking at longer term case studies following a survivor through their life and recovery journey and are considering if effective interventions were available, and effective, at earlier points in a survivor's life what would the impact of that look like for them and their wider support circle, as well as for service resources and costs. This is still in the early stages. However, services regularly provide case studies and feedback based on survivors' experience of the support they received, and we are delighted to be able to showcase one, as well as service user feedback.

Case Study from KASP (Kingdom Abuse Survivors Project)

Lisa came to counselling after battling with the effects of childhood sexual abuse. Lisa was filled with anxiety and struggling with panic attacks when going anywhere busy and when at work. Lisa came in with the hope to find a safe space to process her feelings and past, understand about trauma, find ways to deal with her anxiety and to learn how to set boundaries in her relationships.

During our time together Lisa learned her triggers, she learned what made her feel safe and what goals she wanted to achieve. We drew on Lisa's cultural resources, passions, and interests to create a toolbox. Lisa thrived in therapy and is very proactive in utilising what helps her.

By learning how to self-regulate and implementing her resources Lisa can now go to busy places and has developed the confidence to leave her job and start her own small business with something that makes her happy and where she can express herself creatively.

Lisa's self-worth has grown, and she has set many boundaries in her relationships.

During our time together Lisa experienced a very painful loss - grief brought up a lot about her sexual abuse. Different dynamics of shared abuse came into the sessions. Exploring grief and healing is a big part of our work at the moment. Lisa is moving through the stages of grief and using her space to work on the pain, memories, and extra stress and pressure it has brought to her life.

Over our time together I have witnessed Lisa flourish, move forward with her anxiety, and make positive changes in her life over many areas. I see her confidence and self-worth grow as she processes and makes links with the pain of the past and the behaviours and defence mechanisms as an adult. Mostly I see the strength she has had her whole life and how a safe therapeutic relationship has nurtured this and helped Lisa make sense and connection, therefore using this inner strength to drive her healing.

****Names have been changed to protect identity and confidentiality****

"I have the tools and confidence to cope with anxious and depressive thoughts, working through these issues with my worker means I can now identify old patterns and break free instead of spiralling. I am finding it much easier to cope with intrusive thoughts and find my positive beliefs and self-talk to be louder more prevalent than the negative"
FRASAC Service User

"Counselling has helped me with my feelings, helped me see and feel things differently. Helped with coping, helped me feel safer with a little more confidence"
Fife Women's Aid Service User

"I was relieved, and the fund helped with the stress in having to leave my home quickly and not knowing what was going to happen to my stuff. Also, the financial burden was taken away when the flooring was offered when I was given my new tenancy. I feel very supported in my new tenancy with all my personal belongings around and I am incredibly grateful for the DAI Fund's help"
Housing DAI Fund Client

"Since the keyworker speaks the same language, it is easy to understand things, the way things operate and have the right emotional support"
Shakti Women's Aid Service User

"It was hard at first, but I have got so much from coming to CEDAR. I can speak to my Mum now"
From a young person who attended CEDAR

Priority 3 - Data 2023/24



CP3.8 Quality accessible services for children and young people with experience of VAW&G

Organisation	Individuals Supported	CYPs	Adult Females	Adult Males	Trans Women	Trans Men	Non-binary	Unknown	New Referrals	Waiting List March 24
Fife Women's Aid	1262	359	903						1368	249
MARAC (355 victim cases discussed at MARAC and 722 CYPs considered)			543	9					708	
CEDAR+	106	63	43						63	18 families
Shakti Women's Aid	44		44						32	0
FRASAC	833		726	97		1	3	6	584	115
KASP (males supported includes MARAC referrals through new pilot)	327		237	77		2		11	313	124
Safe Space	111		81	28	1	1			68	0
NHS GBV Team	130	23								0
Housing – Housing/Homeless Applications due to Domestic Abuse	193 (Rehoused)		184 (Rehoused)	9 (Rehoused)					229	444 (Rolling figure)
Police Scotland (Fife) – Domestic Abuse Incidents	4543									
Police Scotland (Fife) – Crimes of Indecency	1155									

- Please note:
- We have been unable to provide information from Justice Social Work and Victim Support Scotland due to their IT systems but hope to be able to collate this in the future.
 - We have also been unable to give a breakdown of gender for CYPs supported.
 - Not all agencies have been able to provide all information requested

Priority 4 Key Achievements

IP4.1 Enhanced partnership working between all partners within the criminal justice system

A spotlight session focussed on the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service was delivered to the Priority 4 group, enhancing their knowledge and understanding of this service.

A Procurator Fiscal Depute is now a member of the Priority 4 group, enabling enhanced internal communication and partnership understanding of this section of the criminal justice system.



CROWN OFFICE
& PROCURATOR
FISCAL SERVICE

CP4.3 Perpetrators are held to account for their behaviour through robust use of justice social work process

Fife Justice Social Work ran two MFMC (Moving Forward Making Changes) groups for men who commit sexual offences, and three Caledonian Programmes for men who commit domestic abuse offences in 2023/24. In addition, 1:1 and 2:1 work was carried out with men who were unable to attend groupwork.

The Moving Forward 2 Change (MF2C) programme is the redesigned version of MFMC, and reflects a developing evidence base, advice from SAPOR, evaluation recommendations, and stakeholder consultations. Fife Justice Social Work plan to deliver their first programme in October 2024.

At the end of March 2024 Fife had 83 men on the Caledonian Programme; 19 on group, 5 completing the work on a 1:1 basis, 48 working through pre-programme work, and 11 who have successfully completed the group and are on the Maintenance stage of the programme. There were also an additional 23 men competing their Orders during that year.

The Caledonian Women's Service continued to support the partners, ex-partners and victims of the men assessed for and subject to Caledonian CPOs. They offered support to around 180 women at all times, however some women chose not to engage. The Caledonian Women's Workers Service take part in the initial Caledonian assessments, offer support to victims during assessment and during the 2-year CPO if it is imposed. If a CPO was not imposed, women were offered up to 4 sessions of support, or referred on to other services if required. This service is led by the wants and needs of the women at all times. An additional Caledonian Women's Worker was recruited to assist with the caseload and demands of the Caledonian Women's Service.

Fife Justice Social Work have developed a Healthy Relationships Workbook that can be used with perpetrators on a 1:1 basis, and this resource is being rolled out across the service to increase the reach of work with men who may not necessarily be Court mandated to undertake a specific programme around domestic abuse.

Looking Forward:

2024-2025 Goals

FVAWP will continue to work on the outcomes and actions identified in our 2023-2025 Strategy and Action Plan.

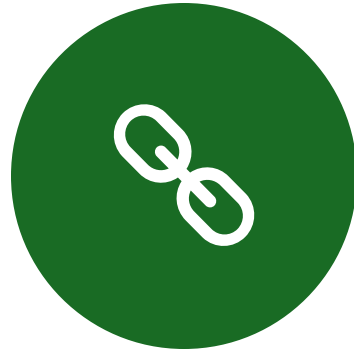
Our key areas of interest for 2024/25 include:

- Progress development of a social media strategy
- Deliver on the Primary Prevention Strategy in Education and the Community
- Continue with Campaigns and Awareness Raising
- Link in with minority groups to promote gender equality and raise awareness of VAWG so that women and girls can thrive as equal citizens: socially, culturally, economically, and politically
- Joint campaign with Zero Tolerance engaging with groups of women in Fife
- Prioritisation of VAWG and Equalities in Community Planning, and establishing more connections with leaders in Fife to raise awareness of VAWG and inequalities
- Focus on Commercial Sexual Exploitation including a Conference and training
- Develop new training courses and opportunities
- Produce an in-depth case-study featuring survivor's journeys and the impact of potential interventions
- Development work focusing on the [Independent Strategic Review of Funding and Commissioning of VAWG Services](#)
- Produce research paper on non-court mandated perpetrator work
- Work with Community Justice Partnership to identify how to best support victims and survivors through the Justice System
- Continue to strengthen links with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service

Links, resources and further reading



For a full picture of the work we have been doing, please view our action plan update report, minutes, and any campaigns updates on our webpages by clicking [HERE](#) or searching on fife.gov.uk



ANNUAL REPORTS FROM PARTNER ORGANISATIONS:
[PUBLICATIONS - FIFE WOMEN'S AID \(FIFEWOMENSAID.ORG.UK\)](http://FIFEWOMENSAID.ORG.UK)
[ANNUAL REPORT 2023 FINAL \(FRASAC.ORG.UK\)](http://FRASAC.ORG.UK)



If you are viewing this document in a paper copy, please contact fvawp@fife.gov.uk for further information about any of the resources.