

If not
you
...**who?**

Dundee Violence Against Women Partnership



Strategic Plan

2021-2022

Working in partnership to prevent and eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls

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Dundee
**Violence Against
Women Partnership**

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I am very pleased, as Chair of the Dundee Violence Against Women Partnership to present this interim strategic plan covering the period of 2021-2022. We decided this year to produce a shorter term plan given the continuing impact of Covid-19 as well as our commitment to develop a more joined up approach to all aspects of public protection.

The Dundee Violence Against Women (VAW) Partnership supports the Scottish Government's view that "violence against women and girls, in any form, has no place in our vision for a safe, strong, successful Scotland. It damages health and wellbeing, limits freedom and potential, and is a violation of the most fundamental human rights" (Equally Safe 2014). This view means all agencies in Dundee are committed to addressing all forms of VAW including domestic abuse, rape and sexual assault, commercial sexual exploitation, pornography and trafficking, female genital mutilation, honour-based violence, forced marriage, child sexual abuse and exploitation. We know that women and children have experienced more male violence and abuse during this period where they've been isolated from friends and family but we also know that the extra effort made by workers to protect and support has been so important.

This plan builds on the work of the Partnership to date ensuring more effective joint work and planning with the other Protecting People areas such as Adult & Child Protection, Alcohol and Drugs, Suicide Prevention & Management of offenders to protect the public. A consultation is underway to look at how we improve our response to vulnerable people with complex needs and issues, in a more strategic and joined up way. We have much to learn from the recent response to the Covid-19 pandemic which has provided many examples of good practice and innovative approaches and provision.

Tackling all forms of violence against women requires the commitment and co-operation of a wide range of partner organisations from the statutory and voluntary sector. Our partners have demonstrated their dedication to tackling this issue and I know that they will continue to work with us in implementing this strategic plan for Dundee. I want to acknowledge and thank all those who have strived, during the times of COVID-19, to ensure that women and children in Dundee were safe and supported.

This document sets out our key priorities for 2021-2022, many of which will be increasingly challenging to deliver as public sector finances are further stretched. However, I have every confidence that by working together more closely and more effectively we can deliver significant change for women, children and young people who are affected by violence and abuse and work towards our long term aim of eliminating violence against women in the city.

Ann Hamilton
Independent Chair
Dundee Violence Against Women Partnership



Introduction & Background 2



The prevention and elimination of all forms of VAWG require, as a starting point, a shared understanding of the nature and causes of such violence.

Members of the Dundee VAW Partnership have agreed that the term violence against women should be defined as including:

- domestic abuse (including coercive control)
- rape and sexual assault
- childhood sexual abuse (including incest)
- sexual harassment and intimidation at work and in public spaces
- commercial sexual exploitation and prostitution
- pornography
- trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation
- dowry related violence
- harmful practices (including Female Genital Mutilation, Forced Marriage, Child Marriage and “honour” crimes)

2.1 Gendered Approach

The Dundee VAW Partnership continues to follow a gendered analysis in its approach and understanding of violence against women.

Based on the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, *Equally Safe* adopted the following definition of gender based violence:

‘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.’

A gendered analysis does not exclude men, but rather recognises that women and girls are disproportionately affected by particular forms of violence that they experience because they are women and girls. Men, boys and non-binary individuals may also be victims of violence and abuse and the Dundee VAWP is committed to ensure there are appropriate services responding to the needs of all victims of such violence.

This document is an interim plan and covers the period of 2021 – 2022. It links local strategic planning in Dundee to the national strategy to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls ‘Equally Safe’.

In 2014 the Scottish Government published *Equally Safe: Scotland’s strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls*. In 2016 the national strategy was updated and a framework providing guidance for implementation was included. *Equally Safe* provides strategic direction to tackle all forms of gender-based violence and abusive behaviour.

The aim of *Equally Safe* is: 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, including:

- 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

Alongside this alignment to the national strategy there are a number of other local and national drivers which have been taken into consideration when developing this plan.

Dundee VAWP Development Session (facilitated by the Improvement Service)

This session was held at the end of 2019 with a view to updating the strategic plan at the end of the financial year 2019/20, however, when the pandemic began these plans had to be paused to allow us to focus our attention on the immediate needs of services, women and children at that time. The development session brought together the majority of representatives on the VAWP and we agreed our priority areas for the new strategic plan. Having reviewed these following the pandemic and all that we have learned and developed during that time it is clear that they are still highly relevant and as such have been incorporated into the new plan. The key areas highlighted were:

- Strengthening collaborative working and governance and reporting structures with other local strategic partnerships/ policy agendas working to shared outcomes
 - Strengthening Dundee's approach to equalities (particularly in relation to women with disabilities and BME women)
 - Raising the profile of the VAWP work through communications strategies
 - Developing a strategic and sustainable approach to specialist VAW funding
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The Transforming Public Protection Programme

In 2018 local public protection partners established the Transforming Public Protection Programme. The programme has three areas of focus, each with a number of component workstreams:

- Driving culture change within operational services towards continuous improvement and quality assurance, including embedding a culture of expectation of excellence across all protection service;
- Significantly enhancing leadership support and scrutiny for public protection; and,
- Transformative re-design of protection processes to ensure streamlined and co-ordinated processes that respond flexibly to the complex and inter-linked needs of vulnerable individuals and families.

During 2019 there was a significant focus on enhancing leadership support and scrutiny for public protection. This included a programme of work with the Chief Officers Group (COG) to progress workstream 5 within the transformation programme (ensure that the Protecting People Committees / Partnerships and COG focus on scrutiny and quality assurance).

The core function of public protection committees and partnerships were identified as being as follows and are integrated into our strategic plan:

- Continuous improvement – including through mutual accountability and scrutiny
 - Policies, procedures and guidance
 - Data and evidence
 - Learning and development
 - ICRs / SCRs
 - Practice improvement / development
 - Public Engagement and Communications
 - Participation of PWLE
 - Communications
 - Strategic Planning
 - Planning
 - Local, regional and national interfaces
 - Assurance
 - To the COG
 - From single agencies
 - Oversight of strategic risk
 - Leadership
-

The development of a corporate public protection risk register during Covid-19

During the Covid-19 pandemic all protecting people committees and partnerships developed a COVID-19 Strategic Risk Register and work is now underway to develop this into a broader integrated strategic risk register to support business as usual activity across the protecting people structure.

This integrated risk register will ensure we are focused on the key risks relating to VAW in Dundee and will form the basis for our VAWP meeting agendas as well as our reporting into the Chief Officers Group.

Key risks identified as we move into the recovery phases of the pandemic and integrated into the strategic plan are:

- Lack of robust Equalities Structure
- MARAC Capacity
- Representation at the VAWP
- Funding for specialist services
- Court delays/backlog

The National Guidance for VAWPS (2016 version) and supplementary guidance published during Covid-19.

The guidance developed in 2016 is designed to promote an effective and strategic approach to reducing violence against women and its negative impact on individuals and communities. It supports VAW Partnership chairs and supporting officers to promote this priority and integrate planning into broader multi-agency work at a local level. It also helps ensure that partnerships are working in line with the priorities set out in Equally Safe and help them to develop effective local strategies and activities to tackle violence against women and girls in all its forms.

Specifically, the guidance introduces 6 'minimum standards' that the Scottish Government and COSLA expect VAW Partnerships to work towards and identifies the core activities that all VAW Partners will be expected to undertake and these are detailed further on in this document.

During Covid-19 further supplementary guidance was published. The overall aim of this supplementary guidance is to ensure that a sustainable, joined-up approach to safeguarding the needs of women, children and young people experiencing VAWG during COVID-19 continues to be embedded at a local strategic level. Specifically, it aims to:

- Ensure local decision-makers are aware of the suite of COVID-19 guidance that has been developed nationally that will be relevant to supporting women, children and young people affected by VAWG, and tackling perpetrators of that abuse

- Highlight potential risks to women, children and young people during the pandemic and support local decision-makers to identify mitigating actions they can undertake in the short, medium and long-term; and
- Support planning through recovery, renewal and transformation to ensure that women, children and young people’s equality and human rights are promoted at a strategic level in order to support a longer-term shift towards preventing VAWG in Scotland.

An overview of key risks and mitigating actions for decision-makers to consider is in the guidance and these have been incorporated into our strategic plan.

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The Equally Safe Quality Standards and Performance Framework

The Equally Safe Quality Standards and Performance Framework respond to the expectations set out in Equally Safe and in the Violence Against Women Partnership Guidance, in relation to effective performance management.

The Quality Standards aim to raise awareness of the types of services, policies and processes that are most effective in tackling VAWG and capture data on the extent to which they are currently being delivered across Scotland. The Performance Framework aims to measure the impact that these services, policies and processes are having on the lives of people and communities affected by VAWG. Collectively, the two resources aim to support VAWPs to capture key performance data and facilitate a consistent approach to measuring and reporting on the progress being made to achieve the ambitions set out in Equally Safe at a local level.

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Building on the progress of the previous plan

Strengthening the MARAC process in Dundee:

During 2019/20 a Tayside short life working group was established to progress a number of identified areas for improvement. The work of the group culminated in a Tayside MARAC development day during the 16 days of activism 2019 and a steering group development session facilitated by the Improvement Service. Due to the impact of Covid-19 the steering group agreed to focus on more operational issues over the period of lockdown, however, it is a priority for the coming year to refocus on the strategic issues which still require action.

Safe and Together

There has been renewed focus on implementing S&T in Dundee since 2018 and the following actions have been taken:

- Action plan refreshed and updated
- Short life working group set up to develop resources/guidance for Dundee. Social work staff from children and families and criminal justice are involved in this. A short guide to S&T/Risk Assessment tool for domestic abuse has been developed.

- Practitioner Forum re-established – agreed purpose of forum, main focus to develop skills and confidence in the delivery of the briefing session then deliver these across a range of services and teams.
- Online KHub group established – for sharing resources, ideas and challenges
- A standardised briefing and guidance have being developed.
- Support from Communications Team (DCC) to develop a communication strategy for S&T.
- Programme of cascading briefing sessions is underway and uptake is positive.
- Full day training for C&F SW team managers has taken place.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation

The commercial sexual exploitation group has been an active and well-attended group through 2019 and during the pandemic. Key activities have included:

- Supporting the work of the Scottie Centre (We Are With You, WRASAC, Police Scotland and Keep Well) for women involved in commercial sexual exploitation
- Identification of a single point of contact within Police Scotland for sharing intelligence around prostitution
- Development of a fast track sexual health pathway for vulnerable women

Gendered Services Group

The Gendered Services Group (a working group of the ADP and VAWP) has carried out a number of activities relating to services for women. The group has developed a directory of services for women in Dundee and this includes specialist services such as Women's Aid but also substance use services which have women-only elements (TCA, We Are With You and Hillcrest all have group or support options which are women-only).

A training consortium has also developed and delivered a Violence Against Women overview training session and development of a VAW training programme is in progress.

Following research carried out in Dundee during 2019 we have been able to fund a Gendered Services development post, through the CORRA fund under funding priority - Implementing systemic change that supports children and families affected by alcohol and drug that improves their safety, health, inclusion and support.

The development of the post is also a direct action under the Gendered Services Group response to the Action Plan for Change and recommendation 15 from the Dundee Drug Commission report - Ensure that the needs of women who experience problems with drugs are assessed and addressed via adoption of gender-mainstreaming and gender-sensitive approaches to service planning.

Our Understanding of the Local System

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The Impact of VAWG on Individuals and Communities in Dundee

Prevalence figures 2018-19 (Police)

2328 incidents of domestic abuse, rate of incident = 157 per 10,000 population putting Dundee with the highest rate in Scotland.

521 sexual crimes.

Current figures for 2019-20 are not yet published.

Our local specialist services

1187 women and 227 children and young people were supported by our specialist services in Dundee during 2019-20.

MARAC figures

158 cases discussed at MARAC in 2019-20. 34 of these were repeats.

In Dundee we know we have a high level of domestic abuse cases with added complexity relating to alcohol and drug issues, homelessness, mental health and suicide risk. A snapshot period of data from our local MARAC shows that during the period 1st September 2019 to 6th February 2020 there were **70 cases discussed at MARAC, 63 of which had substance misuse as a risk factor. 46 of these cases included children.** The data gathered by the MARAC coordinator does not allow a breakdown of whether substance use was relating to the victim or the perpetrator (or both) and there may have been repeat cases in this figure, however, it shows the high correlation between high risk domestic abuse and substance use in Dundee.

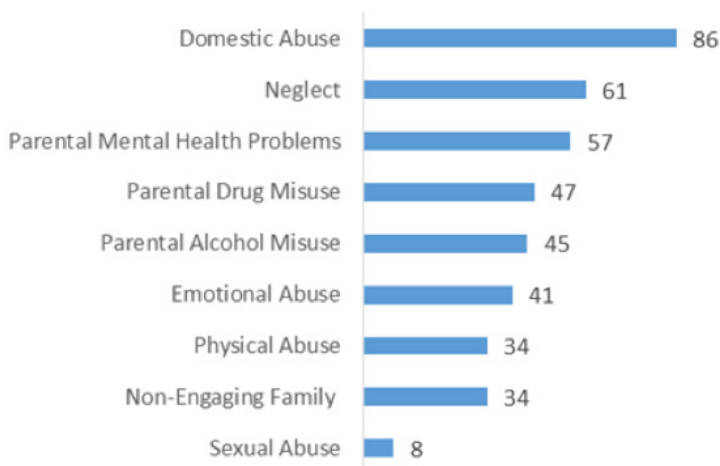
Statistics from Safelives show that in Dundee (for the period July 2019- June 2020) Dundee had a 22% repeat MARAC referral rate and a 13% increase in referral rates since the previous year. We also have a significantly higher rate of BME referrals (12%) compared to the national average (6.6%).

Child Protection

The Dundee Child Protection Committee annual data also shows that **Domestic abuse** has remained the most common concern with

55% children registered under this heading during the last year.

Out of 155 Registration in 2019-20



Dundee VAW Partnership Strategic Plan 2021-2022

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Dundee VAWP Strategic Plan 2020-2021

Vision: We will work together to ensure that women and girls in Dundee are equally safe at home, at work and within their communities.

Core functions of PP Committees / Partnership

Strategic Leadership

Including:

- **Assurance**
 - To the COG
 - From single agencies
- **Oversight of strategic risk**
- **Public Engagement and Communications**
 - Participation of PWLE

Strategic Planning and Continuous improvement – including through mutual accountability and scrutiny

- Policies, procedures and guidance
- Data and evidence
- Learning and development
- ICRs / SCRs
- Practice improvement / development
- Planning
- Local, regional and national interfaces

Key Outcomes

- People in Dundee have increased understanding of all forms of VAWG (causes, consequences and appropriate responses).
- Power, decision-making and material resources are distributed more equally between men and women
- Interventions in Dundee are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising the safety and wellbeing of women, children and young people
- Men in Dundee desist from all forms of violence against women and girls and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response

Key Actions

- Ensure provision of clear and up to date guidance, policies, procedures and learning opportunities
- Increase public awareness and stakeholder engagement through clear communication and participation processes
- Develop and improve scrutiny and assurance processes
- Develop and improve the use of the protecting people corporate risk register
- Ensure targeted interventions are in place for all women and children experiencing VAWG who have protected characteristics
- Develop and improve the strategic approach to VAW funding and service development

Strategic Leadership:						
Ref	Aim	Actions	Evidence	Outcomes	Lead	Time
	Broad Overview	How do we deliver this	How do we know it has been delivered and is effective	What key outcome are achieved though this action		
1A	There is a clear vision, commitment and direction provided by leaders which is communicated regularly and effectively to a range of stakeholders	Induction pack for VAWP members is developed and distributed	Distribution list demonstrates who received the pack Minute of meeting demonstrates discussion at VAWP	Members of the VAWP have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities	Chair/ Lead	January 2021
	This is clearly linked to Equally Safe, the Quality Standards Framework for VAWPs and national guidance for VAWPs.	Communication strategy to be developed to ensure visibility of VAWP leadership and encourage a culture of collaborative working (strategic bulletins, virtual events)	Clear communication strategy is published and events are advertised – feedback from events is gathered and used to inform future planning	Wider stakeholders have a clear understanding of the vision and role of the VAWP	Chair/ Lead	End 2021
		VAWP agenda includes set items – Risk Register, Data and Improvement Activity and National/Regional Updates	VAWP agendas		Chair/ Lead	Ongoing
		Ensure sufficient representation on VAW Partnership from key partners – scrutiny group develop monitoring process for this action	Meeting notes show consistent representation from key partners		Chair/ Lead/ Scrutiny Group	Ongoing

		<p>Promote commitment to tackling VAWG and gender inequality at a leadership level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through supporting the VAW senior leadership group developed by the COG • Through the work of the gendered services project • Through engagement with national events by senior leaders 	<p>VAW issues are clearly referenced in wider strategic documents and minutes of meetings</p>		<p>Chair/Lead</p> <p>Chair/Lead/VAW specialist agencies</p> <p>Lead/GS Manager</p> <p>Public Protection leaders</p>	
1B	Increase Public Awareness of VAWP and Community Engagement	<p>Build on the 'If not you, who?' and 'What I need from you' branding and communications by developing a clear public communication strategy and engagement plan</p>	<p>Evidence of public communications eg social media, website and engagement events</p>	<p>The public have confidence in the VAWP and relevant processes in Dundee and know what to do if they have concerns</p>	<p>Chair/Lead</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
1C	Provide scrutiny of key processes and both multi and single agency operations	<p>Embed a clear process for reporting recommendations and learning from workstreams listed in action 2a. VAWP set agenda item and clear direction provided on actions agreed in response</p>	<p>See 2a</p> <p>VAWP agendas and minutes</p>	<p>See 2a</p>	<p>Chair/Lead/Scrutiny Group</p>	<p>Quarterly at VAWP meetings</p>

<p>1D</p>	<p>Provide oversight of strategic risk for VAW and assurance to COG that key processes are being delivered and strategic risk is being managed</p> <p>Ensure specific risks to women and children affected by VAWG are included in integrated risk register to support wider recovery and renewal planning</p>	<p>At each VAWP review the Corporate Risk Register for Protecting People (incorporating cross cutting themes from VAW)</p> <p>Independent chair reports to COG reflect identified strategic risks</p>	<p>Minutes of VAWP evidence discussion Change log within the risk register reflects discussions and actions</p>		<p>All members of VAWP</p> <p>Chair/ Lead Officers</p>	<p>Quarterly at VAWP Meetings</p> <p>Quarterly at COG meetings</p>
<p>1E</p>	<p>Participate in the transformative re-design of protection processes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VAWP members represented on TPP Oversight Group • VAWP members participate in consultation on PP Structure 	<p>Minutes of meetings</p>		<p>Chair/ Lead</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>October 2020</p>
<p>1F</p>	<p>Develop and improve the strategic approach to VAW funding and service development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue discussion nationally and locally about need for a strategic approach and a review of VAW funding Development of Gendered Services Post to increase mainstream service capacity to work with victims of VAW 	<p>Improved funding approach to VAW services is evident from capacity of services and response to women – stakeholder feedback and service user feedback</p>		<p>Chair/ Lead/VAW specialist services/ COG</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Strategic Planning and Improvement

Ref/	Aim	Actions	Evidence	Outcomes	Lead	Time
	Broad Overview	How do we deliver this	How do we know it has been delivered and is effective	What key outcome are achieved though this action		
2A	Drive Continuous Improvement of key processes and practice through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scrutiny of dataset • quality assurance processes • audit cycle and case review (both local and national) 	VAWP to establish a sub group to develop scrutiny and QA processes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection and scrutiny of data • Map QA processes which are currently in place (single agency and multi agency) • Consider case review opportunities (including ICR/ SCR) • Annual return and Quality Standards Framework • Self-Assessments • Monitor representation of VAWP 	Evidence of group being formed and ongoing discussion	VAWP are able to monitor trends, characteristics and profiles of W,CYP involved in VAW services and Processes VAWP are assured of the effective delivery of key processes	Scrutiny sub group Reps from DWA, Barnardos, Amina, Police Scotland, Housing, Health and C&F	Quarterly at VAWP meetings
2B	Increase the involvement of women, children and young people in work of VAWP	Gendered Service Group and GS Post to develop a lived experience group VAWP to link with existing mechanisms for gathering CYP views	Group established, processes developed and clear evidence of W,CYP views influencing strategic direction and delivery of key processes:	W,CYP feel listened to and that their views are taken seriously W, CYP wellbeing is improving	Lead/GS Project Lead/ Education Wellbeing Rep	July 2021

<p>2C</p>	<p>Continual revision of strategic risk register to inform our priorities and actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Register is set as a standing agenda item for CPC. • Protecting People team to organise a short session for CPC to ensure all CPC members understand their responsibilities in relation to the risk register 	<p>Tracking system within risk register evidences regular review</p> <p>Minutes of meetings evidence discussions Minute of meeting evidences that this was delivered</p>	<p>VAWP is confident it is focused on the key risks to CYP in Dundee and assured of mitigating actions being taken to address these</p>	<p>Chair/Lead– all members of VAWP</p> <p>Lead</p>	<p>Quarterly at VAWP meetings</p> <p>December 2020</p>
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Delivery of Key Processes

How good is Dundee’s delivery of services for Women, CYP and how is the VAWP assured of this?

Ref/	Aim	Actions	Evidence	Outcomes	Lead	Times
	Broad Overview	How do we deliver this	How do we know it has been delivered and is effective	What key outcome are achieved though this action		
3A	<p>Development of guidance, policies, tools, resources and learning and development opportunities is focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified key risks in the risk register incorporating the long term impact of Covid-19 with a particular focus on trauma Learning from scrutiny/ review activity Identified priorities at national and regional level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processes developed under actions 1B, 2A and C, clearly communicate priorities to inform the review of single and multi- agency guidance / develop review cycle of policies/guidance Ensure these are sense checked with those with lived experience <p>Continue VAWP Sub Groups as follows: (Detailed action plans to be in place for each group)</p> <p>MARAC Steering Group (Improving and strengthening the MARAC process)</p> <p>Commercial Exploitation Group (Develop a co-ordinated response to Commercial Sexual Exploitation / prostitution with a focus on a Routes Out approach and tackling demand)</p> <p>Gendered Services Group (Lead the strategic and operational planning for gender sensitive and trauma informed services in Dundee eg those for women experiencing VAW, substance use, homelessness and a range of other complex issues).</p>	<p>Workforce feedback</p> <p>Feedback from W, CYP and families</p> <p>Evidence within dataset</p> <p>Sub groups reporting to VAWP with recommendations</p> <p>Action plans shared with VAWP and regularly reviewed</p>	<p>All partners have robust policies in place to strengthen approaches to tackle all forms of VAWG and processes are in place to ensure they are rigorously followed partners</p>	<p>All VAWP (leads for national/ regional meetings, scrutiny group)</p> <p>Sub groups reporting to VAWP quarterly</p> <p>Lead – Police Scotland</p> <p>Manager WRASAC</p> <p>Lead/GS Manager</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>January 2021</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

	<p>Prevention</p> <p>Processes developed to engage in prevention work with primary, secondary schools, higher education, youth organisations and communities to take a whole lifespan approach to tackling VAWG – linking closely to prevention work under the ADP.</p> <p>Improve links with Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine Enquiry is regularly undertaken within the priority settings of maternity, mental health, substance misuse, A&E, community nursing and sexual health services. <p>Response to Perpetrators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure perpetrators are held to account through robust use of criminal justice process and resumption of programmed interventions, including use of flexible newly accredited 1:1 delivery methods, if groupwork support remains impractical 			<p>Lead/ Education/ Higher Education reps Communities rep Links to ADP Prevention group</p> <p>NHST GBV group is re- established and links to the VAWP</p> <p>CJS/Police Scotland</p>	
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Appendix 1

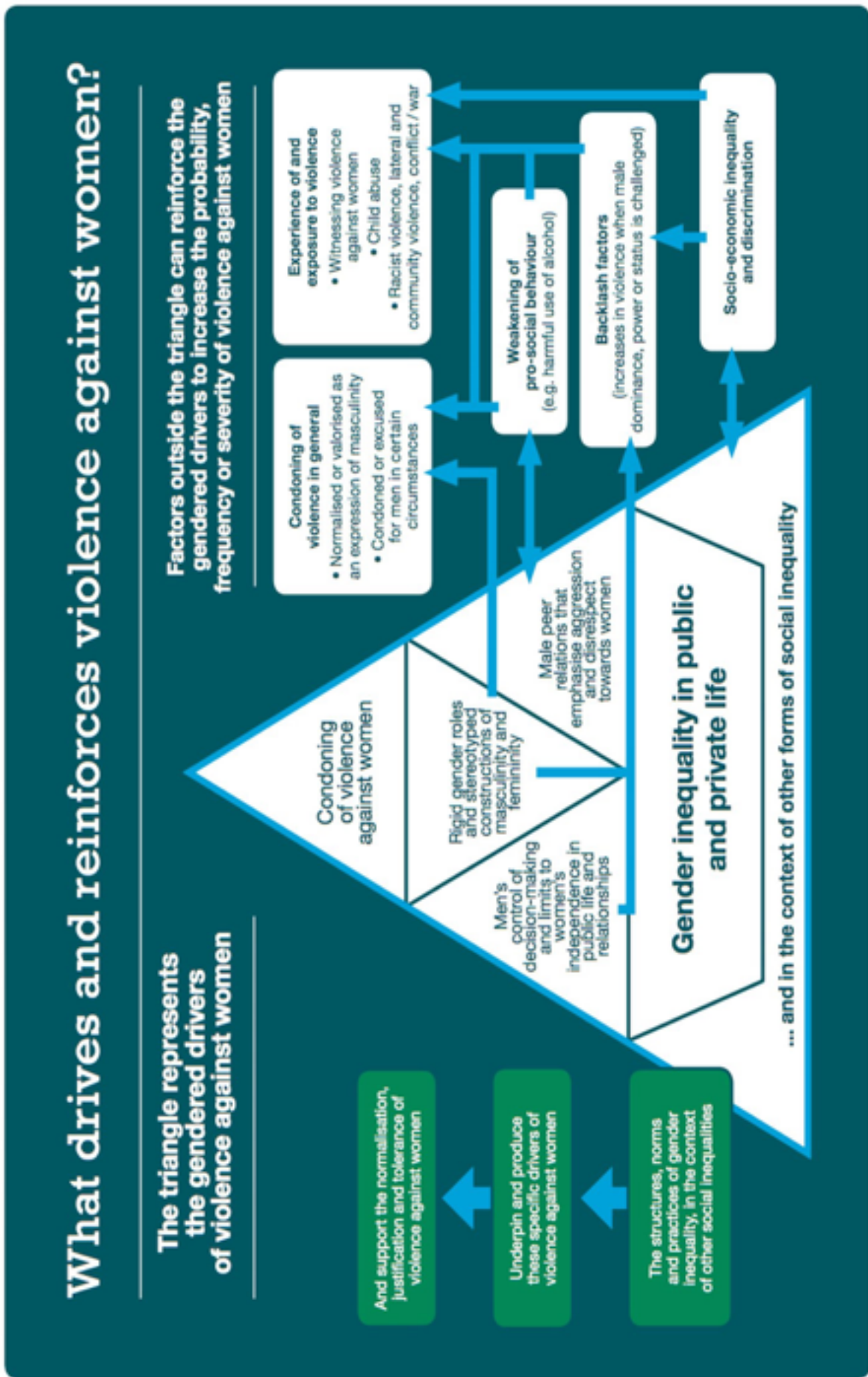


Figure 6 The interactions between gendered drivers of violence against women and the reinforcing factors

Appendix 2

Dundee VAW Partnership – structure, role and remit

In August 2016 the Scottish Government and CoSLA published national guidance aiming to clarify the key role that VAW Partnerships are expected to play in preventing and eradicating VAWG at a local level. The guidance highlights the key activities that VAW Partnerships are expected to undertake and other thematic groups they should engage with at a Community Planning Partnership level.

VAWP Minimum Standards

- Every local authority area in Scotland should have a VAWP in place that is responsible for working to prevent and eradicate all forms of VAWG
- VAWPs should bring together the key public sector and third sector organisations working to address VAWG within the local area
- Every VAWP should have Terms of Reference for their group
- Every VAWP should have a Strategic Plan in place that outlines how the Partnership will implement Equally Safe at a local level
- Every VAWP should have a framework in place for measuring its performance and progress towards achieving its agreed outcomes
- Every VAW Partnership should have a designated person who is responsible for coordinating its core activities.

The Dundee Violence Against Women Partnership - Role and Remit

The Dundee VAWP provides strategic leadership to the Dundee Community Planning Partnership on all issues relating to VAWG. Working within the Protecting People Agenda, and reporting to the Chief Officers Group, the VAWP has direct links with the Child Protection and Adult Protection Committees, the Alcohol & Drugs Partnership, and the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).

In order to support the implementation of Equally Safe at a local level, the Dundee VAWP has adopted the following:

Our Mission:

Working in partnership with organisations, communities and individuals we strive to raise awareness of violence against women and facilitate the development of approaches that support women, children and young people, challenge perpetrators and work towards the prevention of violence against women over the long-term.

Our Aim:

We aim to work together to ensure that women and girls in Dundee are equally safe at home, at work and within their communities.

Our Priorities

- Ensure provision of clear and up to date guidance, policies, procedures and learning opportunities
- Increase public awareness and stakeholder engagement through clear communication and participation processes
- Develop and improve scrutiny and assurance processes
- Develop and improve the use of the protecting people corporate risk register
- Ensure targeted interventions are in place for all women and children experiencing VAWG who have protected characteristics
- Develop and improve the strategic approach to VAW funding and service development

Dundee VAW Partnership structure

The VAW Partnership draws its membership from statutory and voluntary sector organisations across Dundee City. See [Appendix 3](#) for more information on structure.

There are some basic responsibilities which we ask all member organisations to sign up to, including:

- The role and remit of DVAWP and its missions and aims.
- The gender based definition and analysis of violence against women
- The Partnership's position statement.

Independent Chair

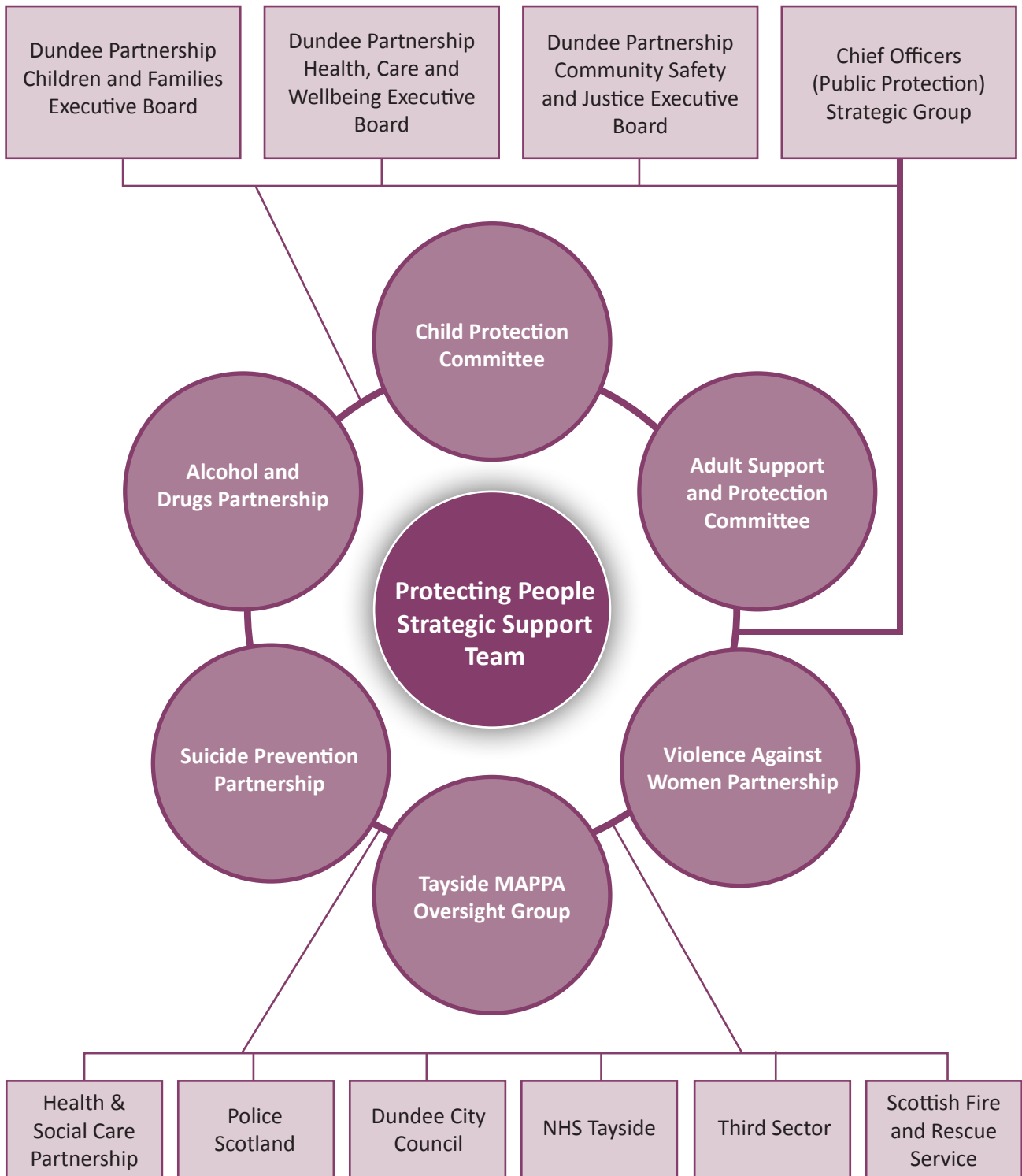
In June 2016 an Independent Chair was appointed to provide the stability and leadership required by the Partnership. The Independent Chair will provide strong strategic leadership, direction and scrutiny in delivering the multi-agency Violence Against Women agenda across Dundee City. Furthermore, the chair will support the VAW Partnership to engage more effectively with all other elements of the Community Planning Partnership, they will increase the profile of the VAW Partnership and work with partners to embed VAW work within mainstream services and within communities.

Protecting People Structure

The protection of people in Dundee is part of the overall provision of services that will deliver positive outcomes for our communities. We are committed to ensuring the people delivering those services have the knowledge, skills and experience to provide effective support. The wider Protecting People strategic agenda in Dundee City is led by a number of key public protection partnerships. These include the Adult Support and Protection Committee, the Child Protection Committee, the Violence Against Women Partnership and the Multi Agency Public Protection (MAPPA) Strategic Oversight Group, all reporting to the Chief Officers Group (COG). Over the last

year, the Protecting People Strategic Support Team has broadened its responsibility to include suicide prevention and displaced persons.

The Chief Officers Group is the strategic forum for public protection in Dundee with responsibility for shaping and improving the operational development of public protection arrangements. It is attended by all Chairs of Protecting People Committees and partnerships, along with representatives from all key services and senior officers who play a key coordinating role. The image below illustrates the relationship between the various bodies and groups to protect the people of Dundee.



Appendix 3

Violence Against Women Partnership

Aim: to improve outcomes for women and children affected by VAWG and gender inequality in Dundee. Everything that the Partnership does should be in pursuit of this goal, with the shared belief that the Partnership as a whole can make a greater impact by working together, than individual partner organisations can by working in isolation.

Key Priorities for 2021

Continue to:

- Embed Safe and Together
- Improve and strengthen MARAC
- Develop coordinated response to Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Strengthen multi-agency response to VAW in Dundee

AND

- Develop and improve scrutiny and assurance processes
- Ensure targeted interventions are in place for all women and children experiencing VAWG who have protected characteristics

Equalities Group

Aims

- Develop a robust equalities infrastructure (specifically in relation to gender, BME women and women with disabilities)
- Strengthen use of EQJA
- Ensure targeted interventions are in place for all women and children experiencing VAWG who have protected characteristics
- Support the revision of NRPF procedure

Scrutiny Sub Group

Drive continuous improvement of key processes and practice through:

- Scrutiny of dataset
- Quality assurance processes
- Audit cycle and case review (both local and national)

Gendered Services Group

Aims

- Lead the strategic and operational planning for gender sensitive and trauma informed services in Dundee eg those for women experiencing VAW, substance use, homelessness and a range of other complex issues

Commercial Sexual Exploitation Group

Aims

- Develop a co-ordinated response to Commercial Sexual Exploitation/prostitution with a focus on a Routes Out approach and tackling demand

Safe and Together Steering Group

Aims

- Develop a universal approach to working with domestic abuse and child welfare

MARAC Steering Group (Tayside)

Aims

- The Tayside MARAC Steering Group has the authority to make decisions regarding the day-to-day operation of MARAC in Tayside. The group will seek authority from the Violence Against Women Partnerships to make decisions relating to strategic aspects of the MARAC development

What I
need!
from you!

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Dundee
**Violence Against
Women Partnership**