



Inverclyde Alliance

**AGENDA ITEM NO: 6**

**Report To:** Inverclyde Alliance Board **Date:** 4 December 2023

**Report By:** Ruth Binks **Report No:**  
Corporate Director Education,  
Communities and Organisational  
Development, Inverclyde Council

**Contact Officer:** Hugh Scott, Service Manager **Contact No:** 01475 715450  
Community Learning and  
Development, Community  
Safety & Resilience, Inverclyde  
Council

**Subject:** Violence Against Women and Girls Multi-Agency Partnership Delivery  
Plan 2023-24

## **1.0 PURPOSE**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the updated delivery plan for the Violence Against Women and Girls Multi-agency Partnership (VAWG MAP) to the Alliance Board for approval.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

2.1 At its meeting of 19 June 2023, the Alliance Board approved the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2023-2026 and noted the intention to develop a delivery plan for 2023-24.

2.2 A delivery action plan was developed in consultation with the VAWG MAP, focusing on the priorities identified within the strategy documents. This action plan was presented to the Alliance Board on 2 October 2023 and following discussion a request was made for the VAWG MAP to review the plan with a view to including data indicators.

2.3 The VAWG MAP have updated the plan to include a range of indicators.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 It is recommended that the Alliance Board approves the VAMG Action Plan 23-24.

**Ruth Binks**  
Corporate Director of Education, Communities and Organisational Development

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

4.1 At its meeting of 19 June 2023, the Alliance Board approved the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2023-2026 and noted the intention to develop a delivery plan for 2023-24.

4.2 The VAWG Strategy mirrors the priorities of the national strategy Equally Safe, 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. The priorities are:

- 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; and
- interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising the safety and wellbeing of women, children, and young people; and
- men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls, and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response.

4.3 A delivery action plan was developed in consultation with the VAWG MAP, focusing on the priorities identified within the strategy documents. This action plan was presented to the Alliance Board on 2 October 2023 and following discussion a request was made for the VAWG MAP to review the plan with a view to including data indicators.

## **5.0 PROPOSALS**

5.1 The VAWG MAP have reviewed and updated the delivery action plan to provide some further detail on planned activity and include data indicators.

5.2 The data indicators included within the action plan come from a range of sources across the partnership, where data is available at an Inverclyde level, and aims to provide evidence of:

- Funding value
- VAWG training delivery
- Support service referrals and outcomes
- Children’s Panel Reporter referrals
- Crime statistics
- Perpetrator programme referrals and outcomes
- Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) statistics

5.3 The updated action plan is included as an appendix to this report.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Legal: none at present  
Finance: none at present  
Human Resources: none at present  
Equality and Diversity: An equality impact assessment was undertaken during the development of the strategy document  
Alliance Partnership Plan: The VAWG strategy and action plan will contribute to the achievement of priority theme 4 ‘A Supportive Place’.

## **7.0 CONSULTATIONS**

7.1 None

## **8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2023-2026; Alliance Board Report 19 June 2023 (agenda Item 6); Alliance Board Report 2 October 2023 (agenda Item 8);

<b>Inverclyde Violence Against Women &amp; Girls Strategy</b>	
<b>Action Plan 2023-26</b>	
<b>Strategic Priority</b>	<b>Action</b>
1. Communities in Inverclyde embrace equality and mutual respect, and reject all forms of violence against women and girls	1.1 Positive gender roles are promoted
	1.2 People enjoy healthy, positive relationships
	1.3 Children and young people develop an understanding of safe, healthy, and positive relationships from an early age
	1.4 Individuals and communities recognise and challenge violent and abusive behaviour
2. Women and girls in Inverclyde thrive as equal citizens: socially, culturally, economically, and politically	2.1 Women and girls are safe, respected, and equal in our communities
	2.2 Women and men have equal access to power and resources
3. Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising the safety and wellbeing of women, children, and young people	3.1 Women, children, and young people access relevant, effective, and integrated services
	3.2 Service providers competently identify violence against women and girls and respond effectively to women, children and young people affected
4. Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response	4.1 Justice responses are robust, swift, consistent, and coordinated
	4.2 Men who carry out violence against women and girls are identified early and held to account by the criminal and civil system
	4.3 Relevant links are made between the experience of women, children, and young people in the criminal and civil system

### **Action Plan 2023-26**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Local Partners</b>	<b>National Partners</b>
1.1 Positive gender roles are promoted.	Deliver the Mentors in Violence Prevention Programme to ensure that young people better understand positive and healthy relationships, positive gender roles and stand up to violence and toxic masculinity.		Senior CLD Worker/VAW Coordinator/All High Schools	Education Scotland/ MVP Scotland
	Address under-representation of women and minority groups in power and politics that results in fewer opportunities to shape discussion, affect changes in policy, and adopt measures to end VAWG.		VAWG MAP Women's Forum	

	<p>Adopt a whole-systems, gendered approach to tackling VAWG underpinned by Equalities priorities within Inverclyde Council, ensuring the workforce is supported with up-to-date guidance, policies, and pathways.</p> <p>Communicate with the local community to increase people's awareness and understanding of the causes and consequences of gender-based violence and the role they can play in tackling it through involvement in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local campaigns including 16 Days of Action and International Women's Day.</li> <li>White Ribbon campaign to increase the number of men and boys becoming actively involved in challenging negative attitudes and behaviour.</li> <li>Deliver briefing and information Sessions.</li> </ul>	<p>Corporate Equalities Group Inverclyde Council (ESAW) VAWG MAP</p> <p>Corporate Communications HR Inverclyde Council HSCP SWCJ Police Scotland and other VAWG MAP partners</p>	
<p>1.2 People enjoy healthy, positive relationships.</p>	<p>Communicate awareness of healthy and positive relationships and access to services through targeted campaigns including social media engagement and age-appropriate targeting, helping individuals and communities to recognise and challenge violent and abusive behaviour.</p>	<p>Corporate Communications VAWG MAP Partners</p>	
<p>1.3 Children and young people develop an understanding of safe, healthy, and positive relationships from an early age.</p>	<p>Deliver the Rape Crisis Sexual Violence Prevention Programme in schools, to increase understanding of consent and healthy relationships.</p> <p>Research age-appropriate, evidence-based interventions to raise children, teachers and parents' understanding and awareness of gender-based violence, positive, healthy relationships, and consent, as part of a whole school approach to tackling gender-based violence.</p>	<p>Rape Crisis Glasgow/ Inverclyde Women's Aid VAWG MAP</p>	
<p>1.4 Individuals and communities recognise and challenge violent</p>	<p>Deliver comprehensive multi agency training on the wider violence against women and girls' agenda to ensure that all learning needs are captured, promoting cultural/language change, and challenging the acceptance of VAWG, toxic masculinity and misogynistic/sexist views with local services and the wider community.</p>	<p>VAWG MAP Partners/VAW Coordinator</p>	

<p>and abusive behaviour.</p>	<p>Increase reporting and referrals to MARAC to address low reporting and abuse being allowed to continue, unchallenged and victim blaming.</p> <p>Reduce the risk of offending and harm by pursuing perpetrators through promotion of referral to the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse in Scotland (DSDAS).</p> <p>Promote Safe &amp; Together approaches to risk assessment for Domestic Abuse through Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) &amp; Risk Indicator Checklist (RIC) through information sessions and training. Promote principles in Inverclyde towards enhancing the safety and wellbeing of children through working with the non-abusive parent and holding the abusive parent accountable for their abuse which is framed as a parenting choice.</p>	<p>MARAC Governance Group VAWG MAP partners MARAC members</p> <p>Police Scotland VAWG MAP partners, MARAC members</p> <p>MARAC members, VAWG MAP partners, VAW/MARAC Coordinator</p>	
<p>2.1 Women and girls are safe, respected, and equal in our communities.</p>	<p>Address the barriers gender-based issues in society to women and girls participating equally in social and leisure activities without safety concerns in public spaces, including public lighting, policing, and sexualised experiences.</p> <p>Promote safe spaces for women in communities and ensure promotion of locations supporting 'Safe Spaces' in Inverclyde.</p>	<p>Community Safety Partnership, VAWG MAP partners</p> <p>VAWG MAP partners</p>	
<p>2.2 Women and men have equal access to power and resources.</p>	<p>Ensure that victims/survivors' voices are heard and shape responses.</p> <p>Ensure that violence and abuse are identified through multiple routes. Responsive services support those identified as high risk and appropriate support is offered. Professionals are well trained and feel competent and confident to respond.</p>	<p>VAWG MAP partners</p> <p>VAWG MAP Partners/ VAW/MARAC Coordinator</p>	
	<p>Work in partnership with council services on the ESAW working Group towards successful completion of the action plan priorities to gain IC ESAW bronze accreditation.</p>	<p>Corporate Equalities Group VAWG MAP VAW Coordinator HR</p>	

	<p>Promote the dissemination of accessible and up to date information in local area/organisations about the range of support available for both men and women affected by domestic abuse and other forms of gender-based violence.</p>	<p>VAWG MAP partners, VAW Coordinator, Corporate Communications</p>	
<p>3.1 Women, children, and young people access relevant, effective, and integrated services</p>	<p>Address the barriers for women and their children of Economic Abuse and the control and isolation that diminishes their opportunities to leave the perpetrator.</p>	<p>MARAC Governance Group, MARAC members, VAW Coordinator, VAWG MAP partners</p>	
<p>3.2 Service providers competently identify violence against women and girls and</p>	<p>Coordinate 4 weekly MARAC meetings to identify victims of DA experiencing serious harm, improve safety of victims and their children and address perpetrator behaviour.</p>	<p>VAW/MARAC Coordinator</p>	
	<p>Offer refuge provision, support and outreach for women and their children and the Sexual Abuse Service.</p>	<p>Inverclyde Women's Aid</p>	
	<p>Offer advocacy and support services to people affected by domestic abuse through the court process.</p>	<p>ASSIST</p>	
	<p>Develop local work around use of Risk Assessment processes for people affected by domestic abuse with a learning disability.</p>	<p>VAWG MAP</p>	
	<p>Capture and build on longer term good practice from the COVID19 crisis response.</p>	<p>VAWG MAP</p>	
	<p>Identify links to services for women and girls with complex needs - Alcohol &amp; Drugs, homelessness Mental Health, Refugee women.</p>	<p>VAWG MAP</p>	
	<p>Ensure that services are trauma informed through collaboration with justice partners acknowledging individuals' experiences and respecting their perspectives and ensuring their holistic needs are met.</p>	<p>VAWG MAP SWCJ</p>	
	<p>Offer VAWG training and RIC/MARAC information sessions to multi-agency partners to ensure awareness and appropriate MARAC referrals, to improve coordinated responses (including Forced Marriage, Honour Based Abuse, Female Genital Mutilation and Commercial Sexual Exploitation) with links to the barriers of adult and child protection, mental health, and housing/homelessness.</p>	<p>VAW Coordinator, VAWG MAP partners</p>	

respond effectively to women, children and young people affected	Promote NHS based Routine Sensitive Enquiry to provide opportunities for disclosure of VAWG, adopting a trauma-informed approach, ensuring that patients are asked about their experiences in a safe and supportive environment.	NHS GG&C VAWG MAP partners	
	Ensure relevant and active membership on appropriate multi agency groups.	VAW/MARAC Coordinator	
4.1 Justice responses are robust, swift, consistent, and coordinated	Complete the Violence Against Women Partnership Equally Safe Quality Standards and Performance Framework (annually).	VAW Coordinator VAWG MAP partners ASSIST Inverclyde Women's Aid	
	Continuously monitor and evaluate practice to protect women, children and young people at risk of significant harm.	VAWG MAP MARAC/ MARAC Governance	
	Support Police Scotland's Domestic Abuse Task Force (DATF).	VAWG MAP partners, MARAC members	
	Support and work with Specialist domestic Abuse Investigation Units within the local Police Division.	VAWG MAP, MARAC members	
	Support MATACs to facilitate effective decision making around repeat offenders and high-risk victims - links to MARAC.	VAWG MAP members VAW Coordinator	
	Deliver the Up2U Creating Healthy Relationships Perpetrator Programme: a cognitive behavioural programme for perpetrators of domestic abuse.	SWCJ	
	Ensure risks are identified and mitigated on development of restorative justice processes in Inverclyde.	SWCJ VAWG MAP	
	Support Police Scotland by representation on the DSDAS Decision Making Forum.	VAW Coordinator ASSIST	
	Support and promote existing 3 <sup>rd</sup> party reporting systems.	Inverclyde Women's Aid	
	4.2 Men who carry out violence against women and girls are identified early and held to account by the		

<p>criminal and civil system</p>			
<p>4.3 Relevant links are made between the experience of women, children, and young people in the criminal and civil system</p>	<p>Support Police Scotland in ensuring that services are making relevant referrals where children are present at Domestic Abuse incidents.</p>	<p>VAWG MAP partners</p>	
	<p>Work with partners in HSCP towards producing better outcomes for women offenders who experience VAWG.</p>	<p>VAWG MAP partners SWCJ</p>	
	<p>Deliver Domestic Abuse screening process between Police and Social Work considering whether compulsory measures of care and protection are required to safeguard the child following reports where there are children in the relationship.</p>	<p>Police Scotland SWCF NHS GG&amp;C</p>	



## Local Performance Monitoring Indicators 2023-26

Strategic Priority Action	Indicator	Update	Source
1,2,3,4	Funding invested in preventing and eradicating VAWG at a local level		Inverclyde Council Scottish Government
1	Number of training/awareness courses delivered		VAWG MAP
1	Number of people accessed training/awareness		VAWG MAP
3	Number of referrals to VAWG support services		Inverclyde Women's Aid and ASSIST from Equally Safe Performance Standards.
3	Number of women who reported feeling safer as a result of the specialist support, they received.		Equally Safe Performance Standards.
3	Number of women who reported having increased levels of wellbeing as a result of the specialist support, they received.		Equally Safe Performance Standards.
3	Number of children who reported feeling safer as a result of the specialist support, they received.		Equally Safe Performance Standards.
3	Number of children who report having increased levels of wellbeing as a result of the specialist support, they have received.		Equally Safe Performance Standards.
3	Number of children referred to the Reporter to the Children's Panel.		Police Scotland/HSCP
4	Domestic abuse crimes recorded with a female victim		Police Scotland
4	% of crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents detection rate.		Police Scotland
4	Rape/attempted rape crimes recorded (not available by gender)		Police Scotland
4	Sexual Assault crimes (not available by gender)		Police Scotland
4	Prostitution related crimes (not available by gender)		Police Scotland
4	Other sexual crimes (not available by gender)		Police Scotland
4	Number of referrals to specialist perpetrator interventions		SWCJ
4	% of referrals who successfully complete specialist perpetrator programmes.		SWCJ
3	Numbers of women referrals to Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).		MARAC
3	Numbers of Children referred with parent/carers to MARAC.		MARAC