
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	5 November 2019
Report By:	Ruth Binks, Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/9//19/JC
Contact Officer:	Jane Cantley, Chair of Inverclyde Violence against Women Multi Agency Partnership	Contact No:	01475 715270
Subject:	Inverclyde Violence Against Women Multi-Agency Partnership 2018/19 update		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Education & Communities Committee on the progress of the Inverclyde Violence Against Women (VAW) Multi-Agency Partnership (MAP) in 2018-2019.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The VAW MAP published its annual report in August 2019 giving an overview of activity in 2018-2019.
- 2.2 The VAW MAP report sets out current strategic developments and how these will impact on addressing VAW in Inverclyde.
- 2.3 The key messages of the annual report were to inform members of the strategic developments including: changes to reporting structures and governance procedures resulting from a self-assessment of the VAW MAP; Inverclyde Council's commitment to Equally Safe at Work Employer Accreditation Programme; and changes to legislation resulting from the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018.
- 2.4 The full VAW MAP annual report is attached as Appendix 1.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Education & Communities Committee notes the work of the Inverclyde VAW MAP in the annual report 2018-2019 attached as Appendix 1.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director, Education, Communities and Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 VAW is underpinned by gender inequality, and in order to prevent and eradicate it from society, efforts need to focus on delivering greater gender equality, tackling perpetrator behaviour, and intervening early and effectively to prevent violence and abuse. It is the aim of the VAW MAP to harness the expertise of its partners to consider, implement and manage processes that achieve this.
- 4.2 At its meeting of 19 June 2017 the Alliance Board endorsed the Inverclyde Violence against Women Multi-Agency Strategy 2017-2022 as an outcome-focused strategy which set out to address violence against women through multi-agency working in Inverclyde. The Inverclyde VAW Multi Agency Strategy mirrors the priorities of the Scottish Government's 'Equally Safe - Scotland's Strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls.'
- 4.3 The VAW annual report gives an overview and annual outturn of the priorities of the VAW MAP, strategic developments and changes to legislation.

5.0 KEY MESSAGES

- 5.1 The action plan priorities in Section 4 provide clarity on the strategic focus mirrored in the annual outturn report.
- 5.2 Section 5 of the VAW MAP Annual Report gives an overview of the main strategic developments including a self-assessment that was completed in March 2018 with the support of the Improvement Service. The recommendations arising from this were taken forward in 2018-2019 and informed changes to reporting structures and governance procedures relating to the VAW MAP. This section also outlines Inverclyde Council's commitment to the Equally Safe at Work Employer Accreditation Programme which recognises that violence against women is a cause and consequence of gender inequality.
- 5.3 Section 6 of the VAW MAP Annual Report provides a summary of recent legislative changes to the law that will contribute significantly to addressing behaviour of perpetrators who engage in a course of behaviour that is abusive towards their partners/ex partners. The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 was implemented on 1 April 2019 and will make it easier for Police and Prosecutors to investigate and prosecute as single offence the totality of behaviour amounting to Domestic Abuse.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 **Finance:** There are no expected financial implications as a result of the Annual Report.

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (if Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

- 6.2 **Legal:** There are no expected legal implications as a result of the Annual Report.
- 6.3 **Human Resources:** There are no Personnel implications as a result of the Annual Report.
- 6.4 **Equalities:** Implementation of the work contained in the Annual Report will make a significant contribution to the delivery of the GIRFEC agenda and the Nurturing Inverclyde SHANARRI approach. Implementation of the work in the Annual Report will assist in addressing gender based inequalities.

Equalities

- (a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES (see attached appendix)
No	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

- (b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
No	NO

- (c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
No	NO

- 6.5 **Repopulation:** Tackling VAW will contribute to repopulation by making Inverclyde a safer place to live.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 The VAW MAP Annual Report was presented to the VAW MAP on the 15th of August 2019.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 Inverclyde Alliance Board, 7th October 2019: Inverclyde VAW MAP 2018-2019 update
 Education and Communities Committee 7 May 2019: Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018
 Inverclyde Alliance Board, 19 June 2017: Inverclyde VAW MAP Strategy 2017-2022

(Appendix 1)

Inverclyde Violence against Women Multi Agency Partnership

Violence against Women Strategy
Annual Report
2018-2019



Inverclyde Alliance



1. Vision and aim

The vision of Inverclyde Violence against Women Multi Agency Partnership is to live in an area where all individuals are equally safe and respected, where women live free from all forms of violence and abuse and no child or young person should have to experience gender based violence or live with its impact. Our aim is to work in partnership with all services to prevent and eradicate all forms of violence against women. We recognise the insidious and deep rooted nature of the problem and the need to invest in significant economic, social and cultural change over a long term period. This requires ongoing commitment from partners and the community to effect cultural change.

2. Definition of VAW

‘Violence Against Women and Girls encompasses (but is not limited to):

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

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

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

3. Inverclyde context

The Inverclyde Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-2022 sets out the outcomes that community planning partners will seek to improve in relation to the wellbeing and quality of life of residents of Inverclyde, with a particular focus on reducing inequality and poverty. The LOIP must demonstrate a clear, evidence-based understanding of local needs, circumstances and aspirations of local communities and identifies three strategic priorities it will focus on:

- Population - Inverclyde's population will be stable and sustainable with an appropriate balance of socio - economic groups that is conducive to local economic prosperity and longer term population growth.
- Inequalities - There will be low levels of poverty and deprivation and the gap between the richest and poorest members of our communities will be reduced.
- Environment, Culture and Heritage - Inverclyde's environment, culture and heritage will be protected and enhanced to create a better place for all Inverclyde residents and an attractive place in which to live, work and visit.

Following the publication of the LOIP, there was a review of the governance structure for community planning arrangements in Inverclyde to facilitate its delivery. There are a number of groups and partnerships across Inverclyde which do not specifically target the LOIP priorities but are part of the Alliance's Community Planning structure. These groups, which includes the Violence Against Women Multi-Agency Partnership will report directly to the Inverclyde Alliance Board on an annual basis.

Inverclyde Council's vision is '**Getting It Right for Every Child, Citizen and Community.**' As part of the Nurturing Inverclyde approach, the Council, along with its partners in the Inverclyde Alliance want all of our children, citizens and communities to be **Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected & Responsible and Included.**

The Inverclyde Violence Against Women Strategy is a 5 year strategy which seeks to deliver the previously noted vision and aims. Reporting on delivery of the strategy is undertaken on an annual outturn basis of achievement against targets and this is our Year 2 report.

4. Action Plan Priorities

Priority 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

Priority 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

Priority 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

Priority 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 justice system
- 4.3 Relevant links are made between the experience of women, children and young people in the criminal and civil system

5. Strategic Developments 2018-2019

In order to contribute to the action plan priorities in section 4 and work towards ongoing improvement in the way that VAW is identified, addressed and responded to in Inverclyde, a number of developments were undertaken over the course of the year.

Self-Assessment of VAW MAP

This was completed in March 2018 with the support of the Improvement Service and outcomes resulted in actions that were taken forward by the VAW MAP in 2018-2019. The Children's Services Manager from HSCP took on the role of

MAP Chair and this further fused links with Social Work Children and Families and Criminal Justice.

Changes to reporting structures and governance procedures now places VAW MAP under the Community Safety Strategy Group and Inverclyde Alliance. Twice yearly meetings of the Community Safety Strategic Group will be attended by the Chair. The membership of the MAP has been reviewed and there are representatives from additional services whose involvement will enhance the work of the partnership. To ensure that members take joint responsibility for actions, the format of the MAP now includes updates at every meeting. Terms of Reference have been developed for the MAP consistent with those of the Community Safety Partnership.

Consistency of themes of the Equalities Group and the MAP are maintained as appropriate staff attend meetings of both. The VAW Coordinator attends the VAW National Network, National MARAC Coordinator's Forum and coordinates the Inverclyde MARAC. The VAW Coordinator and MAP Chair both represent on the MARAC Governance Group and Public Protection Network.

Citizen's Panel

In order to engage with the public to help ensure that work is informed by experiences of victims and the wider community, the Citizen's Panel Winter 2018/2019 Survey in January 2019 included questions to gauge knowledge of VAW. More than two thirds (69%) of the respondents said that they or someone they knew had experienced a form of violence against women. The most common forms identified by these respondents were; Emotional/psychological abuse (32%) and; Physical abuse (31%). While the majority of Citizen's Panel members (94%) said that they thought of physical abuse, assault or physical attack by a partner or ex-partner when they heard the term violence against women, it is encouraging that this is closely followed by emotional/psychological abuse (83%). This suggests that ongoing training and awareness-raising delivered in Inverclyde could be making an impact.

Equally Safe at Work

Inverclyde Council was unsuccessful in being chosen to be involved in the pilot stage of the Equally Safe at Work Employer Accreditation Programme. 'Close the Gap' is piloting the programme to support the implementation of Equally Safe; Scotland's Strategy to eradicate violence against women and girls. Equally Safe, which is jointly owned by the Scottish Government and COSLA, recognises that violence against women is a cause and consequence of gender inequality. Addressing gender inequality in the workplace is therefore a fundamental step in preventing violence against women. Inverclyde will participate as a Shadow Council meaning we will be first to be chosen to participate in the next stage of development.

International Women's Day

Inverclyde's theme for International Women's Day 2019 was 'Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths).' Inspirational women from the area were identified who were willing to come along and talk about their experiences/barriers in being involved in these work areas. The purpose was to inspire other women who might only see the barriers and not believe in themselves and what they have to contribute. Three women attended on the day to present and their presentations were extremely well received by all who participated in the event.

6. Legislation

Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018:

The Scottish Government's 2015 consultation 'A Criminal Offence of Domestic Abuse' found strong agreement that the previous laws used to prosecute Domestic Abuse did not fully reflect the experience of victims. In particular, previous laws did not criminalise some of the behaviours experienced by victims of ongoing and coercive controlling behaviour within relationships, at the hands of their partners or ex-partners. Implementation of The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 was effective from the 1st April 2019.

Domestic Abuse consists of a range of behaviours causing more than physical or sexual harm that undermine the victim and restrict their freedom. The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 reflects this and introduces a new offence, known as Coercive Controlling Behaviour (CCB), which better reflects the actual experience of victims of Domestic Abuse and the long term pattern of abusive behaviour. It is recognised that CCB has a long lasting effect on both the adult victim and children. The offence allows, where the circumstances and evidence merits, the totality of an accused's behaviour to be prosecuted in a single charge rather than a series of distinct incidents. This approach recognises the cumulative impact of such behaviour on victims and sends out a message to the public, including perpetrators, that this behaviour is unacceptable. The Act also has an additional section that comes into effect if at any time abusive behaviour is directed at a child, the child is used in directing abusive behaviour to the victim, or the child sees, hears or is present during the course of behaviour.

The new legislation does not replace current laws but is a momentous step in holding perpetrators who use Coercive Controlling Behaviour to account for the long term and enduring damage their behaviour can cause to partners and families.

7. Measuring progress

Our progress in relation to our vision, aim and strategic priorities is presented in the Annual Outturn Report 2018-2019 (year 2). The report is developed each financial year to capture work carried out within that period and is monitored throughout the year at VAW MAP meetings.

Annual Outturn Report 2018-19 (Year 2)

Action	Milestone	2018/19 Target	2018/19 Outturn
Priority 1			
1.1	Positive gender roles are promoted.	Offer MVP training to Secondary teachers who will deliver it to senior pupils for onward cascade to junior pupils.	All Secondary Schools There were no requests for training from teachers this year as no new teachers took on delivery of MVP and teachers delivering on an ongoing basis didn't feel that they needed refresher training. Training has been requested for next year with dates to be arranged early in the year.
1.2	People enjoy healthy, positive relationships.	Offer educational, awareness raising programmes to secondary school pupils.	All Secondary pupils Inverclyde Women's Aid delivered sessions to S1-S4 pupils from Notre Dame (180 pupils) and St Columba's (150 pupils) on gender inequalities. There were no requests for MVP sessions to be delivered in Secondary Schools this year. CLD delivered sessions at: Inverclyde Academy: 6 groups S1-S5 (40 pupils) St Columba's: 3 groups S1-S5 (17 pupils) Clydeview: 1 group S5 (7 pupils) PGHS: 1 group S3 (14 pupils) St Stephen's 1 group S4 (7 pupils) 4 sessions were delivered to each group on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sexual Bullying ✓ Crush ✓ Under Pressure (Zero Tolerance) and ✓ Cybersafety (sexting) When sessions were completed, each group raised awareness of the 'White Ribbon' Campaign in their schools. This was delivered with a variety of activities including art, information leaflets and information stalls where pupils and staff could sign pledges for white ribbon.

1.3	Children and young people develop an understanding of safe, healthy and positive relationships from an early age.	Offer educational programmes in primary schools on healthy relationships.	All Primary school pupils	There were no requests received in 2018-2019 and sessions weren't offered due to the loss of the Children 1 st post in June 2018 and the new Therapeutic Worker not starting until March 2019. This resulted in a pressure on staff and inability to deliver programmes. There have been discussions with Attainment staff in CLD who work in Primary Schools and taking this work forward.
-----	---	---	---------------------------	--

1.4	Individuals and communities recognise and challenge violent and abusive behaviour.	Identify opportunities within the community to deliver on the VAW agenda.	Across Inverclyde	<p>The VAW Coordinator and Organisational Development Team Leader updated the Inverclyde Council DA staff policies in October 2018. The Council recognises that domestic abuse is a serious issue within our society and affects the lives of many people, mainly women. Through its policy and guidelines to support its employees who may be experiencing, or have experienced, domestic abuse, and through their guidelines do what it can to help address and challenge the unacceptability of domestic abuse.</p> <p>An International Women's Day event was hosted by Inverclyde Council on the 7th of March in Greenock Town Hall. The theme of the event was women in (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) STEM. Local women from these industries attended to present their experiences and how they overcame barriers. The presentations were very well received and contributed to the theme successfully.</p>
-----	--	---	-------------------	---

Work towards White Ribbon status in Inverclyde

A Domestic Abuse conference was held on the 27th of March 2019. The theme was 'Effective Social Work Practice in Addressing Domestic Abuse' and it was attended by approximately 80 Social Work Staff. Speakers covered: Typologies of Intimate Partner Violence, The Policing Response to Domestic Abuse (including MATAC, MARAC and Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018), Safe & Together (a model for Child Protection and Domestic Abuse) and the Up2U Perpetrator Programme.

The new Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act went active on the 1st of April 2019. This now makes engaging in a course of abusive behaviour towards a partner or ex-partner an offence. It also includes aggravation in relation to a child. Information on the new act is now included in all Domestic Abuse/VAW training courses. An information session and play performed by Naomi Breeze was attended by 15 people including Elected Members and local partners in the Saloon on the 29th of March 2019.

A report went to the Education and Communities Committee for further consideration and agreement that Inverclyde Council develops the campaign and works towards White Ribbon status. White Ribbon Scotland delivered a speaker session to 6 people on the 26th of September 2018 to equip them with skills to set up a local group to take forward the White Ribbon campaign and work towards White Ribbon status.

Action	Milestone	2018/19 Target	2018/19 Outturn
<u>Priority 2</u>			
2.1	Women and girls are safe, respected and equal in our communities.	Raise awareness of VAW issues including Forced Marriage (FM) Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Honour Based Violence (HBV).	Information on FM, FGM and HBV is delivered at all VAW training courses during the year.
2.2	Women and men have equal access to power and resources.	Ensure that Equalities priorities underpin the VAW agenda.	<p>There is representation from MAP at Equalities Group and Equalities Group representation at MAP meetings.</p> <p>The VAW Coordinator attends the Equalities Group and the Equalities Officer attends VAW MAP to ensure that links are made. This year these were:</p> <p><i>Equally Safe at Work:</i></p> <p>The VAW Coordinator and the OD Manager attended an introductory session hosted by Close the Gap who are delivering an Equally Safe at Work programme to support councils to become accredited through enhancement of their policies and practices that are key to addressing the barriers women face at work. The programme also enables employers to better support employees who have experienced gender-based violence and work towards creating an inclusive workplace culture that prevents violence against women. The VAW Coordinator and OD Manager/Team Leader completed an application to become a pilot council. Unfortunately this was unsuccessful and we will progress forward as a shadow council until the next stage when we will be offered first chance of a place.</p>

			Participate in an NHS Scotland Group to discuss how outcomes can be improved for women affected by VAW with an LD.	The VAW Coordinator was part of a group to develop the guidance. This provides a framework for frontline staff that work with people with learning disabilities, or significant learning needs, and/or work with people who have experienced gender-based violence. The guidance will help staff to identify signs of gender-based violence and provide an appropriate response. Their role will determine the level of actions that should be taken, that could range from sharing concerns, referring to services, to completing risk assessments and providing advocacy. The guidance is in the final draft stage and future discussions will be in relation to promotion.

Action	Milestone	2018/19 Target	2018/19 Outturn
--------	-----------	----------------	-----------------

Priority 3			
Women, children and young people access relevant, effective and integrated services	MARAC meetings are held every 4 weeks and are attended by relevant organisations	Develop a MARAC Governance Group to monitor and evaluate the MARAC in Inverclyde.	The MARAC Governance Group met twice in the year to monitor and assess the overall performance of the MARAC and ensure that it operates in line with the '10 Principles Of An Effective MARAC' developed by SafeLives, original developers of the MARAC process. This year the group submitted a consultation response to the Scottish Government on MARAC, monitored referrals, identified gaps in representation/agency referrals and updated protocols. We also maintained effective partnerships with neighbouring MARACs; we shared protocols and processes with Argyll & Bute MARAC to assist them in setting up.
		IWA will provide a breakdown of supports offered to women who have used their service.	Women assessed: 308 Women in refuge: 28 Support sessions: 374 Telephone support: 200 Counselling sessions: 389
	IWA provides a Sexual Abuse Service to support women affected by Rape, Sexual Assault, Sexual Abuse and Childhood Sexual Abuse (Adult Survivors).	IWA Sexual Abuse Service will provide a breakdown of supports offered to women who have used the service.	There were 728 contacts made to the Sexual Abuse Service in 2018-2019 broken down as follows: Appointments: 250 Telephone support: 151 E-mail support: 32 Text support: 198 Referral to other services: 20 Group work: 70 Referral from other services: 42 The Sexual Abuse Service now provides support for girls 13+ and this is developing well.

3.2	Service providers competently identify violence against women and girls and respond effectively to women, children and young people affected.	Offer Domestic Abuse Basic Awareness training to multi-agency partners.	VAW MAP to deliver 3 Domestic Abuse Basic Awareness training courses.	2 Domestic Abuse Basic Awareness: 46 people
		Offer Gender Based Violence & Child Protection training to multi-agency partners.	VAW MAP to deliver 2 Gender Based Violence & Child Protection training courses.	2 Gender Based Violence & Child Protection: 48 people
		Provide SafeLives training to staff to facilitate appropriate MARAC referral.	Identify gaps in services represented in the MARAC process and address these through training/awareness sessions.	Work is ongoing to increase potential referrals through promotion of the MARAC process at training/information sessions and training courses. 3 information sessions were delivered to 35 Health Visitors in total and 1 session to 10 members of staff from the Social Work Duty Team staff during the year.
		Maintain relationships with current FM/HBV Guidance leads.	VAW MAP to deliver a development session once a year to service leads using case studies as learning to ensure knowledge is kept updated.	We were unable to deliver a development session due to time constraints on staff and a significant commitment of time given to the Social Work Children's Services inspection.
		Promote NHS based Routine Sensitive Enquiry system to provide opportunities for disclosure in a safe environment.	Provide an overview of Routine Sensitive Enquiry at all VAW & DA training courses.	Routine Sensitive Enquiry was promoted in delivery of 2 Domestic Abuse Basic Awareness and 2 Gender Based Violence & Child Protection training courses.

Action	Milestone	2018/19 Target	2018/19 Outturn	
Priority 4				
4.1	Justice responses are robust, swift, consistent and coordinated.	Support Police Scotland's Domestic Abuse Task Force (DATF).	VAW MAP Police contact will attend all Domestic Abuse Basic Awareness and Gender Based Violence & Child Protection training courses.	Police Scotland attended 2 Domestic Abuse Basic Awareness and 2 Gender Based Violence & Child Protection training courses and provided an overview of the Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme, MARAC, Domestic Abuse Investigations Unit, DA Task Force and the Domestic Abuse Act 2018.
		Support and work with Specialist Domestic Abuse Investigations Units (DAIU) within the local Police division.	Maintain strong links with the DAIU.	There is close partnership working with the DI from the DAIU who attends the VAW MAP and chairs the MARAC. The DAIU is has also represented at all DA and VAW training courses to give an overview of Police current activities.
		Support Police Scotland on the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse in Scotland (DSDAS).	VAW MAP represents on the DSDAS Group when required by Police Scotland.	The VAW Coordinator/Inverclyde Women's Aid attend the Decision Making Forum meetings along with Police, ASSIST and Renfrewshire MARAC representatives, to consider DSDAS applications when they are received relating to Inverclyde. During the year there were 14 applications from Inverclyde discussed at DSDAS meetings.
		Support the MATAAC (Multi Agency Tasking & Coordinating) group to facilitate effective decision making around repeat offenders and high risk victims.	VAW MAP represents on the MATAAC when required by Police Scotland.	The VAW Coordinator represents at Renfrewshire & Inverclyde MATAAC to ensure that links are made between victims discussed at Inverclyde MARAC and the Police Scotland led MATAAC.
4.2	Men who carry out	MARAC meetings are held every 4 weeks and are	MARAC identifies high risk victims and perpetrators.	MARAC helped Police Scotland identify and deal with perpetrators due to information shared at meetings.

	violence against women and girls are identified early and held to account by the criminal and civil system.	attended by relevant organisations.		
		Support MATACs to facilitate effective decision making around repeat offenders and high risk victims.	MARAC provides information on high risk perpetrators and victims to MATAC.	MATACs efficiently and effectively targeted repeat perpetrators of Domestic Abuse that cause the greatest risk of harm to victims. Links between MARAC and MATACs increased the safety of victims and their children and brought perpetrators to account for their abusive behaviour. There were 4 perpetrators from Inverclyde discussed at Renfrewshire & Inverclyde MATAC during the year.
			Work in partnership to consider the best way forward regarding work with perpetrators.	There are currently discussions underway in HSCP regarding development of a programme for perpetrators of Domestic Abuse in Inverclyde.
4.3	Relevant links are made between the experience of women, children and young people in the criminal and civil system.	MARAC meetings identify children at risk and appropriate protection measures	MARAC will record and share information with partner organisations for the purpose of keeping high risk victims and their children safe.	The MARAC process identified 66 children in the financial year 2018-2019. In line with Safe & Together principles that keeping the mother safer will keep children better protected, MARAC provided opportunities to identify issues, risks and vulnerabilities such as: drugs; alcohol; relationship changes; injuries; prison release dates/home detention curfews; breaches of bail; missing persons; learning disabilities; mental health issues; address changes; child protection issues (e.g. pregnancy); failure to adhere to child contact arrangements; new partners (potential DSDAS disclosures); previous partners/historical disclosures; links to MATAC/DSDAS; information sharing for protection; alarms, storm markers; moves between areas; Non Harrassment Orders; travel alerts and tracing perpetrators.

		Support Police Scotland in making relevant referrals where children are present at Domestic Abuse incidents.	VAW MAP to represent on relevant groups to ensure processes are in place	Social Workers carried out checks on referrals where children were present and ensured that supports were put in place when required, including identification of appropriateness for referral to MARAC through use of RIC to assess risk of victims.
		Inverclyde Women's Aid offers refuge provision, support and outreach for women and their children.	IWA will provide a breakdown of numbers of children and young supported through the service and types of support.	52 children were supported through the children and young person's service broken down as follows: Refuge support: 24 Outreach support: 28
		Support and promote the CEDAR project.	CEDAR will provide statistics on children and mothers who have accessed the programme.	2018-2019: 2 children's groups (completed by 7 children) and 2 mother's groups (completed by 5 women), there were 2 x 8week Theraplay sessions completed by 6 children and 6 women. 1 ACE group was completed by 8 women and 2 mindfulness groups completed by 8 women.