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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Education and Communities Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>5 November 2019</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Ruth Binks, Corporate Director, Education, Communities and Organisational Development</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>EDUCOM/83/19/HS</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Hugh Scott, Service Manager – Community Learning &amp; Development, Community Safety &amp; Resilience and Sport</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 715450</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>16 Days of Activism to Eliminate Violence Against Women 2019</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Education & Communities Committee of the work that will be carried out in Inverclyde during the 16 Days of Activism to Eliminate Violence Against Women.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The '16 Days' campaign runs every year across the world from the 25 November (The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to 10 December (Human Rights Day). The two dates symbolically link to emphasise Violence Against Women (VAW) as a violation of human rights.
- 2.2 National resources have been developed by the VAW National Network to support a joined-up, coordinated approach to be taken by partners across Scotland. The Scottish-specific theme of 'wellbeing' has been agreed this year. Improving women and children's wellbeing is a key outcome within Equally Safe: Scotland's strategy for preventing violence against women and girls and promoting wellbeing is a key priority within other local and national agendas.
- 2.3 Inverclyde Violence Against Women Multi-Agency Partnership (VAW MAP) will support the '16 Days' campaign by displaying information on the Council's ICON system, on screens in public buildings, GP Surgeries, Health Centres and on social media. Funding has been identified by Inverclyde Council to deliver Equally Safe messages in secondary schools through performances of a play which highlights coercive control in relationships. Messages conveyed in the play are consistent with changes in legislation in the new Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 that was implemented in April 2019.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That the Committee notes the work that will be carried out in Inverclyde during the 16 Days of Activism to Eliminate Violence Against Women.

**Ruth Binks**  
**Corporate Director**  
**Education, Communities & Organisational Development**

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 '16 Days of Activism to Eliminate Violence against Women' is a globally-recognised United Nations campaign and runs every year from 25 November (The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to 10 December (Human Rights Day). The two dates symbolically link violence against women as a violation of human rights.

The first White Ribbon Campaign was launched in 1991 by a group of Canadian men opposing men's violence against women, following the mass murder of 14 female students at the University of Montreal on 6 December 1989 by a gunman opposing feminism. White Ribbon Campaigns followed in 1996 in South Africa and in 1998 WOMANKIND launched the first White Ribbon Day in the UK. Wearing a white ribbon signifies a person's pledge never to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women.

- 4.2 '16 Days' campaigns became active in Scotland following Scottish Government funding for Local Authorities to assist in the implementation of the priorities within the first National Strategy to address Domestic Abuse in Scotland in 2000 and to tie the violence against women strategies that followed: Safer Lives; Changed Lives (2009); and Equally Safe (2016).
- 4.3 The violence against women National Network agreed that this year a suite of resources would be developed to support local VAW Partnerships to plan their campaigns for this year's '16 Days' and support a joined-up, coordinated approach to be taken by partners across Scotland. The Scottish-specific theme of 'wellbeing' has been agreed.
- 4.4 Using the national resources Inverclyde Council will encourage local people to support the campaign. Inverclyde Violence Against Women Multi-Agency Partnership (VAW MAP) members will promote wearing of white ribbons to signify a personal pledge never to commit, condone or remain silent about VAW. During the '16 Days' campaign information will be displayed on the Council's ICON system, on screens in public buildings, GP Surgeries, Health Centres and on social media. The detail has yet to be agreed, but VAW MAP partner agencies will additionally share their own messages across social media during the '16 Days'. Funding has been identified by Inverclyde Council to deliver Equally Safe messages in secondary schools and Naomi Breeze from Breeze Productions has been commissioned to perform her play 'Kaleidoscope' highlighting Coercive Control in relationships. Messages conveyed in the play are consistent with changes in legislation in the new Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 that was implemented in April 2019.

## 7.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 **Finance:** None

### 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					

7.2 **Legal:** There are no expected legal implications as a result of the '16 Days'

7.3 **Human Resources:** There are no Personnel implications as a result of the '16 Days'

7.4 **Equalities:** Raising Awareness of VAW and Addressing Cultural Change Implementation 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

7.5 **Repopulation:** Tackling VAW will contribute to repopulation by making Inverclyde a safer place to

live.

## **8.0 CONSULTATIONS**

8.1 N/A

## **9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

9.1 Inverclyde Alliance Board, 7<sup>th</sup> 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