

What is Gender Based Violence?

Violence against women is a term used by the Scottish Government to define a range of actions which harm or cause suffering and indignity to women and children. They include but are not limited to:

Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, within the general community or in institutions, including: domestic abuse, rape, incest and child sexual abuse;

Sexual harassment and intimidation at work and in the public sphere; commercial sexual exploitation including prostitution, pornography and trafficking;

Dowry related violence; Forced and child marriages;

Honour crimes.

What does gender have to do with it?

These actions are mainly carried out by men against women and children. The different forms of violence have their roots in gender inequality and in the different power relations between men and women in society. They are therefore understood as gender-based violence and are interlinked.

This does not mean that women do not use violence or carry out the actions described above. Nor does it mean that men are not the victims of these actions. It merely recognises that statistically men are commonly the perpetrators and women and children the victims.

More than physical violence

The range of behaviours described above can be physical, but they also include emotional, psychological and sexual abuse, and behaviour which is coercive and controlling in nature.

The number of people who are victims of physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect is a major concern. Domestic abuse in particular affects the lives of individuals as well as families. Community Justice Renfrewshire has identified this as a key priority in our Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan 2017 to 2018.

The opportunity to create a better community

Working Together to tackle Gender Based Violence



Renfrewshire Council wins top award for domestic abuse work

Renfrewshire council has won an award at the inaugural Scottish Social Services Awards for a pioneering programme aimed at reducing domestic abuse. The council's criminal justice team won the 'Making Research & Evidence Real' award for its 'Up2U: Creating Healthy Relationships in Renfrewshire'

The new awards were introduced by the Scottish Social Services Forum to celebrate the positive work carried out by one of the country's largest sectors. The categories were designed to acknowledge innovation, joined up thinking and the willingness to speak up for vulnerable people.

There were 155 entries nationwide. Only ten entries were announced as final winners.

The 'Making Research & Evidence Real' award recognises the use of research and evidence in social work practice.

The council's Up 2 U programme aims to help victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse within intimate partner relationships through cognitive behavioural therapy and engaging the perpetrators in a programme of change while safeguarding and supporting the victim.

Renfrewshire GBV Strategy

In 2016, the Scottish Government published the second version of Equally Safe, the national strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls. As part of its rollout, the Government has requested that each local authority produce a gender based violence (GBV) strategy which showcases how their services will meet the needs of local women, children and perpetrators over the next few years.

In April 2017, Leah Baillie was appointed as Strategy Development Intern within Children's Services with a remit to contribute to the development of Renfrewshire's first GBV Strategy. A number of consultations with Renfrewshire's GBV Strategy Group partners were held throughout June, with representatives attending from Community Justice, Police Scotland, Social Work, NHSGGC, as well as local public and third sector agencies who work with victims and perpetrators of GBV. The first set of consultations saw the group identify areas for development within Renfrewshire's response to GBV and the second set gave the group the opportunity to create a strategic action plan based on the areas which were previously established.

The next step in the development of the strategy will be building its monitoring and evaluation system to ensure that there can be effective monitoring of progress in tackling GBV locally. The GBV Strategy is set to be launched during Renfrewshire's 16 Days of Action, a local version of the UN's campaign to end violence against women, which takes place between the 25th of November and the 10th of December.

Mentors in Mentors in Violence Programme (MVP) successfully implemented in Paisley Grammar and Renfrew High School.

Two Renfrewshire High Schools – Paisley Grammar and Renfrew High School have successfully implemented the Mentors in Violence Programme, (MVP) this session. MVP is a school based, peer education programme which uses a bystander approach to prevent all forms of bullying and gender based violence.

There are 5 core components of MVP which aim to Raise Awareness of the potential harm caused by all forms of violence (including ones young people can relate to such as bullying, sexting and rape.) MVP also aims to challenge thinking in a constructive and non judgemental way as well as opening dialogue, which encourages young people to consider responsibility for themselves and their peers. The programme also works to inspire leadership in order to promote healthy and safe learning environments. Led by Fiona Hewitt, Renfrewshire has taken a partnership approach to implementing this programme with Education, Health, Youth Services and the Police all involved.

The 5 core components of MVP are to...

1. Explore violence through a Gendered lens
2. Develop leadership
3. Use a bystander approach
4. Recognise the scope of violent behaviour
5. Challenge victim blaming

Males and females are not looked at as potential victims or perpetrators but as empowered and active bystanders with the ability to support and challenge peers. Within the MVP Programme a bystander is defined as a friend, class-mate, team-mate, colleague or relative. In other words, it is someone they know.

The programme involves training senior pupils, staff and partners to work with younger pupils. The programme aims to support a trusting school environment building strong relationships and in turn supporting successful learning. The Renfrewshire schools have worked in partnership with staff from the community police, community learning and development and the Health Improvement Team; and schools have been supported in this development by Education Scotland.

Renfrewshire Women's Aid

Renfrewshire Women's Aid provides confidential information and support to women, children and young people with experience of domestic abuse. Support can be accessed by phone or in person at our Advice Centre at Violet House, 3 Violet Street, Paisley. Our staff are all women who are fully trained and experienced in working with women and children who have been abused.

Renfrewshire Women's Aid has been providing a specialist support service to women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse since 1988. Our advice centre is open for telephone support and a one to one support service, Monday to Friday between 9am and 4pm. We also have 19 self-contained refuge spaces for women and their children who are unsafe to remain in their homes due to domestic abuse.

We will support women whether or not they want to stay with their partner and whether or not they live in our refuge accommodation.

Information and Support

Whether it's a one-off phone call or long term contact we can provide information, support and the chance to talk. Give information about legal rights, housing options and welfare benefits and help women access these. Help to make sure that women and their children are safe from harm. Help women to decide what to do now and to plan for the future.

Working with Children and Young People

Children also need information and support. We work with children, whether or not they are in a Women's Aid refuge, through one to one sessions, group work and play. This helps children and young people talk about their experiences, make sense of their fears and worries and feel better about themselves.

Renfrewshire Rising

Renfrewshire Rising is a local voluntary organisation that works to raise awareness of Gender Based Violence in the wider community. They are celebrating their 10th anniversary this year and are encouraging both men and women to get involved in all aspects of their work.

Margaret Gibson the organisation's chair said recently "The work that we do is all aimed at highlighting GBV and speaking out in order to inform people (the community) that GBV is not just about physical abuse, it's about mental, emotional, financial etc and no one should ever have to suffer at the hands of an abuser!!"

Renfrewshire Rising use a variety of information sharing formats including Facebook and Twitter and currently regularly attract over 200 community members. Recent discussion forums have included the proposed changes to legislation to make domestic abuse about coercive control as well as physical violence.

Renfrewshire Rising host 3 main events each year,

Each March they host an international women's day event in partnership with Women and Children First. In recent years as well as covering topics such as domestic abuse training, they have addressed issues such as Empowerment, Confidence and Self Esteem and well being.

In the summer months they use their AGM to bring people together to celebrate women and community action. They encourage new members to sign up as active committee members and offer opportunities to represent the organisations on a variety of local planning and action groups such as Diversity, Equality Action Renfrewshire and the Gender Based Violence Strategy multi agency group

The big main event of the year is the 16 Days of Action to Eliminate Violence Against Women in late November. Renfrewshire Rising coordinates the Reclaim the Night march through the streets of Paisley and as well as a wreath laying ceremony to remember all the victims who have sadly lost their lives at the hands of an abuser, they host a conference and encourage local people to take an active part in it the programme. Last year there was a choir made up from members of Renfrewshire Council and about 20 local men and women.

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)/Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAAC)

In Renfrewshire we have adopted

an effective partnership approach to the issue through MARAC which provides a forum for sharing information and taking actions that will reduce future harm to very high-risk victims of Domestic Abuse and their children.

The aim of the Renfrewshire MARAC is to:

- Safeguard victims
- Make links with other public protection arrangements in relation to children, perpetrators and vulnerable adults
- Safeguard agency staff
- Address the behaviour of the perpetrator through Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAAC)

The Domestic Abuse MATAAC process is a leading example of successful partnership working. The MATAAC, while governed by a national framework, is reflective of locally forged partnerships.

The key aims of the MATAAC are:

- Through effective Partnership Working, identify those domestic abuse perpetrators who present the greatest risk of harm to victims and their families.
- Through Tasking and Coordination and the use of pro-active enforcement, actively target those identified perpetrators using all available methods at the group's disposal to reduce the threat posed by them.
- To share information for intelligence development, prevention or enforcement where appropriate, thereby achieving positive outcomes for victims and their families.

In addition to MARAC and MATAAC, agencies and individuals across Renfrewshire continue to make effective use of the Police Scotland Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS). DSDAS aims to provide a way of sharing information about a partner's abusive past, with a potential victim. Its principle aim is to 'Keep people Safe'. It gives those at risk of Domestic Abuse the information needed to make an informed decision on whether to continue their relationship.

Public Protection Unit

The Public Protection Unit (PPU) covering Renfrewshire and Inverclyde is based at Renfrew Police Office. Led by Detective Chief Inspector Gerry McBride, the Unit comprises specialist teams responsible for the investigation of rape and other serious sexual crime, child abuse investigations, complex and protracted domestic abuse investigations and the management of offenders subject to Sexual Offender Notification Requirements. In addition the Concern Management Hub, also based within the PPU acts, as a single point of contact for partner agencies and deals with the management of concerns in respect of children, domestic abuse and adults at risk of harm identified by frontline officers.

DCI McBride commented "We have an experienced, committed and dedicated team of police officers and strong and effective partnership working is so important to keep the most vulnerable in our communities safe. We try and empower victims to seek the help they deserve and ensure perpetrators are held accountable for their actions through the criminal justice system. The biggest challenge is to give victims a voice"

Sensitive Routine Enquiry of Domestic Abuse and Childhood Sexual Abuse within Health Settings.

Sensitive routine enquiry of the most common forms of gender based violence takes place in key priority NHS settings: Maternity, Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Accident and Emergency, Community Nursing and Sexual and Reproductive Health. At their presentation to one of these services all females are asked directly about their experience of domestic abuse either current or historic. All males and females who attend Mental Health and Substance Misuse Services are asked about their experience of childhood sexual abuse. This occurs whether or not there are signs or indicators of abuse present.

The NHS has adopted this proactive approach due to the prevalence of domestic abuse and childhood sexual abuse, and their adverse impact on health. The enquiry helps to inform the assessment process and ensures the most appropriate treatment and care is provided to service users. It also helps to identify Healthcare workers as potential sources of support to those who are currently experiencing, or have previously experienced, domestic abuse or childhood sexual abuse. By routinely asking service users it is hoped that awareness will be raised of these forms of gender based violence and sources of support that are available.

Barnardo's Connections

Barnardo's Connections is a GBV service which offers support for young parents or expectant parents under the age of twenty-five.

Their women's service uses a strength based approach to support survivors with safety planning, parenting, advocacy and emotional and practical support. Connections can also provide support alongside the Threads Project to enable young mums to attend either pre-natal or new baby groups.

Connected Dads is an early intervention programme for domestic abuse perpetrators. It is a voluntary, 1:1 course, written with RESPECT, the UK association for domestic abuse perpetrator programmes. The course covers a variety of topics including: immediate safety planning; the impact domestic abuse has on child development and; the range of abusive behaviours. Other practical support can be offered to the young dads, provided they engage with the programme.

Referrals can be made to either the men's or women's service by calling us on 0141 884 6696.

Women and Children First

Women and Children First is a multi agency support service for victims of domestic and sexual abuse. As well as support and advocacy services provided by Children and Families social work, Rape Crisis and Children 1st have workers co-located in the WCF Mile End Centre. Referrals are accepted directly from women themselves or their support workers from other agencies. Children can be referred by their parents.

The referral system has been designed to be simple and straight forward and so as long as you have their permission to do so, please call us on 03003000345. First appointments will be offered within about 10 days and following a short discussion with one of our workers, the woman will be invited to participate in one or other of the services on offer.

As part of Women & Children First, WCF Reconnections looks to provide support for the whole family when they are in recovery from their experience of domestic abuse. Currently the project is delivering 3 children's groups and one mothers programme as well as providing 1:1 therapeutic support to 23 individuals. The topics covered include safety planning, emotional literacy, anger and responsibility. The team have also launched Theraplay sessions which look to repair the damage done to family relationships through the use of structured play. The model has a basis in attachment theory and will be delivered in both group work and 1:1 settings.

Support to Report Service

Support to Report is an advocacy service that supports women and men (age 13+) who have experienced sexual violence, to engage with the Criminal Justice System. We are based at Glasgow & Clyde Rape Crisis Centre, cover the Renfrewshire area and can usually cover basic travel expenses.

The Service was established in 2013 and is independent, free and confidential. We are part of a National Advocacy Project, where Advocacy Workers are based in every rape crisis centre in Scotland.

We offer:

- Information about reporting to the police and the court process.
- A safe, comfortable and supported space to speak with Police.
- We can accompany survivors to police statements and provide support afterwards.
- Assisting survivors to attend VIPER (police identification), precognition appointments and other Procurator Fiscal appointments.
- Support during court case including as named court supporter.
- Assistance with housing and benefit issues.
- Accompanying survivors to appointments e.g. housing and doctors.
- 3rd party reporting to the police.
- Help with completing Criminal Injuries compensation applications and Victim Impact statements.
- Referring on for emotional support within the Rape Crisis network.

Our approach is flexible and we engage with survivors in ways that suit them. This can be by face to face appointment, phone, or text. It may be through regular appointments or at key times in the criminal justice process such as court.

We accept referrals from individuals and agencies by phone or email. [The telephone number is 0141 552 3201](tel:01415523201) or you can email us at S2R@rapecrisiscentre-glasgow.co.uk

Victim Support Scotland

Victim Support Scotland (VSS) is an independent charity which is the largest voluntary sector support provider to people affected by crime in Scotland. This support is provided by staff and volunteers in national and local offices and court-based services across Scotland. VSS supports people who have been a victim, a witness to a crime, or are looking for help for a friend or relative who has been a victim. Our service is free and it doesn't matter when the crime happened or whether it has been reported to the police.

We provide a free and confidential service to victims of crime and their families which offers emotional and practical help today, yesterday, 10 or 20 years ago, it does not matter when the crime was committed, if someone is struggling, we will do our best to support that person. Our service is delivered mainly by trained volunteers who come from all walks of life, and are trained to a high standard to care for individuals and their needs. We help with signposting, advocacy, and Criminal Injuries compensation claims but, most importantly we offer a non-judgemental, empathetic service that offers a place for victims to talk as much as they need. We give them space and time to work through the impact the crime has had and how they want to move forward with their life.

Our local Victim Service in Renfrewshire is based at School Wynd, Paisley and the Witness Service at Paisley Sheriff Court. During 2016/17 we received almost 4,500 for victims of crime in Renfrewshire. We helped 42 victims in Renfrewshire submit claims during 2016/17 to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) and 29 victims received awards with a total value of £168,000, all of which went to the victims

The Witness Service at Paisley received over 900 referrals from the Fiscal's Office for vulnerable witnesses during 2016/17. In addition we supported almost 4,000 witnesses who gave evidence in trials at Paisley.

In addition to direct support to victims and witnesses Victim Support also works to improve and increase wider public knowledge about victims and witnesses by raising the profile of victims and witnesses in the public, parliamentary and criminal justice arenas. We also try to influence government policy and legislation to improve the experience of victims and witnesses of crime in Scotland.

If you need help, call us on 0141 887 0328 or call our Helpline on 0345 603 9213.

All calls are treated in complete confidence.

ASSIST

ASSIST, as a specialist independent domestic abuse advocacy service, aims to ensure all victims of domestic abuse are safe, informed and supported throughout their involvement with the court process as a result of the behaviour of partners or ex partners.

Service For;

Women
Men
Children

Issues Covered;

Domestic Abuse
Forced Marriage
Honor Based Violence
Rape & sexual assault
Stalking/Sexual Harassment

Referrals are made by Police Scotland following an incident of domestic abuse; other agencies/ individuals can refer/self refer if a domestic incident has been reported to the police.

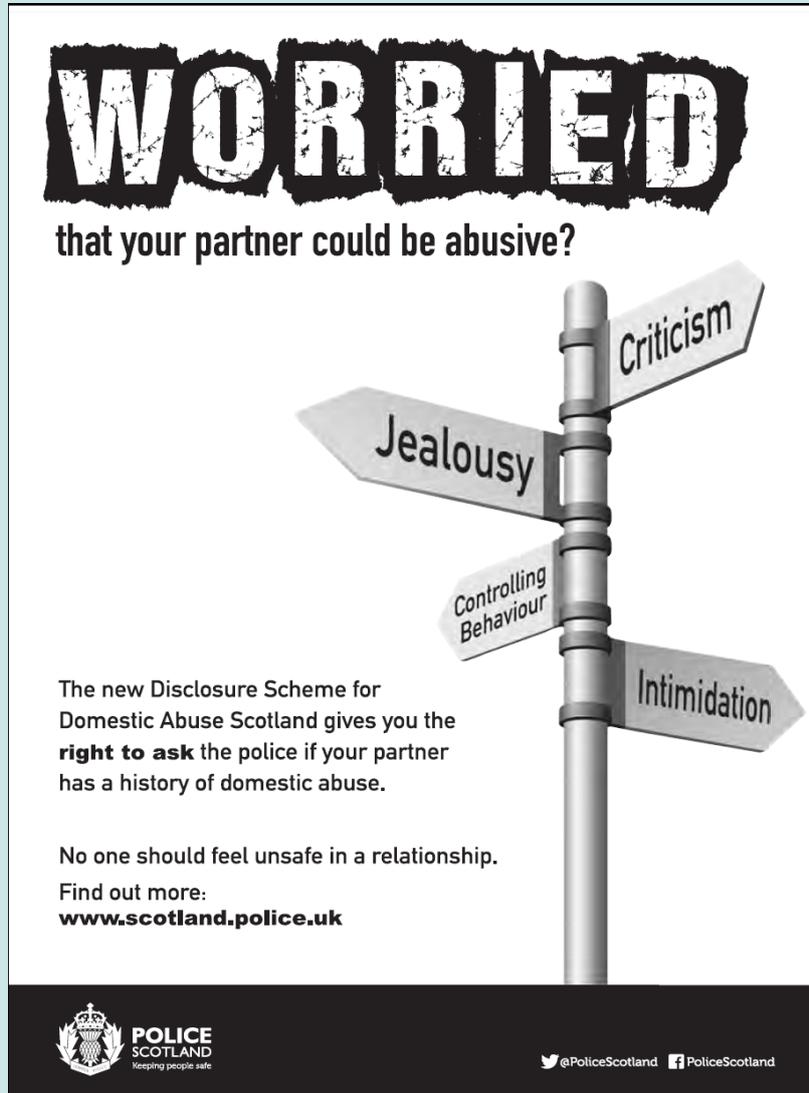
Services & Resources include;

- Telephone support
- Face to face

Contact Information

Tel: 0141 276 7710

Email: ASSIST@glasgow.gov.uk



WORRIED
that your partner could be abusive?

Jealousy
Criticism
Controlling Behaviour
Intimidation

The new Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland gives you the **right to ask** the police if your partner has a history of domestic abuse.

No one should feel unsafe in a relationship.
Find out more:
www.scotland.police.uk

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Keeping people safe

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For more information or to subscribe to our newsletter please contact:

Annie Torrance
Lead Officer Community Justice
Renfrewshire House
Third Floor, Children's Services
Cotton street
Paisley
PA1 1TZ

Tel : 0141 618 6385

Email: Annie.torrance@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk