

## Community and Housing Services Sub-Committee

Due to Scottish Government Guidance relating to Covid-19, this meeting will be held remotely.



Thursday, 18th March, 2021 - 10.00 a.m.

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### AGENDA

Page Nos.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – In terms of Section 5 of the Code of Conduct, members of the Committee are asked to declare any interest in particular items on the agenda and the nature of the interest(s) at this stage.
3. **MINUTE** – Minute of the Community and Housing Services Sub-Committee meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2021. 3 – 5
4. **SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS** – Joint Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods and the Head of Housing Services. 6 – 24
5. **FIFE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PARTNERSHIP UPDATE** – Joint report by the Interim Senior Manager, (Children Services, Sexual Health and BBV and Rheumatology) and Chair of Fife Violence Against Women Partnership. 25 – 68
6. **HOUSING TRANSFER POLICY - REVIEW OF THE TRANSFER INCENTIVE SCHEME** – Report by the Head of Housing Services. 69 – 75
7. **RAPID REHOUSING TRANSFORMATION PLAN (2019-24) PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR CONTRIBUTION TO TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION** – Report by the Head of Housing Services. 76 – 79
8. **HOUSING SERVICES LOCK UP PROGRAMME - PROGRESS REPORT** – Report by the Head of Housing Services 80 - 85
9. **COMMUNITY AND HOUSING SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME** 86 - 87

**Members are reminded that should they have queries on the detail of a report they should, where possible, contact the report authors in advance of the meeting to seek clarification.**

Morag Ferguson  
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Finance and Corporate Services

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11th March, 2021

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**THE FIFE COUNCIL - COMMUNITY AND HOUSING SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE –  
REMOTE MEETING**

21st January, 2021

10.00 a.m. – 12.50 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Judy Hamilton (Convener), Lesley Backhouse, Ken Caldwell, Alistair Cameron, Rod Cavanagh (substituting for Councillor Julie Ford), Neil Crooks, Linda Erskine, Fiona Grant, Helen Law, Donald Lothian, Alice McGarry, Graham Ritchie, David J Ross and Darren Watt.

**ATTENDING:** Michael Enston, Executive Director – Communities and Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods; Lesley Kenworthy, Business Partner, Finance; John Mills, Head of Housing and Mark Mccall, Service Manager (Safer Communities), Housing Services; and Wendy MacGregor, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Jeremy Harris, Chief Executive, Fife Coast and Countryside Trust (for para. 201 only); Heather Stuart, Chief Executive and Michelle Sweeney, Director of Creative Development and Delivery, Fife Cultural Trust (ONFife) (for para. 201 only); Alistair MacGregor, Chief Executive, Fife Golf Trust (for para. 201 only).and Emma Walker, Fife Sports and Leisure Trust (for para. 201 only).

*Prior to the start of formal Sub-Committee business, Councillor Judy Hamilton, Convener, acknowledged that Councillor Julie Ford was on maternity leave and, on behalf of the Sub-Committee, congratulated Julie and her husband Craig on the arrival of their daughter on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.*

*During the Sub-Committee meeting, word was received that the funeral of Bill Taylor, member of Ravenscraig Tenants and Residents Association had taken place and, on behalf of the Sub-Committee, Councillor Judy Hamilton, Convener, offered her condolences to the colleagues, family and friends of Bill Taylor.*

**198. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Backhouse declared an interest in Para. 198 - Trust - Annual Reports - as she was a Director on the Board for Fife Cultural Trust and Fife Golf Trust.

Councillor Caldwell declared an interest in Para. 198 - Trust Annual Reports - as he was a Fife Council appointee on the board for the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust and Fife Sports and Leisure Trust.

Councillor Neil Crooks declared an interest in Para. 198 - Trust Annual Reports - as he was a Fife Council appointee on the Board for the Fife Golf Trust.

Councillors Linda Erskine, Donald Lothian and Darren Watt declared an interest in Para. 198 - Trust Annual Reports - as they were Fife Council appointees on the Board for the Fife Sports and Leisure Trust.

**199./**

**199. MINUTE**

The Sub-Committee considered the minute of the Community and Housing Services Sub-Committee of 24th November, 2020.

**Decision**

The Sub-Committee agreed to approve the minute.

**200. REVIEW OF HOUSING SERVICES ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POLICY**

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing seeking approval for a revised housing policy on tackling antisocial behaviour and provided members with recommendations for a change in how Fife Council tackled antisocial behaviour, designed to improve the quality of service provided.

**Decision**

The Sub-Committee:-

1. approved the Housing Services Antisocial Behaviour policy for 2020-2022 in consultation with Tenants and Residents Groups;
2. acknowledged and supported the proposed changes to the first point of contact response to antisocial behaviour complaints and case management of more complex cases; and
3. agreed to the proposed increased resources required to implement the improved response to complaints of Antisocial Behaviour.

*Councillor Fiona Grant joined the meeting during consideration of this item.*

**201. TRUST ANNUAL REPORTS**

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods detailing the performance of the four Leisure, Culture and Sports Trusts in Fife - Fife Cultural Trust (OnFife), Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, Fife Golf Trust and Fife Sports and Leisure Trust - in their operations from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020.

**Decision**

The Sub-Committee:-

1. noted the performance of the four trusts during 2019/20;
2. acknowledged the work that was underway in responding to the impact of Covid-19 and as part of the reform for the agenda for the Council; and
3. congratulated the four Trusts on their performance under very challenging circumstances.

*Councillor/*

## 2021 CHSC 99

*Councillor Donald Lothian left the meeting during consideration of the above item.*

*The meeting adjourned at 11.35 a.m. and reconvened at 11.45 a.m.*

### **202. 2020/21 CAPITAL MONITORING**

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services and the Executive Director, Communities providing an update on the Capital Investment Plan and advising on the projected financial position for the 2020/21 financial year.

#### **Decision**

The Sub-Committee noted the current performance and activity across the 2020/21 Financial Monitoring as detailed in the report.

### **203. 2020/21 REVENUE MONITORING**

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services and the Executive Director, Communities providing an update on the projected outturn position for the 2020/21 financial year for the areas in scope of the Community and Housing Services Sub-Committee.

#### **Decision**

The Sub-Committee noted the current financial performance and activity as detailed in the report.

### **204. COMMUNITY AND HOUSING SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Sub-Committee considered the Community and Housing Services Sub-Committee Forward Work Programme.

#### **Decision**

The Sub-Committee noted the Forward Work Programme which would be updated as appropriate.

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18th March, 2021  
Agenda Item No. 4

## Support for Voluntary Organisations

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**Report by:** Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods  
John Mills, Head of Housing Service, Communities

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**Wards Affected:** Fife-wide

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### Purpose

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This report presents recommendations for the level of support to voluntary organisations within Communities Directorate for the period 2021-2024.

### Recommendation(s)

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It is recommended that Committee approve the level of funding to voluntary organisations as detailed in the attached schedules.

### Resource Implications

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The grant schedules appended to this report detail recommendations from the following:

- Housing Service totalling £5,944,527 (as detailed in Appendix 1)
- Communities & Neighbourhoods totalling £9,276,077 (as detailed in Appendix 2)

In line with Fife Council policy the majority of the grants are for a three-year period and by inference will have an effect on future budgets while allowing the sector more security and the opportunity for better future planning.

The total being recommended for approval for the period 2021-2024 is £15,220,604. Appendix 3 shows the level of funding approved previously by Committee under the Council's three-year funding arrangements and which impacts future years.

### Legal & Risk Implications

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All awards are recommended for approval subject to compliance with Fife Council's Monitoring and Evaluation Framework which requires that they are reviewed on an annual basis as part of the Council's ongoing commitment to ensure organisations are meeting the terms of their Service Level Agreement.

## Impact Assessment

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No impact assessment is required as there is no change in Council policy or procedure.

## Consultation

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Service Monitoring Officers have been involved in the preparation of this report. The appropriate Service Management Team has considered each of the awards being presented and recommends the level of support detailed.

Members are encouraged to contact the relevant Service Monitoring Officer if they would like to discuss individual awards or require further information prior to the Committee meeting. The contact information for Service Monitoring Officers is detailed on the footer of each appendix of this report.

## 1.0 Introduction

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- 1.1 This report presents awards to voluntary organisations from Communities Directorate and is therefore only a proportion of the overall support provided by Fife Council. Separate reports will be presented to joint Health Improvement Board; Education & Children Services; Economy Planning & Employability Service and Asset, Transportation & Environment for the awards in their remit.
- 1.2 In line with Fife Council policy the majority of the grants presented are for a three-year period and by inference will have an effect on future budgets, this allows the sector more security and the opportunity for better future planning. In some instances, the Area Teams have recommended that grants are reviewed during 2021/22 with a 3-year recommendation being made thereafter. The funding for sports councils will also undergo a review during 2021/22 and recommendations presented to Committee for 2022/23.

## 2.0 Monitoring and Evaluation

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- 2.1 The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework is continually updated and developed, putting robust procedures in place within Services providing support to voluntary organisations. The work is overseen by the Voluntary Sector Task Group which includes representatives from each of the Councils Services awarding grants to voluntary organisations as well as Audit Services and representation from Fife's third sector interface. The Task Group is responsible for reviewing the overall Framework and updating particular sections as necessary. Training has been and will continue to be provided for Services in this respect when necessary.
- 2.2 The following monitoring and assessment procedures are undertaken prior to each award being presented to the Community and Housing Services Committee for a decision:
  - ◆ Organisations are required to submit an application or forward plan outlining the services they aim to provide during the period 2021-2024. For organisations seeking a 1, 2 or 3 year funding agreement this includes an appropriate budget for that period;

- ◆ All projects funded in the previous year have undergone either an annual monitoring exercise or if appropriate a 3-year evaluation. Where the organisation receives over £10,000, the annual monitoring is carried out by the appointed Link Officer. An independent officer who is not the organisation's Link Officer carries out the 3-year evaluation. As part of these monitoring procedures an assessment of the governance of the organisation is made. This includes compliance with relevant legislation such as child protection;
  - ◆ The organisation's constitution and latest set of annual accounts have also been checked. The latter are checked by officers from Finance and Corporate Services;
  - ◆ The project is assessed by the appropriate Service Management Team against the priorities of the Service, the Council and the Plan for Fife.
- 2.3 Having gone through each of these stages the award is then presented to Committee for decision. If the award fails to satisfy all elements of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, the recommendation will be delayed and presented for Members' consideration at a future Committee meeting. Where compliance conditions are not being met, it may be recommended that funding is not provided.
- 2.4 This past year has obviously been unprecedented and many of the voluntary and community organisations supported by Fife Council recurring grants have had to change the way they deliver services to their client group, provide alternative services or in some cases close their facility during periods of lockdown. In March 2020, Fife Council confirmed that first quarter grant payments would be made as normal in April to alleviate any cash flow concerns that organisations may have had. Over the summer a due diligence exercise was then undertaken to gather information on the services being provided and to identify where services had been closed. The small number of organisations which had been unable to delivery any services during the first lockdown confirmed that some costs had still be incurred and that additional costs would be incurred as part of the opening process. Following the due diligence exercise all grants were paid in full through the remaining quarterly payments.

## 3.0 Conclusions

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- 3.1 The awards presented to Committee have been assessed in line with Service priorities and the Council's Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and are considered to make a valued contribution to the delivery of services across Fife.

### List of Appendices

1. Recommended Awards – Housing Services
2. Recommended Awards – Community & Neighbourhoods
3. Approved at previous Committees for financial years 2019/2022 under Council's 3 year funding arrangements

### Background Papers

The following paper was relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973:

- Voluntary Sector Monitoring & Evaluation Framework



**Report Contacts**

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**Recommended Awards – Community & Housing Services Committee - Appendix 1**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Award 20/21</b>	<b>Requested Grant (Over 1 year)</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>				<b>Additional Comments</b>
				<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>Total 2021-2024</b>	
Auchmuty & Dovecot Tenants & Residents Association	Payment of rent for community flat	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	0	0	£5,000	Recommend 1 year funding
Public Social Partnership (PSP)	Homelessness & Short Term Housing Support PSP	£5,692,327	£5,692,327	£5,692,327	0	0	£5,692,327	Recommend 1 year funding.
Fife Law Centre	Provision of legal advice and assistance to people who are socially excluded	£22,500	£22,500	£22,500	0	0	£22,500	3 year funding application received but only recommended 1 year funding
Fife Law Centre	Community Provision	£88,100	£88,100	£88,100	0	0	£88,100	3 year funding application received but only recommended 1 year funding
Fife Law Centre	Welfare Reform	£50,000	£50,000	£50,000	0	0	£50,000	3 year funding application received but only recommended 1 year funding
MARAC (Women's Aid)	MARAC Services	£66,000	£66,000	£66,000	0	0	£66,000	Recommend 1 year funding
Fife Tenants Forum		£20,600	£20,600	£20,600	0	0	£20,600	Recommend 1 year funding
<b>Total</b>		<b>£5,944,527</b>	<b>£5,944,527</b>	<b>£5,944,527</b>			<b>£5,944,527</b>	

**Recommended Awards – Community & Housing Services Committee - Appendix 2**

**Communities & Neighbourhoods**

Organisations	Project Description	Grant Award 20/21	Requested Grant 2021	Recommendation				Additional Comments
				2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total 2021-2024	
Abdie Village Hall	Provision of community facilities and events	£188	£780	£188	£188	£188	£564	
Anstruther Town Hall (Dreel Halls)	Provision of community facilities and events	£188	£998	£188	£188	£188	£564	
Arncroach Church Hall	Provision of community facilities and events	£188	£188	£188	£188	£188	£564	
Balmullo Village Hall	Provision of community facilities and events	£188	£185	£188	£188	£188	£564	
Blebo Craigs Village Hall	Social, cultural gatherings and public meeting room	£188	£500	£188	£188	£188	£564	
Burnturk Jubilee Hall	Main focus point in village for community events	£188	£200	£188	£188	£188	£564	
Cameron Parish Hall	Provision of community facilities and events	£188		£188	£188	£188	£564	
Ceres Memorial Hall	Provision of community facilities and events	£188	£188	£188	£188	£188	£564	
Colinsburgh Town Hall	Provision of community facility for all ages	£188	£180	£188	£188	£188	£564	

Organisations	Project Description	Grant Award 20/21	Requested Grant 2021	Recommendation			Total 2021-2024	Additional Comments
				2021/22	2022/23	2023/24		
Collessie Village Hall	Provision of community facilities and events	£188	£50	£188	£188	£188	£564	
Craigrothie Village Hall	Provision of community facilities and events	£188	£188	£188	£188	£188	£564	
Crail British Legion	Provision of community facilities and events	£188	£2978	£188	£188	£188	£564	
Crail Town Hall	Provision of community facilities and events	£188	£188	£188	£188	£188	£564	
Dairsie War Memorial Hall	Provision of community facilities and events	£188	£250	£188	£188	£188	£564	
Dunbog Parish Hall	Provision of community facilities and events	£188	£548	£188	£188	£188	£564	
Dunshalt Village Hall	Provision of community facilities and events	£188	£500	£188	£188	£188	£564	
Gateside Memorial Hall	Provision of community facilities	£188	£185	£188	£188	£188	£564	
Giffordtown Village Hall	Provision of community facilities and events	£188	£188	£188	£188	£188	£564	
Kettle Memorial Hall	Provision of community facilities and events	£188	£188	£188	£188	£188	£564	
Kilmany Parish Hall	Provision of community facilities and events	£188	£188	£188	£188	£188	£564	

Organisations	Project Description	Grant Award 20/21	Requested Grant 2021	Recommendation			Total 2021-2024	Additional Comments
				2021/22	2022/23	2023/24		
Kingsbarn Memorial Hall	Provision of community facilities and events	£188	£1,500	£188	£188	£188	£564	
Largoward Public Hall	Provision of community facilities	£188	£250	£188	£188	£188	£564	
Letham Village Hall	Provision of community facilities and events	£188	£225	£188	£188	£188	£564	
Luthrie Village Hall	Provision of hall to the benefit of groups, etc	£188		£188	£188	£188	£564	
Montrave Hall Lundin Links	Provision of community facilities in Lundin Links	£188	£300	£188	£188	£188	£564	
Morison Duncan Hall Gaudry	Provision of community facilities and events	£188	£1,000	£188	£188	£188	£564	
New Gilston & Woodside Village Hall	Provision of community facilities and events	£188	£188	£188	£188	£188	£564	
Newton of Falkland Village Hall	Provision of community facilities and events	£188	£810	£188	£188	£188	£564	
Pittenweem New Town Hall	Provision of facility for organisations	£188	£188	£188	£188	£188	£564	
Simpson Institute Upper Largo	Provision of community facilities and events	£188	£580	188	188	188	564	
St David's Durham Hall Lower Largo	Provision of community facilities and events	£188	£300	188	188	188	564	

Organisations	Project Description	Grant Award 20/21	Requested Grant 2021	Recommendation			Total 2021-2024	Additional Comments
				2021/22	2022/23	2023/24		
Strathkinness Village Hall	Provision of community facilities and events	£188	£5,400	£188	£188	£188	£564	
Strathmiglo Public Hall	Provision of community facilities and events	£188	£188	£188	£188	£188	£564	
West Hall, Wormit	Provision of community facilities	£188		£188	£188	£188	£564	
Auchtermuchty Community Centre	Provision of CLD, youth activities	£18,466	£23,500	£18,466	£18,466	£18,466	£55,398	
Auchtertool Village Hall	Provision of community facilities and events	£1,997	£7,370	£1,997	0	0	£1,997	One year funding, a recommendation will be put forward for 3 year funding in 2022
Cadham Neighbourhood Centre	Provision of community facilities and events	£6,382	£6,382	£6,382	0	0	£6,382	One year funding, a recommendation will be put forward for 3 year funding in 2022
Carnock Community Trust	Provision of community facilities and events	£3,473	£8,950	£3,473	0	0	£3,473	One year funding, a recommendation will be put forward for 3 year funding in 2022
Castlehill Association of Clubs Cupar	Provision of community facilities in Cupar	£2,066	£2,300	£4,614	£4,614	£4,614	£13,842	Uplift in funding in 2021-24. The Community Development Team have been working with this organisation over the past couple of years on governance and sustainability. The group has raised income for an extension to their main building which will enable them to vacate a split site as requested by Estates. The additional funding is in recognition of their enhanced delivery programme.

Organisations	Project Description	Grant Award 20/21	Requested Grant 2021	Recommendation			Total 2021-2024	Additional Comments
				2021/22	2022/23	2023/24		
Chapel N/Hood Centre	Provision of community facilities and events	£5,430		£5,430	0	0	£5,430	One year funding, a recommendation will be put forward for 3 year funding in 2022
Coaltown of Wemyss Village Hall	Provision of community facilities and events	£2,334	£3,150	£2,334	£2,334	£2,334	£7,002	
Collydean N'Hood Centre	Provision of community facilities and events	£6,101	£6,100	£6,101	£6,101	£6,101	£18,303	
Comrie Community Centre	Provision of community facilities and events	£2,628	£8,400	£2,628	0	0	£2,628	One year funding, a recommendation will be put forward for 3 year funding in 2022
Cosmos Centre St Andrews	Provides CLD, youth activities	£30,261	£65,750	£30,261	£30,261	£30,261	£90,783	
Crossford Village Hall	Provision of community facilities and events	£678	£678	£678	£678	£678	£2,034	
Culross Youth Club	Supporting Stables Youth Centre and Youth Club	£3,900	£4,000	£3,900	0	0	£3,900	One year funding, a recommendation will be put forward for 3 year funding in 2022
Cupar YMCA/YWCA	Provides CLD, youth activities	£52,567	£52,568	£52,567	£52,567	£52,567	£157,701	

Organisations	Project Description	Grant Award 20/21	Requested Grant 2021	Recommendations			Total 2021/2024	Additional Comments
				2021/22	2022/23	2023/24		
Cupar Youth Café	Provides youth activities	£31,945	£43,845	£31,945	£31,945	£31,945	£95,835	
Dalgety Bay Youth Club	Provides accommodation and facilities to groups	£6,054	£8,160	£6,054	0	0	£6,054	One year funding, a recommendation will be put forward for 3 year funding in 2022
Dolphin Community Centre Tayport	Supporting the provision of CLD and youth work	£8,263	£8,263	£8,263	£8,263	£8,263	£24,789	
Dundonald Institute Cardenden	Provision of community facilities	£6,880	£4,013	£6,880	£6,880	£6,880	£20,640	
Dysart Centre	Providing a facility for organisations in Dysart	£1,999	£1,500	£1,999	0	0	£1,999	One year funding, a recommendation will be put forward for 3 year funding in 2022
Dysart Community Hall	Providing a facility for organisations in Dysart	£4,639	£4,639	£4,639	0	0	£4,639	One year funding, a recommendation will be put forward for 3 year funding in 2022
East Neuk Centre Trust	Provision of CLD facilities in Anstruther	£67,827	£72,950	£67,827	£67,827	£67,827	£203,481	
Exit Community Centre Glenrothes	Supporting the provision of CLD and youth work	£26,149		£26,149	0	0	£26,149	One year funding, a recommendation will be put forward for 3 year funding in 2022
Fife Society for the Blind	Contribution of 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> cost of employing Project Worker	£5,217	£7,187	£5,217	£5,217	£5,217	£15,651	



	<b>Project Description</b>	<b><u>Grant Award</u> 20/21</b>	<b><u>Requested Grant</u> 2021</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b><u>Total</u> 2021/2024</b>	<b>Additional Comments</b>
<b>Organisations</b>								
Forgan Arts Centre Newport On Tay	Providing arts and craft classes and courses	£10,048	£10,000	£7,500	£7,500	£7,500	£22,500	Decrease in funding as Forgan Arts was funded for a 3 year period only to support the group set up independently from Fife Council (previously tutors were paid through Adult Ed budgets). Organisation has been pursuing community asset transfer of Leng Home. It has therefore recommended a reduced level of funding for a further 3 years specifically to address access for those for whom cost may be a barrier.
Glenrothes YMCA/YWCA	CLD opps provided through educational programmes	£52,545	£173,240	£52,545	0	0	£52,545	One year funding, a recommendation will be put forward for 3 year funding in 2022
Grieg Institute Leven	Provision of community facilities in Windygates	£4,166	£8,520	£4,166	£4,166	£4,166	£12,498	
Hayfield Community Centre	Provision of community facilities	£2,347	£8,015	£2,347	0	0	£2,347	One year funding, a recommendation will be put forward for 3 year funding in 2022
Kincardine Community Association	Provides CLD, youth activities	£30,536	£30,536	£30,536	0	0	£30,536	One year funding, a recommendation will be put forward for 3 year funding in 2022
Kincardine Old Peoples Welfare	Provision of meeting place, social events	£776		£776	0	0	£776	One year funding, a recommendation will be put forward for 3 year funding in 2022

<b>Organisations</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b><u>Grant Award</u> 20/21</b>	<b><u>Requested Grant</u> 2021</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/2023</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b><u>Total</u> 2021-2024</b>	<b>Additional Comments</b>
Kirkcaldy YMCA	Provides CLD, youth activities	£147,793	£245,963	£147,793	£147,793	£147,793	£443,379	
Ladybank Youth Club	Provision of youth work facilities	£6,861	£9,670	£6,861	£6,861	£6,861	£20,583	
Linktown Comm. Action Centre	Guidance, advice and facilities provided to groups, etc.	£25,447	£26,000	£25,447	£25,447	£25,447	£76,341	
Linton Lane Centre Kirkaldy	Provides social, leisure and educational facilities	£25,855	£52,410	£26,943	£26,943	£26,943	£80,829	Increase in funding due to additional activities
Markinch Town Hall	Provision of hall to the benefit of groups, etc	£4,155	£12,631	£4,155	£4,155	£4,155	£12,465	
Memorial Park N'Hood Association Leven	Provision of facility for organisation	£2,810	£3,000	£2,810	£2,810	£2,810	£8,430	
Milton of Balgonie Village Hall	Provision of community facilities and events	£1,997	£2,000	£1,997	£1,997	£1,997	£5,991	
North Queensferry Community Centre	Provision of community facilities and events	£11,877	£12,570	£11,877	0	0	£11,877	One year funding, a recommendation will be put forward for 3 year funding in 2022
Queens Hall Charleston	Provision of facility for organisations	£2,069	£3,000	£2,069	0	0	£2,069	One year funding, a recommendation will be put forward for 3 year funding in 2022
Raeburn Community Centre Kirkaldy	Provision of facility for organisations	£1,453	£1,453	£1,453	0	0	£1,453	One year funding, a recommendation will be put forward for 3 year funding in 2022
Rio Community Centre Newport	Supporting the provision of CLD and youth work	£17,768	£18,900	£17,768	£17,768	£17,768	£53,304	

<b>Organisations</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b><u>Grant Award</u> 20/21</b>	<b><u>Requested Grant</u> 2021</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/2023</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b><u>Total</u> 2021-2024</b>	<b>Additional Comments</b>
Rosie & McDuff Comm Hall Kirkcaldy	Provision of community facilities in East Wemyss	£1,511	£1,600	£1,511	£1,511	£1,511	£4,533	
Seal Dunfermline	Promoting social inclusion of young people	£3,889	£5,000	£3,889	£3,889	£3,889	£11,667	
Star Village Hall	Provision of community facilities	£2,816	£3,588	£2,816	£2,816	£2,816	£8,448	
Stenton Jubilee Hall	Provision of community facilities and events	£6,608	£10,000	£6,608	£6,608	£6,608	£19,824	
Tayside Institute	Provides CLD, youth activities	£22,498	£53,285	£22,498	£22,498	£22,498	£67,494	
Thornton Pensioners Welfare	Provision of facility for organisations	£1,176	£1,176	£1,176	£1,176	£1,176	£3,528	
Thornton Public Hall	Provision of facility for organisations	£3,086		£3,086	0	0	£3,086	One year funding, a recommendation will be put forward for 3 year funding in 2022
Toll Centre Burntisland	Provides social, leisure and educational facilities	£24,855		£24,855	£24,855	£24,855	£74,565	
Victoria Hall Auchtermuchty	Provision of facility for organisations	£2,086		£2,086	£2,086	£2,086	£6,258	

<b>Organisations</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b><u>Grant Award</u> 20/21</b>	<b><u>Requested Grant</u> 2021</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b><u>Total</u> 2021-2024</b>	<b>Additional Comments</b>
Workers Educational Association	Promoting adult education, Fife-wide provision	£42,552	£84,230	£42,552	£42,552	£42,552	£127,656	
Young Community Hall Kirkcaldy	Provision of facility for organisations	£3,024	£9,758	£3,024	0	0	£3,024	One year funding, a recommendation will be put forward for 3 year funding in 2022
Youth 1st	Supporting and developing high quality youth work. Fife-wide provision	£65,788	£101,961	£65,788	£65,788	£65,788	£197,364	
Elie Harbour Trust	Upkeep and maintenance of harbour area	£1,783	£3,333	£1,783	£1,783	£1,783	£5,349	
St Andrews Harbour Trust	Helps with the cost of revenue expenses	£8,917		£8,917	£8,917	£8,917	£26,751	
Tayport Harbour Trust	Upkeep and maintenance of harbour area	£1,700	£1,700	£1,700	£1,700	£1,700	£5,100	
St Andrews Botanic Gardens Trust	Management and operation of St Andrews Botanic Garden and delivery of botanical, horticultural and environmental education programmes.	£272,726	£272,724	£272,726	£272,726	£272,726	£818,178	

	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Grant Award 2021/22</b>	<b>Requested Grant 2021</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>			<b>Total 2021-2024</b>	<b>Additional Comments</b>
				<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>		
Disability Sport Fife	Supporting part-time Administration post	£8,928	£9,999	£8,928	£8,928	£8,928	£26,784	
Dunfermline & West Fife Sports Council	Partner with Fife Council/Sport and Carnegie Trust	£15,632	£17,450	£15,632	0	0	£15,632	One year funding awarded and a review of sports councils will take place in 2021
East Fife Sports Council	Development work with amateur sports and clubs	£15,632	£20,853	£15,632	0	0	£15,632	One year funding awarded and a review of sports councils will take place in 2021
Kirkcaldy and Central Area Sports Council	Developing amateur sport and sports club	£9,490	£11,370	£15,632	0	0	£15,632	Increase in funding to bring in line with other Sports Councils. One year funding awarded and a review of sports councils will take place in 2021
Crail Museum Trust	Provision of Museum	£2,200	£2,750	£2,200	£2,200	£2,200	£6,600	
Fife Folk Museum	Provision of Museum	£4,206	£4,208	£4,206	£4,206	£4,206	£12,618	
Fife Contemporary Arts & Craft	Partners providing specialist expertise in arts and crafts	£31,000	£31,000	£31,000	£31,000	£31,000	£93,000	
Scottish Fisheries Museum	Provision of Museum – Fishing, Heritage and Culture	£44,500	£56,800	£44,500	£44,500	£44,500	£133,500	
CARF	Free confidential independent and impartial advice to help resolve problems. Resources for welfare benefit tribunal representation and dealing with complex benefits issues	£1,862,087	£1,957,465	1,862,087	1,862,087	1,862,087	5,586,261	
Fife Centre for Equalities	Fifes independent third sector equalities hub which engages with	£130,804	£171,760	£130,804	£130,804	£130,804	£392,412	

	equalities groups in Fife across all 9 of the protected characteristics across Fife as defined in the equalities act 2010							
Fife Pride	Support Fife Pride Event	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£30,000	
<b>Communities &amp; Neighbourhoods Total</b>				<b>£3,250,733</b>	<b>£3,012,672</b>	<b>£3,012,672</b>	<b>£9,276,077</b>	

**Awards to Voluntary Organisations - Appendix 3**  
**Recommended Awards – 2019/22 – Community & Housing Services Committee**

Approved at previous Committees for financial year 2019-2022 under Council's 3 year funding arrangements

Organisation	Project Description	Award 18/19	Requested Grant (Over 1 year)	Recommendation				Additional Comments
				2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total 2019-2022	
Disabled Persons Housing Service (DPHS) Fife	Provision of housing advice and information to disabled people across Fife	£42,310	£45,845	£42,310	£42,310	£42,310	£126,930	
Disabled Persons Housing Service (DPHS) Fife	Fife-wide information, advice and assistance on Right to Adapt in private sector properties.	£29,920	£32,523	£29,920	£29,920	£29,920	£89,760	
Kingdom Housing Association	Care & Repair Service / Disability Adaptations Service	£212,037	£213,202	£212,037	£212,037	£212,037	£636,111	
Kingdom Housing Association	Small Repairs Service	£75,808	£75,226	£75,808	£75,808	£75,808	£227,424	
Greener Kirkcaldy	Fuel Poverty advice	£300,000	£345,286	£300,000	£300,000	£300,000	£900,000	Award includes £100,000 per annum for non-FC tenants.
North East Fife Tenants & Residents Federation(NEFTRF)	Tenant Participation	£26,265	£36,606	£27,105	£27,105	£27,105	£81,315	

Organisation	Project Description	Award 18/19	Requested Grant (Over 1 year)	Recommendation				Additional Comments
				2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total 2019-2022	
Fife Federation of Tenants & Residents Associations (FFOTRA)	Tenant Participation	£96,187	£103,423	£99,265	£99,265	£99,265	£297,795	
Glenrothes Area Residents Federation (GARF)	Tenant Participation	£45,652	£50,648	£47,113	£47,113	£47,113	£141,339	
Fife Voluntary Action	To support a successful and resilient third sector in Fife which is supported and informed	£154,513		£154,513	£154,513	£154,513	£463,539	
Fife Community Safety Support Service	To provide a community mediation Service, and to provide support to victims of anti-social behaviour and hate incidents.	£173,000		£173,000	£173,000	£173,000	£519,000	
<b>Total</b>				<b>£1,161,071</b>	<b>£1,161,071</b>	<b>£1,161,071</b>	<b>£3,483,213</b>	



18<sup>th</sup> March, 2021

Agenda Item No. 5

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## Fife Violence Against Women Partnership Update

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Report by: Heather Bett, Interim Senior Manager (Children Services, Sexual Health & BBV and Rheumatology) and Chair of Fife Violence Against Women Partnership

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Wards Affected: All

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### Purpose

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To update committee members on the progress of the Fife Violence Against Women Partnership (FVAWP). FVAWP is responsible for the local delivery of *Equally Safe - Scotland's Strategy for Preventing and Eradicating Violence Against Women and Girls*. The FVAWP annual report 2019-20 directly links to the national priorities and details local partnership activity across a wide range statutory and third sectors demonstrating how partners are working together.

To highlight the impact of Covid-19 on those with lived experience of gender-based violence. Covid-19 restrictions have significantly impacted on women and children living with domestic abuse and other forms of violence against women, creating an environment whereby risks are heightened. There are increased risks associated with controlling, coercive and abusive behaviours in lockdown both in terms of opportunity to abuse and access to support.

To consider *Coronavirus Supplementary Violence Against Women Guidance for Local Authorities and Partners* (September 2020) which was published to support local areas to redress the increased risks including revision to the FVAWP action plan

### Recommendation(s)

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The committee is asked to:

- review the work undertaken by the Fife Violence Against Women Partnership (FVAWP),
- support the continued efforts of Fife Violence Against Women Partnership in responding to Covid-19, including revised Action plan to 2022

### Resource Implications

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Fife Violence Against Women Partnership (FVAWP) relies on the continued commitment and resources of all existing partner agencies across statutory and voluntary sectors. There are ongoing resource pressures as demand for violence against women services continue to increase particularly in light of Covid restrictions.

The Supplementary Guidance identifies the likelihood for increased demand for support as a result of Covid.

Scottish Government Delivering Equally Safe Fund was launched in early December 2020. A number of specialist organisations in Fife are very dependent on precursors of this fund so it presents both opportunities and risks.

## Legal & Risk Implications

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Violence against women is both an equality and a human rights issue. It affects a significant number of women and children across Fife, impacting on safety, health & wellbeing, opportunity and potential. This report contributes to both reducing risk of harm and Fife Council's responsibilities to address sex as a protected characteristic.

## Impact Assessment

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An EqIA is not required because the report does not propose a change or revision to existing policies and practices.

## Consultation

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Organisations providing *violence against women* services (across statutory and 3<sup>rd</sup> sectors) have contributed to this report and are consulted on the work of Fife Violence Against Women Partnership on an ongoing basis. FVAWP membership is provided as appendix 1

## 1.0 Background

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- 1.1 Fife Violence Against Women Partnership is the local multi-agency strategic partnership to deliver [Equally Safe](#) - Scotland's Strategy for Preventing and Eradicating Violence Against Women and Girls.
- 1.2 Equally Safe (ES) identifies 4 priorities, which have also been adopted in Fife, these are as follows:
  - Priority 1 - Scottish society embraces equality and mutual respect and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls;
  - Priority 2 - Women and girls thrive as equal citizens: socially, culturally, economically and politically;
  - Priority 3 - Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising the safety and wellbeing of women, children and young people;
  - Priority 4 - Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response.
- 1.3 Covid 19 restrictions have significantly impacted on women and children living with domestic abuse and other forms of violence against women, creating an environment whereby risks are heightened within local communities.
- 1.4 Recognising these particular risks - CoSLA and the Scottish Government produced [Coronavirus Supplementary Violence Against Women Guidance](#) for local authorities and partners (September 2020). The Guidance identifies 3 phases:
  - Heightened periods of risk during lockdown and other social restrictions
  - Recovery and renewal planning
  - Building back better.

## 2.0 Issues and Options

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- 2.1 **FVAWP Annual Report 2019-20** (appendix 2) details the collective efforts of partners in addressing violence against women in Fife. It largely addresses a period *prior* to Covid-19 restrictions. The report directly links to the *Equally Safe - Scotland's Strategy for Preventing and Eradicating violence Against Women and Girls*.
- 2.1.1 Each year Fife completes a data return for the Improvement Service and Scottish Government. Their analysis of our data return is included in the annual report – this shows an improving trend year on year and that Fife is performing well compared to other areas of Scotland.
- 2.1.2 The report highlights the complexity and scale of violence against women in Fife and the range of activity undertaken in terms of:
- Primary prevention
  - Equalities
  - Services for victims / survivors
  - Holding perpetrators to account
- 2.1.3 The report provides examples of partnership projects where significant progress has been made. Strong partnership working and good relationships became all the more critical as Covid-19 changed all our lives and we were facing new challenges in protecting women and children living with domestic abuse, sexual violence and other forms of violence against women.
- 2.2 **Response to Covid-19**
- [Coronavirus Supplementary Violence Against Women Guidance](#) for local authorities and partners was published by the Scottish Government and CoSLA in June with a refresh in September 2020. It highlights the ways that Covid-19 is particularly impacting on this area of business. It details actions that local areas should put in place to mitigate against increase risk. There are a 10 mitigating actions for times of significant restrictions and a further 10 actions for times of recovery
- 2.2.1 FVAWP has used this guidance to review the **FVAWP Action Plan 2019-22** (appendix 3), ensuring actions are still deliverable and that the additional 20 actions in the Supplementary Guidance are addressed. Some of the actions were included in previous plans, but others are new and present additional challenges for partners.
- 2.2.2 Local services were very flexible in their responses to lockdown. Third sector partners report feeling very supported by national and local organisations and by the local community in Fife. FVAWP has collated information from partners throughout the pandemic and shared information to practitioners and publicly encouraging referrals and requests for help. Some services are delivered differently, but crisis support continues.
- 2.2.3 **Impact of Covid-19 on Violence Against Woman Service Delivery** Appendix 4 provides information for the 3 months October to December 2020 about specialist services in terms of:
- Referrals
  - Waiting lists
  - New methods of service delivery
  - Service user feedback

- 2.2.4 There is a mixed picture in terms of referrals - some services stopped taking referrals (for therapeutic rather than crisis support), others noticed significant increases. Increasing waiting lists show that there are significant pressures on services. Agencies initially focussed on crisis and very practical support, recovery work was largely suspended in the first instance. Specialist agencies are adapting and providing services in creative and wide-ranging ways.
- 2.2.5 Feedback suggests that some service users felt very supported while others struggled with the lack of face to face support within a therapeutic environment. It is clear the efforts organisations, their staff and service users have made to make this work. The report provides detailed feedback and comments from both service users and providers.
- 2.2.6 The longer-term impact on victims / survivors is difficult to quantify

## 3.0 Conclusions

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- 3.1 Partners have worked together to address violence against women in Fife, including the additional challenges presented by Covid-19. The updated action plan will clarify recovery plans as we move forward. This has been a very challenging time for those with lived experience of violence against women and the services that support them.

### List of Appendices

1. FVAWP membership
2. FVAWP Annual Report 2019/20
3. FVAWP Action plan 2019-22 revised December 2020
4. Impact of Covid-19 on Violence Against Women Service Delivery to Oct - Dec 2020

### Background Papers

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973:

- [Equally Safe - Scotland's Strategy for Preventing and Eradicating violence Against Women and Girls](#)
- [Coronavirus Supplementary Violence Against Women Guidance](#) for local authorities and partners (September 2020)

### Report Contact

Sheila Noble  
Co-ordinator  
Fife Violence Against Women Partnership  
Email – sheila.noble@fife.gov.uk

## Appendix 1

### Fife Violence Against Women Partnership Executive Committee Membership

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Adult Protection Lead Officer	Health & Social Care
Education Officer	Education Service
HR Lead Officer	Human Resources, Fife Council
Service Manager,	Criminal Justice Service
Service Manager	Education and Children's Services
Service Manager	Housing
Elected Member x 2	Fife Council
Area Services Manager	Housing and Communities
Equalities Co-ordinator	Community & Corporate Development
Co-ordinator	Fife Violence Against Women Partnership
Team Manager	Safer Communities
Detective Chief Inspector	Police Scotland
Clinical Services Manager, NHS Fife	NHS Fife
Lead Nurse, NHS Fife	NHS Fife
Equality and Human Rights Officer,	NHS Fife
Co-ordinator	Fife Alcohol & Dug Partnership
Manager	Safe Space
Manager	Kingdom Abuse Survivors Project
Manager	Fife Rape and Sexual Assault Centre
Manager	Fife Women's Aid
Area Personal Support Officer (North)	Army Welfare Service
Chief Executive	Fife Centre for Equalities
Assistant Director Student Services,	St Andrews University

# **Fife Violence Against Women Partnership**

## **Annual Report 2019-20**



## Chair's Introduction

Violence Against Women continues to present challenges to services across Fife both in terms of scale and complexity. Domestic abuse and sexual trauma can have significant long-term impacts on survivors, both adults and children, with partnership working particularly important.

Statutory and third sector organisations in Fife have worked together to support staff in this complex area of practice, evident through MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferencing) for highest risk domestic abuse cases and multi-agency training opportunities, including Safe and Together.

National Guidance has prompted the improvement of healthcare and forensic examination for adults who have been sexually assaulted. This has seen the "Fife Suite" - a new forensic examination suite - opening in Queen Margaret Hospital offering a more health focused service. Collaborative working across statutory and third sector is key to improving the service offered.

Trauma informed practice is essential if victim's and survivor's needs are to be met. This continues to be promoted throughout the work of the partnership, supported by specialist support and recovery services.

This report highlights the wide range of activity from primary prevention to challenging perpetrators abusive behaviours. It provides information about the considerable efforts of local partners working together to address violence against women and children in Fife in the context of increasing demands on services.

In the last month of this annual report we became aware of the impact Covid-19 on all our lives. On 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 we went into lockdown and a great deal has changed since then. Partners have worked together to make sure services continue, crisis support is available. We have all had to learn different ways of working. The impact of lockdown on victims and survivors of domestic abuse is significant, whether that is through increased opportunity for perpetrators to be abusive; coercive control; lack of usual protective measures or lack of usual coping opportunities.

I'd like to thank all the partners for their hard work over recent months. There will be significant challenges ahead and it is more important than ever that we work together.

Heather Bett, Clinical Services Manager, NHS Fife

## Equally Safe

Fife Violence Against Women Partnership (FVAWP) has adopted [Equally Safe – Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls](#). This framework has been used to self-assess progress locally - identifying strengths and weaknesses and formed the basis of a recent partnership development session to identify priorities going forward.

*Equally Safe – Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls* is the key national driver for Fife Violence Against Women Partnership. The Delivery Plan and local area Quality Standards work to the following 4 priorities that have been adopted by partners locally:

1. Scottish society embraces equality and mutual respect and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls
2. Women and girls thrive as equal citizens: socially, culturally, economically and politically
3. Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising the safety and wellbeing of women children and young people
4. Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response

FVAWP provides an annual data return to the Improvement Service on a range of quality standards based on these priorities, partnership working and specific data measuring investment and activity in Fife. This annual report is structured around these Equally Safe Priorities which form the basis of the FVAWP Action Plan 2019-22.

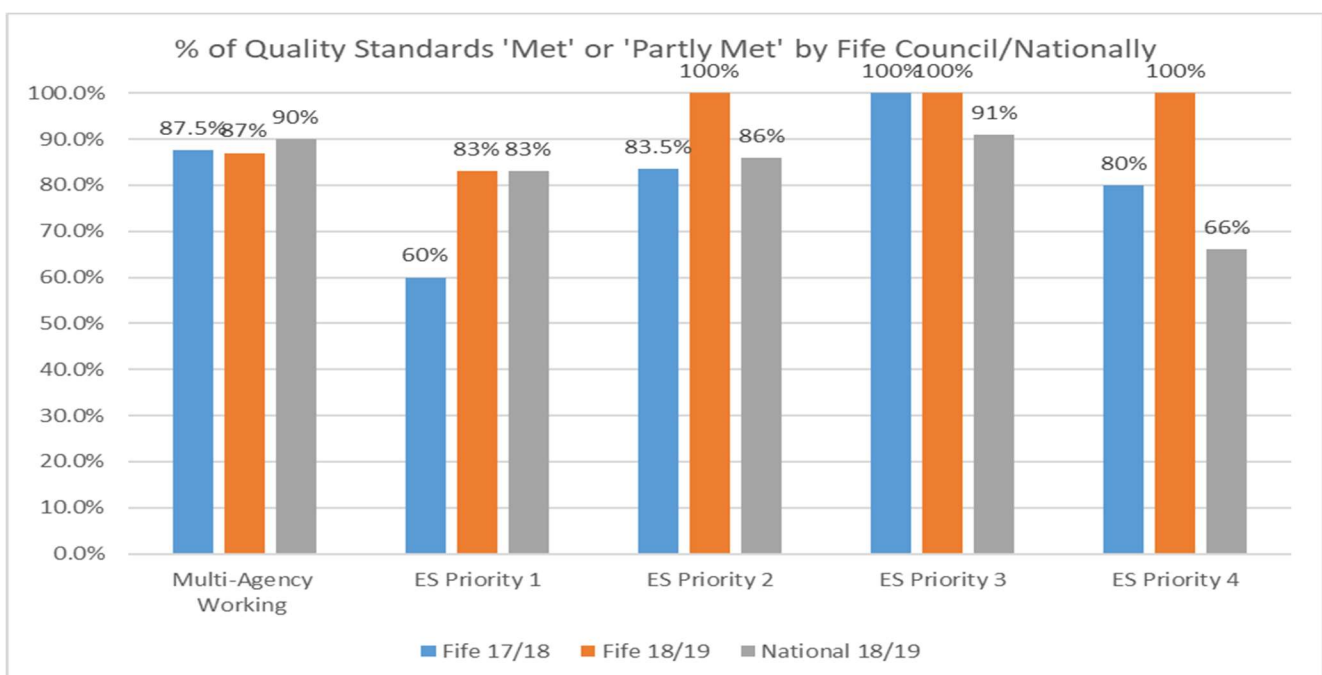
**Equally Safe Definition of Violence Against Women:**

- *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, including prostitution, 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, forced and child marriages, and 'honour' crimes.*

Violence against women is both an equality and a human rights issue. Women and girls are at increased risk of violence and abuse because they are female. Our shared understanding recognises that violence against women has a significant impact on children and young people's lives, with their safety closely linked to that of their mother. Men and boys can also be at risk of violence and abuse and support needs to be available when needed.

**Equally Safe Quality Standards**

The graph below shows the Fife data return for 2017/18 and 2018/19 compared to the national average (2019/20 data is not yet available in this format). The quality standards are a self-assessment by a range of partners and signed off by the FVAWP Executive Committee. The Improvement Service identifies that *"Fife's results are very similar to the national averages and surpass the national average by some margin in terms of Equally Safe Priority 2, Priority 3, and Priority 4. The figures have also improved from Fife's 2017-18 report in all priorities and in particular an increase in meeting or partly meeting the quality standards in Priority 1 is evident"*.





## Multi-agency Partnership Working

Fife Violence Against Women Partnership met most of these standards in 2018/19. In 2019/20 all of the standards were met with the exception of completing a partnership self-assessment in the last 3 years. Fife was one of the first VAW partnerships to undertake a detailed assessment with support from the Improvement Service. In discussion with the Improvement Service it was agreed this was not a priority the focus was on updating the FVAWP Action Plan 2019-22.

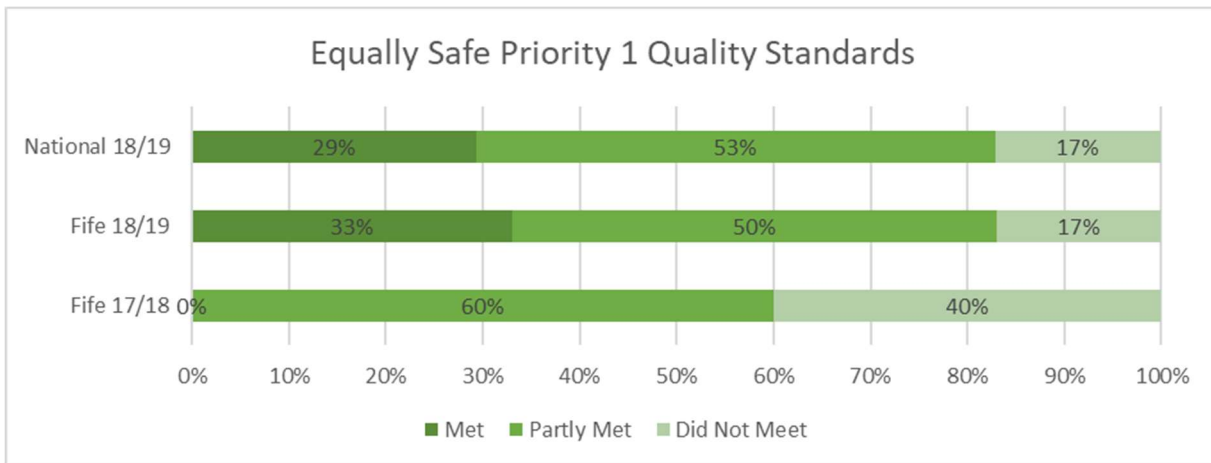
### What Have We Done?

FVAWP has continued to work to the standards in the VAW Partnership Guidance and with organisations to maintain strong partnership working and a commitment to challenging violence against women and children. FVAWP now reports to Chief Officers Public Safety Group and Communities and Housing Services Committee. FVAWP also contributes to a range of local strategic plans including Children’s Services Plan, Fife Housing Partnership and Child Protection Committee.

### Equally Safe Priority 1: Scottish society embraces equality and mutual respect and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls

- a. Positive gender roles are promoted
- b. People enjoy healthy positive relationships
- c. Children and young people develop an understanding of safe, healthy and positive relationships from an early age
- d. Individuals and communities recognise and challenge violent and abusive behaviour

This is the area identified as most improved.



### What have we done?

**1.1 Work in partnership with schools, colleges and university to raise awareness of all forms of VAWG, aligning to Scottish Government led strategies and pilot projects.**

**Ensure a strong focus on prevention including:**

- raising awareness of positive healthy relationships
- supporting children and young people to identify ‘unhealthy relationships’ at an early stage.

Partners have worked together on a FVAWP Primary Prevention Strategy to include youthwork, early years, schools, College and University to:

- raise awareness of positive healthy relationships
- support children and young people to identify 'unhealthy relationships' at an early stage

This strategy links with the Curriculum for Excellence Health and Wellbeing Indicators. It is supported by a range of local and national partners. There is work within schools to promote understanding and awareness of gender-based violence, positive, healthy relationships and consent information from early years to secondary S6.

**Early years** - Gender Equal Play pilot is ongoing in Duloch Nursery supported by Zero Tolerance and FVAWP. The project proposal to promote gender equality in early years training was shared along with resources.

**Primary** – FVAWP has linked with a number of schools to get a clearer picture of what work is in place across a large number of schools in Fife.

**Secondary** Personal and Social Education is undergoing a national review and there is a requirement to promote health and wellbeing in schools. Mentoring Violence Programme (MVP) was established in 11 of 18 High Schools.

**Fife College** students and partners supported the InsideOutside (Women's Support Project) exhibition

**St Andrew's University** raises awareness of violence against women with all students in Freshers week, using their bystander peer education support programme "*St"And Together. Got Consent?*", which is an adaptation of *Mentors in Violence Programme*.

A network of 'VAW champions' supports prevention work, recognising the key role of specialist services within the third sector (see appendix 1) The benefit of a dedicated resource at Fife Rape and Sexual Assault Centre can be seen with their prevention worker reaching out to young people across Fife from S1 to S6 – discussing consent, sexual violence, sexualisation and social media.

### ***1.2 Work in partnership with youth work groups to ensure a consistent approach to raising awareness and tackling tolerance of VAWG***

FVAWP works with colleagues in Community Learning and Development to deliver Zero Tolerance Under Pressure training. 13 Multi-agency partners from both voluntary and statutory sectors and 8 Fife Council Youth Workers participated allowing them to deliver the programme content to young people within their organisations.

### ***1.3 Engage with the local community to raise awareness of Violence Against Women, the causes and consequences and the role they can play in tackling it***

FVAWP delivered 2 exhibitions and 5 social media campaigns:

#### **Exhibitions**

[Violence Unseen](#) (Zero Tolerance) and [InsideOutside](#) (Womens' Support Project) saw a combined footfall of over 500 people. Launches were publicised on various media platforms. Curators supported the exhibitions from a range of statutory and voluntary organisations including Fife College.

#### **Social Media Campaigns**

Fife Council Communications Team helped FVAWP launch 5 social media campaigns linking to national and local initiatives:

- 16 days of Action Against Violence Against Women;

- International Women’s Day;
- #TOOINTOYOU;
- ViolenceUnseen; and
- Consent

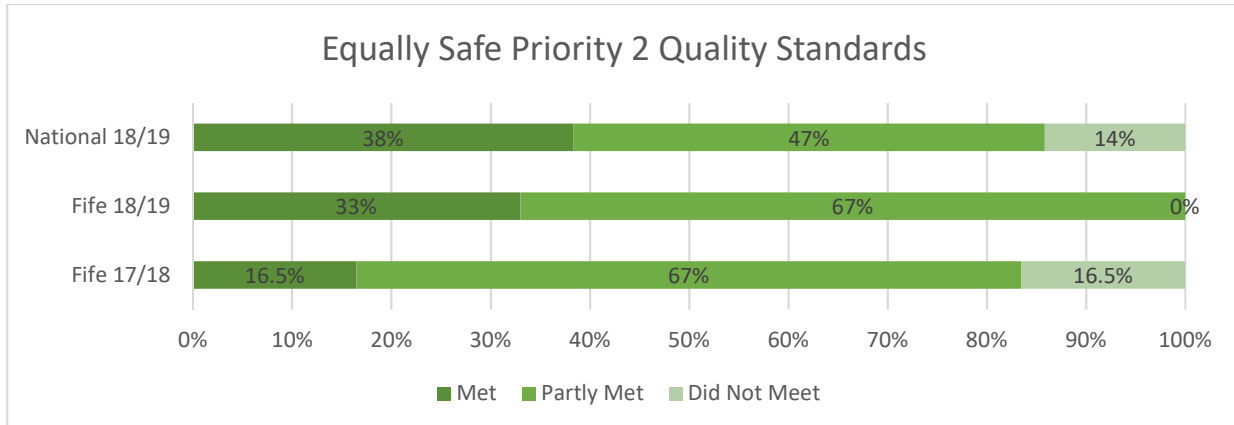
FVAWP supported the promotion of campaigns including the publication of Saje’s *Her Story Rewritten* and NHS Fife White Ribbon drive during 16 days of Action 2019. The campaigns collected a total facebook reach of 15,565 and was broadcast to approximately 292,000 potential radio listeners.

FVAWP produces a range of resources for both services and members of the public. These are available both in paper and electronic formats. There is a suite of good practice guides to support staff in their roles and support appropriate signposting. Support services are highlighted with public awareness campaigns.

In March 2020 as Covid19 impacted on all our lives Partners were very aware of the particular risk to women and children impacted by domestic abuse and other forms of violence against women. We worked with Fife Council Communications staff and other agencies to make sure that services were aware of the additional risks and that members of the public and staff knew how to access services during lockdown.

**Equally Safe Priority 2. Women and girls thrive as equal citizens: socially, culturally, economically and politically**

- Women and girls feel safe, respected and equal in our communities**
- Women and men have equal access to power and resources**



**What have we done?**

This work is aligned with Fife’s Senior Equality Group.

Fife Council is an accredited living wage employer. An action plan to promote women's workplace equality was developed as part of the Equally Safe at Work Accreditation (FC is a member of the shadow pilot group) this included reviewing policies and responding to consultation on sexual harassment in the workplace. HR advice re VAW and Covid-19 was circulated and updated to managers within the Council. There has been a high level of flexibility offered to staff during the pandemic particularly in the form of paid special leave to those with health concerns or those with childcare commitments.

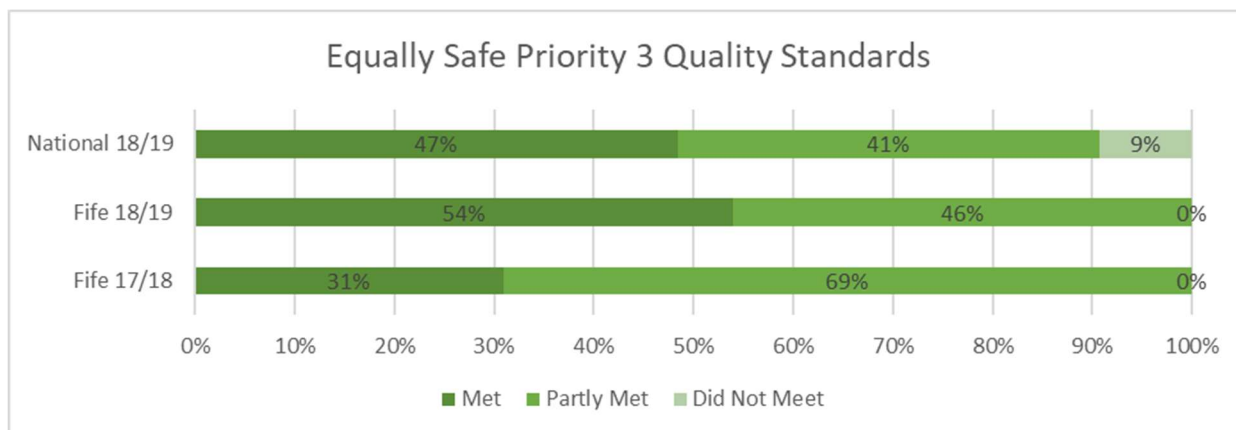
NHS Fife has a Gender Based Violence Policy aligning to NHS Scotland Partnership Information Network Policies and applies to all employees. NHS Fife also stipulates that any agency or sub-contractors must have a policy which reflects their own ensuring that all staff working within NHS Fife settings are protected. In cases where the perpetrator is a contractor, they are to be notified that their contact is prematurely terminated.

FVAWP and partners have strengthened links with equality groups and those with additional vulnerabilities including addictions, LBTi and learning disabilities to support more joined up service provision recognising the range of complex needs. FVAWP continues to promote trauma informed services, supporting and advocating for those impacted by the trauma of their experiences of gender-based violence. Additionally, members of the Provision and Early Intervention working group worked with Fife Centre for Equalities to map local equality groups, agree key messages and plan to develop more collaborative work going forward.

Service user consultation has been supported by third sector partner agencies and will be of increased importance going forward as services are redesigned to manage Covid-19 risks.

**Equally Safe Priority 3. Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising safety and wellbeing of women, children and young people**

- a. Justice responses are robust, swift, consistent and co-ordinated
- b. Women, children and young people access relevant, effective and integrated services
- c. Service providers competently identify violence against women and girls and respond effectively to women, children and young people affected



There is a significant body of evidence that domestic abuse increases during large scale emergencies. Covid-19 presents particular challenges for those who experience gender-based violence. There was a positive response at both national and local levels, particularly in terms of domestic abuse to make sure that services were available, that staff were vigilant to risks and that victims knew how to get help.

**In the last month of this annual report, Covid-19 impacted on all our lives, none more so than women and children living with domestic abuse, other forms of violence against women and those recovering from trauma.**

Domestic abuse risk has increased with Covid-19 restrictions leading to:

- enforced contact between partners in homes having to self-isolate;
- women feeling trapped and unable to leave;
- changing family dynamics and challenges to gendered role expectations;

- increased drinking at home;
- children being more present;
- complications over child contact arrangements;
- reduced access to support services.

Partner agencies in Fife rose to the challenge in continuing to deliver services with the third sector playing a key role. In the week of 16<sup>th</sup> March partners started changing how services were delivered to protect both staff and service users. Many organisations supported their service users in a range of very practical ways recognising that lockdown disrupted normal coping techniques. Specialist services developed new ways to engage with service users including greater use of technology and video calls.

FVAWP worked with partners to prepare public facing information, linking to national campaigns as they became live. The key message was that help was there for anyone who needed it. Websites and social media were the main platforms with partner agencies resharing and tweeting information. Posters were also been distributed to shops. This was helped by national news and awareness of the specific risks.

There was a high level of partnership working across statutory and third sector organisations, with services being flexible and supportive of each other.

### **Most of this annual report predates Covid -19 - What have we done?**

**High Quality Sustainable Services** are key to delivering on this priority and keeping women and children safe. VAW Specialist Services and partners in the voluntary sector are key to maximising the safety and wellbeing of victims / survivors. Good partnership working across voluntary and statutory services has continued. There are a range of specialist services within Fife, working closely together to help individuals get the best person-centre service, depending on whether for example they need intensive support / 1:1 support / groupwork / court support / counselling and, or befriending. Agencies signpost to each other and support the delivery of the most appropriate services.

2019-20 saw a mix of positive funding applications alongside resource challenges for local specialist services. Third sector partners demonstrated flexibility and imagination in addressing the demand for their services, but that did not stop some waiting lists reaching unacceptable levels, particularly for recovery and counselling services and the ultimate decision to close some waiting lists earlier in the year.

FVAWP Executive has been very aware of the challenges in supporting individuals with additional vulnerabilities including trauma, mental health and substance misuse. Partner agencies work with victims and survivors of violence against women who have additional challenges linked to protected characteristics daily. Services attempt to be responsive to individual needs. Partner agencies link with Fife Trauma network.

Army welfare services are working in partnership with us locally including sharing information at MARAC to protect highest risk victims of domestic abuse.

### **Rape and Sexual Assault Services**

The Fife Suite was operational from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 providing a holistic, person-centered service. A victim of sexual assault undergoing a forensic examination now:

- attends a healthcare, rather than police setting;

- has a nurse chaperone for support during examination;
- is offered ongoing care in the days and weeks following their trauma

A short-life working group (NHS, Police and Fife Rape & Sexual Assault Centre) has continued to improve care pathways and processes, ensuring that all individuals receive appropriate sexual health follow up and designated support and counselling for 12 weeks from the specialist nurses and from our 3<sup>rd</sup> party agency partners if required.

## Support and Recovery Services for Children and Young People

There are a range of support and recovery services for children and young people, including Fife Women's Aid and Cedar+ who work together closely to best meet the needs of children impacted by domestic abuse. Cedar could not function without the support of partner agencies and we hugely appreciate the opportunity to work with facilitators from a range of services sharing their expertise.

Survivors of Sexual Violence are supported by specialist young people's workers based in KASP and FRASAC.

## Learning and Development

Fife VAWP offered a comprehensive multi-agency training programme covering a range of violence against women issues, supported by specialist services at no cost to the participant or their organisation. FVAWP training programme was widely promoted, well evaluated and significant numbers of staff attended. There were 27 separate training opportunities attended by 513 participants. In addition, there was single agency training. Some training was targeted at particular staff groups and inputs varied from 2 hours to a full day (see appendix 2). The high standard of training could not be delivered without the contribution of staff from partner organisations. There is a high level of satisfaction with attendees identifying:

- an increase in understanding of the issues
- improved knowledge of good practice
- increase in knowledge of services and resources

*"I found all the activities informative. Listening to other's experiences. Excellent training"*

*"It has given me a bit more confidence that I have the skills + qualities necessary to sit with clients who disclose sexual abuse."*

*"I found the mini MARAC seminar very useful and helped put everything I learned in the morning session into place. There was no part of the day I didn't find not useful."*

*"I liked the mixture of groupwork and talking. Good mixture of activities to hold interest. Very informative. I also appreciated the mixture of different job roles at the tables so that everyone had a different approach. This was well organised prior to our arrival"*

*"[I will] have a more considered approach when dealing with people who have possibly been trafficked eg. considering repercussions of immediate response."*

*"All of the training was very useful, especially the part about perpetrators - also the models/tools ie 'the guilt & shame bit' & the 3 planets as I have never heard of those before and can use them in my work".*

FVAWP is promoting the Safe and Together model for working with domestic abuse cases involving children. The principles are incorporated into Good Practice Guide – Domestic Abuse and the Protection of Children and all FVAWP domestic abuse training, and Social Work services are investing in training all children and families and criminal justice social workers with a 3 year rollout programme agreed. In the last year a further 67 participants completed the 4 Day Core Training.

- Keeping children safe and together with the non-abusing parent

- Partnering with the non-offending parent as the default position
- Intervening with perpetrators to reduce risk of harm to the child

100% of participants found the training relevant to their job role and demands and the content thought-provoking:

*“I was provided with additional tools and practice examples to bring to my day-to-day work.”*

*“... I will be able to use the principles of safe and together to change how I advise people in their assessments and child plans.”*

*“All of trainers were knowledgeable and provided good practice examples.”*

Partners also deliver additional training that has not been captured by FVAWP, eg Foster Care training by Kingdom Abuse Survivors Project and Fife Rape and Sexual Assault Centre.

FVAWP is looking at how it can continue to offer learning opportunities to staff within the limitations of Covid-19.

## **NHS Routine Enquiry**

The Gender Based Violence Nurse Advisory Service delivered several training sessions to increase awareness and support routine enquiry. 215 participants took part including new NHS Fife employees and bank staff, across a variety of different settings.

**Fife Housing Partnership** has continued to improve the housing journey for women experiencing domestic abuse, based on women’s feedback. Fife continues to be a pilot project funded by the Scottish Govt participating nationally with Scottish Women’s Aid and the Chartered Institute in Housing to develop good practice and seek national solutions. A Prevention of Homelessness Fund supported women who had to be rehoused as a result of domestic abuse.

**MARAC Fife – (multi-agency risk assessment conferencing)** is a process for highest risk domestic abuse cases to safeguard adult victims; make links with other public protection arrangements in relation to children, perpetrators and vulnerable adults; safeguard agency staff and address the behaviour of the perpetrator.

There were 778 referrals to MARAC, of these:

- 437 cases (56%) were discussed by partners at MARAC and independent MARAC advocacy offered (including 421 women)
- 195 (25%) were referred to MARAC independent advocacy for further risk assessment, safety planning, signposting to appropriate services and support
- 146 (19%) support and services continued without MARAC co-ordination

92% of the cases discussed were first time referrals. While referrals are for the adult victim, there were also 451 children discussed.

Immediately before and after separation are known to be times of particular high risk, **19% of MARAC victims report stalking**. Pregnancy and a recent birth increase the risk and vulnerability of a mother and baby, **23 women identified as pregnant**. **A weapon was used in 32%** of cases.

**Substance misuse is not a cause nor an excuse** for domestic abuse, however can increase risk when the victim and/or the perpetrator are misusing alcohol or drugs. Substance misuse was noted for **30% of victims and 62% of perpetrators**.

Domestic abuse is about coercive control, misuse of power and emotional abuse often leading to type 2 trauma **64% of victims** were identified with some mental health concern including anxiety and depression.

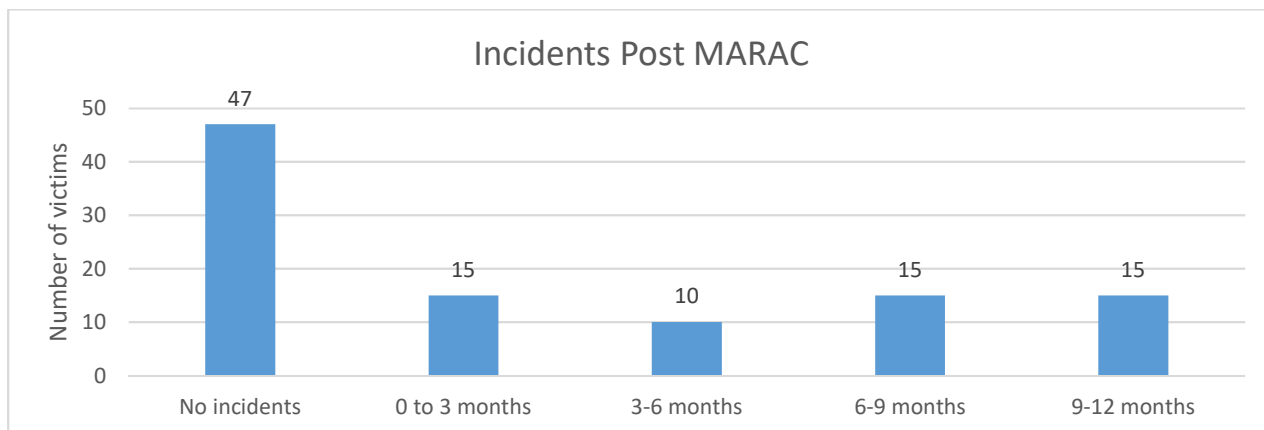
At the MARAC meeting, partners share information about immediate risk to the victim, any children & third parties and identify what their service can do to reduce risk. In the course of the last year **2040** tasks were identified.

## MARAC Outcomes

### 1. Reduced Repeat Victimisation

Cases discussed at MARAC are complex and often escalating. In many cases domestic abuse will have been present for some time, involving numerous incidents prior to MARAC referral. All individuals discussed at MARAC have been assessed as being at very high risk of repeat victimisation.

In a random sample of 102 cases, 46% of victims reported no further incidents to the police in the 12 months following the MARAC. Some of the most challenging cases involve victims who services have found difficult to engage with and may either fail to recognise or minimise the risk.



Depending on the nature of the incident it *can* be positive to see reports immediately following MARAC. It is anecdotally the case, that post MARAC some victims are more likely to report breaches of bail. 69% of incidents reported in the 0-3 month period related to either breaches of bail or “no crime” was identified.

### 2. Victims Feeling Safer

MARAC cannot address all safety concerns, it can take time for the perpetrator to stop harassing, stalking and abusing - the following feedback was received from 64 evaluations undertaken at the time the woman left the specialist MARAC advocacy/support service. Additionally, women reported increased confidence (74%), more able to talk about their feelings (82%) and more able to identify support needs (89%):

Safer:	Better	No Change	Worse
My safety is	84%	16%	0%
My safety in my home is	81%	19%	0%
My understanding of my safety plan is	81%	18%	2%
My ability to use safety features is	80%	18%	2%



My children's safety is	87%	13%	0%
My safety when I go out is	69%	27%	3%

### 3. Reducing Risk

A wide range of agencies in Fife now use the SafeLives evidence-based risk assessment tool and multi-agency discussion focusses on reducing risk to victims, children and third parties. The Independent Advocacy Service has been redesigned (combining pre and post MARAC advocacy with case management and support) in response to service user feedback and provides a greater continuity in support. The Independent Advocates ensure all partners are aware of the victim's perspective and that tasking in the Risk Management Plan addresses their needs.

A SafeLives observation of MARAC Fife was undertaken by national MARAC Development Officer who noted the commitment from local partners and a good level of understanding of domestic abuse and dynamics. It was noted that the meeting successfully kept a focus on the perpetrator and risk posed throughout information sharing and action planning.

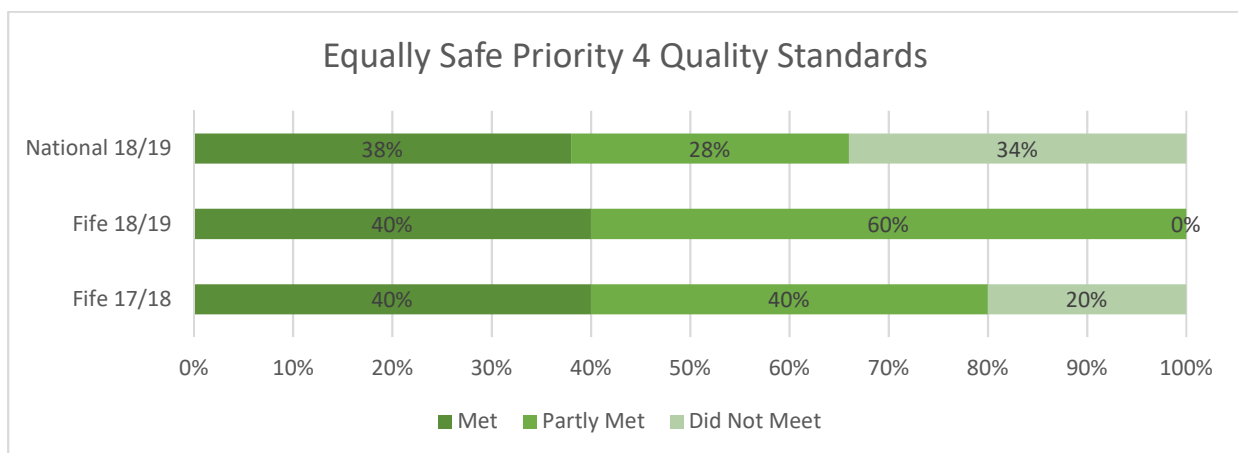
MARAC moved to virtual meetings in March 2020 with a smaller number of partners present for case discussion. All partners continue to engage with the process, share information and take tasks to reduce risk.

**Safe, Secure and Supported at Home** has been supported by Police Scotland (Fife Division) who continued to provide safety and home security advice and deliver equipment as appropriate.

#### Equally Safe Priority 4

**Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response.**

- Justice responses are robust, swift, consistent and co-ordinated
- Men who carry out violence against women and girls are identified early and held to account by the criminal and civil justice system
- Relevant links are made between the experience of women children and young people in the criminal and civil justice system



**What have we done?**

Criminal Justice Social Work has worked to develop the Caledonian System in Fife, an integrated approach to addressing men's domestic abuse to improve the lives of women, children and men. It works with men convicted of domestic abuse related offences to reduce their re-offending while offering integrated services to women and children. The programme uses a strengths-based approach coupled with cognitive behavioural techniques to encourage men to recognise their abuse and take responsibility.

Moving Forward / Making Changes, an intensive group-based treatment programme for sex offenders delivered has continues to be delivered by criminal justice social work.

Groupwork was suspended in March, and the programme is being adapted for 1:2:1 delivery.

Criminal Justice Social Work colleagues have supported the development of a new training course "*Engaging safely with male perpetrators of Domestic Abuse*" which we hope to include in future multi-agency training programmes

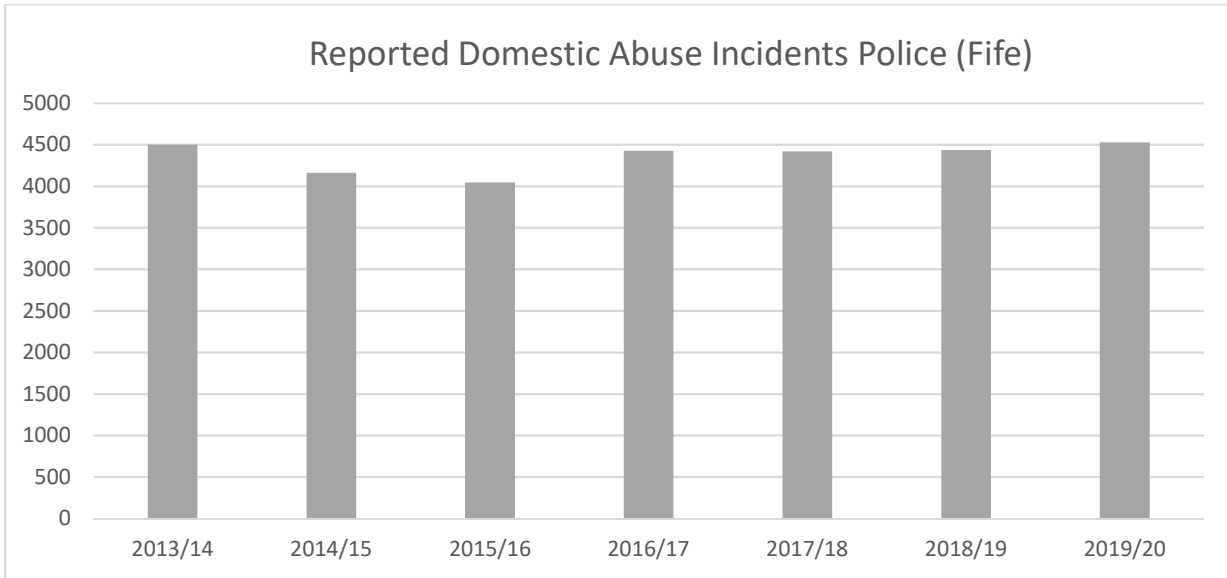
**MATAC** (Multi-Agency Tasking And Co-ordination) is a police led process to share information about perpetrators who present the highest risk to victims, many have abused multiple partners. There have been a number of pro-active investigations progressed by national Domestic Abuse Task Force involving Fife cases, resulting in 110 charges being libelled with 22 victims contacted. One particular case resulted in a 4-year custodial sentence, with a 100 year Non Harassment Order giving victim reassurance and increasing safety measures already in place.

**Court Advocacy** is recognised as important to help victims get justice. Fife Rape and Sexual Assault Centre and Fife Women's Aid have specialist staff to support witnesses alongside the services of Victim Support Witness Service

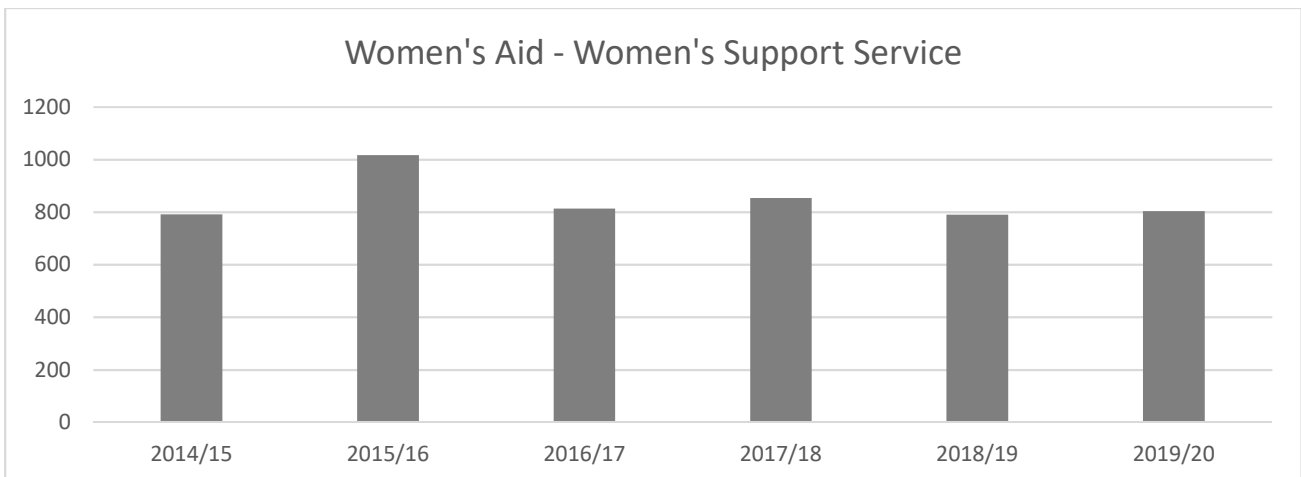
## Demand for Services – Partners Data returns 2019/20

### Domestic Abuse

Police Scotland (Fife Division) recorded **4525** incidents of domestic abuse with 3349 total crimes and offences. 47.8% of incidents resulted in a crime being recorded. The detection rate is 76%.



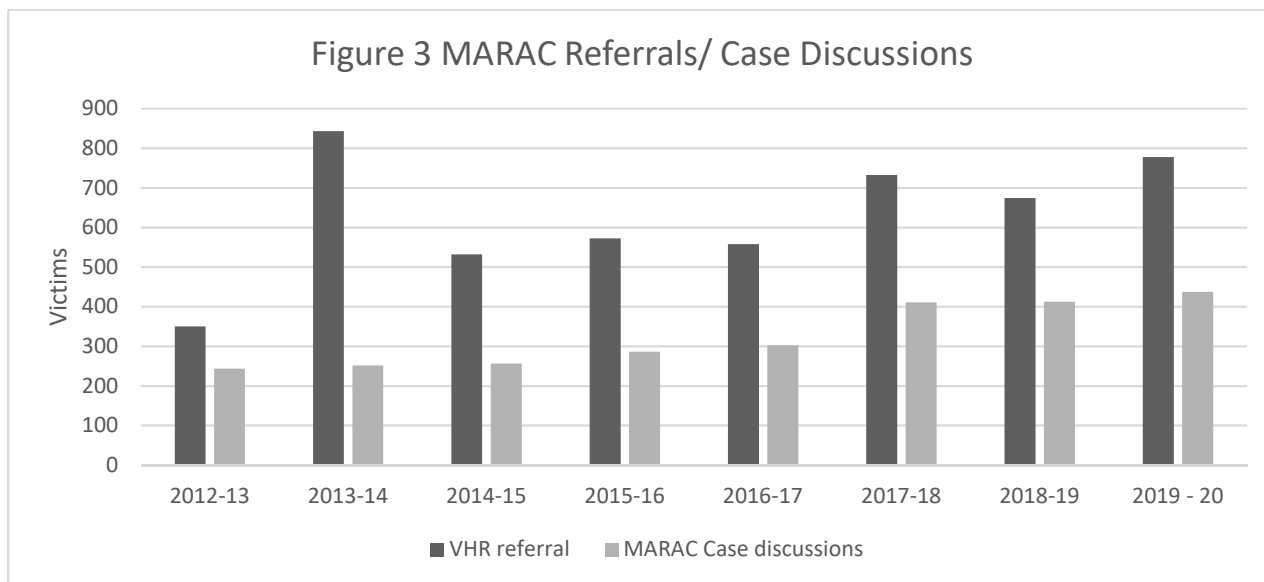
**Fife Women's Aid** received **1594** referrals to their services for women aged 16+ years, including women's support service, refuge, MARAC, counselling, court support, befriending and family support. 804 of these referrals were to the women's support service. 435 children (0-15 years) were supported by FWA children and young people's service. There were 245 refuge requests.



**Shakti Women's Aid** received 21 new referrals 18 of these were for domestic abuse and 3 forced marriage. Throughout the year 40 women were supported. This is a 20% increase on the previous year. It has been challenging to support women with complex needs, insecure immigration issues, and extreme isolation during lockdown.

**Cedar+ Fife** received 196 referrals for children up to 16 years, a slight increase on the previous year. 84 children and 61 mothers attended group with a further 8 mothers / carers supported out with groups.

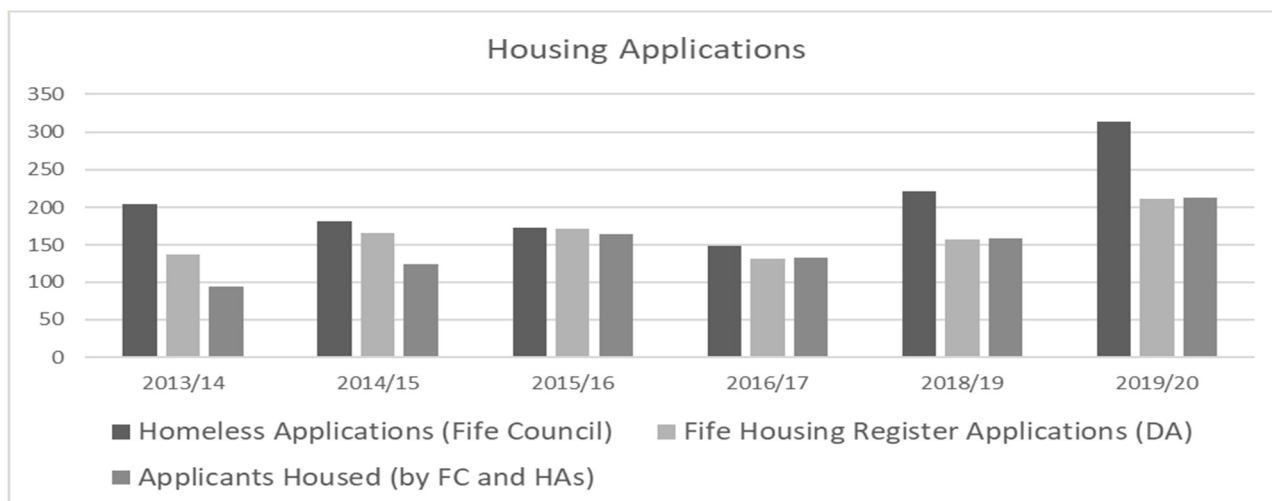
**MARAC Fife**, 778 high risk referrals were received, with 437 cases involving 451 babies / children discussed at a multi-agency meeting. The number of case discussions is determined by capacity with partners committed to hearing up to 18 cases per fortnight. The number of referrals increased by 15%.



**Saje** received **839** referrals. 114 women completed the Freedom Programme and 53 the Toolkit for Life. 60 women accessed monthly Drop-in Cafés, (including in partnership with Link Living). There are 21 volunteers supporting Saje. Programmes were adapted to be inclusive of women with learning disabilities and LBTi women.

## Housing

There has continued to be an increasing demand for housing support both in terms of homeless and permanent accommodation due to domestic abuse. Last year saw 314 homeless applications and 211 housing applications, an increase of 41% and 34% respectively. A total of 213 tenancies were provided, 83% from Fife Council stock.

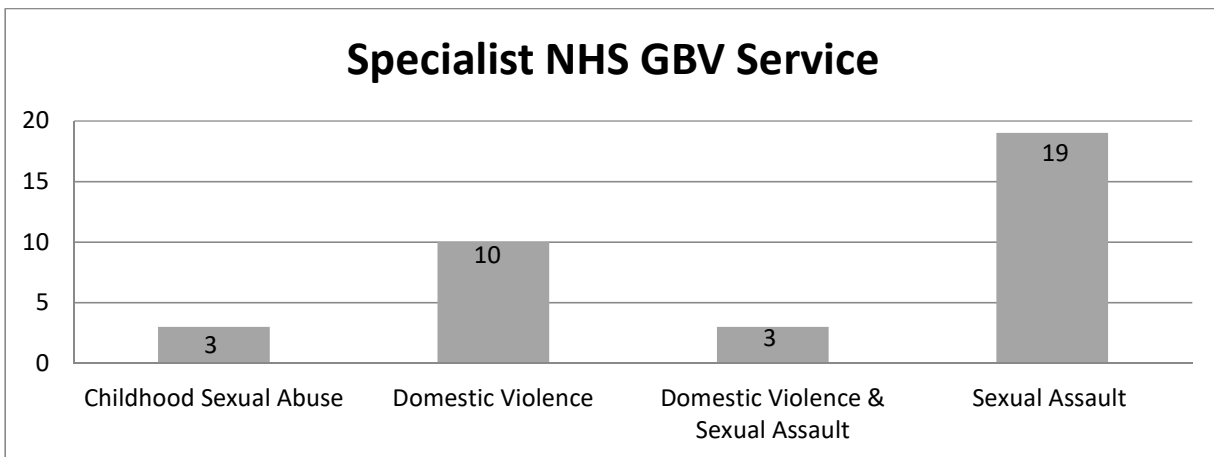


## Criminal Justice

The number of referrals to criminal justice social work for perpetrators of domestic abuse (assault / Breach of the Peace) have increased to 339, 60 went on to participate in a Domestic Abuse Group. 58 men successfully completed group (some started prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019). While this represents a significant increase, it is likely to reflect better identification and recording of domestic abuse offences

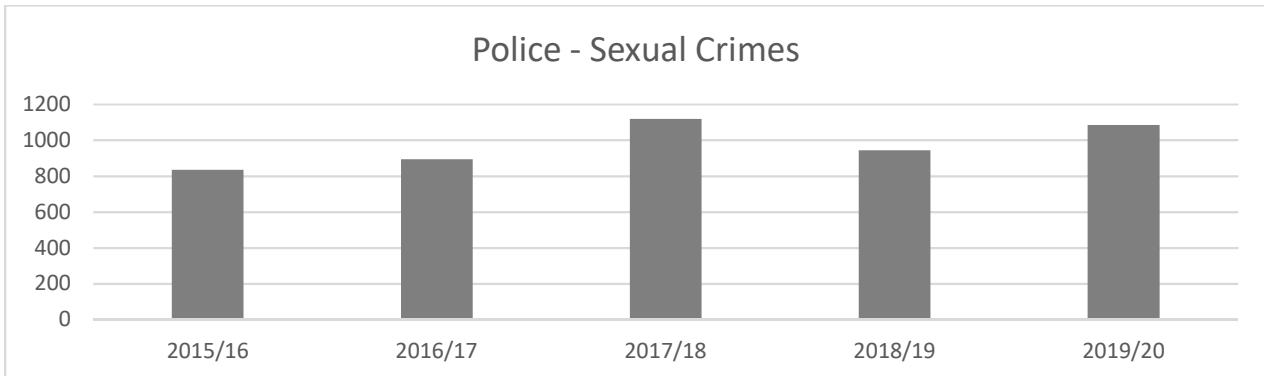


**Specialist NHS Gender Based Violence Service** provided support across a range of areas as follows.



## Sexual Violence / Abuse

Police Scotland (Fife Division) recorded 1085 crimes of “indecenty”<sup>1</sup>,



“Crimes of indecenty” describe a wide range of sexual offending as described in the foot note below including sexual assault and rape. Dedicated resource supports not only the investigation of reported crime but also the pro-active investigation of the history of perpetrators (including previous partners and further criminality). This frequently elicits further recording and investigation of domestic/sexual abuse both non-recent and recent.

### Third Sector Sexual Abuse Agencies received the following number of referrals

- **FRASAC** (Fife Rape and Sexual Assault Centre) received **304** new referrals, a **19%** increase on the previous year,
- **KASP** (Kingdom Abuse Survivor’s Project) received **213** new referrals and
- **Safe Space** received **77** new referrals.

3<sup>rd</sup> sector partners have continued to struggle with waiting lists, providing thousands of hours of support to survivors to help them cope with their experiences of abuse and violence.

### Criminal Justice Social Work

There were 111 referrals to criminal justice social work as a result of sexual offending. The programme focusses on reducing risk of further sexual offending.

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<sup>1</sup> Rape/ Having Intercourse with an Older Child, Sexual Assault by Penetration, Engaging in penetrative sexual activity with or towards an older child, Sexual Assault, Engaging in sexual activity with or towards an older child, Sexual Coercion, Causing a Young Child/Older Child to Participate in a Sexual Activity, Coercing/ Causing a Person/Young Child/Older Child to be Present During a Sexual Activity, Coercing /Causing a Person/Young Child/Older Child to Look at a Sexual Image, Communicating Indecently, Causing a Person to See or Hear an Indecent Communication, Sexual Exposure, Voyeurism, Administering a Substance for Sexual Purposes, Engaging while an Older Child in Sexual Conduct with or Towards Another Older Child, Engaging while an Older Child in Consensual Sexual Conduct with Another Older Child, Sexual Abuse of Trust (Children), Sexual Abuse of Trust of a Mentally Disordered Person

**Appendix 1. Children and Young People's (CYP) Prevention Inputs from FVAWP partners**

<b>Fife Rape and Sexual Assault Centre</b>						
<b>Education Establishment</b>	<b>Topics covered</b>	<b>No of events</b>	<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Number of CYP</b>
Dunfermline, Balwearie, Lochgelly, Bridges Centre, Kirkcaldy, Viewforth, Madras, Woodmill, Beath, Waid Academy	Consent	54	S1-S2	1200	1164	2364
	What is Sexual Violence	38				
	social Media	33				
	How can we help prevent sexual violence	8				
	Sexualisation	8				
	Pornography	2				
<b>Total</b>		143		1200	1164	2364
<b>University of St Andrews</b>						
<b>Establishment</b>	<b>Topics covered</b>	<b>Year Group</b>		<b>Number</b>		
University of St Andrews	Consent, Sexual Violence and Bystander Intervention	16-25		Approx. 2500-3000 students		
<b>SAJE Scotland</b>						
<b>Establishment</b>	<b>Topics covered</b>	<b>Year Group</b>		<b>Number</b>		
Dunfermline HS	Relationship abuse: healthy and unhealthy relationships. What to do if you recognise warning signs	S2		308		
<b>Women's Support Project</b>						
<b>Establishment</b>	<b>Topics covered</b>	<b>Year Group</b>		<b>Number</b>		
Fife College	Commercial Sexual Exploitation	HNC		12		
<b>NSPCC "Speak Out Stay Safe" programme</b>						
<b>Establishment</b>	<b>Topics covered</b>	<b>Year Group</b>		<b>Number</b>		
68 primary schools	Physical, Emotional, Sexual abuse/Neglect/Bullying/Trusted adults/Childline	P1-P7		Around 14800 children		
<b>Fife Women's Aid</b>						
<b>Establishment</b>	<b>Topics covered</b>	<b>Year Group</b>		<b>Number</b>		
Fife College - ** Health and Wellbeing event.	Domestic abuse stall	Students		Not known		
Nursery	Domestic abuse	Teaching Staff		48		

<b>Appendix 2 Training Delivered by FVAWP partners 2019-20</b>	<b>Number of courses</b>	<b>Attendees</b>	<b>% satisfaction overall</b>	<b>Improved understanding of the issues (%)</b>	<b>Highlighted good practice (%)</b>	<b>Increased knowledge of services / resources (%)</b>
Domestic Abuse and Protection of Children	5	99	91	92	92	89
Domestic Abuse - What you need to know?	3	55	92	90	93	92
MARAC - Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferencing	3	106	93	93	93	93
Impact of Domestic Abuse in the Early Years	1	22	91	91	91	90
Safe and Together (4-day training) –	4	67				
Understanding Rape and Sexual Assault (FRASAC)	2	19	92	93	90	92
See Me Not My Mask (KASP)	3	31	91	93	93	89
Understanding Men & Boys experiences of Rape & Sexual Assault (FRASAC)	1	14	91	89	93	91
Working with Male Victims of Domestic Abuse	1	7	98	98	98	98
ZT Under Pressure training (training for trainers)	2	13	98	100	100	94
Human Trafficking and Exploitation in Scotland	2	33	87	86	85	90
Domestic Abuse Champions (Police Scotland)		47				
<b>Annual total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>513</b>				



Abbreviations used in report

Cedar+	Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse Recovery
CLD	Community Learning and Development
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FRASAC	Fife Rape and Sexual Assault Centre
FWA	Fife Women's Aid
KASP	Kingdom Abuse Survivors Project
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferencing
VAW/VAWG	Violence Against Women/Violence Against Women and Girls
WHIR	Women's Health Initiative Research
WR	White Ribbon

**Violence Against Women  
Action Plan 2019-22  
(revised December 2020)**



## Introduction

This document supplements Fife VAW Partnership's Shared Understanding. An Action plan was agreed in 2019 following a development session that reviewed priorities in Fife alongside national priorities identified within [Equally Safe - Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls](#). FVAWP action plan is structured round the 4 priorities identified within Equally Safe.

Throughout 2020, Covid-19 has hugely impacted on those with lived experience of violence against women and the way services have been offered. In recognition of the particular risks for women and children the Scottish Government, CoSLA, Public Health Scotland and the Improvement Service published [Covid-19 Supplementary VAW Guidance](#) in June 2020 and an updated version in September 2020. This Guidance recognises:

*The COVID-19 pandemic has, and will continue to, place women, children and young people experiencing all forms of VAWG at increased risk of harm for the foreseeable future. This includes women and children experiencing domestic abuse, rape and sexual assault, commercial sexual exploitation (CSE), trafficking, forced marriage and female genital mutilation. This is due to a number of factors including (but not limited to):*

- *women, children and young people having less opportunity to seek support from their normal social networks such as friends and family while restrictions are in place;*
- *a perception that both universal and specialist services are under pressure creating a reluctance to seek support;*
- *perpetrators of VAWG potentially using COVID-19 social restrictions as an additional tool of exerting control, abuse and exploitation;*
- *increased financial challenges and dependencies if women are not able to work due to redundancy,*
- *caring responsibilities,*
- *illness or other factors.*

The Guidance identifies a range of specific increased risks:

1. During periods of lockdown and other social restrictions
2. During recovery and renewal planning
3. As partners build back better

The guidance also identifies 25 actions that local partners should consider to mitigate against those risks. FVAWP has considered the first 20 actions that are identified in phases 1 and 2 above. These have been incorporated into our action plan (with the numbers prefixed by SG = supplementary guidance and colour coded as follows:

[SG 1 to 10 - during periods of lockdown and other social restrictions,](#)

[SG 11 to 20 - during recovery and renewal planning.](#)

Some link closely to actions already in our action plan, others are additional.

## Equally Safe Priority 1 - Scottish society embraces equality and mutual respect and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls

- a. Positive gender roles are promoted
- b. People enjoy healthy positive relationships
- c. Children and young people develop an understanding of safe, healthy and positive relationships from an early age
- d. Individuals and communities recognise and challenge violent and abusive behaviour



Planned Activity	Key actions	Lead	Timescale/ Progress
<p>1.1 Work in partnership with schools, colleges and university to raise awareness of all forms of VAWG, aligning to Scottish Government led strategies and pilot projects.</p> <p>Ensure a strong focus on prevention including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• raising awareness of positive healthy relationships</li> <li>• supporting children and young people to identify 'unhealthy relationships' at an early stage.</li> </ul>	<p>Develop a primary prevention strategy to raise awareness of gender-based violence and support the delivery of inputs across schools aligned to Curriculum for Excellence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early years</li> <li>• Primary schools</li> <li>• Secondary schools</li> </ul> <p>University of St Andrews to work with partners to raise awareness of VAWG focusing on prevention including Mentors in Violence Programme</p> <p>FVAWP to support this prevention work, recognising the key role of specialist services.</p>	<p>Education Service / Prevention WG</p> <p>University of St Andrews</p> <p>FVAWP L&amp;D officer and specialist partners</p>	<p><b>Complete</b></p> <p>ongoing</p> <p>ongoing</p>
<p>1.2 Work in partnership with youth work groups to ensure a consistent approach to raising awareness and tackling tolerance of VAWG</p>	<p>Identify priority groups of children and young people to learn about healthy relationships and those who need additional support to cope with the impact of Covid and VAW</p>	<p>FVAWP / CLD</p>	<p>ongoing</p>
<p>1.3 Engage with the local community to raise awareness of Violence Against Women, the causes and consequences and the role they can play in tackling it</p>	<p>Link with national prevention campaigns such as 16 days</p> <p>FVAWP to promote services and where to get help (see priority 3, action 8 and priority 2, action 19)</p>	<p>Communication Service / FVAWP team &amp; partners</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>



Planned Activity	Key actions	Lead	Timescale
2.4 Ensure women and children with lived experience of VAWG are able to support and shape future work being taken forward by Fife VAW Partnership, including those who may find standard consultation / engagement difficult.	Service user consultation  WHIR (women's health improvement research) service user group to comment on changes to Housing policy and procedures	FVAWP and Specialist agencies	2022  2022
SG1. Ensure Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessments are undertaken when developing any new policies/ responses to COVID-19, to reduce any unintended negative consequences to WCYP experiencing VAWG and ensure they meet the specific needs of people with protected characteristics	EqIAs undertaken in line with the public sector equality duty.  SEG to highlight impact of Covid-19 on women children and young people experiencing VAWG and share Supplementary guidance.	SEG	2022
SG11. Undertake local strategic needs assessments to understand the impact the pandemic has had on women, children and young people experiencing VAWG and ensure this learning is used to shape local recovery and renewal plans	Share and discuss supplementary guidance with Community Managers to support local partnership recovery and renewal plans	FVAWP / Community Managers	2021
SG12. Ensure specific risks to women and children affected by VAWG are included in relevant integrated risk registers being developed by relevant Chief Officer Groups (COGs) to support wider recovery and renewal planning	VAWG data to be shared with COPSG  Share and highlight Supplementary Guidance with COPSG.  Highlight Supplementary Guidance to those redrafting Plan 4 Fife	FVAWP / COPSG/ Fife Partnership	
SG20. Ensure that the inequality of outcomes that women have experienced during the pandemic are recognised and addressed in local recovery and renewal strategies, as well as in specific strategies relating to employability and economic recovery and poverty and welfare	Revised Equality and Diversity Scheme to reflect impact of Covid -19 including identifying inequality of outcome and disadvantage on women, children and young people.  Share and highlight Supplementary Guidance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities Fife Partnership</li> <li>• Community Managers</li> <li>• Communities and Wellbeing Partnership</li> <li>• Child Poverty Group</li> </ul>	SEG / FVAWP	

**Equally Safe Priority 3 - Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising safety and wellbeing of women, children and young people**

- a. Justice responses are robust, swift, consistent and co-ordinated
- b. Women, children and young people access relevant, effective and integrated services
- c. Service providers competently identify violence against women and girls and respond effectively to women, children and young people affected

Planned Activity	Key actions	Lead	Timescale
<p>3.1 Improve funding arrangements for VAW services to ensure high quality, sustainable services are available locally for women and children affected by all forms of VAWG</p> <p>SG6. Consider how to support and enhance capacity of specialist services. Wherever possible, this will include ensuring that any local funding and contractual expectations are flexible to support service delivery and the changing needs of WCYP</p> <p>SG17. Work in partnership with specialist VAWG services and universal services to identify anticipated levels of demand for crisis, recovery and other support in the coming year, and ensure resources are available to meet these.</p> <p>SG18. Explore opportunities to lever additional resources to support systems and services to respond to increased levels of demand.</p>	<p>Regular reports to FVAWP Executive to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trends</li> <li>• Waiting Lists</li> <li>• Alternative delivery methods</li> </ul> <p>Continue to consider resources at FVAWP Executive meetings, working together within funding constraints</p>	<p>FVAWP Executive</p>	<p>Quarterly</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>3.2 Develop new pathways with psychological services for women and children affected by violence against women</p> <p>SG15. Ensure local workforces have capacity and capability to provide trauma-informed support and services for all WCYP who require it.</p>	<p>Develop care pathways to meet national standards for forensic examination for sexual assault</p> <p>Work with Fife Trauma Network and Psychological Services to ensure appropriate supports for survivors of violence against women</p> <p>NES trauma e-learning to be included in FVAWP training programme</p>	<p>Forensic Examination Short Life WG</p> <p>Trauma Network</p>	<p><b>Complete</b></p> <p>2022</p>
<p>3.3 Work towards national standards for forensic examination for sexual assault</p>	<p>Continue to develop services and health pathways for adult survivors of sexual assault with regular review and incorporating the views of victims / survivors.</p>	<p>Forensic Examination Short Life WG</p>	<p>2022</p>

Planned Activity	Key actions	Lead	Timescale
<p>3.4 Review support for women and children with additional vulnerabilities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• trauma,</li> <li>• substance misuse and</li> <li>• mental health</li> <li>• military community</li> <li>• learning disability</li> </ul>	<p>FVAWP (including MARAC leads) to work with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP)</li> <li>• Trauma network</li> <li>• MOD</li> </ul> <p>to ensure appropriate services are accessible and meet service users' needs.</p>	<p>Trauma network / ADP/ FVAWP/ MARAC/ MOD</p>	<p>2022</p>
<p>3.5 Review and maintain support &amp; recovery services available for <b>children</b> affected by VAWG</p> <p><i>SG4. Work in partnership with specialist VAWG services to ensure that robust pathways are in place to identify children and young people experiencing domestic abuse and other forms of VAWG and that they are able to access spaces at ELC and Education Hubs where possible, during periods when schools and nurseries are closed</i></p> <p><i>SG14. Work in partnership with specialist VAWG services to ensure the needs of children experiencing domestic abuse are prioritised as part of recovery strategies being developed by Children Services and Education teams</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people's sexual abuse support services 12+ years at FRASAC</li> <li>• Seafield Project</li> <li>• Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)</li> <li>• Fife Women's Aid Children and Young people's services</li> <li>• CEDAR+ (Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse Recovery including Early Years)</li> </ul> <p>MARAC to identify and refer children and young people. Health, Social Work and Education work in partnership to identify children at risk (including all children on the child protection register) Develop mechanism for specialist services to refer to Education Hubs</p> <p>Share and discuss supplementary guidance with Community Managers for consideration at Multi-Disciplinary Teams</p> <p>Share with Education Managers</p>	<p>FVAWP / CPC</p> <p>Education Service</p> <p>Community Managers</p> <p>Education Service</p>	<p>2020 / ongoing</p>
<p>3.6 Continue to review and deliver training opportunities, responding to FVAWP priorities</p>	<p>Develop a FVAWP multi-agency training framework identifying e-learning and virtual training opportunities.</p>	<p>FVAWP L&amp;D and specialist providers</p>	<p>2109 -22</p>



Planned Activity	Key actions	Lead	Timescale
	FVAWP training programme to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote Safe &amp; Together principles</li> <li>• highlight the impact of VAW on trauma</li> <li>• highlight stalking and coercive control</li> </ul> Rollout Safe and Together core training to Social Work (Children and Families and Criminal Justice)	FVAWP / CPC / Workforce Development	2022
3.7 NHS to review training and routine enquiry within healthcare settings	Develop an improvement plan to increase the use of routine enquiry in the priority areas as set out in CEL	NHS Fife	2020
3.8 Review options to provide quality, safe, secure and accessible accommodation that meets the needs of women, children and young people affected by VAWG  <a href="#">SG3. Develop a COVID-19 domestic abuse housing policy based on good practice guidance</a>	Fife Housing Partnership (FHP) Project to deliver on <i>Improving the Way We Work</i> action plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a Prevention of Homelessness Fund to support women to access and retain settled accommodation</li> <li>• Continue to develop the Housing Options Pathway for women experiencing domestic abuse</li> <li>• Develop multi-agency case working model for women who wish to retain settled accommodation</li> </ul> Each landlord to develop their own tenancy management policy based on revised Fife Housing Register Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Protocol	Housing Service	2022
3.9 MARAC – multi-agency risk assessment conferencing  <a href="#">SG2. Ensure MARACs continue to function to identify and enable safety plans to be put in place for WCYP at greatest risk of harm</a>	Develop and work to the 10 principles of an effective MARAC. Continue MARAC with revised processes to reflect Covid restrictions Undertake review / audit of MARAC	MARAC Strategic Oversight Group	Ongoing
3.10 Continue to deliver Safe Secure and Supported at Home (SS&S@H) services	Identify resources to continue project beyond November 2019  Co-ordinate delivery of:	FVAWP/ FWA/ Fife Cares/ Fife Housing Services/	<b>Complete</b>  2020 and

Planned Activity	Key actions	Lead	Timescale
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Befriending</li> <li>• Home security advice and equipment</li> <li>• Police alarms</li> <li>• Housing advice and support</li> </ul>	Police Scotland	ongoing
3.11 Cross reference learning from local and national case reviews relating to both children and adults relating to violence against women and children (including child sexual exploitation)	Learning from case reviews to be shared with FVAWP partners	FVAWP Executive / Fife CPC	As appropriate
SG 5. Develop a strategy for effective multi-agency communication & data sharing to capture both quantitative and qualitative evidence on the impact of COVID-19 on women, children and young people.	Quarterly FVAWP Covid-19 Specialist Services Report to be considered by FVAWP Executive to include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trends</li> <li>• Waiting Lists</li> <li>• Alternative delivery methods</li> </ul>	All	Quarterly
SG 7. Encourage community planning partners to work together to ensure a consistent approach to meeting the needs of WCYP, particularly in adult protection, child protection and criminal justice responses.	COPSG to co-ordinate public protection responses including VAW, adult protection, child protection and MAPPA.	FVAWP Executive/ COPSG	
SG 8. Use social media and other communication channels to highlight local services & support available to WCYP and ensure different sectors of the workforce know the role they can play in reducing risks. The use of accessible communication should be promoted wherever possible to ensure that women and children with visual or sensory disabilities, learning difficulties, language barriers or other communication support needs are not excluded.	FVAWP to work with Fife Council Communications Team and FVAWP partners to highlight local services & support and staff know the role they can play in reducing risks. Sharing information to those supporting service users with additional vulnerabilities  Update FVAWP Website	FVAWP / Fife Council Communications Team  FVAWP team	
SG13. Adopt a whole-systems, child-centred approach to working with families experiencing domestic abuse & ensure children are involved in decision making where appropriate.	Core business.	All	

## Equally Safe Priority 4

**Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response.**

- a. Justice responses are robust, swift, consistent and co-ordinated
- b. Men who carry out violence against women and girls are identified early and held to account by the criminal and civil justice system
- c. Relevant links are made between the experience of women children and young people in the criminal and civil justice system

Planned Activity	Key actions	Lead	Timescale
4.1 Identify staff that need training in identifying and engaging with perpetrators (including health visitors & midwives).	Use the Safe and Together model to underpin training to support staff in their role.	FVAWP and individual agencies	2022
	Develop and deliver-multi-agency training to support staff in identifying and responding to perpetrators of domestic abuse appropriately.	FVAWP/ CJSW	2022
4.2 Develop appropriate interventions to engage with, challenge and support change in the behaviour of perpetrators of VAW  SG9. Update risk assessment & management plans for convicted perpetrators & ensure close monitoring of high-risk perpetrators. Where possible, and this can be done safely, intervene directly with perpetrators face-to-face or virtually to support them to change negative behaviours. If not possible, consider other ways of safely engaging to monitor behaviour  SG10. Ensure that criminal justice partners have relevant details of index offences relating to VAWG and information around protective orders (e.g. NHOs) preventing contact with WCYP  SG16. 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.	Convicted perpetrators and high-risk offenders are monitored through MAPPA, engagement with offenders and MATAC	Police Scotland /CJSW	Ongoing
	Safety planning and robust management of offenders  Work with Procurator Fiscal's office to ensure information is shared with criminal justice partners.	Police Scotland /CJSW	Ongoing
	Deliver the Caledonian System on a one to one basis until groupwork can resume  One to one work with perpetrators of domestic abuse	CJSW	Ongoing

Planned Activity	Key actions	Lead	Timescale
	Deliver Moving Forward Making Changes (MFMC) programme (one to one basis) or other appropriate accredited programme  Unpaid work <i>other activity including domestic abuse work</i>		
4.3 Multi-agency Tasking and Co-ordination (MATAC) groups identify high risk domestic abuse perpetrators and hold them to account	Regular MATAC meetings are held with partners, linking with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DSDAS (disclosure scheme domestic abuse scotland) - <b>COMPLETE</b></li> <li>• MARAC</li> </ul>	Police Scotland (Fife)	Ongoing

The following longer-term actions identified within the Supplementary Guidance underpins the work of the Fife Violence Against Women Partnership and our Shared Understanding

**LONG-TERM: AS PARTNERS WORK TO ‘BUILD BACK BETTER’**

**Effects of COVID-19 pandemic response**

- Incidents of VAWG could go undetected/unreported for many months and years
- Economic crisis could exacerbate WCYP’s experiences of VAWG
- Gender inequality could be further entrenched in social and economic systems

**Mitigating actions local authorities and other community planning partners may wish to consider during periods of lockdown and other restrictions**

21. Continue to encourage multi-agency, collaborative working and promote strong engagement with VAW Partnerships at a local, strategic level
22. Ensure a whole-systems, gendered approach to tackling VAWG is embedded as part of wider recovery, renewal and transformation responses
23. Promote commitment to tackling VAWG and gender inequality at a leadership level
24. Ensure there is an emphasis on tackling gender inequality and embedding early intervention and primary prevention approaches in all relevant policy areas
25. Continue to capture both good practice and areas for improvement throughout the pandemic and ensure this learning is used to shape all policy and practice moving forward.

## 17. Guide to Abbreviations Used

ADP	Alcohol & Drug Partnership
CAMHS	Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service
CEDAR	Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse Recovery
CEL	Chief Executives Letter
COPSG	Chief Officers Public Safety Group
CoSLA	Domestic Abuse Awareness Raising Training
CJSW	Criminal Justice Social Work
CLD	Community Learning and Development
CPC	Child Protection Committee
DAART	Domestic Abuse Awareness Raising Training
DSDAS	Disclosure Scheme Domestic Abuse Scotland
ELC	Early Learning Centre
ES	Equally Safe
FHP	Fife Housing Partnership
FRASAC	Fife Rape & Sexual Assault Centre
FWA	Fife Women's Aid
FVAWP	Fife Violence Against Women Partnership
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HR	Human Resources
MAPPA	Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferencing
MATAC	Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordinating
MFMC	Moving Forward Making Changes
MOD	Ministry of Defence
NES	NHS Education Scotland
SG	Scottish Government
SEG	Senior Equalities Group

WCYP	Women, children & young people
WG	Working Group
WHIR	Women's Health Initiative Research

This is a second report building on the experiences of specialist services from April to September 2020. Covid 19 restrictions and the current lockdown continue to significantly impact women and children living with domestic abuse and other forms of violence against women, creating an environment whereby there is increased risk of harm and trauma.

In Fife, partners across statutory and third sectors have developed new and innovative ways to provide services and support those at risk. Organisations have adapted quickly as local and national restrictions varied. Support services are constantly evolving and responding to changing circumstances, working hard to provide support and reduce barriers to accessing services. There continues to be strong partnerships in Fife which are crucial at this time.

Fife Violence Against Women Partnership has reviewed CoSLA and the Scottish Government's *Coronavirus Supplementary Violence Against Women Guidance for local authorities and Community Planning partners* ([updated](#) September 2020) and updated the [FVAWP Action Plan 2019-22](#) to include the additional priorities identified during periods of lockdown and other social restrictions and those for recovery and renewal planning.

There is a real anxiety across local specialist services about managing referrals and expectations in a very uncertain environment. Waiting lists remain high and there is an expectation that there will be an increased need for recovery work when restrictions ease.

Specialist services have provided information on the following:

1. Referral and Trend Information
2. Waiting Lists
3. New Ways of Delivering Services

### **Referrals October to December.**

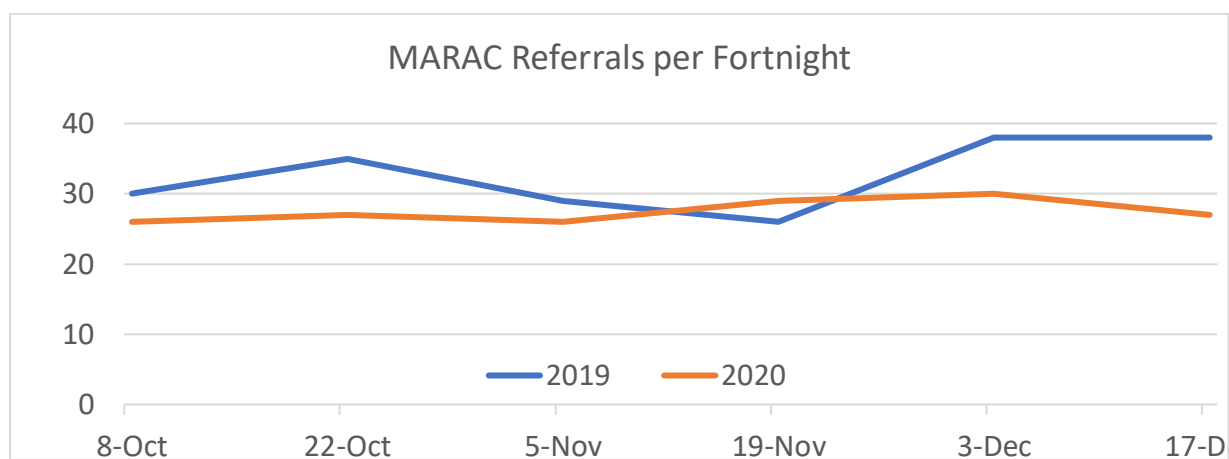
There has been an increase in referrals received for most agencies during October-December 2020 compared to the same time period in 2019. There was particular pressure on some services including Shakti Women's Aid (+75%) and third sector sexual abuse agencies – FRASAC (+11%), Kingdom Abuse Survivor's Project (+27%), and Safe Space (+32%). Some agencies which had seen a reduction in referrals in the first 6 months of lockdown have seen this trend reverse suggesting that those in need are reaching out to services (FRASAC and Safe Space included).

There have been more Fife Women's Aid (FWA) refuge requests (+24%) and Fife Council housing referrals (+22%) due to domestic abuse compared with the same period last year. Fife Council has been working closely with FWA to support women and children who are not safe at home, including providing additional refuge spaces for FWA to manage. 26% of Fife Council housing referrals were marked as 'relationship breakdown violence & abuse'.

SAJE highlight that it is difficult for women who live with abusive partners to attend group since they are now on-line from home. Drop in cafes are increasingly used.

In contrast, the referrals for children’s services including Fife Women’s Aid (-27%) and Cedar Plus (-47%) have significantly reduced. There is concern that agencies might think children’s specialist services aren’t available and restrictions in schools may make it harder for children to get help. Children’s services continue to have high waiting lists and it is expected that the number of new referrals will increase as restrictions ease.

Police Scotland Fife division saw an 8.9% increase in reported domestic abuse incidents from April to December 2020 compared to the same period in 2019 and an increase of 2.8% in domestic crimes and offences.



## Referrals

Agency	Service	Oct-Dec 2019	Oct-Dec 2020	%age Variance
Fife Women’s Aid	refuge requests	53	66	25%
FWA	visiting support	143	119	-17%
FWA	CYP support	54	39	-28%
<b>FWA</b>	<b>total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>-10%</b>
Shakti Women's Aid		20	35	75%
FRASAC		74	82	11%
KASP		78	99	27%
Safe Space		22	29	32%
Saje Scotland		392	290	-26%
Cedar Plus Project		34	18	-47%
Caledonian Team		22	26	18%
NHS Fife	GBV Nursing Service	5	16	220%
Housing	Enhanced interview (DA)	52	66	27%
Housing	Homeless	80	95	19%
<b>Housing</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>22%</b>



## Waiting Lists

Specialist services are sitting with substantial waiting lists, and most have an increase compared to the same period last year. Fife Women's Aid has a 77% increase in their waiting list across their services but this is more acute with a 112% increase for their children and young people's service. This trend is also true for FRASAC (+48%), KASP (+19%), Safe Space (+14%). Some waiting lists have been closed for periods over the last few months. This has impacted on therapeutic and recovery services not crisis support.

Services are adapting the way that they offer support and service users are embracing technology and remote support. Whilst this is helping to manage waiting lists and provide much needed support it isn't suitable for everyone and there are some service users that remain on waiting lists until they can be offered face to face work.

The adaptation of group work programmes such as Cedar to online family work reduces capacity and the number of families who can be supported. Some partners are recruiting volunteers to increase their capacity - however this also has challenges with lockdown impacting on volunteer training and ability to support volunteers - the potential long-term benefits are invaluable.

Shakti Women's Aid sees not only Covid but also Brexit impacting on their workload and the complexity of cases they are supporting. They highlight that the one worker based in Fife is not able to provide long term support to the number of women who are their seeking help.

## Waiting Lists

Agency	Service	Oct-Dec 2019	Oct-Dec 2020	%age Variance
Fife Women's Aid	refuge requests	22	30	36%
FWA	Visiting support	77	133	73%
FWA	CYP support	34	72	112%
<b>FWA</b>	<b>total</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>77%</b>
Shakti Women's Aid		0	0	0
FRASAC		88	130	48%
KASP		73	87	19%
Safe Space		22	25	14%
Cedar Plus		106	73	-31%
Caledonian		0	0	0

## New Methods of Service Delivery

Agencies have adapted and continue to adapt the services that they offer, using a service user led approach and following Scottish Government guidance. There continues to be some face to face work, such as therapeutic counselling, refuge assessments and crisis visits. The biggest change to service provision since Covid is the use of technology and remote support; telephone/online support and virtual groupwork.

Agencies report some service users embracing remote support, it suits some people better and offers more flexible support. Some agencies will continue to incorporate this into their services beyond Covid restrictions.

*“Partnership work has been the main reason for success during this pandemic. We have successfully strengthened our existing partnerships and, build-up new relationships with some local charities to provide support to our women in crisis”. Shakti Women’s Aid*

*“We are shocked at how staff, volunteers and service users have embraced remote support and will merge this into our current service provision when restrictions are removed”.*

FRASAC

*“We have continued to deliver our counselling service in the normal way - clients have been very clear that trauma counselling needs face to face due to the very nature of the work involved”.*

Safe Space

*“I have carried out numerous “walk and talk” meetings and now WhatsApp Video calling. The walk and talks worked well. The women I worked with really appreciated it as some of them were really struggling with the lockdown. Some felt it better to do face to face as opposed to telephone contact”*

Caledonian

*“Housing are working closely with Social Work, Women’s Aid and other agencies in helping women and children to have a safe secure home. This includes sustaining tenancies by offering to store personal items until they are housed and using the Prevention of Homelessness Fund to assist with basic household items.”*

Housing

*We delivered packs to families in refuge in order that mum and children could interact and do activities with each other. The packs included games, plant growing etc. The children and young people’s groupwork via Google Classroom has been successful and the children who used this platform appeared to enjoy it.*

Fife Women’s Aid

*“Most report feeling well supported despite all service delivery moving to telephone only contact. It has, however, made it more challenging to remain in contact with the most vulnerable who are often homeless and without phone access.”* NHS Fife GBV Team

For other services like Police Scotland have seen no change in their practice or how domestic abuse incidents are dealt with.

**There are challenges for staff working from home including:**

- very practical issues like space to work without interruption
- maintaining boundaries of work and homelife
- working with abuse and trauma within your own home on a daily basis over a period of months
- less opportunity for peer support
- management and supervision are more remote.
- learning to support service users remotely with more limited visual cues

## Challenges for service users

- access to technology
- missing face to face contact
- isolation
- maintaining boundaries (disclosing very painful traumatic events while sitting in own home)
- safety and confidentiality
- some clients find virtual sessions far less effective

## Service Users Feedback

Feedback from service users has been positive and with the hard work of staff recognised - providing services at a challenging time, yet achieving positive outcomes.

*'The worker is the first person I've ever seen connecting with my daughter. She has learning difficulties and often gets overlooked as not interested. The worker managed to engage her and explain things in a way that she understood them. That's never happened before. She says she's now ready to move on from our experiences.'* FWA, CYP service

*'My worker never gave up on me, even when things were really bad. I knew she cared, like really cared and that helped. It felt like she saw all of me.'* FWA, Women's Service

*'The support I've had has been amazing. When my ex found out where I was I was worried I'd lose my place in refuge but my worker helped me to move to another refuge and work out my finances and childcare.'* FWA refuge service

*'I look forward to our weekly chats to download' and 'I'm glad we've been able to keep up our calls'...(referring to Whats App video calls).* FRASAC, service user feedback

*I want to Express my huge gratitude to Shakti Women's Aid from all the women you help.*

Shakti Women's Aid, service user

*I have enjoyed the session and although some things were difficult or sad it has made a big difference to how (my child) and I are together. I am grateful to have been on this journey with (my child).'* Cedar Mother

*"KASP has sustained and supported me through a terrible time. It has made me look at my life and myself within that and also significant relationships. It has supported me in overwhelming grief."* Survivor

*"The service has not only helped me but it has helped my family. My communication with my family has improved and overall we have overcome my "demons" together."* Survivor

*'I felt really supported with lots of things that were happening in my life when nobody else seemed to be listening to me.'* NHS Fife GBV Team, Service User

*".....to have continued support from the amazing women that run SAJE and also the women that are in the same position is myself has been incredibly uplifting"* Service User

## **Conclusions**

Services are working together to respond to the needs of women and children impacted by domestic abuse, sexual violence and trauma. Crisis support continues to be available.

Services are working very flexibly to respond to the needs of victims and survivors. There is an anxiety across some services about the size of their waiting lists. Some service users really need the opportunity for face to face therapeutic work, others have adapted well to virtual support. No one size fits all.

## Housing Transfer Policy - Review of the Transfer Incentive Scheme

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Report by: John Mills, Head of Housing Services

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Wards Affected: All

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### Purpose

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The purpose of this report is to propose changes to the Transfer Incentive Scheme (TIS) in support of the Housing Access Recovery Plan's approach to adopt a Transfer Led approach to Housing Allocations. The TIS was originally introduced in 2007/08 to incentivise moves for households under-occupying tenancies, help tenants with particular needs access the most suitable forms of housing, increase opportunities for all housing applicants and make best use of stock. This report proposes that, following a review of the scheme, there are measures which could enhance tenant mobility and options to progress this approach.

### Recommendation(s)

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It is recommended that Committee:

1. Considers the outcome of the Officers' review outlined in this report
2. Notes that the Head of Housing, in consultation with the Committee Convener has taken action in 2020/21 to enhance the budget for the TIS scheme to support the Housing Access Recovery Plan. This revised budget will continue to be available in 2021/22.
3. Agrees that following final consultation with the Fife Tenants' Forum, the revised TIS scheme will be implemented by April 2021.
4. Agree that Housing Services and Communications actively promote the TIS scheme to ensure tenants under occupying larger council homes are aware of the scheme, and that we will assist them with a broader range of housing options and incentives to downsize.

### Resource Implications

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The TIS operates within current HRA resources, the review highlights the potential to increase budget in 2021/22 to improve opportunities to promote tenant mobility and meet housing need across Fife.

### Legal & Risk Implications

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There are no legal or risk implications arising directly from this report

### Impact Assessment

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An EqIA has not been completed as there is no change to Council Policy.

If agreed by Committee, a range of organisations will be consulted about the implementation of the revised Scheme through the Fife Tenants Forum.

## 1.0 Background

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- 1.1 The TIS is aimed at council transfer tenants who are in larger properties to promote downsizing and maximise housing opportunity for all customer groups through the effective management and recycling of empty properties. As part of the Covid-19 response, targeted support has been provided to priority needs groups to assist families to move into new homes and it is anticipated that this will lead to more sustainable tenancies and it is expected that an enhanced TIS would enable similar outcomes.
- 1.2 Alongside the TIS, there are existing mechanisms within the Allocations and Transfer Policies that can be used to free up larger/family type accommodation, such as the use of officers' discretion through the award of management points. These are largely used to address under-occupation within council housing and enable access to housing with adaptations or special needs. The scheme operates relatively flexibly, is locally managed, and is designed to free up housing within low turnover and high demand areas.
- 1.3 Based on information held on Fife Housing Register, there are currently 382 properties within Fife which are under occupied, 166 of these are under occupied by 2 or more bedrooms. These figures are based on an analysis of the Housing Management Information system dated February 2021.
- 1.4 There is a current annual budget of £200,000, which is distributed across the 7 Housing Area Teams to manage. Following several years of underspend within this budget area, the budget has been more fully utilised over the last two years and overspent last year. This is largely linked to Phase II of the Affordable Housing Programme which provides a key catalyst to incentivising transfers. The report explores this, and further barriers which potentially restrict the capacity of the scheme to generate more moves and the budget will be increased to £250,000 in 2021/22 to enhance the scheme linked to the Transfer led approach to housing allocations.
- 1.5 Members should note that the Council is in a much better position to offer tenants smaller properties that they are prepared to move to, e.g. 2 bedroom-bungalows through the new build programmes. This increases the capacity of the council to assist tenants who are in larger family homes.

## 2.0 Options and Issues

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- 2.1 The scope and guidance of the current scheme is included as Appendix 1 to give Members the context for the current scheme. The following table shows a profile of the spend in recent years to illustrate that spend on this budget area has progressively increased to the point of overspend, although last year was an exception due to the impacts of Covid-19.

**Table 1: Transfer Incentive Scheme Expenditure Profile**

	<u>2016/17</u> <u>Actuals</u>	<u>2016/17</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2017/18</u> <u>Actuals</u>	<u>2017/18</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2018/19</u> <u>Actuals</u>	<u>2018/19</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2019/20</u> <u>Actuals</u>	<u>2019/20</u> <u>Budget</u>
Dunfermline	£10,196	£21,540	£6,473	£21,540	£10,590	£21,760	£6,546	£21,760
Cowdenbeath	£12,718	£36,600	£39,909	£36,740	£31,277	£36,300	£43,949	£36,300
Glenrothes	£8,380	£30,580	£14,587	£30,520	£6,195	£30,300	£26,888	£30,300
Kirkcaldy	£56,125	£44,800	£37,841	£44,620	£62,239	£45,240	£39,408	£45,240
Levenmouth	£10,746	£28,200	£20,272	£28,260	£43,883	£28,820	£12,456	£28,820
North East Fife	£10,475	£24,320	£23,569	£24,540	£38,348	£24,260	£8,870	£24,260
South West Fife	£11,353	£13,960	£9,957	£13,780	£11,814	£13,320	£15,842	£13,320
	<b>£119,993</b>	<b>£200,000</b>	<b>£152,608</b>	<b>£200,000</b>	<b>£204,346</b>	<b>£200,000</b>	<b>£153,959</b>	<b>£200,000</b>

2.2 The enhanced TIS budget would be used at the discretion of the Area Housing Manager to assist in tenancy management matters, for example those who are fleeing harassment. Although, the Area may not be gaining a larger property back this will help to resolve any arising issues and prevent homeless presentations and the use of temporary accommodation

2.3 It is proposed that the increased budget includes practical and financial assistance to make a move more appealing to tenants

Proposed Practical Assistance to include:

- Housing Access Officer as dedicated worker to co-ordinate and support tenants through the whole transfer process
- Help to complete any forms and give information on Housing Benefit & Universal Credit
- Arranging removals and other forms of practical assistance to move home
- Disconnecting & Re-connecting domestic appliances

Proposed Financial Assistance options to include:

- An incentive cash payment of £1,500, disruption allowance of £400, plus an additional £400 per bedroom giving up. For example, if you move from a four-bedroom house to a two bedroom house you would be entitled to:
  - Incentive Payment £1,500
  - Disruption Allowance £400
  - £400 per bedroom giving up £800
  - Incentive Awarded £2,700

OR, where there is a council debt,

- Rent arrears or other tenancy related debt is written off
- Free rent fortnight to allow time to move
- Relaxation of Exit Standards or recharges

OR

- New tenant set up package arranged by the dedicated worker in new property

## 2.4 Potential Issues restricting the use of TIS are:

- Lack of desirable properties, within the tenant's area of choice, for example bungalows in Dunfermline. This proves difficult to meet tenant's expectations to create a desirable move and allow the TIS to be utilised.
- Lack of advertisement and awareness of TIS. Due to the operation of the current scheme, there is a reliance on Officer knowledge of local housing circumstances and pro-actively approaching tenants. This could be enhanced through an enhanced media and communications campaign although this may also increase customer expectations or have other unintended implications.

## 3.0 Promotion Campaign

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### 3.1 The proposal is to increase awareness of the Transfer Incentive Scheme to Fife Council tenants by:

- Developing a TIS information page on Fife.gov.uk and / or FHR Website
- Publishing information regularly on Fife Councils Social Media platforms
- Promoting a successful downsizing story in every edition of Down your Street
- Modernised information leaflets
- Contacting households who are currently under occupying with a view to pro-actively promoting the TIS

## 4.0 Conclusions

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### 4.1 The current Transfer Incentive Scheme has been successful and has created tenant mobility throughout Fife over the past 10 years, particularly linked to the new build programme. To increase access to housing and make best use of available stock, an increased budget is necessary to support the proposed improvement. The reviewed TIS procedure will support the Local Housing Strategy priority that people benefit from improved availability and best use of existing housing supply.

**John Mills**  
**Head of Housing Services**

### List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Existing Transfer Incentive Scheme Guidance

### Report Contacts

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## Appendix 1 – Existing Transfer Incentive Scheme Guidance

The Transfer Incentive Scheme is a component of the Transfer Policy which aims to ensure;

- A specific annual quota / target is set for housing allocations to existing tenants
- Tenants in recognised housing need and with no 'reasonable preference' are considered for council vacancies
- That the council maximises housing opportunity for all customer groups through the effective management and recycling of empty properties

The Transfer Incentive Scheme aims to assist the council in meeting these objectives by;

- Providing allocating officers with options to make pro-active approaches to tenants to encourage moves (where tenants indicate a desire to move home)
- Giving 'in kind' assistance to some tenants to facilitate moves to alternative housing
- Promoting turnover in areas / property types which can be used to meet the needs of other households on the housing list by creating 'chains' of allocations

The following provides the operational framework of the Transfer Incentive Scheme.

### Guidance Framework

Policy Intention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create vacancies to increase opportunities for all housing applicants</li> <li>• Increase tenant satisfaction</li> <li>• Facilitate opportunities for tenants in inappropriate housing but not considered to be in housing need (according to CAoN definition)</li> <li>• Make best use of available housing stock</li> <li>• Maximise the appropriate occupancy of council housing</li> </ul>
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Fife Council Tenant</li> <li>• Live FHR Application or agreement to submit an FHR application</li> <li>• No on-going or impending action for recovery of possession</li> <li>• The move would be considered to be making best use of FC stock</li> <li>• That the tenant agrees to any tenancy related implications arising from the move (e.g. changes to Right to Buy entitlement)</li> <li>• the Transfer Incentive Scheme is available to tenants moving to RSLs within the FHR partnership. It is not available to tenants moving into the private sector (any form of home ownership or renting)</li> </ul>
Defining Best Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free up larger / family type accommodation</li> <li>• Addressing under-occupation of council homes</li> <li>• Free up housing suitable for households with particular / special needs</li> <li>• Where there is a social need for a tenant to move home to support tenancy sustainability / independent living</li> <li>• The move would free up accommodation in (low turnover v high demand) areas</li> </ul>

<p>Criteria</p>	<p>Would the move benefit;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The tenant and/or their household?</li> <li>• The council (in making the best use of available housing stock)?</li> <li>• Others on the housing list (by recycling the original property)?</li> </ul> <p>(Need to be able to evidence <u>all</u> three criteria would be met within the TIS pro-forma)</p> <p>Is there a need for financial / in kind assistance due to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old age / infirmity / other form of vulnerability</li> <li>• Financial status</li> <li>• Financial barriers are the impediment preventing movement within stock</li> <li>• There are other good reasons (the case would need to be made by the allocating officer)</li> </ul> <p>(Need to be able to evidence that at least one of the criteria would be met)</p>
<p>Incentive Options</p> <p><b>Cost Ceiling</b> <b>£1,500</b></p> <p>In most circumstances 1 incentive option will be selected</p> <p>Where a 'mover package' (i.e. a combination of options) is required this needs to be specifically identified to the relevant manager</p>	<p><b>1. A 'Resettlement Package' arranged by the council</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removals are arranged by the council on the tenant's behalf and funded through council contract. This may be; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moving all / some of the existing furniture, furnishings or goods</li> <li>• Leaving all / some of the existing furniture, furnishings or goods to be recycled or disposed of by the council at no cost to the tenant</li> <li>• Removal / refit of carpets</li> <li>• Disconnection / Re-connection of white goods (cookers, washing machines etc)</li> <li>• Other moving costs (telephone re-connection etc.)</li> <li>• Decoration of new property</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>2. A Furniture Pack</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Furnishings (carpets, curtains etc) or goods (white goods) are provided by the council to assist the tenant in resettling in their new home. The council will manage this process in co-ordination with the Furnished Tenancy Grants system in terms of links with contractors.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Temporary Rent Exemption (including use of the incentive to clear arrears to enable a move)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A one off payment may be made to the tenant's existing or new rent account to facilitate the move</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Relaxation of the re-let exit standard due to old age, infirmity or other form of vulnerability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-charges or other forms of financial liability are cleared through a one-off payment to the tenant's former tenancy account</li> </ul>
<p>Mixed Options</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tenants will be able to select from the options to make the best use of the incentive package</li> </ul>

Potential restricting factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of size, type, location of 'move on' accommodation</li> <li>• Staff time / capacity to arrange incentives</li> <li>• Regeneration or other on-going re-housing programmes</li> <li>• Significant void implications – it is expected that the TIS will be managed in accordance with the current allocations' performance standards</li> </ul>
Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £150,000 Annual Budget Spend (HRA Budget)</li> <li>• Area Delegation: As per an agreed distribution formula</li> <li>• Budget Holder: Gavin Smith</li> <li>• Delegated Budget Provision: Nominated ASM (1 per area)</li> <li>• Budget re-distribution at the discretion of the Budget Holder in liaison with delegated budget holders on a six-monthly basis</li> <li>• Audit Framework – to be developed proposed similar to Management Needs</li> </ul>
Performance Management	<p>Target:</p> <p>100 pro-active transfers generated per annum (net minimum of 200 allocations)</p> <p>14 pro-active moves per Area per annum using the TIS</p> <p>Quarterly Monitors submitted timeously as part of LLP monitoring framework</p>

## **Rapid Rehousing Transformation Plan (2019-24) Private Rented Sector contribution to Temporary Accommodation**

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Report by: John Mills, Head of Housing Services

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Wards Affected: All

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### **Purpose**

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The paper provides members with the background and overview of a new model of service provision to enhance the contribution of the private sector to the prevention and response to homelessness. The report is part of a follow up to the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) Update provided to the Sub Committee in November 2020 and seeks Member approval to commission a small scale private rented sector resource to support the operation and delivery of temporary accommodation to enable the council to meet statutory homelessness duties.

### **Recommendation(s)**

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It is recommended that Committee:

1. Agree the proposal to commission and develop a revised model of private rented sector leasing to support the Council in meeting its statutory duties towards homeless households
2. Notes that the proposal will be fully governed through a procured approach with all relevant measures taken to promote high standards and accountability
3. Agrees that a further report will be brought forward to a future Sub Committee to agree further proposals to enhance the private rented sector contribution to the prevention and resolution of homelessness within the context of Fife's RRTP

### **Resource Implications**

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The proposal has been tested and proven to operate on a self-sufficient basis within the General Fund Housing Account in 2021/22. Any initial costs in set-up arrangements will be met from the Scottish Government funding to Fife Council to support the RRTP.

### **Legal & Risk Implications**

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The legal and risk implications have been mitigated by engaging Anderson Strathearn as the Council's external legal advisors. Corporate Procurement have not raised any concerns about the proposed model of service delivery and risks have been mitigated within the Service Level Agreement. The only risk identified is a high level of significant damage to

properties for which the Council would be responsible. This risk is mitigated as Council staff will manage occupancy of the properties and have processes available to minimize the risk.

## Impact Assessment

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An EQIA is not required as there is no change to Council Policy and this proposal is an enhancement of the Council's ability to meet the statutory duty to provide temporary accommodation.

## Consultation

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This proposal is part of a range of RRTP service initiatives designed to maximise housing options and has been discussed within Fife Housing Partnership and through pro-active contact with all Registered landlords using Housing Services Private Rented Sector Team Social Media and other communication channels to identify interest in the approach.

## 1.0 Background

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- 1.1 Over the last year, arrangements have been put in place to increase statutory temporary accommodation in response to the expected increase in homelessness applications due to the impacts of Covid-19, and an actual increase in demand for access to temporary accommodation from homeless households accepted as homeless by the Council. For the first time in 2 years, we are reporting significant increase in families requiring temporary accommodation, including an increase in children in hostel and B&B type accommodation.
- 1.2 A successful working arrangement across the social rented sector has added to the temporary accommodation available in Fife to meet current and future needs as services move through crisis response to recovery. As the Scottish Government considers the unwinding of the current eviction ban in the social and private rented sectors, currently in force to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, it is widely anticipated that there will be an increase in new homeless applications to the Council. We will need to meet this increase in demand by increasing our stock of temporary accommodation to meet our statutory duty.
- 1.3 Continuing to use Fife Council and FHR partner tenancies as temporary accommodation in significant numbers is unsustainable and as we look to implement RRTP priorities. Enhancing the options will enable some temporary accommodation to be converted to tenancies for homeless households and different ways to replace the temporary accommodation to retain the numbers of properties for new applicants.

## 2.0 Options and Issues

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- 2.1 The Registered Social Landlords (RSL) in Fife, through the Fife Housing Register Partnership, have been working with Fife Council for a number of years to enable the provision of properties for the use of temporary accommodation. This has been increased since the start of Covid-19 and there are now 67 RSL properties in the temporary accommodation pool. To extend the partnership working, we are looking to work more closely with the Private Rented Sector (PRS) in a number of ways and with an early focus on enhancing the provision of temporary accommodation. A Working Group is currently developing a wider ranging approach to raising standards within the PRS and enhancing the contribution and proposals will be brought back to a future Sub Committee.
- 2.2 Developing a new model of Leasing Scheme will assist in the delivery of additional Private Rented Sector (PRS) temporary accommodation over the Covid-19 recovery period and to support the implementation of Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan priorities to prevent

homelessness and improve outcomes for those in vulnerable housing circumstances. Housing Services staff have been working with a reputable, registered private sector landlord to identify a model of provision which enhances the role of the PRS in a measured way, with the proposed service adding a further 50 properties to the temporary accommodation pool across Fife. This model will assist Fife Council in the provision of Temporary Accommodation primarily in the West of Fife where there are gaps in provision currently, and to help place homeless households closer to sources of family support and employment. This model will also significantly reduce reliance on hotel and B&B type accommodation back to pre-Covid levels to make sure families are placed in accommodation that is suitable and appropriate. This will enable more Council and FHR Partner stock to be allocated as permanent tenancies to help close the gap created by Covid-19 and support the Housing Access Recovery Plan agreed in September 2020.

- 2.3 The model proposed is established on a non-profit making basis with Fife Council and Registered Private Landlords across Fife working within a Service Level Agreement arrangement which would follow the normal procurement disciplines. The aim is to providing high quality housing as temporary accommodation which will be managed by Council staff to support occupants as part of the wider pool of temporary accommodation. The model is intended to support Landlords on the scheme to make sure that their properties are up to a high standard of accommodation for the residents when moving in and throughout the duration of their occupancy. As part of the RRTP, the work with landlords will build on the relationships with PRS Landlords across Fife to develop services jointly to residents.
- 2.4 The service is being commissioned for a 4-year (3+1) period to provide 50 additional temporary accommodation properties within the Private Rented Sector. The PRS landlords will have a 3-year lease from Fife Council on their properties and the leadership organisation will have a 4-year Service Level Agreement to cover the full process of taking the properties on and returning them to the landlords.
- 2.5 The finance for the scheme will be over a four-year period which will cover the taking on and returning the properties over the three-year lease period. There will be a cost per property to the lead organisation for their services and the scheme is being developed to be largely cost neutral based on the income from rents. The rent charge will be paid directly to the PRS Landlords from Fife Council, based on the Local Housing Allowance rate. The finance model also includes the furnishing, cleaning and gardening cost for the duration of the lease. On this basis the financial model is significantly different from the previous Private Sector Leasing Scheme from 2008-2017.

## 4.0 Conclusions

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- 4.1 There is little doubt that demand for homelessness services will continue to grow as the various protections and support offered to vulnerable households are eased. Demand for homelessness services, particularly temporary accommodation, has increased as a direct and indirect impact of Covid-19 and Fife has demonstrated a positive partnership approach to respond to these impacts. This service delivery model enhances that approach as part of a wider strategy to make the best use of all housing and accommodation assets in Fife to improve outcomes for people in vulnerable housing circumstances.

**John Mills**  
**Head of Housing Services**

## List of Appendices

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18<sup>th</sup> March, 2021

Agenda Item No. 8

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## Housing Services Lock Up Programme – Progress Report

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Report by: John Mills, Head of Housing Services

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Wards Affected: All

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### Purpose

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The report is prepared to update Community and Housing Services sub-committee on progress of the programme to improve the lock up service offered to tenants and modernise the lock up estate

### Recommendation(s)

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The Sub-Committee is asked to:

- Note the progress made against the improvement actions and note the focus on demolitions
- Approve the continued approach to demolitions and refurbishments outlined in the report
- Agree the proposed revised timetable and approach to area plans.
- Agree to fund future year improvements over the period 2021-28 from HRA Capital Budgets. This will be reported to Full Council in February each year as part of the HRA budget.

### Resource Implications

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It is estimated that the Fife Improvement Programme will require an additional £8m in borrowing over 10 years to be funded through the HRA Capital Plan. Capital Investment of £1.5m has been approved as part of the HRA Capital Investment Plan 2021-24 approved by Fife Council on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Further approval will be required for the remaining £6.5m additional borrowing.

### Legal & Risk Implications

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Legal implications arise where lock up boundaries have an associated burden with private owned property. These are assessed through Housing and Legal services on an ongoing basis.

### Impact Assessment

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An EQiA and summary form were approved in February 2019. This does not require any revisions as this report does not make any recommendations in respect of policy change



## Consultation

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There has been initial consultation with a range of Tenant's and Resident Associations, Fife Tenants' Forum and at Ward Meetings. Further consultation will be undertaken as area plans are progressed through the Area Committees

## 1.0 Background

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- 1.1 Community and Housing Services sub-committee agreed to a programme of demolitions and refurbishments of the lock up estate in February 2019 with the following considerations to form the basis of that work:
  - Consider full / part refurbishment
  - Consider site reconfiguration / part reconfiguration
  - Assess costs per site to identify best value options
  - Consider demolitions
  - Consider sale on open market
- 1.2 A 10-year plan aligned to an investment of £8 million from the HRA Capital Plan was agreed with a proportionate spend across 7 Committee areas to be progressed subject to analysis of stock and site condition surveys
- 1.3 Members are asked to note that there is a significant difference in lock up sites across the 7-committee areas, with Glenrothes having the largest proportion of lock ups stock as well as a large proportion of owners required to engage, consult and contribute towards any agreed work.

## 2.0 Current Position

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- 2.1 Throughout the early part of 2020 area lock up plans were being developed; however work was delayed due to the Covid-19 impact on officer's ability to undertake site visits and surveys.
- 2.2 Costings from those initial site surveys which had been undertaken indicate that there is a significant increase in works required and associated costs from those that were previously identified in the original report to committee. This will have a significant impact on the overall programme and work is ongoing with key partners to identify opportunities to reduce costs and review priorities for the investment.
- 2.3 Progress with area plans was further delayed due to limited availability of Building Services staff to undertake refurbishment works due to demands placed on business-critical activity. This resulted in the programme focussing on suitable sites for demolition where contractor availability was guaranteed.
- 2.4 Area plans are now being revisited with the new focus on demolitions and essential maintenance for remaining sites to ensure they are wind and watertight, with a view to reports being presented to Area Committees throughout 2021/2022.

- 2.5 To ensure best value was achieved from the 2020/2021 budget allocation, demolitions have been undertaken in line with identified sites within each area plan where lack of demand has been highlighted and where demolition has released land to help alleviate local issues or provide an option for additional affordable housing (microsite).

#### Completed Demolitions (2019/20)

Lock Up Site Address	Area	Ongoing site use
1-6 & 7-14 Balbirnie Rise, Glenrothes	Glenrothes	Potential for Affordable Housing microsite.
67-74 Abbotsford Drive, Glenrothes	Glenrothes	Additional parking created.
19-22 Aitken Court, Leven	Levenmouth	Additional parking created, part of a wider regeneration project.
21-27 & 28-33 Forgan Place, St Andrews	North East Fife	Additional parking created.
23-29 Abel Place, Dunfermline	Dunfermline	Bin storage area.
20-25 Henryson Road, Dunfermline	Dunfermline	Additional parking created.
1-9 Blackburn Drive, Cowdenbeath	Cowdenbeath	Additional parking created.
1-8 Carden Castle Park (Site A), Cardenden	Cowdenbeath	Additional parking created.

Sample of demolition site pictures:

Balbirnie Rise, before and after



Aitken Court, before and after.



Forgan Place before and after



Proposed demolitions (2020/21)

Lock Up Site Address	Area	Future site use
1-9 Paterson Park, Leslie	Glenrothes	To create additional parking.
7-19 Bilsland Road, Glenrothes	Glenrothes	To create additional parking
1-8 Blairmore Road, Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	To create additional parking
1-24 Aboyne Gardens, Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	Potential for additional affordable housing (microsite)
1-4(K) Couston Drive, Dalgety Bay	South West Fife	Bin storage area.
1-5, 6-9, 10-13 Ramsey Place, Rosyth	South West Fife	To create additional parking.
1-4 & 5-11 Headwell Avenue, Dunfermline	Dunfermline	Make ground good – part of a wider regeneration project in the area
9-15 Cullaloe View, Cowdenbeath	Cowdenbeath	Create additional parking
1-7, 8-12 Rolland Avenue, East Wemyss	Levenmouth	Create additional parking
1-5, 11-14 Allan Robertson Drive, St Andrews	North East Fife	Create additional parking.

- 2.6 A door recycling exercise is being progressed as part of the demolition programme for existing doors of a good standard on blocks to be demolished to re-use at other sites.
- 2.7 A refurbishment at Craigmount, Kirkcaldy was completed in 2019/2020 and 2 further projects are currently underway at Aitken Court, Leven and Greenloanings, Kirkcaldy. The work undertaken to get these projects delivered has been critical in setting our future work programmes in respect of costs and timings
- 2.8 Initial conversations have commenced with Property and Legal Services in relation to selling lock ups on the open market. This is currently focussed on developing a policy position on selling individual blocks as well as full sites to mitigate any mixed tenure challenges. A policy position will be submitted to Committee in due course. This will include a position on options to purchase/excambion previously sold lock ups in the Glenrothes area within the mixed tenure blocks, which are deemed surplus to requirement and where the remaining land could be suitable for additional housing.
- 2.9 There is ongoing work to improve the customer experience by looking at the existing e-form used to request a lock up and identifying areas for improvement in the allocation process. There will be an opportunity to streamline the process within the new Housing Management Information System once implemented and prevent the requirement for information to be double keyed into multiple systems.

### **3.0 Future Activity**

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- 3.1 A programme of demolitions and refurbishments is being developed for each of the 7 committee areas and reports are being prepared for submission to area committees for consideration.
- 3.2 Our approach to developing area plans will focus on analysis of low occupancy sites to establish if these are surplus to requirements and essential maintenance requirements of remaining sites. This will ensure we utilise the budget effectively by maximising the number of sites included in the plans.
- 3.3 We will continue to work with Building Services to develop a core standard specification for lock ups which will streamline the process and ensure cost transparency.
- 3.4 To develop a clear policy position on the sale of lock ups in all areas and for buying back of previously sold lock ups where it would otherwise prevent necessary works to be completed.
- 3.5 To continue to explore options to improve the customer experience for lock up allocations and to streamline the overall process.

### **4.0 Conclusions**

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- 4.1 The report has outlined the progress made in delivering a modernised estate of lock ups and the impact of Covid-19 on the original proposals presented to Committee in February 2019

- 4.2 The report outlines a necessary temporary change in focus and the rationale for these decisions being taken to ensure the programme continues to be delivered and best value achieved from the budget allocation
- 4.3 Future activity is predicated on the continued impact of Covid-19 on availability of staff and contractors to support this work.

**John Mills**  
**Head of Housing Services**

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<b>Community &amp; Housing Services Sub-Committee of 20th May, 2021</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Service(s)</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Minute of meeting of 18.03.21			
Garden Fencing Policy	Housing Services	John Mills	Delayed due to Covid 19 - reschedule Spring 2021
Gypsy Traveller Co-operation Policy Review	Housing Services	Paul Short	Agreed at C&HSC meeting of 24.05.18 - submission date to be advised - Due March/April 2020 - DEFER TO 2021 DUE TO COVID
Forward Work Programme			

<b>Unallocated</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Service(s)</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Management of Community Halls and Centres		Andrew Stokes	2nd report, following approval at Nov 2020 meeting. Deferred due to covid, on hold, tbc.
Cowdenbeath Leisure Centre (LC) - Integration and Improvement of Provision	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Andy Maclellan	advise if report required at later date, TBC.
Final Play Space Strategy	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Andy Maclellan, Kevin Okane	Date to be advised - final strategy for approval following consultation DEFERRED FROM 18.06.20 DUE TO COVID-19 - reschedule for late 2021
Community Assets and Services: Prices and Concessions	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Samantha Pairman, Daryl Keddie-cu, Andrew Stokes	DEFERRED FROM 09.04.20 DUE TO COVID-19 deferred from Nov 2020 meeting to following meeting 2021
Abbeyview Community Hub	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Andy Maclellan	Provisional date. To be confirmed. - advise if report required at later date, tbc.

<b>Unallocated</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Service(s)</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
New Build Affordable Housing; Phase 3 Update & Proposed Phase 4 (2022-32) Principles		Helen Wilkie	Phase 3 - information via briefing note Phase 4 - covered through workshop, tbc
Housing Acquisitions Policy - 2019/20 Update	Housing Services	Helen Wilkie	added per email from John Mills 05.02.20 DEFERRED FROM 09.04.20 DUE TO COVID-19 Date tbc
Trust Management & Governance	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Tim Kendrick	progress report(s), as appropriate, on detailed proposals as they were developed - tbc
Lochore Meadows Phase 2 Proposals - Golf	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Andy Maclellan	Remitted from Policy & Co-ordination Committee (previously Executive Committee business). Date tbc
St Andrews Skateboard Park (Pipelands)	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Andy Maclellan	On hold due to covid-19
Community Development Finance Institution (CDFI) Progress Report - Year 2	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Sharon Douglas	Date tbc.
Strathkinnes Cycle Path	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Andy Maclellan, Alan Bisset	Expected June 2021.
Rockgelly	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Andy Maclellan	Date to be advised.
Greenspace Strategy	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Tim Kendrick, Kevin Okane	Date to be advised.
Public Consultation - Fife Local Policing Plan 2020 - 2023			Police Scotland - Tbc