

# PERTH & KINROSS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PARTNERSHIP

*Working Together to  
Break the Silence*

**Annual Report  
April 2010 - March 2011**

Break  
the  
silence



## Chairperson's Report

I am very pleased to introduce the Perth and Kinross Violence Against Women Partnership Annual Report. I have been the Chair since March this year when I took over from Craig Suttie. It has been a rewarding few months for me and a good year for the partnership which has seen the response to Violence Against Women in Perth and Kinross develop significantly.

The introduction of a MARAC pilot has been hard work but all the indications are that it will be an extremely worthwhile effort. There are many other achievements detailed in the text of the report and many other changes planned to improve the prospects of women and children affected by physical and sexual violence.

Further priorities identified by the partnership include Safe Accommodation, Significant Case Review, NHS CEL 41 and new opportunities for partnership working. We are already working hard to make changes and improvement to practice that will make a real difference to the lives of those who most need our help and support.

These are challenging times and the demands to produce results with less resource will be difficult. Despite this, the partnership is committed to identifying new opportunities for improvement over the coming years through collaboration and sharing resources so that we can continue to deliver better services for those who need them.

**Chief Superintendent Roddy Ross.**

**Chairperson**

**Perth & Kinross Violence Against Women Partnership**

**'Partnership working has brought us considerable success in recent years.**

**We must continue to move forward and to take whatever action is necessary to achieve our ultimate aim; to create a Scotland in which violence against women no longer exists.'**

**Alex Neil: Minister for Communities and Housing**

**Harry McGuigan: COSLA's Spokesperson for Community Safety/Wellbeing  
Safer Lives: Changed Lives 2009**

## Our Vision

Perth & Kinross Violence Against Women Partnership has a vision of a society where women and girls are not discriminated against because of their gender, where women and men are valued equally for their contribution to society and where everyone can live free from gender based violence.

## Long Term Outcomes

- Women, children and young people experiencing any of the forms of Violence Against women will have improved access to a full range of support and information.
- Individuals, organizations and communities will have an increased awareness and improved understanding of the impact/consequences of Violence Against Women.
- Work to prevent violence against women will be mainstreamed across key Perth & Kinross organizations/communities.
- Work to address perpetrators behaviour will be mainstreamed across key organisations.

## Violence Against Women in Perth & Kinross: Apr 2010 - Mar 2011

- Between April 2010 and March 2011 Tayside Police, Western Division recorded 1219 crimes were recorded with a domestic abuse marker. 1040 domestic abuse incidents were against women.
- Of the 98 new women contacting Wrasac P&K. 33 of the referrals involved sexual violence in childhood.
- Perth & Kinross Homelessness Service received 87 applications from women (with 36 dependent children) who were experiencing domestic abuse.
- 207 women were in contact with Perthshire Women's Aid. 73 children were in contact with PWA children's service.
- 183 women (with 244 dependent children) were in contact with Barnardos Tayside Domestic Abuse Initiative.
- Action for Children, Tayside Women and Family Safety Project which provides support to women whose partners are participating in the Court Mandated Perpetrator Programme received 36 referrals within Perth & Kinross.

We are continuing to develop a statistical recording framework to enable us to gather statistical evidence on all forms of violence against women.

## Single Level Agreement

Members of the partnership continue to work together to both prevent and address violence against women and through this work the partnership contributes to the attainment of both local and national outcomes.

**We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society**

## Women, children and young people experiencing any of the forms of violence against women will have improved access to a full range of support and information

We continued to produce resources which present key messages with the dual aims of challenging and changing attitudes to gender based violence and providing those experiencing gender based violence with improved access to support. Displaying the information enabled partners to work towards fulfilling their statutory obligations as set by the Equality Act 2010.

**Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence: Support Services in Perth & Kinross** : Perth & Kinross Violence Against Women service delivery group began developing a comprehensive information leaflet providing details of multi-agency support for those experiencing domestic abuse and sexual violence. The design and printing costs have been funded by Perth & Kinross Community Planning Partnership.



## We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk

**Rural consultation** : we completed our initial rural survey which aimed to establish a baseline of understanding and views of domestic abuse, rape and sexual assault across rural communities and identify gaps, issues/barriers to accessing effective support. Report due to be produced in Autumn 2011.

**Consultation:** Members of the partnership worked with Amina and Mead to undertake an initial consultation with women from Eastern European and South Asian communities living within Perth & Kinross. Initial views on barriers to disclosure were explored.

**Local Funding** : We were successful in securing funding via Equally Well to support Wrasac P&K to develop a pilot pack aimed at engaging with young people in the community with a view to encouraging them to explore the influences of media and popular culture.

## Facilitating information exchange and promoting good practice

**Good Practice Guidelines:** We updated and reprinted the Good Practice Guidelines which are funded via the Tayside Violence Against Women Training Consortium

**NHS Primary Care staff** : We delivered a presentation 'Violence Against Women : an introduction' and follow on work shop to 140 NHS primary care staff.

**Newsletter:** Break the Silence : members of the partnership regularly provide articles for the bi-annual newsletter which continues to be widely circulated both in email and hard copy format across Perth & Kinross organisations & communities including all schools and GP practices.

We extended the distribution database for the spring/summer edition to include solicitors and hairdressers across Perth & Kinross.

We live longer, healthier lives

## Work to prevent violence against women will be mainstreamed across key Perth & Kinross organizations/communities

**Poster and Postcard Campaign:** We launched a poster and postcard campaign during the 16 days of action. We coordinated and organised a joint partnership initiative 'Drinking is not a crime. Rape is' which built on a previous Rape Crisis Scotland campaign 'This is not an invitation to rape me' The campaign, aimed at dispelling the many 'myths' around rape and sexual assault, was spearheaded by Tayside Police Western Division. Posters were distributed across Perth & Kinross and front line officers distributed printed postcards which promoted key messages.

**Exhibition :** We held an 'Introduction to violence against women' exhibition at AK Bell library during the 16 days of action. We have continued to address the causes and consequences of violence against women, raising awareness through regular campaigns, events, training and working in partnership to improve service provision across Perth & Kinross.



**No matter how much she's drunk.....  
No matter what she's wearing.....  
No matter if you've already kissed.....  
.....sex without consent is rape**

**If there's any question over whether a woman has drunk too much to give consent, assume she hasn't given it. Tayside Police investigate every single report of rape. Responsibility for rape will always lie with the rapist.**

## Work to address the impact and consequences of violence against women will be

**Our Pornified Culture :** Where are we heading? : We ran further training in response to feedback from our 2009 16 days of action campaign and in partnership with Child Protection we organised a further seminar which was attended by 35 Child Protection Officers from across Perth & Kinross.

We rescheduled 16 days of action events which had to be cancelled in Nov/Dec 2010 as a result of the arctic weather conditions.

**'One Lonely Word'** a powerful and thought provoking presentation which looks at the impact of rape and how it affects one woman's health, family, career, her whole life.

This was followed by a presentation by Wrasac P&K. 33 participants attended this event and feedback included:

***'Powerful presentation on Dee's experience. Excellent method of giving info'***

***'Very informative - training would be very useful for students. I am a student midwife and work one to one with women and feel that the information I have received is very important to assist me should a woman disclose details of abuse.'***

**'Unmasking the stalker'** The Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Bill which was passed by the Scottish Parliament in June 2010 established a specific offence of 'stalking' We invited Anne Moulds from the Scottish Action Against Stalking Campaign and a local Perth & Kinross woman to talk about their experiences of 'stalking'. 32 participants attended this rescheduled event.

***"This awareness needs to be rolled out to all front line staff working in all fields"***

## Work to address perpetrators behavior will be mainstreamed across key organizations and communities.

**White Ribbon Campaign** : Once again, we saw an increase in partners promoting the White Ribbon Campaign throughout the 16 days.



**We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.**

## Working in partnership

Positive partnership approaches continue to be key to addressing violence against women. Over the course of the year, different partners have again participated in joint ventures:

**'Towards an integrated approach to addressing violence against women'** . We launched our joint strategy in September 2010. Presentations to key strategic groups were undertaken to support the launch and the strategy was endorsed by Perth & Kinross Community Safety Partnership in October 2010.

**MARAC** : We established a MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences) steering group to introduce the processes which place the victim (and any children) at the centre of any response and are widely recognised as being effective in reducing repeat victimisation. We are undertaking a phased approach to introducing MARACs within Perth & Kinross. We explored best practice examples and invited ASSIST to outline how they deliver the Advocacy service which is integral to the Glasgow Domestic Abuse Court.

**Equality Act** : We jointly hosted a Scottish Government funded event which made the links between the Equality Act and Violence Against Women.

## Partner updates

**Tayside Police** : Western Division Public Protection Unit started the year with Operation Lynchpin 3 which sought to reinforce the improvements from the previous two operations and further develop the Tayside Police Domestic Abuse Strategy by;

- Focusing on Perpetrators
- Taking an Investigative Approach
- Focusing on Repeat Victimisation

All with a view to reducing the level of Domestic Abuse.

The Division now has 4 staff dedicated to Domestic Abuse who work from the office they share with the Barnardo's Support Worker. Two of these are Detectives dedicated to the investigation of Domestic Abuse.

The SPECS+ Risk Assessment Tool has now been mainstreamed and is used by every officer in the Division. A Domestic Concern Report has been introduced to lower the threshold for reporting and ensure that officers have a mechanism for reporting concerns.

A new post has been created for a referrals officer within the Public Protection Unit whose job it is to consider all domestic reports and notify investigators of links to other crimes, people, children, intelligence etc. that might contribute to an increase in risk of harm .

In September 2011 the Western Divisional Domestic Abuse team received the Tayside Police Excellence award for Partnership Working.

*Chief Superintendent Roddy Ross*

## Partner updates continued

**Wrasac P&K** : Without the guarantee of continued funding in 2011, development of the Centre's services has been minimal this year. We have been focussing on young survivors and hard to reach young women. We have developed and re-designed our young women's materials and have called this part of the service SYSTA (Supporting Young Survivors – Tackling Sexual Abuse). We plan to repeat and develop the women's group which was well attended during the 6 week pilot. Our 'media influences' research with young people showed the majority felt the media had a negative impact on them, the media helped shape their daily lives but also stereotyped certain groups in a detrimental way. Our Sexual Bullying survey revealed that of 61 participants (23%) had experienced sexual bullying and 28% had witnessed it. When asked what should be done about sexual bullying the top priority (50% of the young people) was for "schools and other youth settings to teach and talk about gender equality and respect in the classroom for each year". We hope to build on our work with young people by seeking funding in the coming year to provide in-school workshops for young people, parents and teachers.

We continue to actively participate in the Perth & Kinross Violence Against Women Partnership '16 days of action campaign' and this year participated in the 'Drinking is not a crime: Rape is' campaign and we delivered a presentation following a showing of Naomi Breeze's 'One Lonely Word'.

*Maggie McVean: Development Manager, Wrasac P&K*

**Perthshire Women's Aid** : This has been the first full year of Perthshire Women's Aid operating under the new structure of a Company limited by guarantee. This, along with the current economic climate and the uncertain funding situation has made it a challenging one for the organisation. We have seen a significant number of women engaging with our Women's Support Service. Feedback from the Domestic Abuse Awareness raising sessions delivered by our Children and Young People's Service in Perth Grammar School, Pitlochry High School and Perth High School was very positive. We are very committed to partnership working and continue to be involved in the work of the Violence Against Women Partnership.

*Hazel Bingham : Manager, Perthshire Women's Aid*

**Perth & Kinross Council Education & Children's Services:** Domestic Abuse was an area highlighted within the Perth & Kinross Interagency Child Protection annual audit. It identified the need for improvements around responding to domestic abuse as it presents within child protection cases. As part of the operational substance group information was gathered on the known prevalence of multiple and complex needs issues in relation to domestic abuse and/or substance use. This will assist and inform service improvements.

*Alison Irvine, Service Manager, ECS Children & Family Services.*

## Partnerships across Tayside

Tayside Violence Against Women Training Consortium: is a multi-disciplinary partnership with members drawn from the 3 Violence against women partnerships, NHS Tayside and Tayside Police. 122 Perth & Kinross based staff attended Perth & Kinross based courses with a further 93 staff attending 'one off' events across Tayside.

We continue to work in partnership and liaise with the Tayside Community Justice Authority and NHS Tayside Violence Against Women Strategy group.

## National work

**Consultation comments** : We provided comments on the National Child Protection Guidance and we provided written comments and supported the Criminalisation on Purchase and Sale of sex which closed in February this year.

**National Violence Against Women Network**: The coordinator produced a briefing paper : 'Addressing Violence Against Women: Making the case'. The paper was disseminated widely across the National Network, to the Scottish Government and Cosla.

We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger

## Future priorities

**We have identified the following priorities for addressing over future years.**

- **Mainstreaming the agenda (NHS CEL 41, workplace policy)**
- **MARAC**
- **Communication**
- **Review of significant cases**
- **Safe Accommodation**
- **Opportunities for joint working** : CEDAR, Sexualisation of our culture; we look forward to continuing to develop further positive partnerships which explore and address the many issues arising from the 'sexualisation of our culture' .

Gender-based violence and all forms of sexual harassment and exploitation, including those resulting from cultural prejudice and international trafficking, are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person, and must be eliminated.

(Article 18, Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action 1998)

Perth & Kinross Violence Against Women Partnership has a multi-agency membership which includes key partners from statutory and voluntary sectors across Perth & Kinross. We work in partnership at a local level to promote and coordinate a range of activity aimed at tackling violence against women. If you require this document in another format/language or for any other information please contact : [kmacmillan@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:kmacmillan@pkc.gov.uk) Tel : 01738 476230