

Perth and Kinross
Violence Against
WOMEN
Partnership

Annual Report 2019/20

Working Together to End Violence Against Women and Girls

Violence Against Women and Girls includes:

- *domestic abuse;*
- *rape and sexual assault;*
- *childhood sexual abuse (including incest);*
- *sexual harassment and intimidation at work and in public spaces;*
- *commercial sexual exploitation and prostitution;*
- *pornography;*
- *trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation;*
- *dowry-related violence;*
- *harmful practices (including female genital mutilation, forced marriage, child marriage and 'honour' crimes.*

Domestic Abuse

In 2019/20 there were 1,245 incidents of domestic abuse reported to the police, an increase of 51 over the previous year. After enquiries, 45% of these were confirmed as crimes.

Victim Support Scotland

Victim Support Scotland offers support to all victims of crime regardless of whether this has been reported. In 2019/20 the Perth & Kinross team supported **55** victims of domestic abuse. Staff and volunteers also provided emotional support and practical advice in **24** rape cases and **29** sexual offence cases. Support was provided at Perth Sheriff Court when witnesses attend to give evidence. Giving evidence causes victims to relive the crime committed against them. Victim Support Scotland also support family and friends of victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence on how best to support their loved one.

MARAC, the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference, meets monthly to discuss the best way to keep the highest risk victims of domestic abuse and their families safe. Safety Plans were developed for each victim and **59** cases were discussed by the Perth MARAC - a decrease of **3** on last year. **59** women and **98** children were covered by safety plans.

Barnardo's work in partnership with Police Scotland throughout the whole Tayside region. Barnardo's supports individuals and families to live without fear and reduce the impact of Domestic Abuse. Based at Perth Police Station, trained specialists support those affected by domestic abuse through safety planning, risk assessment and emotional and practical support. **45** women received 1:1 support and **2** women were provided with professional 1:1 counselling.



PWA received **329** referrals about Domestic Abuse.



- **197** to Advocacy Service.
- **374** to Women's Support Services.
- **94** to Counselling/**72** women offered counselling.
- **21** to refuge/**14** women supported in refuge with **16** children.
- **4** women identified with no recourse to public funds.
- **329** women in service supported.
- **251** children linked to women supported.



PKC Housing

A safe home is vital in supporting women fleeing from domestic abuse and working with Perthshire Women's Aid, PKC Housing have supported **70** households who were made homeless through domestic abuse. **44** households were permanently rehoused, **4** returned home, **1** moved to supported accommodation, **2** secured private lets, **9** made other arrangements.

At present there are **61** households identified as having strategic needs and **22** of them cite domestic abuse as a reason for applying for rehousing.



Cedar continued to provide support to families recovering from Domestic Abuse throughout Perth and Kinross.

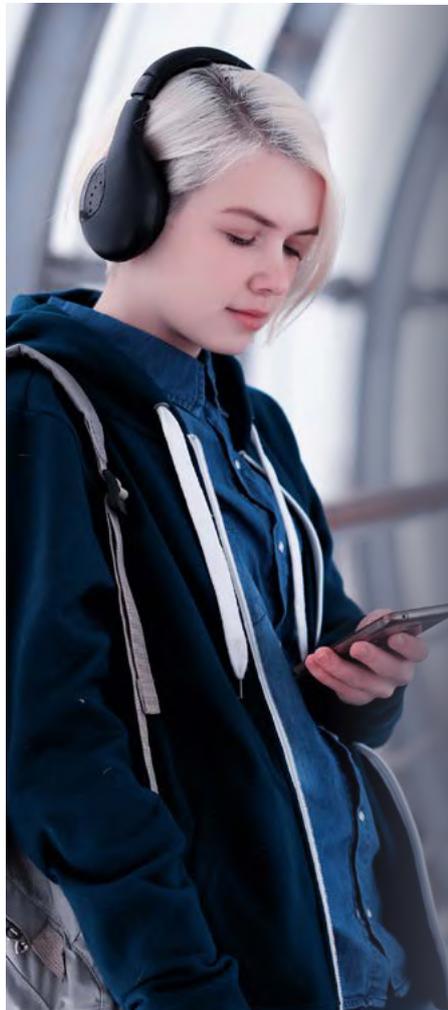
The therapeutic 12-week group work programme is delivered in central Perth with children coming from across Perth and Kinross. Mums attend a parallel group work programme to support their children:

- **2 Mums' Groups - 13 Mums attending, and 10 Mums receiving 1-1 support who were not able to attend group.**
- **6 Children's Groups for children aged 5-12 years and 1 Teenagers' Group.**

CEDAR also piloted an Emotional Wellbeing Group which ran over 6 weeks and was attended by **7** young people who attended secondary school:

- **84 Assessments were carried out with Mums and their children prior to group. This is an integral part of ensuring that the group is right for the family and helps to build the relationship prior to group.**
- **6 families supported with extra 1-1 support for the children who were attending the group work programme.**
- **16 Awareness-Raising Sessions on Domestic Abuse and Healthy Relationships were delivered to local high schools for pupils in Year 4.**

Sexual Violence



67 rapes were reported to Police Scotland in Perth and Kinross, a reduction of **9** on 2018/19. The offender was detected in **43** of these crimes, a detection rate of **64.2%**. For the same period these were **122** sexual assaults reported a reduction of **14** crimes over the previous year.

There has been a **95%** increase in survivors accessing support over the last 5 years.

- **45%** self-referrals received.
- **42%** of referrals are from under 25s.



RASAC Prevention Services

- Delivered **442** sexual violence workshops to **6463** pupils.
- Involved **442** young people and **68** adults in community sessions/workshops.
- Supported **23** RASAC Youth Ambassadors (up to age 18).
- Supported **5** older Student Volunteers (age 18+).
- Delivered **18** Training Sessions to **338** professionals working in Perth and Kinross.

Events Held in Perth and Kinross

Solheim Cup

9-12 September

Gleneagles Golf Resort

The Solheim Cup was held at Gleneagles in September, pitting a team of Europe's top female golfers against their US counterparts. The biennial tournament provided a major uplift for the local economy, attracted a global TV audience in the hundreds of millions and nominated Perthshire Women's Aid to benefit as its local charity partner.

Speaking at the launch event Interim manager for PWA Heather Williams said: *"We believe this will be a fantastic platform to ensure a wide audience are aware of the life changing services we offer to women, children and young people with experience of domestic abuse."*

"Having the opportunity to be involved in an event which celebrates women's sporting achievements fits with PWA's vision of an equal society where women and girls live lives free from abuse."



My Mind is Free

Monday 21 October

Joan Knight Studio, Perth Theatre

Over 200 people from a wide variety of professions and interests attended an event to raise awareness of modern-day slavery. The event by the Rah Rah Community Theatre Company

was followed by presentations from Bronagh Andrews from the charity TARA and Detective Chief Inspector Graham Binnie, who spoke about their experiences of trafficking locally and what to look out for.

The production used imaginative physical theatre and role playing to

tell the interlinked stories of four people trafficked to and within the UK and their account of abuse, exploitation and enslavement.

The presentations were followed by questions to the actors and presenters and lively audience discussion.

Report on 16 Days of Activism Events 2019

24 November - 10 December

Friday 22 November

16 Days Launch - Preview of Events with John Swinney MSP, Deputy First Minister

Perthshire Women's Aid

Mr Swinney met Partnership members at the offices of Perthshire Women's Aid. The programme of events over the 16 days was discussed with him and he reaffirmed his support for the work of the Partnership.



Tuesday 26 November

16 Days Question Time

Joan Knight Studio, Perth Theatre

This event focussed on the challenges facing the criminal justice process in cases of violence against and in meeting the needs and expectations of victims and survivors. An audience of 140 heard from Detective Inspector Paul Boath on the prevalence of

Events Held in Perth and Kinross



domestic abuse and the resources that Police Scotland commit to training, investigation and support. Anne Marie Hicks spoke of the prosecutions need to balance the public interest against individual choice - disengagement of victims and changes of mind was often further evidence of coercive control and the requirements of corroboration often prevent prosecutions taking place. Sheriff Alastair Duff explained the judges role in the court process - limited to adjudicating solely on the evidence placed before the court - and then went on to explain the extensive training judges receive on the nature of gender-based violence so they can better understand the mindset and demeanour of the victim in court and deal with them in an empathetic way.

Tom Simmons, a prison-based criminal justice social worker spoke on the difficulties of working with prisoners - there is no formal gender-based programme for partner violence - as the consent and participation of the prisoner is required. Much of the work is focussed on working with prisoners as they are about to leave prison and multi-agency working to ensure the safety of partners and families. Rory Macrae spoke about the Caledonian Programme, which requires men to deal with

their offending behaviour as an alternative to imprisonment. He gave some personal insights gained over many years and remains convinced that men are the solution to GBV and that, far from gaining satisfaction from their behaviour, they remain a very unhappy, frustrated group of individuals.

Following the presentations, the Chair, Ann Hamilton, invited questions from the audience and there then followed a lively debate involving all the panel members and the audience.

Wednesday 27 November

MARAC Development Day
Deaf Hub, The Old Mill, 23 Brown Street, Dundee

The three Violence Against Women Partnerships across Tayside, Perth, Dundee and Angus, came together to hold a development day for the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference partners who work together to risk assess and provide safety plans for women and families most at risk from violent partners. The event, which was attended by about 50 partners, discussed roles, representation and responsibilities and developed plans for consolidating the work of MARAC into the future.

Thursday 28 November

Kaleidoscope - Naomi Breeze

Lecture Theatre, Art Gallery & Museum, Perth

Naomi Breeze is a celebrated actress who writes and performs one-woman shows on a variety of topics. Kaleidoscope tells Chrissy's story which Naomi has drawn from research with women supported by Scottish Women's Aid and covers a wide range of abusive and controlling behaviours experienced by many. Powerful and compelling this play got to the heart of abuse and control in an intimate relationship and should be compulsory viewing for anyone wanting to know more about the impact of domestic abuse.

Thursday 28 November

Perth Film Society - Thelma & Louise

Joan Knight Studio, Perth Theatre

In association with Perth Film Society, 140 society members and members of the public were addressed briefly by Jen Stewart, RASAC P&K, and John Evans, PKVAWP, on the issues of gender-based violence in Perth and Kinross - issues which are prominent in the film and have a direct bearing on the journey and the outcome for Thelma and Louise. When viewed through this "gendered lens" the film remains superb entertainment but brings the consequences of domestic abuse and sexual violence into sharp focus.



Friday 29 November

Thelma & Louise

Birks Cinema, Aberfeldy

The film was shown to an audience of about 40 in Aberfeldy, most of whom met for coffee and a discussion after the showing.

Wednesday 4 December

Seminars - Perthshire Women's Aid

Civic Hall, 2 High Street, Perth

Identifying Risk & Safety Planning

Domestic Abuse (Scot) Act 2018

Heather Williams, Perthshire Women's Aid, led both seminars, with the audience comprising about 30 individuals from a wide variety of backgrounds - health, social work, housing, women's support services. She drew on her wide experience of supporting survivors of domestic abuse to help identify risk factors for women and families and the participants took part in practical group exercises to formulate appropriate safety plans.

In the afternoon she explained the provisions of the new legislation in some detail. Scotland is now one of the few countries in the world which recognises that a pattern of coercive control - whether by violence, psychological, emotional, or financial means - constitutes the crime of domestic abuse.

Thursday 5 December

An Audience with Dr Graham Hill

Joan Knight Studio, Perth Theatre

Dr Graham Hill is a skilled and highly engaging speaker with a background as a senior detective with the Metropolitan Police and,

following retirement, as a widely respected researcher, lecturer and consultant. This lecture formed a key element of the 16 Days of Activism in 2019 as part of the challenge to understand why men feel the need to exercise power and control over women in order to support women more effectively and keep them safe. This topic is of great interest to those working to address gender-based violence and around 140 were present in the Joan Knight Studio.

Dr Hill drew parallels between the motivations of child sex offenders and men who engage in more widespread forms of violence against women. The vast majority of offenders have a significant life event/s (ACEs) and how they respond to that will determine how they manage their intimate relationships.



As many who have worked with abused women know, Dr Hill confirmed that *"the best predictor of behaviour is past behaviour"* and this must always be a key element in safety planning.

Thursday 5 December

Thursdays in Black

High Street, Perth

A small group joined together in Perth High Street to demonstrate solidarity with thousands worldwide who wear black every Thursday and speak out against all forms of gender-based violence.



This has become an annual event in the PKWAWP 16 Days of Activism.

Thursday 5 December

Reclaim the Night

Perth City Centre

Another fixture in the 16 Day activities is the Reclaim the Night event. This year, on an extremely inclement night, about 100 women, children and men gathered in the Civic Hall, 2 High Street and then walked on a circular route through the city centre to reclaim the night from violence and intimidation. Similar events occur in towns and cities throughout the world demonstrating that violence against women is an international issue.



Monday 9 December

Practitioner Development Seminar

St John the Baptist Church Hall, Princes Street, Perth

Bishop Ian Paton addressed the group on issues for the church in dealing with domestic abuse and sexual violence. There followed a lively discussion and a view that, to remain members of the church community many *"women of faith"* were prepared to, or required to, *"live under a tyranny of respectability"*. Linda Thompson, speaking on prostitution and commercial sexual exploitation, and Dr Lesley Orr, considering the importance of research in informing practice in supporting survivors of sexual violence, both emphasised the importance of learned experience and the need to listen to the voices of victims.



We made a difference....

...children and mothers have been supported to manage the consequences of domestic abuse through their involvement in the Cedar project.

...families fleeing domestic abuse were permanently rehoused.

...victims of domestic abuse had Police Safety Plans developed, reducing the risk of harm to victims and children.

...women have been provided with specialist counselling to support them in recovery from domestic abuse.

...children affected by domestic abuse have been supported in their recovery.

...cases were managed through Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference reducing the risk of harm to victims and children.

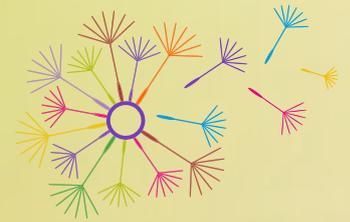
...professionals received additional training by attending events organised during the 16 Days of Activism.

...individuals took part in events to raise public awareness of gender-based violence during the 16 Days of Activism.

...survivors have been supported in their recovery from sexual abuse.

...women took advantage of independent advocacy to support their recovery from domestic abuse.

A message from Hazel Robertson



**Perth and Kinross
Violence Against
WOMEN
Partnership**



This is my third annual report as Chairperson of the Perth and Kinross Violence Against Women Partnership and, as in the previous two, I am always amazed by the compassion, commitment and sheer determination of all our Partners to make a difference to the lives of women and children affected by gender-based violence.

The report you have just read provides some examples of where the Partnership adds value to the work of its individual members by raising awareness in the general public of the issues surrounding gender-based violence and how to get help when it is needed. Developing awareness of staff across all agencies providing services to the public on how to recognise and respond appropriately to clients who have been affected by GBV is equally as important and providing development opportunities for our specialist supporters is a third, and vital, element of our strategy.

The overall aim of the Scottish Government's "Equally Safe Strategy" is the elimination of violence against women and girls and, while we are some way off this goal, this report emphasises the determined efforts being made to ensure we contribute to this aim.

As I write this summary, we are in the grip of the COVID pandemic which has radically altered the provision of services and has been particularly problematic for women and girls experiencing violence. The impact of this will be reported in our subsequent annual report.

I have witnessed remarkable commitment from all partners to ensure the ongoing safety and protection of women and children and I remain confident that, as a Partnership, we will continue to do our best to ensure that women and girls in Perth and Kinross receive the best possible service we can give.

With sincere best wishes for 2021.

**Hazel Robertson
Chairperson**

We must send a message around the world that there is no shame in being a survivor of sexual violence - the shame is on the aggressor.

Angelina Jolie





In association with

PACT (Perth Action of Churches Together)
RASAC (Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre)
Perth & Kinross Council
Victim Support Scotland
PKAVS
Soroptimist International
SPS (Scottish Prison Service)
Police Scotland
Scottish Fire Service
NHS Tayside
Perthshire Women's Aid
Bernado's Scotland

For further information or assistance please contact:

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or visit our website at:

www.pkvawp.org

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