

Perth and Kinross
Violence Against
WOMEN
Partnership

Partnership's Annexe Report

2020 - 2021

Working together to end violence against women and girls

Introduction

The Perth and Kinross Violence Against Women Partnership usually produces an Annual Report but 2019-20 and 2020 – 2021 have been anything but 'usual'!

In response we have produced our 2019-20 report with this annexe to cover 2020-21.

The pandemic created significant challenges for the Violence Against Women Partnership not least that we couldn't get together, in person to meet. We had significant concerns throughout this period about the impact of the pandemic on domestic violence and sexual violence that might be occurring behind closed doors whether that is through increased opportunity for perpetrators to be abusive; coercive; controlling; the lack of usual protective measures or the lack of access to support and coping opportunities.

Partners worked together, tirelessly, to ensure services continued and that crisis support remained available. **We have all had to learn to adapt and find different ways of working.** Our third sector partners demonstrated flexibility and creativity in dealing with the demand placed upon the services. As it became apparent that waiting lists were growing and reached an unacceptable level, there were concerted efforts to ensure the most vulnerable were prioritised.

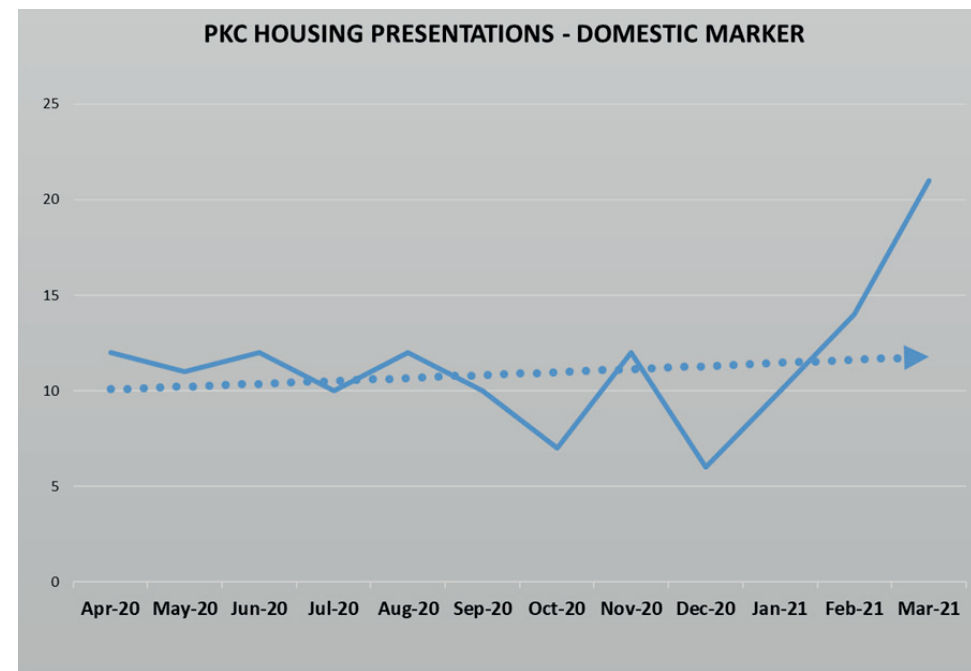
What have we continued to do throughout COVID 19?

- We supported our members to access a variety of mixed funding applications to reduce waiting times for recovery and counselling services.
- We put in place weekly operational meetings with our key partners in service delivery.
- We developed and implemented a new performance reporting regime to track trends.
- We worked closely with Housing colleagues to ensure refuge accommodation remained available and to keep families together.
- We introduced plans to deliver Safe and Together training in the Council and the 3rd Sector.
- We found new ways to ensure MARAC and MATAC continued to operate effectively and ensure women were protected from violent partners.

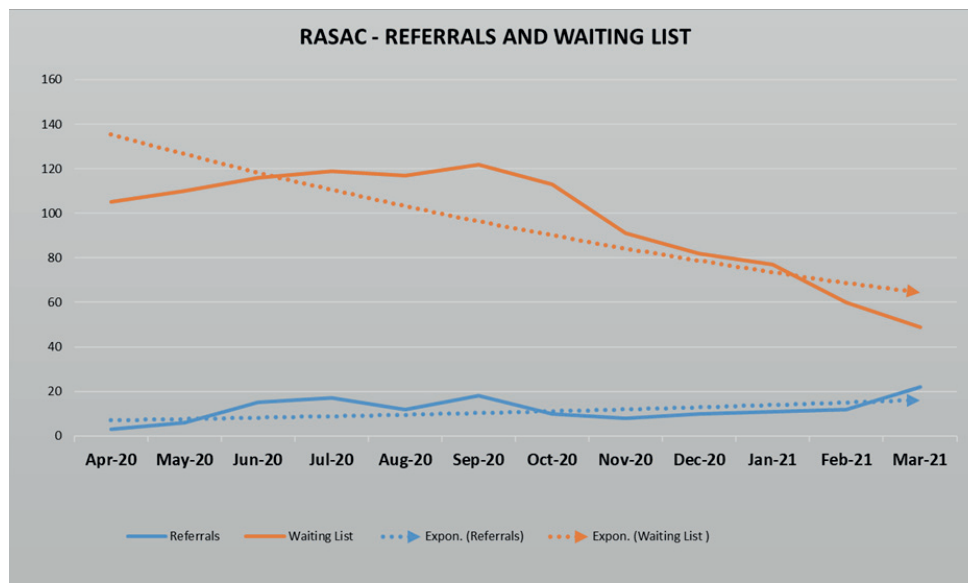
In some ways the pandemic helped bring the partners even closer and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work over recent months. We are aware it will take time for the full impact of the pandemic to manifest and there will be challenges ahead but the partnership is strong and in a good place to respond to whatever emerges and to continue to work together to 'eradicate violence against women and girls'.

Hazel Robertson
Chair

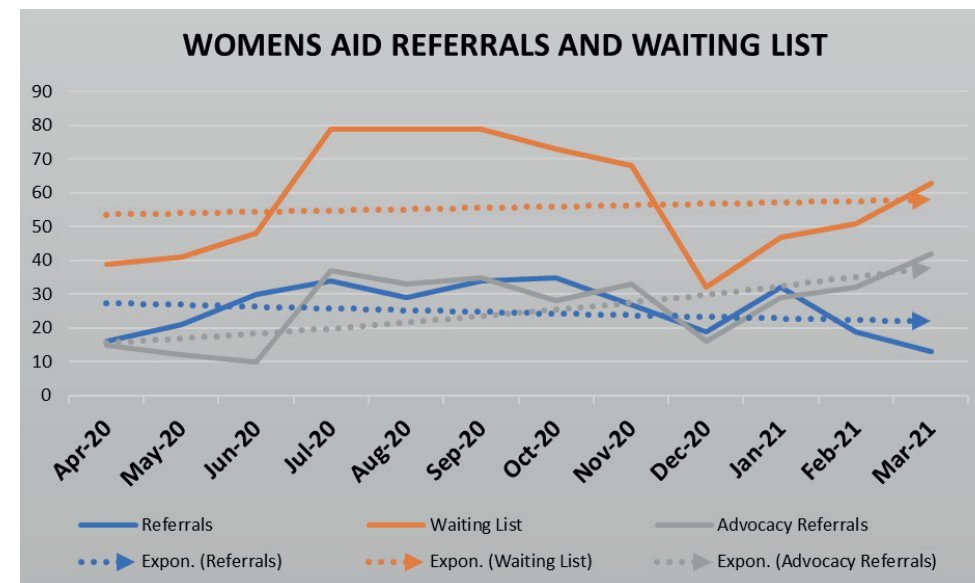
The following graphs demonstrate the nature, trends and patterns of demand experienced by the partners during 2020-21. These are figures and important tools to help us define our business, but we never forget that each of these figures represents harm and trauma that can affect each of these women and their families for the rest of their lives. The scale of the problem is huge but so is the determination of the partnership to build ever more preventative interventions, effective and responsive services and protective strategies to reduce harm, keep women and families safe and to support recovery.



Housing staff recognised there was a risk that refuge accommodation would become full quickly. They responded to this and developed strategies to ensure at no stage was any woman forced to remain with an abusive partner.



This chart demonstrates how RASAC demand remained static as waiting lists increased. The Partnership responded by securing COVID recovery funds to address the problem. As can be seen from the chart these funds had the desired effect and the gap between the demand and the waiting list started to close.



This chart shows how the number of referrals to Womens Aid gradually reduced during the year but the waiting list increased. The Partnership responded by securing COVID recovery funds to address the problem. This is working and the waiting list is reducing.

Our Performance statistics were escalated to the COG risk register. One of the key manifestations that we highlighted was an increase in waiting lists within our key providers, this resulted in a bid for additional funding to reduce the waiting lists provided from the Covid Recovery funds at Perth & Kinross and we also instigated a conversation with Gannochy trust with conclusion of which was an invitation for Key partners for further funding to further support their work, as a consequence we came out of covid in a stronger position where relationships between the partners were very positive and productive.

To add into this new procedures were introduced in Housing which ensured that there are no shortages off refuge accommodation, and we are quickly able to accommodate perpetrators where this has the best outcome for families.

We have started preparation to the 16 days programme in 2021. This reporting period saw the departure of our coordinator Jon Evans, he was highly respected within the partnership and his contribution was appreciated by all.

In 2022-23 the Perth and Kinross Violence Against Women partnership will:

- Continue to develop the performance framework Deliver 16 Days of Action in 2022
- Continue to support partners seeking to gain accreditation under Equally Safe at Work
- Continue to assess and understand the impact of COVID 19 on Violence Against Women in Perth and Kinross
- Carry out a review of MARAC arrangements in Perth and Kinross and Tayside
- Carry out a review of the safe Accommodation Strategy and ensure it meets the needs of women and families in Perth and Kinross

For more information visit our website
www.pkvawp.org.uk

