GLASGOW COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP
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GLASGOW COMMUNITY & SAFETY SERVICES
www.saferglasgow.com

**Item 8**

**18 August 2016**

**Glasgow Community Planning Partnership**
**Safe Glasgow Group**

**Report by Ann Fehilly**
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# Glasgow Violence Against Women Partnership Report to the Safe Glasgow Group

**Purpose of Report:**

To report on the work of the city wide strategic multi agency Violence Against Women Partnership.

**Recommendations:**

The Safe Glasgow Group are asked to

1. Consider the information provided;
2. Agree that MARAC is a strategic priority response to domestic abuse;
3. Approve the GVAWP report.

**Glasgow Community Planning Partnership priorities:**
Specify which priorities this report is in relation to and which underlying principles support the development activity.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *SOA* \| *Alcohol* | Yes / No ☐ / ☐ | SOA \| Principle *Early Intervention* | Yes / No ☐ / ☐ |
| *SOA* \| *Vulnerable People; Preventing Homelessness* | Yes / No ☐ / ☐ | SOA \| Principle *Equality* | Yes / No ☐ / ☐ |
| *SOA* \| *Vulnerable People; In-Work Poverty* | Yes / No ☐ / ☐ | SOA \| Principle *Sustainable Change* | Yes / No ☐ / ☐ |
| *SOA* \| *Youth Employment* | Yes / No ☐ / ☐ | **If other priority, please provide details here:** Safe Glasgow Group | |
| SOA \| *Thriving Places* | Yes / No ☐ / ☐ | | |
| Other Priority | Yes / No ☐ / ☐ | | |

## 1. Introduction

This report summarises the work taken forward by the Glasgow Violence Against Women Partnership (GVAWP) since November 2015.

**Activity**

## 2. Strategic Review of Violence Against Women

The GVAWP has agreed to carry out a strategic review of violence against women in the Glasgow. This work is viewed as a priority and will inform the development of the city wide strategic action plan and identify how Glasgow will implement Equally Safe in the city and the difference it will make to women and girls whose lives are affected by gender based violence.

## 3. Violence Against Women and Financial Inclusion

The Financial Inclusion Partnership under direction from the PLP brought together a working group that was directed to consider the financial challenges, issues, barriers that existed for women whose lives were affected by gender based violence. This group has now produced an action plan which has been endorsed by the GVAWP.

## 4. Glasgow White Ribbon City

White Ribbon activity has continued in the city following the award in 2015. White Ribbon presentations have been integrated into service inductions for new staff. At a locality level we are currently exploring the development of white ribbon neighbourhoods as part of the city wide strategic action plan.

White Ribbon Scotland has limited capacity to continue to offer a programme of training and we are working in together to develop a sustainable speaker training programme for Glasgow.

Community Safety Glasgow White Ribbon activity has continued in secondary schools settings with speaker inputs delivered to male pupils in Holyrood Secondary (178, 1st year pupils) and Knightswood Secondary (1st through to 6th year).

The vast majority of White Ribbon activity took place during 16 Days of Action, 25th November until 10th December.

The development of an action plan for 2016 is an outstanding piece of work and this will be included as part of the city wide strategic plan to prevent and eradicate violence against women.

## 5. Glasgow MARAC

Multi agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) resumed in January 2016. The Glasgow MARAC steering group continue to meet on a monthly basis to manage, support and monitor the implementation and functioning of MARAC.

Glasgow Health and Social Care Partnership agreed to fund the delivery of Safe Lives Chairs training and representatives from Police Scotland; ASSIST; GCC Education Services; Women's Voluntary Sector and Health and Social Care Partnership all participated in this.

The Operational Working Protocol has now been agreed and signed off by all partners. The Information Sharing Protocol will be presented to Chief Officers Group for final agreement and sign off.

The role of Chair is pivotal in the effective functioning of MARAC, it is their role to ensure that there is consistency, transparency, accountability and responsibility in the MARAC. The Chair encourages participation from all key agencies to help create a proactive safety plan where the risks and needs of the victim, children and perpetrator are addressed by the MARAC appropriately. Once a risk analysis is complete the Chair will request that each agency in turns offers timed actions in relation to the risk which will reduce the likelihood of harm to its lowest possible level.

Police Scotland have seconded a Police Officer into the role of MARAC Coordinator with administration support coming from Central Business Services, this has been negotiated by Glasgow HSCP.

Independent domestic abuse advocacy services (IDAA) are being provided by CSG ASSIST; Glasgow Womens Aid and Daisy Project provide the IDAA support for non ASSIST clients.

All partners have committed to MARAC until October 2016, an evaluation report will be presented with options to the GVAWP in August 2016 with regard to the future of MARAC in Glasgow.

The MARAC operates 1/ ½ days every month on a locality basis (South; North West and North East). It is only for those victims of domestic abuse who are at high risk of being seriously hurt, harmed or murdered. Since January 2016, **196** women, and **2** men have been discussed at MARAC, **226** children have been in the affected households. Of those 196, **11** women were identified as coming from a BME group, 1 from LGBT community, **1** 16/17 year old referral and **1** woman identified as having disability. The vast majority of referrals come from CSG ASSIST (154) and Police Scotland (29), 10 from GHSCP (Social Work Services) and 5 from front line women's organisations. There are 4 reasons that would merit a referral to MARAC: High RIC/DAQ (125); Escalation (11); Repeat (17); Professional Judgement (63). Please note that for 8 referrals there was more than 1 reason identified for referral. A key element of MARAC is to prevent further abuse and while there is more work required to examine the data, anecdotally 17 re-referrals out of 198 would suggest that MARAC is meeting outcomes in preventing further abuse.
There are a number of operational challenges existing for MARAC and these include:

- **Single Points of Contact (spoc):** in order for sensitive data to be shared effectively, establishing single points of contact across the key stakeholder

representatives is necessary. Gaps remain in some key support services however work is being taken forward to resolve this.

- **Understanding of role and function of MARAC**: there is a lack of awareness of MARAC and what it is established to do. Furthermore representatives are not fully knowledgeable of what interventions they might offer. Reluctance to take actions away from MARAC; referring agencies attending to present case; actions not being followed through. This has been raised with the relevant organisations who have agreed to reinvigorate their commitment to MARAC

- **Representation:** there are gaps in representation at MARAC meetings which impacts in MARAC effectiveness and ability to reduce the likelihood of harm to its lowest level.

Establishing MARAC's across the country has been identified as a priority in the Scottish Governments VAW and girls strategy document Equally Safe. There has not been a corresponding commitment to fund the service. Scottish Government is of the view that this initiative should be funded by local authorities. In a time of increasing austerity delivering MARAC based on the SafeLives model is challenging.

The Scottish Government are establishing a national working group on MARAC, we are confident that funding will be raised as an issue.

In order that MARAC is fully supported by all key partners: Glasgow City Council; Community Safety Glasgow; Police Scotland; Glasgow Health and Social Care Partnership; Wheatley Group; NHS GG&C; Womens Voluntary Sector; Crown Office; it needs to be identified as a strategic priority for the city and a priority public protection response to domestic abuse.

Glasgow child protection figures for 2015 show that domestic abuse is second only to neglect as the reason for referral and registration on the child protection register.

Independent evaluation of MARAC (in England and Wales) indicates that for every **£1** spent on MARAC**, £6** is saved in public money annually. In Scotland domestic abuse costs the public purse **£386 million.** In 2014/15 Glasgow recorded **8,974** reports of domestic abuse to Police Scotland. According to CSG ASSIST statistics they received **5,426** referrals from the Strathclyde area, **1,944** from Glasgow, **41%** (**797**) of these referrals go before MARAC for intervention. With a properly resourced MARAC operational in the city it is estimated that we could expect on average 85 referrals every 4 weeks.

CSG VAW team and Glasgow Women's Aid are currently exploring external charitable trust funding opportunities for a full time MARAC Coordinator, a part time administrator and an Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate for non -ASSIST referrals in an attempt to secure the longer term future of MARAC in Glasgow.

## 6. 16 Days of Action 2015

A comprehensive programme of activity was delivered across the city during 16 Days of Action. In partnership with Glasgow Life an exhibition 'Hear Our Voice' was hosted. This exhibition used images from Community Safety Glasgow social media campaign to increase brand awareness along with 4 short films played on a repeating loop exploring themes in relation to domestic abuse; consent; FGM and what men can do. In 2016 we will be hosting 1 city wide event which will explore Adult Support and Protection and Violence Against Women: Challenges and Opportunities.

## 7. Schools Drama Programme

In January 2016, 'Crush' a drama which explores gender inequality and teenage abuse was delivered in 34 secondary schools across the city. The evaluation report is currently being drafted and can be shared once complete. To support performances this year a resource pack was produced for secondary schools and twilight training delivered to teaching staff in all participating schools.

At the same time Gold Stars and Dragon Marks a primary schools drama which explores domestic abuse as bullying behaviour,targeted at pupils in P6 & 7. It was delivered to 50 primary schools in the city. A resource pack was developed for schools and twilight training offered to teaching staff on the drama and lesson plans. This is currently being evaluated and the report will be distributed once complete.

These programmes were funded from a variety of sources but include Integrated Grant Fund, Area Partnership funding and Health Improvement funding. "

## 8. Multi Agency Violence Against Women Training

The GVAWP has developed a training matrix for violence against women. This has been distributed across all partner agencies.

In January Training for Trainers was delivered and the GVAWP were able to recruit 15 volunteer facilitators to support the delivery of the ½ day awareness raising on violence against women workshops. A programme of workshops has been developed for 2016/17.

## 9. Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Glasgow city has led the way in campaigning to raise awareness and to have the harm caused by prostitution recognised. In late 2015 the Prostitution Law Reform Bill (Scotland) was published and out for consultation. This bill proposes that both buyers and sellers of sex are fully decriminalised. Glasgow has always supported the introduction of a challenging demand approach in Scotland, which decriminalises those selling sex, criminalises those buying and offers exiting support for individuals. The responses to the consultation are now published and we are waiting to learn how this bill might be taken forward in this parliamentary session.

Copies of the response are available.

## 10. Recommendations

The Safe Glasgow Group are asked to

1 Consider the information provided;

2 Agree that MARAC is a strategic priority response to domestic abuse;

3 Approve the GVAWP report.