



Item 4

27th November 2025

Glasgow Community Planning Partnership

Safe Glasgow Partnership

Report by George Gillespie, Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability

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Glasgow Violence Against Women Partnership report to Safe Glasgow Partnership

Purpose of Report:

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

Recommendations:

The Safe Glasgow Partnership are asked to:

- Consider the information provided and note the contents of the report.

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Safe Glasgow Partnership on the work undertaken by Glasgow Violence Against Women Partnership (GVAWP).
- 1.2 The GVAWP was established to bring together key multi-agency partners to take forward actions at a local level as agreed in Scottish Government *Equally Safe Strategy* to prevent and eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls.

2. Detail of Report

2.1 GVAWP Leadership

Following the resignation of Cllr Holly Bruce, the GVAWP is Chaired by Baillie Anne McTaggart.

2.2 Strategic Plan

There has been a considerable delay in the final production of the city-wide Strategic Plan. The plan has now been agreed by all partners, and the Violence Against Women (VAW) Team has briefed Cllr McTaggart.

2.3 Staffing and Budget

Glasgow City Council (GCC) allocated additional funds to Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability (NRS) VAW Services. A new Resource Worker has been appointed and commenced in post on **3rd November 2025**.

2.4 Partnership Activities

We continue to collaborate with Wise Women to deliver a series of online and in-person workshops exploring challenging discussions within the context of violence against women and girls.

- **30th October:** Workshop on the impact of child sexual abuse on adult survivors.
- **16 Days of Action:** Upcoming workshop on challenges faced by women subject to immigration controls, including those within the UK asylum system.
- **January 2026:** Planned event exploring harms caused by commercial sexual exploitation (CSE).

3. Funding

3.1 Delivering Equally Safe (DES)

The Scottish Government has confirmed a funding extension until **March 2026** for all seven DES-funded projects in Glasgow, including an uplift in funding. However, there are no indications of funding arrangements beyond **April 2026**. Projects dependent on this funding will be required to issue redundancy notices to staff, which is a significant concern and has been raised with the Scottish Government.

3.2 Glasgow Community Fund (GCF)

NRS VAW Services have participated in the assessment process for GCF funding applications.

- **12 projects** applied under the Violence Against Women and Girls theme.
- Frontline women's services responded positively to the revised application process.

4. Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

4.1 Coordination

The Coordination of Glasgow MARAC is the responsibility of NRS VAW Services. The service works to [SafeLives 10 Principles](#) of an effective MARAC.

4.2 Need for Restructure

The Glasgow MARAC Steering Group has collective responsibility for the Glasgow MARAC process. The Steering Group has agreed that a restructure of MARAC delivery in the city is required. This review is prompted by:

- Increasing volume of referrals.
- Challenges in discussing all referrals within agreed timeframes.
- Capacity and resource demands on MARAC representative services for preparatory work.

4.3 Working Group

A working group has been established, comprising representatives from:

- NRS VAW Services
- ASSIST
- Glasgow Women's Aid
- Glasgow HSCP Criminal Justice Services
- Police Scotland

Robust governance structures will be drafted, including clear aims, objectives, and timescales.

4.4 Funding

NRS VAW Services are in discussion with funding partners regarding ongoing funding. Funding is committed from GCC NRS along with additional funds from NRS VAW small funding budget.

5 Commercial Sexual Exploitation

5.1 National Strategy

In February 2024, the Scottish Government launched a national strategy to:

- Challenge men's demand for prostitution.
- Support individuals to exit prostitution.

This strategy aligns with *Equally Safe* and includes all forms of commercial sexual exploitation within the Scottish Government & COSLA definition of violence against women and girls. A national multi-agency working group was convened to support implementation, where concerns were raised early regarding meaningful collaboration with Violence Against Women Partnerships.

5.2 Ongoing Concerns

Concerns highlighted in June regarding the lack of meaningful collaborative working with Violence Against Women Partnerships remain unresolved.

5.3 Local Operations

NRS Routes Out Service continues to work with Police Scotland's '**G Division**' on *Operation Waterdale*, targeting kerb crawling in the East of the city and signposting women to Routes Out services.

5.4 National Operations

Beyond Glasgow, *Operation Begonia* is delivered in Aberdeen, Dundee, and Edinburgh. Differences in delivery across Scotland are expected due to variations in local service provision. There is significant value in collaborative work across Violence Against Women Partnerships in the four cities to:

- Inform efforts to tackle prostitution.
- Support transparency.
- Promote local inclusion.

5.5 Legislative Developments

In June 2025, Ash Regan MSP lodged a consultation on the [Proposed Prostitution \(Offences and Support\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#).

5.6 Glasgow's Position

A response to the Bill was submitted on behalf of Glasgow City Council and the Glasgow Violence Against Women & Girls Partnership by NRS Routes Out Services.

- The Bill is fully supported by GVAWP and aligns with Glasgow City Council's policy position on CSE.
- Police Scotland has also confirmed support for the proposed Bill.
by Police Scotland.

A copy of the response is attached for information (Appendix 1).

6. Carter Foundation: Inform Women Transform Lives: Where We Stop

6.1 Formal funding and monitoring with Carter Foundation will end December 2025.

6.2 Next Steps

Following the success of [Where We Stop](#) (The film was collaboration with Glasgow City Council, including NRS VAW Services, Glasgow Girls Club, GWA Enough Project, GCC Education Services). A paper is currently in draft seeking to take activity forward via the city-wide strategic plan. This work will be delivered as part of the **prevention element** of the city-wide Strategic Plan.

6.3 Wider Interest

There is significant interest from across the UK in the film, with requests from other local authority areas to use the materials. A school's workshop programme has been produced and piloted.

7. Consultations

7.1 Misogyny Legislation

In 2023, the Scottish Government announced its intention to introduce a Bill to reform criminal law to address misogyny. Due to time constraints, the focus shifted from a dedicated Misogyny Bill to adding **sex as a protected characteristic** in Hate Crime legislation, aiming to provide necessary protections for women and girls.

7.2 Consultation Response

The Scottish Government launched a consultation in **August 2025**, which concluded on **10th October 2025**. NRS VAW Services responded on behalf of Glasgow City Council and GVAWP. A copy of the response is attached for information (Appendix 2).

7.3 Legislative Position

GVAWP remains supportive of stand-alone legislation but acknowledges the current legislative gap. The partnership supports the introduction of **SSI within Hate Crime legislation**, which will:

- Introduce *Stirring Up of Hatred* offences.
- Add *Aggravation of Offences by Prejudice*.

7.4 Broader View

GVAWP recognises that misogyny is deeply embedded in society and stresses the need for continued work to ensure women and girls can exercise their legal and human rights to live free from degrading, dehumanising, and oppressive treatment.

8. Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill

8.1 Passage

The Bill was passed by the Scottish Parliament in **September 2025**.

8.2 Key Reforms

- Abolishes the '**not proven**' verdict in all criminal trials.
- Changes jury majority for conviction from a simple majority to **two-thirds**.

8.3 Trauma-Informed Practice

The Bill embeds trauma-informed practice across the justice system to avoid re-traumatisation of victims.

8.4 Measures for Sexual Offence Survivors

- Establishment of a **specialist Sexual Offences Court**.
- Automatic lifelong right of **anonymity** for victims.
- Automatic right to **independent legal representation** when applications are made to lead evidence of sexual history or character.
- Legal right for victims in rape and serious sexual offence cases to access **court transcripts free of charge**.

9. Feminist City

9.1 Commitment

GVAWP remains committed to supporting Glasgow's aspiration to become a **Feminist City**.

9.2 Collaboration

The partnership is keen to explore opportunities to collaborate with the **Feminist Urbanism Working Group**. A paper will be presented to consider joint working to increase women's safety.

10. Recommendations

The Safe Glasgow Partnership is asked to:

- **Consider the information provided and note the contents of the GVAWP report.**