Item 7

24th August 2023

Glasgow Community Planning Partnership

Safe Glasgow Partnership

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

Contact: Gary Walker Ext: 78624

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 GVAWP report to the Safe Glasgow Partnership of GCPP.

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 Glasgow Violence Against Women Partnership is 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

2.1.1 The production of the GVAWP city wide strategic plan to tackle all forms of violence against women and girls is now at draft production. The GVAWP will consider the final version at the meeting on 27 August 2023 and a targeted consultation on priorities will be undertaken prior to launch later this year.

2.1.2 The Scottish Government commissioned an independent strategic review of funding and commissioning of violence against women and girls' services. This report is now published https://www.gov.scot/publications/violence-against-women-girls-independent-strategic-review-funding-commissioning-services-report/

2.1.3 In total there are 53 recommendations from the report to be considered. The key findings from the report highlight that despite significant work happening across Scotland, women, children and young people are being failed, and there is a need for a programme of transformational change.

2.1.4 Amongst key recommendations are:

- **Minimum services:** A core range of services should be available to all women, children and young people in Scotland, wherever and whenever they need it, to meet their safety and wellbeing needs.
- **Legislation:** to place Violence Against Women Partnerships (VAWPs) on a statutory footing including a right in law to minimum core services; a public duty on service providers to ensure that the full range of minimum core services are provided, a public duty on prevention and identifying children and young people as co-victims in relation to domestic abuse.
- **Funding:** The current national, competitive fund for essential services provided by the Scottish Government should be replaced by ring fenced, devolved funding for violence against women, children and young people with minimum core services to local authorities and their statutory partners. Funding decisions should be agreed through collaborative commissioning processes and should be for a minimum of 3 years. Violence Against Women Partnerships (VAWP) will be integral to this.

- **Partnership Working:** VAWP's should be put on a statutory footing and included in Public Protection arrangements at a local authority level. Investment in developing the infrastructure of VAWPs should be prioritised and should include appropriate levels of resource for coordination and administration, monitoring and evaluation, carrying out local needs assessments and commissioning of services.
- **Governance:** The eradication of VAWCYP,(Violence Against Women, Children, Young People) as a cross-cutting policy issue, should be visible across all portfolios. All senior leads should have an accountability and delivery responsibility for VAWG included in their role.

2.1.5 The GVAWP will consider the recommendations at its next meeting on 27th August, and consider a formal response to the report. This will include a recommendation that NRS VAW Services in partnership with front line women's services deliver information workshops on the Funding Review Report.

2.2 WAIR Group (Women, Immigration, Asylum and Refugee)

2.2.1 This working group is concerned with responding to the needs of women who are subject to immigration barriers. This includes women asylum seekers, women on spousal visas, student visas or other immigration status and women from the European Union, who have arrived in UK from 31 December 2020. The WAIR Group is the only working group of its kind in the UK.

2.2.2 We have previously reported on the Women, Destitution and No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) Project. A formal report on the work undertaken by the partners taking this work forward is in development. It is proposed that the report will be launched during 16 Days of Action. A copy of the report as well as an invitation to attend the launch event will be extended to Safe Group members.

2.2.3 The UK Government Illegal Migrants Act 2023 is now passed and received Royal Assent on 20 July. This Act is now in the process of implementation and is of concern to WAIR Group members. It has a significant impact on what supports can be given to migrants who have entered the UK from the 20th July 2023 without having an appropriate visa in place prior to leaving country of origin.

3. Increasing Cost of Living and VAW

3.1 Consultation with front line women's services on the impact of the cost of living rises and service provision is in early stages of development and a report will be produced and shared with members of Safe Glasgow Partnership.

4. Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

4.1 We are pleased to report that a multi-agency funding formula has been agreed between Glasgow City Council, Police Scotland, Glasgow HSCP and the Wheatley Group. The funding agreed has secured MARAC future for 2 years

and includes the appointment of a 3rd MARAC Coordinator and increases the existing post holder hours to 35.

4.2 The funding will allow the continued development of MARAC in the city and will include a review and refresh of processes and procedures.

4.3 MARAC in Glasgow continues to receive a high volume of referrals. From January 2023 to August 2023, **756** high risk victims of domestic abuse have been discussed. Of these **711** were women, **45** were males, and **1,166** were children and young people.

4.4 In partnership with Police Scotland and ASSIST, it has been agreed to trial an assessment process to effectively manage referrals of known perpetrators of domestic abuse to MARAC as victims.

5. Consultations

5.1 The Scottish Government recently consulted on Reforming Criminal Law to Address Misogyny. A copy of the GVAWP response is attached to this report.

6. Commercial Sexual Exploitation

6.1 The GVAWP was consulted by Glasgow City Council Licensing Team on an application for Sexual Entertainment License (SEV). A copy of the response is available from NRS VAW Services.

7. Partnership Working

7.1 NRS VAW Services are members of the ADP (Alcohol and Drugs Partnership) Women's Working Group. This working group is at the early stages of considering the relationship between all forms of violence against women and drug related deaths. The work will involve collation and analysis of data from a range of services.

8. Restorative Justice (RJ) and Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (DASV)

8.1 Glasgow Violence Against Women Partnership and Community Justice Partnership have produced a joint position statement on the use of restorative justice where crimes of domestic abuse and/or sexual violence are the presenting concern. The position statement can be read here https://www.glasgowcpp.org.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=60327&p=0

9. Recommendations

9.1 The Safe Glasgow Partnership are asked to:

- Consider the information provided; and
- Note the GVAWP report to the Safe Glasgow Partnership of GCPP