Expansion of Advocacy, Support, Safety, Information Services Together – Update noted.

2 There was submitted and noted a report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability providing an update regarding the Expansion of Advocacy, Support, Safety, Information Services Together (ASSIST), advising

(1) that ASSIST had been established by the Community Safety Partnership in 2004 and transferred to the Council in 2006 and was a specialist domestic abuse advocacy and support service that focused on reducing the risk and improving the safety of victims of domestic abuse;

(2) of the Scottish Government funding since 2004;

(3) of the scale of the challenge, according to Police Scotlands' recorded data of domestic abuse crimes, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the robust contingency planning arrangements that had to be put in place for all services who supported people who experienced domestic abuse;

(4) in further detail of ASSIST operations and the anticipated outcomes, as detailed in the report;

(5) of the expansion of the ASSIST service following receipt of additional funding in 2022;

(6) that ASSIST continued to attend relevant national and local multi agency meetings and strategic forums to advocate institutionally in relation to systemic issues that impacted on ASSIST clients and other victims across Scotland;

(7) that the Service worked with a range of partners to ensure continued improvement to the application of the legislative framework on coercive control in respect of adults and children; and

(8) of examples that demonstrated the impact of ASSIST.