

EAST AYRSHIRE CHIEF OFFICERS GROUP: 21 DECEMBER 2010

EAST AYRSHIRE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PARTNERSHIP:

PROPOSED GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform the Chief Officers Group of the development of the East Ayrshire Violence Against Women Partnership (EAVAWP) and to request that consideration be given to endorsing the proposed governance and reporting arrangements.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 2009 the Scottish Government and COSLA published, *Safer Lives: A Shared Approach to Tackling Violence Against Women in Scotland* and also *A Partnership Approach to Tackling Violence Against Women in Scotland - Guidance for Multi agency Partnerships*. Both sets of guidance underpin a shared commitment across all partner agencies to tackle violence against women in all its forms. Firstly, by broadening the focus of the Domestic Abuse agenda and secondly, taking a more inclusive partnership approach to a wider range of connected issues including the gender equality duty.
- 2.2 The EAVAWP recognises that violence against women contributes towards the social inequalities which exist between men and women. It recognises that violence against women, children and young people can take many forms and that some women, children and young people may experience different and/or multiple forms of male violence over their lifetime. The following broad definition of violence against women will inform the work of the partnership:

Violence against women includes but is not limited to:

- Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, within the general community or in institutions, including: domestic abuse, rape, incest and child sexual abuse.
- Sexual harassment and intimidation at work and in the public sphere; commercial sexual exploitation, including prostitution, pornography and trafficking.
- Dowry related violence.
- Female genital mutilation.
- Forced and child marriages.
- Honour crimes.

- 2.3 In East Ayrshire key areas of this work has been successfully progressed through the Domestic Abuse Forum, which was established in 2001. To address the wider issues it is proposed that a new Violence Against Women Partnership is formed. Firstly, to build on the work that has been currently developed by the Forum and secondly, to consider approaches to provide a more effective multiagency response towards the violence against

women “Safer Lives” four key policy *principles: prevention, protection, provision and participation.*

2.4The VAWP lead officer is Joyce Campbell, Planning Officer. Joyce will lead on all VAW related matters on a corporate basis (as a council employee) , but will also resource the work of the partnership on a multi-agency basis. In undertaking this role, Joyce will be supported by Karen Gardiner, East Ayrshire Women’s Aid and Susan Wilson, NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

3. APPROACH

3.1 The first meeting of the VAWP took place on 2 December 2010. The first meeting considered the remit, membership and approach which the partnership will adopt.

3.2 The group took time to consider the work of the East Ayrshire Domestic Abuse Forum. A progress report was submitted and the achievements of the group were noted. The group will no longer meet as domestic abuse will be one of the issues covered by the new VAWP.

3.3 The VAWP will require to invest significant effort in year 1 to raise awareness and develop understanding about key issues and the impact for women in East Ayrshire eg domestic abuse, prostitution, trafficking, pornography. While the partnership will develop an action plan, it is anticipated that the main focus will be in raising the profile of the needs of women with existing strategic groups and with mainstream services.

4. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

3.1 The violence against women agenda is cross cutting and links to a wide range of legislation, national strategies and initiatives. The national guidance strongly recommends that the violence against women agenda requires high level support and leadership. Given the public protection focus, the EAVAWP is therefore appropriately placed to report directly to the Chief Officer Group. This arrangement will ensure that there is a consistent and collaborative approach between and across East Ayrshire’s strategic planning partnership structures, particularly in respect of public protection.

3.2 Members of the VAWP are currently drafting the terms of reference within a broader governance paper (attached at appendix 1). Members of the Chief Officers Group are invited to make comment on the draft governance arrangements. The finalised paper will be presented to the COG at a future date for endorsement.

3.3 In line with current arrangements, it is proposed that the lead officer also resources and attends the Chief Officers Group.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The Chief Officer Group is asked to:

- (i) agree that the East Ayrshire Violence Against Women Partnership reports to the directly to Chief Officer Group;

- (ii) comment on the draft East Ayrshire Violence Against Women Partnership Governance Arrangements (appendix 1); and otherwise
- (iii) approve the proposal for the VAWP lead officer to resource and attend the Chief Officer's Group; and otherwise
- (iv) note the content of this report.

Susan Taylor
Chair of the East Ayrshire VAWP
10 December 2010

Report prepared by Joyce Campbell, Planning and Review Service Officer, Children and Families

AGENDA ITEM 3, APPENDIX ONE

East Ayrshire Violence Against Women Partnership

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Draft Version 1 (November 2010)

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1.0 CONTEXT

1.1 The aim of the East Ayrshire Violence Against Women Partnership (EAVAWP) is to bring together individuals and organisations to work towards a common purpose, namely, to provide a comprehensive partnership response to violence against women.

1.2 **Safer Lives: Changed Lives** (2009) sets out the Scottish Government's intentions to tackle violence against women in all its forms. This provides East Ayrshire with an opportunity to build on the successful partnership work achieved through Domestic Abuse whilst broadening and developing a shared understanding of their activity to a wider range of connected issues. While all partners in East Ayrshire recognise the relevance of domestic abuse, there may be less awareness of other forms of violence against women towards addressing gender inequalities under the Gender Equality Duty. The partnership has adopted the "Safer Lives" national priorities as they provide a sound basis for partnership working and to reflect how the 4P's can be successfully achieved these include:

- **Prevention** - to prevent, remove or diminish the risk of violence against women and its impacts on children and young people
- **Protection** - to protect women from victimisation, repeat victimisation or harassment by perpetrators and protect the children and young people affected
- **Provision** - to provide adequate services to deal with the consequences of violence against women and children to help them to rebuild their lives
- **Participation** - to ensure policy making and practice development around violence against women is shaped by the experiences, needs and views of those who use services

2.0 DEFINITION

2.1 The EAVAWP recognises that violence against women contributes towards the social inequalities which exist between men and women. It recognises that violence against women, children and young people can take many forms and that some women, children and young people may experience different and/or multiple forms of male violence over their lifetime.

Violence against women includes but is not limited to:

- Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, within the general community or in institutions, including: domestic abuse, rape, incest and child sexual abuse.
- Sexual harassment and intimidation at work and in the public sphere; commercial sexual exploitation, including prostitution, pornography and trafficking.
- Dowry related violence.
- Female genital mutilation.
- Forced and child marriages.
- Honour crimes.

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3.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE

3.1 The EAVAWP has been established to address the 4P's: prevention, provision, protection and participation which take into account all forms of violence against women. The Partnership remit is to:

- Develop a shared understanding across partner agencies about what is meant by violence against women.
- Promote violence against women issues across the multiagency sectors with the aim of reducing risk and improved protection.
- Build on the successes of previous initiatives to tackle domestic abuse and violence against women by consolidating existing multiagency plans, policies and procedures for domestic abuse and how these might apply for other aspects of violence against women.
- Ensure that the wider strategic planning mechanisms assess and take account of local need and gaps including linking with local womens groups and others to find out more about the extent of violence against women and how this manifests in a local area.
- Consider the best way to meet local needs by adapting existing responses to domestic abuse to fit a broader agenda; through new specialist services; or through additional capacity and expertise in existing organisations.
- Review the balance between prevention and protection work and services for women, children and men which take account of all forms of violence against women including how perpetrators are held to account and how they take responsibly for their actions.
- Ensure that service planning is informed by the experience of women and young people.

3.2 The role of EAVAWP individual members is to:

- Promote the violence against women agenda within and across partner organisations.
- Ensure strong and formal links with other local partnerships in their area so that there is a strategic fit and a collaborative approach within East Ayrshire local planning structures.
- Progress actions between meetings, independently of the Partnership or in conjunction with other member representatives.
- Participate in any short life working groups and to progress specific areas of work as identified.
- Take part in or deliver multi-agency workforce development sessions, training events and seminars.
- Provide written or verbal reports on their organisations developments in relation to violence against women.

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4.0 GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Overarching Principles

4.2 In line with the Scottish Government's policy guidance **Safer Lives: Changed Lives** the partnership will be firmly based on trust, promote shared goals and vision, equality, openness, willingness to change and good communication. This includes respecting the contribution which each partner brings; working to shared objectives; finding ways to deal with and address difference; securing active commitment from agencies; and involving senior people who can make decisions and influence policy.

4.3 Chairperson

4.4 The chairperson requires to be able to influence and link to the wider multiagency partnership and planning structures as referred to in section's 4.9 and 4.10. The chair will oversee the activities of the group and directly report to the Chief Officer Group on EAVAWP priorities, emerging issues, activity and progress.

4.5 Membership

The EAVAWP was established in 2010. Individual members require to operate both strategically and operationally in order to influence policy and change what happens on the ground. The Partnership consists of public and independent sector providers. All members are at a sufficient level or have a mandate to enable them to make decisions and progress multi-agency work. The current membership consists:

TBC

4.6 In the event of any member being unable to attend meetings they will nominate a depute with the delegated authority to make decisions and take forward work on their behalf.

4.7 Meetings Schedule

The EAVAWP will meet xxx times annually and members are expected to commit to this schedule. Members will ensure that resources are made available to progress development/training events/seminars. Also support short life working groups which may be convened from time to time to take forward key workstreams.

The agenda and papers for EAVAWP meetings will be made available to members one week before the date of the meeting.

4.8 Quorum

The meeting requires xxx attendance.

East Ayrshire Violence Against Women Partnership Forum

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4.9 Accountability and Reporting

The EAVAWP will formally report to the East Ayrshire Chief Officers Group (EACOG), which retains a strategic overview of multi agency service operational and planning. The role of the EACOG is to provide high level support and leadership and to ensure:

- A collective strategic overview
- Effective planning and performance, particularly in respect of risk assessment and risk management
- Appropriate resourcing; and
- Clear and appropriate public reporting, including a robust approach to public relations.

4.10 Wider multi agency partnerships and planning structures

4.11 There are a range of associate strategic and operational planning partnerships which are inextricably linked to violence against women issues. In order that the EAVAWP operates effectively and is responsive to the policy landscape and local peoples needs it is vital that members are able to influence and have the necessary links to different planning groups.

4.12 Local planning structures in which the violence against women agenda will feature in East Ayrshire include;

- Child and Adult Protection Committees
- Community Planning Partners Strategic Partnerships
- South West of Scotland Community Justice Authority
- Community Health Partnership

4.13 On a broader context the work of the EAVAWP is informed by the guiding values and principles of the East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership and the Single Outcome Agreement. Consequently there are planning actions set within these plans to address domestic abuse but there may be less awareness of other forms of violence against women and to better address gender inequalities under the Gender Equality Duty, these include:

- East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership's Single Outcome Agreement
- East Ayrshire Community Plan - Improving Community Safety Action Plan 2007-2011
- NHS Ayrshire and Arran Gender Based Violence Action Plan
- East Ayrshire Children and Young People's Services Plan
- East Ayrshire Child Protection Annual Report and Business Plan
- East Ayrshire Gender Equality Scheme
- South West of Scotland Community Justice Authority Action Plan 2010/11
- Ayrshire Violence Against Women Training Consortium Action Plan 2010/11

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4.14 All of these plans are interconnecting and inform important strands of the EAVAWP planning and performance work. This will encourage participation and commitment and ensure that violence against women will feature highly on the agenda of relevant partnership forums. This also provides innovative opportunities to plan better, to monitor the effectiveness of local service delivery, helps prevent duplication of effort and streamlines integrated approaches with wider planning partners.

5.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

5.1 Monitoring and evaluating progress towards outcomes is an important part of the planning process. The EAVAWP and its associated activities will be undertaken on two main levels to:

- Ensure the work of the group is reflected in the performance and outcome measures targets set within the local plans and strategies within the wider multi agency partnerships and structures as referred to in section 4.10.
- Consider the use of self evaluation tools to measure the effectiveness and impact of violence against women partnership working (and the 4P's) has on the community as well as in their own experiences of working within it.

6.0 EQUALITIES

6.1 The needs of women, children and young people from all sections of the community who experience gendered based violence will be considered and incorporated within relevant partnership plans including: Lesbian; Gender identity; Transgender; Bisexual; Disability, HIV Status, Race, Faith groups and Age. The EAVAWP will ensure that their experiences of domestic abuse; rape and sexual assault; adult survivors of child sexual abuse; so called honour crimes; FGM; dowry related violence; forced and child marriage; prostitution and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation are included within these plans.