

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 15 NOVEMBER 2005

EAST AYRSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY 2005-2008

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members of the Policy & Resources Committee for the East Ayrshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2005-2008, and associated recommendations arising from the notification of funding for a Violence Against Women Fund.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The East Ayrshire Domestic Abuse Forum was established in 2002. The Forum comprises representatives from across the statutory and voluntary sector and was established to take forward the National Strategy to Address Domestic Abuse in Scotland.

- 2.2** A report was presented to Policy & Resources Committee on 10 June 2004 which set out progress in relation to the East Ayrshire Domestic Abuse Strategy which had the overall undernoted objectives:

- provision of a consistent, co-ordinated response to women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse in East Ayrshire
- raising community awareness of domestic abuse
- promoting good practice within and between agencies
- ensuring that the needs of women, children and young people are identified and met on an ongoing basis

3. EAST AYRSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY 2005-2008

- 3.1** A new Domestic Abuse Strategy has been developed for 2005-2008 (Appendix 1). The Strategy continues to work towards the overall objectives as set out above and seeks to meet both national and local priorities.

- 3.2** One of the proposals which has straddled both the previous Strategy and the proposed Strategy is the publication of a *Good Practice Handbook*. This Handbook has been developed on a multi-agency basis and aims to support frontline staff in responding to the needs of women and children who have been subject to domestic abuse. The section relating to children and families has been approved by the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee. It is now intended to distribute the Handbook to key services both within the Council and across partners. The Handbook contains information regarding help under the law, housing, health, children and young people, and money and claiming benefits.

4. NOTIFICATION OF NEW FUNDING

- 4.1** In October 2005 the Scottish Executive wrote to Multi-Agency Partnerships/Forums, Local Authorities and NHS Boards with information regarding funding between 2006-2008 for services which support women who have been subject of other forms of violence, in particular rape and sexual assault but also other forms of gender based violence. £3 million will be made available in 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 to support a new Violence Against Women Fund. It is envisaged that this will play a vital role in supporting and developing local measures around the key themes of prevention, protection and provision not just for women but also for children and young people affected by gender based violence. The Scottish Executive has also committed £6 million between 2006-2008 to enable development of Women's Aid support services for children and young people affected by domestic abuse and the development of outreach services.
- 4.2** The closing date for applications to the Scottish Executive is 25 November 2005.
- 4.3** It is expected that Multi-Agency Partnerships/Forums will complete an assessment of each application and submit this with the application to the Executive for consideration.
- 4.4** Each application is expected to be match funded on a 50/50 basis although the Executive will also consider bids without match funding. This can take the form of support in kind as well as direct funding. At this stage however it is too early to give any indication of the likely bids.
- 4.5** It is therefore proposed that officers, through East Ayrshire's Domestic Abuse Forum submit applications, subject to match funding.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** Nil.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** Any specific financial implications which require Committee consideration arising from the roll out of the Strategy will be submitted to respective Committees for their consideration.

7. POLICY/LEGAL/COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** The East Ayrshire Domestic Abuse Strategy is integral to both the Promoting Community Safety Theme of the Community Plan and the Children and Young Person's Service Plan.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Members of Policy & Resources Committee are asked to:

- (i) approve the East Ayrshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2005-2008
- (ii) remit the submission of applications to the Scottish Executive as appropriate to officers, subject to confirmation of match funding; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

18 October 2005
KG/SR

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. National Strategy to Address Domestic Abuse in Scotland (2000)
2. East Ayrshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2002-2005
3. Domestic Abuse National Training Strategy 2004
4. Scottish Executive Development Department Equality Unit: Correspondence of 12 October 2005 – Violence Against Women

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR

COPIES OF THE HANDBOOK ARE AVAILABLE FROM KAY GILMOUR, HEAD OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT, COUNCIL HQ, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

East Ayrshire
Domestic Abuse Strategy
2005 - 2008

Who are we?

East Ayrshire Domestic Abuse Forum is a multi-agency partnership made up of representatives of all the agencies working with women and children in East Ayrshire including:

- East Ayrshire Council
- Community Safety Partnership
- Strathclyde Police
- East Ayrshire Women's Aid
- The Rape Counselling and Resource Centre
- NHS Ayrshire & Arran
- East Ayrshire Community Health Partnership
- East Ayrshire Victim Support
- Children's Reporters Administration
- Procurator Fiscal's Office

The Forum was established to take forward the National Strategy to Address Domestic Abuse in Scotland (2000) and provides an opportunity to improve services across agencies, share information about developments in individual agency responses to domestic abuse as well as working together to take forward the East Ayrshire Domestic Abuse Strategy.

All the agencies on the Forum recognise that responding to domestic abuse is not the responsibility of one agency or another. We are committed to working together to develop consistent, quality responses to challenge domestic abuse in East Ayrshire.

We want to reassure any women who is experiencing domestic abuse in East Ayrshire that she will be treated with respect in a confidential and sensitive manner and have easy access to appropriate quality services which meet her needs and those of her children.

East Ayrshire Domestic Abuse Forum 2002

What is domestic abuse?

Domestic abuse can involve a range of behaviours, some of which are criminal, all of which are unacceptable and none of which should be tolerated.

As many as one in five women in Scotland will experience domestic abuse at some point in their lives.

Domestic abuse affects women from all ages and all backgrounds. It is not caused by stress, unemployment, poverty, alcohol, mental illness or by the women who experience it. It is ongoing and usually escalates in severity and frequency over time, particularly when a woman attempts to leave or in some other way assert her identity.

Children and young people see and hear much of this abuse and many of them experience it themselves.

Although men can also experience abusive and controlling behaviour from their female partners and abuse can exist in same-sex relationships, domestic abuse is overwhelmingly experienced by women and their children.

East Ayrshire Domestic Abuse Forum have adopted the definition of domestic abuse contained in the national Strategy to Address Domestic Abuse in Scotland:

Domestic abuse (as gender based abuse), can be perpetrated by partners or ex-partners and can include physical abuse (assault and physical attack involving a range of behaviour), sexual abuse (acts which degrade and humiliate women and are perpetrated against their will, including rape) and mental and emotional abuse (such as threats, verbal abuse, racial abuse, withholding money and other types of controlling behaviour such as isolation from family and friends).

The National Strategy to Address Domestic Abuse in Scotland, 2000



Values & Objectives

In line with the national focus, we aim to achieve positive outcomes for women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse which centre around three key themes:

Prevention

through raising awareness of domestic abuse in the community and challenging those attitudes which allow it to be tolerated.

Protection

through encouraging and supporting agencies to develop appropriate responses and policies which protect women, children and young people from domestic abuse.

Provision

through the further development of adequate multi-agency support services for women and children who are experiencing domestic abuse.

Our specific objectives are:

- To provide a consistent, co-ordinated approach to women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse in East Ayrshire.
- To raise community awareness of domestic abuse.
- To promote good practice within and between agencies.
- To ensure the needs of women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse are identified and met on an ongoing basis.

3

What do we know about domestic abuse in East Ayrshire?

- Women made 4798 contacts to East Ayrshire Women's Aid in 2004 – 2005. 2827 contacts were for information, 288 requests for refuge, 88 FOR OUT OF HOURS SUPPORT AND JUST OVER 1500 general enquires.

122 women and 135 children and young people lived in the East Ayrshire Women's Aid refuges in 2004 – 2005.
- In 2003 – 2004, there were 2850 contacts for information and support and 194 requests for refuge accommodation.
- A further 664 contacts in 2004/05 were made by children and young people to outreach and follow-on support services.
- In 2004, just under 43,678 incidents of domestic abuse were recorded by Scottish Police Forces, a 10% increase from 2003. This represents an overall incidence of 860 per 100,000 population as compared to 784 per 100,000 population in 2003.
- The victim was female and the perpetrator male in 88% of incidents. 52% of cases involved repeat victimisation and women aged 26 – 30 years were most at risk. 32% of incidents involved ex-partners or spouses.
- In East Ayrshire, 1048 incidents were recorded by the police representing 875 per 100,000 population. This is the tenth highest level of incidence in Scotland, behind the cities of Aberdeen, Dundee, Glasgow and Edinburgh and Inverclyde, South Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, North Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire.
- The National Domestic Abuse Helpline received 539 calls from East Ayrshire in 2004 - 2005
- Victim Support East Ayrshire received 233 domestic abuse referrals out of a total of 4777 in 2004 – 2005. In the previous year, 111 domestic abuse referrals were received out of a total of 2884.
- East Ayrshire Council received 123 homelessness presentations as a result of violent dispute in 2004 – 2005 representing 10.39% of all presentations. A further 118 presentations (9.80%) were as a result of non-violent dispute.
- In 2003 – 2004, 115 (11.31%) presentations were made as a result of violent dispute, and 85 (8.36%) as a result of non-violent dispute.



Summary of national developments

Since the publication of the National Strategy, a number of specific developments have taken place:

- The Protection from Abuse (Scotland) Act 2001 which extended the legal protection available to those experiencing domestic abuse.
- The Sexual Offences (Procedure and Evidence) Scotland Act 2003 which prevents the accused in rape and other sexual offence cases from personally cross-examining the complainer.
- The strengthening of legal protection available to those experiencing stalking and harassment.
- A national review of refuge provision and audit of need.
- The development of a National Prevention Strategy.
- The development of a National Training Strategy which established local training consortia with responsibility to progress the strategy in local health board areas.
- The establishment of a 24 hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline.
- Guidance for Health Professionals
- Funding for Rape Crisis Services including a national office for the network of local groups.
- Awareness raising throughout the media.
- Support to improve local services, particularly through the Domestic Abuse Service Development Fund.

5

Summary of developments in East Ayrshire

The first East Ayrshire Domestic Abuse Strategy was launched at Crosshouse Hospital on 25th November 2000. Since then we have:

- Agreed a constitution for the Forum, adopted the national definition of domestic abuse and evaluated our progress through forum meetings and annual review.
- Secured funding to support the implementation of the first strategy through the employment of a Strategy Implementation Officer
- Secured and maintained funding for a Domestic Abuse Training Worker
- Integrated the Domestic Abuse Strategy into local policies and plans such as the East Ayrshire Community plan, the Children's Services Plan, The Community Safety Strategy and the East Ayrshire Homelessness Strategy.
- Organised an information and awareness raising seminar on domestic abuse for employers in both the public and private sectors.
- Produced and distributed a credit-card help-line leaflet detailing local services.
- Organised the 'Touch' art exhibition which brought together contributions from all sections of the community.
- Distributed the Zero Tolerance education pack to all secondary schools in East Ayrshire and provided additional support to schools using the materials.
- Coordinated local activity to mark White Ribbon Day, the United Nations International Day Against Violence Towards Women and Girls.
- Secured funding to develop and implement a programme of preventative work.
- Provided awareness raising training throughout East Ayrshire and evaluated its quality and impact.
- Provided follow-on training on practice issues.
- Worked together to develop a good practice handbook for all agencies working with women, children & young people affected by domestic abuse.
- Secured funding for purpose built, barrier free refuge facilities in Kilmarnock.
- Secured funding for additional security measures to protect women at risk of domestic abuse.
- Investigated ways of extending the range of refuge facilities available in Cumnock and Doon Valley.
- Secured funding for the provision of outreach services to women affected by domestic abuse in Cumnock and Doon Valley.
- Coordinated a data collection snapshot designed to identify training needs and highlight opportunities to improve local recording systems
- Developed proposals and secured funding for a Link Nurse Initiative to address the mental health needs of women experiencing domestic abuse.



The Action Plan

Our plans for the next three years are set out in the following Action Plan which give details of the specific **action** we will take and the **timescale** within which we hope to achieve measurable **targets** linked to the specific **outcomes** of protection, prevention and provision. Also detailed are the main **partners** involved in implementing the action, the **lead partner** is highlighted in bold.

Resourcing the Strategy

All partners are committed to the implementation of this Strategy and in kind contributions are made through different agencies, primarily through staff and volunteers. Specific funding to enable the implementation of the Strategy to be taken forward includes:

Funding Source	Allocation 2005/6
Domestic Abuse Service Development Fund	£23,300.00
Community Regeneration Fund	£30,000.00
National Training Strategy	£13,000.00

In addition, East Ayrshire Women's Aid receive funding to provide a range of specialist services to women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse from:

East Ayrshire Council	£281,686.00
Supporting People Fund	£113,887.00
Housing Benefit	£74,180.00

NHS Ayrshire & Arran received £19,000.00 from the Scottish Executive in 2004-5 for training to support the implementation of their guidelines for health professionals. Women's Aid and NHS Ayrshire & Arran are currently delivering a two day training programme to staff across Ayrshire.

OBJECTIVE: To provide a consistent, co-ordinated response to women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse.

ACTION	TARGETS	TIMESCALE	OUTCOMES	LEAD PARTNER
<p>Identify additional stakeholders to ensure the work of the forum is representative of the community.</p> <p>Continue to evaluate the work of the forum through ongoing monitoring and annual review</p>	<p>Improved awareness of the work of the domestic abuse forum across agencies.</p> <p>Increased input to the work of the Forum from stakeholders.</p>	<p>2005- 7</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Prevention Protection Provision</p>	<p>Forum partners</p>
<p>Ensure that domestic abuse is fully integrated into the Community Planning Process.</p> <p>Further develop links with others relevant partnerships.</p>	<p>Improved co-ordination of responses to domestic abuse across agencies.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Prevention Protection Provision</p>	<p>Forum partners</p>

OBJECTIVE: To raise community awareness of domestic abuse.

ACTION	TARGETS	TIMESCALE	OUTCOMES	LEAD PARTNER
<p>Develop and implement proposals to ensure information about services reaches women, children and young people from more marginalised groups.</p> <p>Update, reprint and distribute credit card leaflet.</p>	<p>Increased awareness of services amongst women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse.</p>	<p>2005 - 2007</p> <p>2008</p>	<p>Provision</p>	<p>East Ayrshire Zero Tolerance Group</p> <p>Forum partners</p>
<p>Implement a two-year poster campaign to raise awareness of domestic abuse and provide information on agencies that can help.</p>	<p>Increased public awareness of the issues surrounding domestic abuse.</p> <p>Increase in referrals to support services.</p>	<p>2005 - 2008</p>	<p>Prevention</p>	<p>East Ayrshire Zero Tolerance Group</p> <p>Forum partners</p>
<p>Develop and launch an East Ayrshire Domestic Abuse Forum website.</p>	<p>Increase in public and practitioner's awareness of the work of the Domestic Abuse Forum.</p>	<p>2005 - 2006</p>	<p>Provision</p> <p>Prevention</p>	<p>East Ayrshire Zero Tolerance Group</p> <p>Forum partners</p>
<p>Continue to co-ordinate local activity to mark White Ribbon Day</p>	<p>Increased community awareness of violence against women and girls.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Prevention</p>	<p>Forum partners</p>
<p>Develop targets with East Ayrshire Learning Partnerships for preventative work in schools and youth settings.</p>	<p>Increased awareness and understanding of domestic abuse amongst young people.</p>	<p>2005 - 2006</p>	<p>Prevention</p> <p>Provision</p>	<p>East Ayrshire Learning Partnerships</p>
<p>Build on existing work being done in secondary schools to develop a specific module on domestic abuse.</p>	<p>Increased awareness and understanding of domestic abuse amongst secondary school pupils.</p>	<p>2005 - 2007</p>	<p>Prevention</p>	<p>East Ayrshire Learning Partnerships</p>

<p>Develop and implement a pilot abuse prevention programme with a local pre-5 establishment involving children, parents and pre-5 staff.</p> <p>Evaluate and roll out the project to other pre-5 establishments</p>	<p>Respect for self and others will be promoted amongst pre-school children taking part in the pilot.</p> <p>Direct support to mothers and children experiencing domestic abuse will be provided.</p> <p>Staff awareness of the impact of domestic abuse on mothers and children will increase.</p>	<p>2005 – 2007</p> <p>2007 – 2008</p>	<p>Prevention Provision</p>	<p>East Ayrshire Council, Early Years Service</p>
<p>Identify partners to develop and implement a preventative programme targeted specifically at young men</p>	<p>A programme of preventative materials will be available to agencies working with young men.</p>	<p>2006 - 2008</p>	<p>Prevention</p>	<p>East Ayrshire Council Forum partners</p>

OBJECTIVE: To promote good practice within and between agencies.

ACTION	TARGETS	TIMESCALE	OUTCOMES	LEAD PARTNER
<p>Distribute the Good Practice Handbook to relevant organisations and seek endorsement of the Good Practice Guidelines.</p> <p>Develop and implement monitoring and evaluation systems to measure the impact of the handbook on service delivery.</p>	<p>Evidence of implementation of good practice guidelines amongst agencies.</p>	<p>2005 - 2006</p> <p>2005 - 2006</p>	<p>Protection</p>	<p>Forum partners</p>
<p>Develop a multi-agency training strategy. Continue to provide two-day multi-agency training.</p> <p>Develop multi-agency training calendar to meet advanced training needs.</p> <p>Develop modular training programmes that can be delivered in shorter sessions.</p> <p>Develop links with other training programmes e.g. child protection.</p> <p>Continue to evaluate the quality and impact of training.</p>	<p>Training will be attended by service providers from all agencies.</p> <p>Domestic abuse will be integrated into child protection training programme.</p> <p>Evidence of the impact of training on service delivery.</p>	<p>2005 - 2006</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>2005 - 2006</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>2005 - 2007</p>	<p>Protection</p>	<p>Women's Aid Forum partners</p> <p>Women's Aid East Ayrshire Council</p>
<p>Develop a charter of rights for women, children and young people in relation to domestic abuse</p>	<p>Women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse will be aware of the standards of service they can expect from agencies.</p>	<p>2005 - 2007</p>	<p>Protection</p>	<p>Women's Aid</p>

OBJECTIVE: To ensure that the needs of women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse are identified and met on an ongoing basis

ACTION	TARGETS	TIMESCALE	OUTCOMES	LEAD PARTNER
<p>Continue to seek out the views of women who have experienced domestic abuse about their perceptions and experiences of services.</p> <p>Establish and support a forum of survivors of domestic abuse to inform the ongoing work of the Domestic Abuse Forum</p>	<p>Women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse will inform the development of services and the work of the Domestic Abuse Forum.</p>	<p>2005 - 2007</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Provision</p>	<p>Women's Aid Forum partners</p> <p>Women's Aid</p>
<p>To improve refuge accommodation available in the south of East Ayrshire.</p>	<p>Improved refuge accommodation in the south of East Ayrshire.</p>	<p>2005 - 2007</p>	<p>Provision</p>	<p>Women's Aid East Ayrshire Council</p>
<p>Continue to identify the specific support needs of women experiencing domestic abuse with mental health problems and implement proposals to have those needs met.</p>	<p>Evidence that the needs of women experiencing domestic abuse with mental health problems are being more effectively met.</p>	<p>2005 - 2007</p>	<p>Provision</p>	<p>Community Health Partnership</p>
<p>Assess the specific needs of women experiencing domestic abuse with addiction problems and develop proposals to meet them on a multi-agency basis.</p>	<p>Evidence that the needs of women experiencing domestic abuse with addiction problems are being more effectively met.</p>	<p>2005 - 2007</p>	<p>Provision</p>	<p>NHS Ayrshire & Arran</p>

<p>Identify current provision to children and young people affected by domestic abuse and develop targets to enhance existing services.</p>	<p>Evidence of improved services to children and young people affected by domestic abuse.</p>	<p>2005 - 2007</p>	<p>Provision</p>	<p>Women's Aid East Ayrshire Council</p>
<p>Produce an employer's toolkit providing information and resources on addressing domestic abuse in the workplace and developing workplace policies.</p> <p>Support the implementation of the toolkit through training, advice and guidance.</p> <p>Evaluate the impact of the toolkit.</p>	<p>Awareness of domestic abuse will increase in participating workplaces. Employers will develop strategies to support employees who are experiencing domestic abuse.</p> <p>Evidence of improved responses to employees experiencing domestic abuse.</p>	<p>2006 - 2007</p> <p>2008</p>	<p>Protection Provision</p>	<p>East Ayrshire Zero Tolerance</p> <p>NHS Ayrshire & Arran Workplace Team Women's Aid</p>
<p>Explore the potential for work with the perpetrators of domestic abuse.</p>	<p>Concrete proposals to address the behaviour of perpetrators of domestic abuse will be developed</p>	<p>2007 - 2008</p>	<p>Protection</p>	<p>East Ayrshire Council</p>