



Fife Violence Against
Women Partnership
Annual Report 2024/25

Contents

Chairs report	Page 3
National Context	Page 4
National Statistics	Page 5
Equally Safe Data Standards Assessment	Page 5
Local Context	Page 6
Priority 1 Key Achievements	Pages 7-8
Priority 2 Key Achievements	Page 9
Priority 3 Key Achievements	Pages 10-13
Priority 4 Key Achievements	Page 14-15
Looking forward -Goals for 2025-26	Page 16
Links & Resources	Page 17

Introduction / Chair's Report

It has been another busy year in the work of the Fife Violence Against Women Partnership. Our voluntary and statutory organisations continue to work towards making Fife a safe place for Women and Girls.

This year there have been a number of areas of work I would like to highlight including:

- **Reclaim The Night Walk** – this took place again in Kirkcaldy Town Centre and is an important symbol of the need for women to feel safe at night in our town centres. This was part of a wider set of events around the 16 days of Activism. Everyone worked hard to deliver more events than ever this year, and the campaign allowed us to highlight the work of the partnership.
- **Mentors in Violence Prevention** – This is a really powerful area of work focusing on how we engage with young people in school. It especially helps us engage with young men to challenge negative information they may find online.
- **Training on Commercial Sexual Exploitation** – We held a Fife Conference on Commercial Sexual Exploitation delivered by the Women's Support Project and featuring other Fife partners. It challenged us to accept that this is an issue in Fife and is an area of work we need to engage with to help support women and keep them safe.
- **'What Were You Wearing?'** exhibition – the exhibition continued to be toured across venues in Fife continuing to be thought provoking and powerful.

We have a busy and challenging year ahead – for our specialist organisations there are continued challenges around finances, and we are still awaiting final decisions on what future Scottish funding regimes will look like.

As always, the success of the partnership is down to its' members and especially the dedicated staff who give huge energy and commitment to moving us forward.

It has been my honour to continue to help shape this work and I am looking forward to another busy year.

Paul Short, FVAWP Executive Committee Chair

National context

Equally Safe is Scotland's national strategy to prevent and eradicate violence against women and girls.

The **strategy** was refreshed and re-published in December 2023, supported by a **logic model** showing the strategic goals. A **delivery plan** was then published for Summer 2024 – Spring 2026.

The logic model and local area Quality Standards continue to work to the following four priorities:

1. Scottish society embraces equality and mutual respect and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls
2. Women and girls thrive as equal citizens: socially, culturally, economically, and politically
3. Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising the safety and wellbeing of women children and young people
4. Men reject all forms of violence against women and girls and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response



This strategy's definition of VAWG includes the actual and threat of:¹²

- physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, and financial abuse occurring in the family, within the general community, and in institutions in both physical and digital spaces and places
- domestic abuse/coercive controlling behaviours, stalking, rape, incest, sexual harassment, bullying, and intimidation
- commercial sexual exploitation (CSE), including prostitution, lap dancing, stripping, pornography
- human trafficking, including for the purposes of domestic servitude, sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation, which may include gangs and organised criminal networks
- child abuse occurring within family settings, including domestic abuse, and sexual abuse by male family members including siblings
- child sexual abuse and exploitation including the production and sharing of indecent images of children
- honour-based abuse, including forced marriages, female genital mutilation (FGM), dowry abuse and 'honour based' coercive control and killings.

Boys experience domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and exploitation in significant numbers. That is why the Equally Safe strategy covers all children and young people.

This strategy recognises that women, children, and young people may experience multiple forms of VAWG simultaneously and across their lifetime.

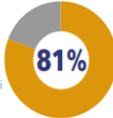


National Statistics

Police Scotland recorded **63,867** incidents of domestic abuse in 2023-24, an increase of 3% compared to the previous year.

[Key points - Domestic abuse: statistics recorded by the police in Scotland, 2023 to 2024 - gov.scot](#)

Around **four out of five** of the 64,807 incidents recorded by Police Scotland in 2021-22 had a female victim and a male perpetrator.



The 2019/20 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey found that **just under one-sixth (16%)** of those who experienced partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview said that the police came to know about the most recent (or only) incident.^{viii}

There has been a notable decrease in the extent to which people agree with rape myths since 2014. In 2019, **8%** of people in Scotland thought that 'women often lie about being raped' (down from 23% in 2014).



28% believed that 'rape results from men being unable to control their need for sex' (37% in 2014).^{iv}

However, this still equates to one in ten people in Scotland thinking that 'women often lie about being raped' and nearly one in three continuing to believe that 'rape results from men being unable to control their need for sex'.

A quarter (24.5%) of women who have experienced financial abuse from a partner in the UK are **over 60 years** of age.^x



14,484 sexual crimes were recorded by Police Scotland in 2023/24

[Sexual Crimes - Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24 - gov.scot](#)

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2019-2020 showed that only **22%** of victims/survivors of rape reported it to the police.ⁱⁱ



At least **37%** of the **14,602** sexual crimes recorded in 2022-23 by the police related to a victim under the age of 18.ⁱⁱⁱ



3,830 sexual crimes were cyber-crimes in 2022-23.^v That has increased from 1,100 in 2013-14.



More than **one in six** women in Scotland has experienced online violence.^{vi}

1,928

online child sexual abuse crimes were recorded in Scotland in 2022-23, a **6.6% increase** (20 more*crimes) on the five-year mean.



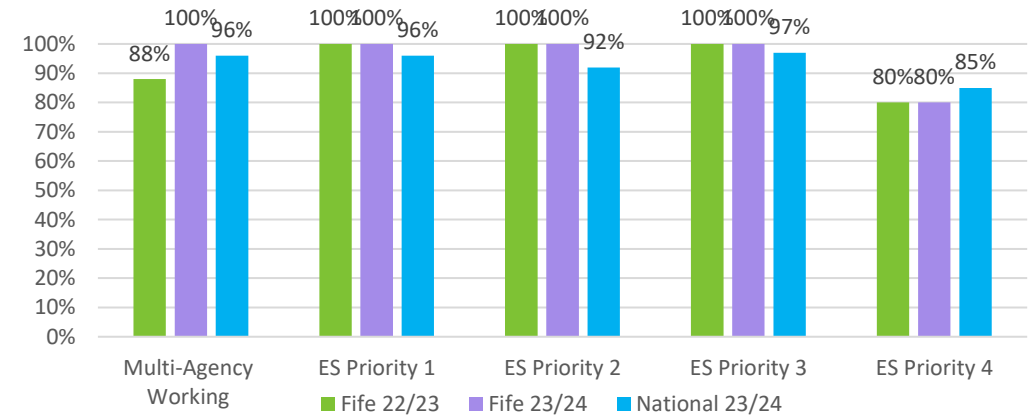
In Scotland, **37%** of girls and young women aged 16 to 21 say that "I am often stared at and receive unwanted attention when I go outside", as do **12%** of 11- to 16-year-old girls.^{ix}



National Equally Safe Quality Standards

Partners self-assess against national set standards, with results approved by the FVAWP Executive Committee and submitted to the Improvement Service for collation nationally. The report compares Fife's 2022/23 and 2023/24 data with the 2023/24 Scottish average, showing above-average scores in three of the Equally Safe priorities (1, 2, and 3) and multi-agency working.

% of Quality Standards 'Met' or 'Partly Met' by Fife/Nationally



FVAWP scored slightly below average on Priority 4, reflecting some gaps in the following two areas:

- High quality, evidence-based, non court-mandated programmes are in place at a local level that work with perpetrators of VAWG to hold them account for, and support them to change, their behaviours. **(Not met)**
- Measures are in place, such as specialist domestic abuse courts, to ensure women and children who experience domestic abuse receive an appropriate response from the criminal justice system. This includes ensuring women and children are fully informed and supported throughout a court process and have appropriate opportunities to input their views. **(Only partly met)**

FVAWP continues to work with partners to address these key issues. While strong court-mandated perpetrator programmes exist, we are developing creative approaches - such as workbooks and practitioner-led interventions - to support behaviour change when concerns arise.

We are also collaborating with COPFS, Community Justice partners, and specialist services to ensure victims' voices are heard and respected throughout court and criminal justice processes.

Local context

- FVAWP's 2023-25 Action Plan outlines the work that we have been involved in over the past two years, which aligns with the four national priorities set by Equally Safe
- This work is directed by our Executive Committee, made up of senior staff from partner organisations and services, and four working groups with a focus on each Priority. A number of working sub-groups focus on specific elements of each priority and feed into those work streams.
- A national framework has been used to self-assess progress locally (see page 5), identifying strengths and challenges, and areas for improvement, which forms the basis for the work carried out in the last year of FVAWP's 2023-25 Action Plan.



If viewing a digital copy, please click on logos to access relevant partners' websites

Further links/information can be found by clicking on logos and links throughout document

Priority 1 Key Achievements

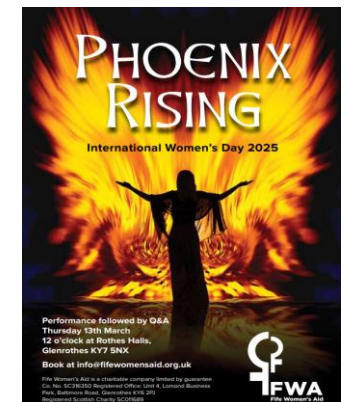
CP1.1 There is a continued presence of information about Violence Against Women and Girls, the causes and consequences and the role communities can play in tackling it across Fife.

Supporting National Campaigns

- An online awareness session was organised for **National Stalking Awareness Week**, which highlighted the impact stalking has on victims. Input from [Action Against Stalking](#) and Glasgow Caledonia University provided a national context, while input from Fife Women's Aid and Police Scotland Fife Division highlighted the support available locally. 72 people joined the online session.
- KASP led the social media campaign for **Childhood Sexual Abuse Awareness** month in September 2024 with posts that included case studies and feedback from survivors.
- As part of **16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence**, Fife's second Reclaim the Night march took place in November 2024, with approx. 150 people marching with us, and approx 120 joining for an after event. Three speakers raised awareness of speaking up about women's issues and gave presentations on gender budgeting, the child maintenance system and activism after personal experience of violence. A wider programme of events was scheduled which included a launch event for leaders, training and information stalls and estimated 1000 engagements across the 16 days.
- **International Women's Day 2025** saw **Fife Centre for Equalities** host a Women's event with speakers, including FVAWP chair, pamper activities and socialising. **Fife Women's Aid** offered a performance called 'Phoenix Rising' which was created and performed by women who had experienced domestic abuse. **Fife College** ran an IWD festival at 5 campuses across the week leading up to IWD which saw approx 300 people take the White Ribbon pledge never to commit, condone or remain silent about VAWG.

Local Awareness Raising

- The '[What Were You Wearing](#)' exhibition ran across four sessions in two community venues, sparking conversations and engagement with approximately 100 attendees.
- A further three sessions in two Fife high schools engaged over 400 S5 and S6 pupils and staff in discussions on consent, healthy relationships, safety, and sexual abuse during installation viewing.
- [FVAWP public awareness webpages](#) have been updated throughout the year to provide a constant information source about campaigns and events that are open to the public.
- We have visited and enjoyed **conversations** with community groups, including Soroptimists from Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline, a women's justice group and participants at the Justice Services Winter Community Connections Fair.



Priority 1 Key Achievements

IP 1.1 Fife Children and Young People's Gender Based Violence Primary Prevention Strategy supports the delivery of inputs across all education establishments in Fife.

Work with schools

- All 18 Fife secondary schools are trained in the MVP model and have a named lead, with 17 delivering MVP in 2024/25. This year, 39 staff were trained to support senior pupils volunteering as mentors. A total of 560 senior pupils were trained to deliver MVP to younger peers, including one school that trained all S6 pupils to share mentoring responsibilities.
- Young Persons Conference took place November 2024 with support from Our Minds Matter. Almost 150 MVP peer supporters as well as school staff attended the event, to hear input from Alan Bisset, author of *Lads: A Guide to Respect and Consent* and *Safer Communities*. Graeme Donaldson delivered used the 'Imagine A Man' resource to deliver an input. Feedback indicated 100% would like to see the event repeated.
- During the period April 2024 to March 2025 [NSPCC's Speak Out Stay Safe](#) virtual assemblies were delivered in 46 primary schools in Fife to approx. 10,141 children.
- Six Fife high schools have joined Equally Safe at School, aiming to adopt a whole-school approach to preventing gender-based violence. This aligns with Curriculum for Excellence, GIRFEC, and the Scottish Government's Equally Safe strategy. FRASAC continues to support the process.



Further and Higher Education

Throughout the academic year, St Andrews University students and staff promoted gender-based violence awareness through various events and activities supporting prevention efforts, including:

- The Clothes Line Project, Safe Night Out, and WearYourWords events.
- The University's mandatory Consent and Bystander training was completed by 4,565 students in the 2024/25 academic year.
- They maintained their partnership with FRASAC to ensure students have access to a dedicated specialist support worker in St Andrews.
- Got Consent, a student-led initiative supported by a partnership between Student Services and the Students' Association, delivered 11 peer education workshops throughout the academic year to approx. 1000 university students.
- Say No Exhibition - [Say No! – Art, Activism and Feminist Refusal](#) welcomed 17,419 visitors to the exhibition and 908 people attended events.



Priority 2 Key Achievements

IP2.2 Leaders in Fife prioritise violence against women and gender equality

- As part of preparations for the 16 Days campaign 2024, we spoke to elected members attending the cabinet committee meeting on 7th November 2024.
- We engaged **elected members** in discussions about violence against women and gender equality, and the upcoming campaign. We also provided information bags to supplement the conversations we had.
- Twelve elected members showed their support in person by signing the White Ribbon pledge never to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women.



CP2.1 FVAWP links with wider equalities and human rights agendas to increase understanding of Violence Against Women and Girls

The Scottish Women's Budget Group, who aim to address gender inequality in budget decisions to build a fairer, more equal Scotland, presented to partners in FVAWP's Priority 2 and Fife Council's Senior Equalities Group meetings, highlighting gendered impacts often overlooked in budgeting.

Key Questions we were encouraged to consider, which remain on our agenda for future work, were:

- Are your organisation's gender equality goals and measures clear?
- Does your risk matrix include equality risks?
- Do your strategies reflect gender equality or link to your equality/outcome plan?
- Do you understand how inequality affects your work?
- Can you track spending and ensure funds are used as intended?
- Do you have data on inequality in your area—and are there gaps?



Discussion Points included care charges and differences in funding and reimbursement levels.

IP2.3 Women and Girls are safe in our communities

- FVAWP strengthened our relationship with the **Fife Community Safety Partnership (FCSP)** – continuing our regular attendance at FCSP meetings. A presentation was provided at the March 2025 meeting to inform members about the work of FVAWP and our current focus.
- Violence Against Women and Girls has now been formally included in the FCSP working plan with both partnerships committing to work collaboratively to achieve our above goal.



Priority 3 Key Achievements

- CP 3.1 Staff in universal and specialist services are confident in responding to violence against women, including children

FVAWP delivered training throughout 2024-25 as part of the Multi-agency [Training Framework](#).

This was accessed by partners across statutory and third sectors with a wide range of staff attending. FVAWP Training Programme can be accessed through [FVAWP webpages](#).

FVAWP Training 2023/24 (Webinars and in-person sessions attended and evaluated)	Attendees	Satisfaction (%)	Improved Understanding (%)	Highlight good practice? (%)	Increase knowledge of services/resources? (%)
Support Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse - See Me Not My Mask	13	100	100	100	100
Domestic Abuse and Protection of Children	66	98	100	100	97
MARAC	113	100	100	99	100
Engaging Safely with Male Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse	49	100	100	100	100
The Impact of Domestic Abuse in the Early Years	11	100	100	100	96
Identifying and Working with Stalking Behaviours	38	98	98	95	92
Under Pressure	30	100	100	100	91
Intimate Image Abuse	26	96	96	100	96
Exploring Gender Stereotypes and Unconscious Bias	5	100	100	100	100
DSDAS (Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland)	80	100	100	100	100
Housing Service – Managing Difficult Conversations	19	100	86	100	93
DA Awareness Session for Customer Services	72	93	86	93	93
Safe and Together - Core Training – In-Person	41	100	100	100	100
Total Attendees (including from second table)	1084	99%	97%	99%	97%

FVAWP Training 2024/25 (e-learning completed but not evaluated)	Attendees
Domestic Abuse (DAART)	361
Human Trafficking	75
FVAWP Training 2024/25 (Webinars & Blended Learning)	Attendees
Safe and Together – 1 hour Overview	4
For Fife Council Employees Only in 2024/25:	
Equally Safe in Practice – Together for Gender Equality	37
Equally Safe in Practice - Understanding Sexual Violence	23
Equally Safe in Practice – Understanding Domestic Abuse	21

Training was delivered through a variety of platforms including e-learning, webinars blended learning, and 'in-person' options. We recognise the benefits from delivering training over a variety of platforms, as analysed from evaluations, and hope to continue our training programme with a blended approach to suit all learners. The feedback, statistics, and comments received from evaluations are excellent, however we continue to learn from this to shape future training.

We continue to work with partners to review, develop, and add new training all the time. As part of this work, we completed a training needs analysis survey with all partners in 2024/25, the findings of which will help us shape training in the coming years.

The following national e-learning modules are also promoted in our training programme but it is not possible to monitor how many Fife staff have completed these courses:

- Sexual Violence Basic Awareness
- Introduction to Child Sexual Exploitation
- Awareness of Forced Marriage
- Recognising and Preventing FGM
- Becoming Trauma Informed
- Developing Your Trauma Skilled Practice
- Equally Safe in Practice (3xmodules) for anyone working out with Fife Council

Priority 3 Key Achievements

IP 3.3 Review support for women and children with additional vulnerabilities ensuring VAW&G services are accessible to them

In January 2025, FVAWP and the Women's Support Project hosted Fife's first multi-agency conference on Commercial Sexual Exploitation, attended by over 70 participants. The event aimed to raise awareness of CSE and explore barriers faced by women selling or exchanging sex in accessing support. Local partners—including FRASAC, Police Scotland (Fife Division), Fife Council Housing, FVAWP, and the Women's Support Project — shared insights, highlighting the need for continued action. Attendees were invited to contribute to shaping the next steps in Fife.

A powerful pop-up version of the *Inside Outside* exhibition was on display, giving voice to women in Scotland's sex industry—voices too often silenced or ignored. Their deeply personal stories, paired with raw, intimate photos taken on their phones, offered a rare and moving glimpse into their lived experiences. Alongside these were chilling reviews from men who had bought sex, reducing women to commodities in the same way one might rate a takeaway or hotel. The exhibition served as a stark reminder of why we must continue working—together—to challenge and disrupt the demand that fuels commercial sexual exploitation.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation training continues to be offered in [FVAWP's training programme](#).



CP3.7 Provide quality, safe, secure and accessible accommodation to women and children at risk of domestic abuse and other forms of VAW
CP 3.1 Staff in universal and specialist services are confident in responding to violence against women, including children.

In 2022, Fife Council's Housing and Safer Communities service began piloting the Equally Safe in Practice (ESiP) project, developed by Scottish Women's Aid with the Scottish Government and partners. The initiative aims to build a workforce capable of recognising and responding to violence against women and girls (VAWG), using a national framework of tools and resources to drive lasting cultural change. Taking a whole-department approach, the Housing Service committed to delivering Group 1 training modules to around 600 staff across diverse roles.

Building on this previous success, Fife Council's Housing Service has been selected to pilot the Equally Safe in Practice Kitemark Scheme, starting with the Aware level accreditation and the option to progress further. With support from Scottish Women's Aid, the aim is to become one of the first accredited organisations in Scotland—sharing learning nationally to inspire others. This offers Fife a valuable opportunity to test and improve processes, review training, highlight existing good practice, and expand campaign work beyond the 16 Days of Activism.



Priority 3 Key Achievements (cont.)

IP 3.1 Ensure all those who experience VAWG can access quality services when they need them, considering new challenges as they emerge. Services are accessible Fife-wide.

IP3.2 Increase understanding of a survivor's journey through systems and services in Fife with a view to supporting earlier intervention and a whole system approach to supporting women, children and young people experiencing VAWG

Key services regularly provide case studies and feedback based on survivors' experience of the support they received, and we are delighted to be able to showcase one, as well as service user feedback.

Kasia lived with her mother and two sisters, and the perpetrator, her father, who was highly respected within the local Muslim community. The family experienced severe physical abuse, witnessed by all three children, along with isolation from relatives and the community, financial control, and sexual assault against both the mother and eldest daughter. The perpetrator was convicted and sentenced to seven years in prison. Following the sentencing, the family was ostracised by their community.

Kasia was referred to Fife Women's Aid for one-to-one support by her mother, concerned about the impact of domestic abuse. Kasia's eldest sister received support from another agency, while the youngest sister had short-term support from FWA which they felt was sufficient due to her age, experience, and resilience. Kasia was initially nervous about engaging with support due to a lack of trust in adults. Staff changes meant she had three different workers, and although she agreed to continue support with the third, she remained reserved. Kasia's worker recognised her distrust and maintained consistency in appointments, clearly communicating any changes. Over time, Kasia built trust and began opening up about her complex feelings toward the perpetrator. Together, they explored healthy vs. unhealthy relationships, helping Kasia recognise that the abuse was not her fault. This led to improved communication with her mother and a gradual rebuilding of their relationship.

Kasia also struggled at school but held high expectations of herself, influenced by the perpetrator's negative comments (he said she is stupid and would not go far in life). She felt teachers wouldn't support her, but her worker reminded her of the trust they had built together. Encouraged, Kasia spoke to her guidance teacher and began forming positive relationships with school staff.

After six months of support, Kasia showed clear improvements in confidence. She formed friendships, socialised outside school, accepted guidance from staff, secured a place at University summer school, and began applying for part-time jobs. Kasia agreed to volunteer with FWA to help update the teenage group work programme. This experience further boosted her confidence, and she expressed pride in the support she received, wanting to use her journey to help others.

Kasia recently completed her support with FWA and is set to begin studying social work at University. She hopes to support young people recovering from trauma. The ending was emotional, with Kasia saying her worker's support was "literally life-changing." and "she will never know the difference she made to my life".

CYP supported by Fife Women's Aid 'Join The Dots Service

"My worker from the FRASAC team is an absolute credit to her team, I have never felt more listened to and understood, but at the same time challenge me on certain things to help me to understand how I was feeling and why. My experience was absolutely flawless; I am extremely grateful to have had the chance to work with the FRASAC team and would highly urge people to reach out who are in similar situations to myself. I feel more empowered and uplifted as a woman and it's the best thing that has ever happened to me."

FRASAC Service User

"I have really enjoyed group I feel the support given was amazing and has helped me to overcome issues I thought I would never get over."

CEDAR Plus (Mother who attended group)

Ms A received items from the DAI (Domestic Abuse Intervention) Fund when moving from refuge into her own tenancy with her two young boys. She had been left financially compromised after having to pay legal fees in the family court. She commented: "I was very grateful for the support from the DAI Fund as I was turned away from so many other places"

Housing DAI Fund Client

"I feel a connection with Shakti, in this foreign country while I am going through so much my worker seems like a family"
"If Shakti won't be there I am not sure if I would be able to cope. Even my community has left me, so it feels good to have Shakti worker from BME background who understands my culture and issues and supports me"

Shakti Women's Aid Service User

"If I could tell anyone who has been affected by Childhood Sexual Abuse to get help, I would shout it from the rooftops. I really wish I had been ready years ago.... Lots of emotions for me with this support coming to an end. I would never, ever have thought that being able to open up to someone would have the benefits this has had for me. I honestly can't thank you enough, you are fantastic at your job"

KASP Service User

"Counselling gave me the space to talk which has been great. I feel more precious to myself. Thank you to my counsellor"

Safe Space Service User

"Your support during some of the darkest times of my life has meant more to me than words can express."

FWA Service User (Refuge)

Priority 3 - Data 2024/25



CP3.8 Quality accessible services for women, children and young people with experience of VAWG

Organisation	Individuals Supported	CYPs	Adult Females	Adult Males	Trans Women	Trans Men	Non-binary	Unknown	New Referrals	Waiting List March 25
Fife Women's Aid	1646	369	1277						1879	149
MARAC (458 victim cases discussed at MARAC and 962 CYPs considered)			807	37	1	1		1	850	
CEDAR+	125	67	58						67	22 families
Shakti Women's Aid	71		71						36	2
FRASAC	785	264	206	22			2	290	529	68
KASP (males supported includes MARAC referrals)	373		271	98		1	3		382	69
Safe Space	148	20	101	27			1		45	9
NHS GBV Team	144	34	98	11		1			138	0
Housing – Housing/Homeless Applications due to Domestic Abuse	227 (Rehoused)		217 (Rehoused)	10 (Rehoused)					202	361 (Rolling figure)
Police Scotland (Fife) – Domestic Abuse Incidents	5044									
Police Scotland (Fife) – Crimes of Indecency	1119									

- Please note:
- We have been unable to provide information from Justice Social Work and Victim Support Scotland due to their IT systems but hope to be able to collate this in the future.
 - We have also been unable to give a breakdown of gender for CYPs supported.
 - Not all agencies have been able to provide all information requested

Priority 4 Key Achievements

CP4.2 Concerns raised over perpetrating and/or escalating behaviour are investigated quickly and thoroughly

[The Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland \(DSDAS\)](#) gives people the right to ask about the background of their partner. It also allows concerned relatives and friends, the right to ask about someone's partner and whether they have been abusive in the past.

DSDAS also gives Police Scotland the power to tell people that they may be at risk. This information can be given even if it is not asked for where there is information that a person may be at harm of domestic abuse by their partner. DSDAS allows people to make the choice on whether to remain in the relationship and Police Scotland and other partners can then help and support them.

At a Priority 4 multi-agency meeting, concerns were raised that DSDAS applications were mainly submitted by a limited number of services in Fife. We explored potential barriers, identifying key issues: lack of awareness, low confidence in using the scheme, and fears of damaging trust with clients if applications were made without consent.

To address this, FVAWP's Learning and Development Officer collaborated with Police Scotland to deliver two pilot training sessions to 64 Housing and Safer Communities practitioners. The sessions aimed to raise awareness of DSDAS, explain the process, highlight its potential to prevent harm, and provide signposting routes. FVAWP delivered the training online to ensure accessibility. FVAWP's L&D Officer also delivered this input to at a FVAWP Practitioner's event. Feedback included:

"Better understanding of how male/females can be protected from violent partners. Help that is out there for people"

"I had no idea as practitioners we could use this service so it is now good to know this and will cascade this information to my team"

"How to make an application and why. Also, the process involved"

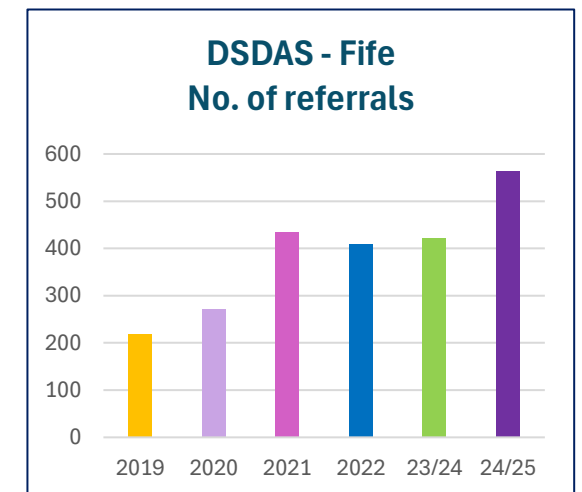
"Didn't realise so much was looked at for each case and the spectrum it covers"

"Great information of resources available should we have any concerns and also best practice for helping"



THINK DSDAS

Police Scotland (Fife reported a rise in DSDAS applications from partner organisations, including first-time users. In 2024/25, 564 applications were received—up from 421 the previous year and significantly higher than in previous years, as shown in the graph.



Priority 4 Key Achievements

CP4.3 Perpetrators are held to account for their behaviour through robust use of Justice Social Work responses

The **Caledonian Men's Programme** is a court-mandated intervention designed to address abusive behaviour by men within intimate relationships. Participants engage in weekly sessions—both one-to-one with a trained practitioner and in group settings—over a 24-month period, working through structured, accredited materials. Completion rates, typically 40–60% across similar domestic abuse perpetrator programmes (DAPPs), remain modest. In Fife, during 2024/25, **52 Community Payback Orders included a Caledonian requirement, with a 58% completion rate.**

In 2024/25, the **Caledonian Women's Service offered support to 299 women** affected by domestic abuse perpetrated by men subject to Caledonian CPOs. Support was tailored to individual needs, resulting in varied engagement levels. To meet growing demand, an additional Women's Worker was recruited.

The **Moving Forward 2 Change (MF2C) programme** is a group-based intervention for men who have committed sexual offences. MF2C is a revised version of the Moving Forward Making Changes (MFMC) programme, informed by emerging evidence, SAPOR guidance, evaluation findings, and stakeholder feedback. During the 2024/25 reporting period, **27 CPOs were issued with an MF2C requirement, with a completion rate of 68%.**

Beyond group work programmes, Fife Justice Social Work undertakes a range of activities to hold perpetrators accountable. The Healthy Relationships Workbook, designed for one-to-one sessions with non-court mandated individuals, is being rolled out across Fife Justice Social Work to expand interventions targeting harmful behaviours.



IP4.3 Increased Understanding of the need for a non-court mandated perpetrator support and learning programme in Fife

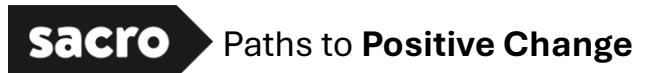
A key action was to build a relationship with SACRO's Custody Navigators, learn from their work with VAWG perpetrators, and identify service gaps—focusing on strengthening links to community learning, development opportunities, and support services.

As part of this work, we established strong links with SACRO, who now sit on our Priority 4 group.

Sacro provides a wide range of Community Justice Services, all of which are aimed at safeguarding communities and reducing offending within the community.

Custody Navigators aim to reduce repeat custody in Fife by supporting safe reintegration for those who have offended. The service seeks to build capacity for change, reduce harm from substance use and violence, improve wellbeing, and break the cycle of imprisonment.

We are currently exploring how to connect with the Custody Navigator service, tracking support for individuals with VAWG-related behaviours, assess the impact on reoffending, and identify key learning to inform future practice.



Looking Forward:

2025-2026 Goals

Our key areas of interest for 2025/26 will be to continue working on the outcomes and actions identified in our 2023-2025 Strategy and Action Plan, as well as developing our new Bridging Action Plan and Strategy for 2026/2027 in partnership with all FVAWP members. We would also like to consult with those with lived experience to support the development this.

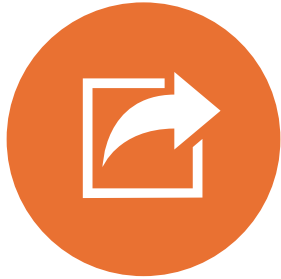


During 2025/26 we will also be involved in National work including:

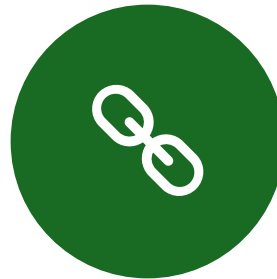
- VAWG Needs Assessment Tool Pilot Phase
- Equally Safe in Practice - Kitemark Accreditation
- Safe & Together in Scotland – National Forums
- Promoting Links with Public Protection
- National Violence Against Women Partnership Meetings
- National Equally Safe Measurement Framework



Links, resources and further reading



For a full picture of the work we have been doing, please view our action plan update report, minutes, and any campaigns updates on our webpages by clicking [HERE](#) or searching on fife.gov.uk



ANNUAL REPORTS FROM PARTNER ORGANISATIONS:

[PUBLICATIONS - FIFE WOMEN'S AID](#)
(FIFEWOMENSAID.ORG.UK)

[FRASAC-ANNUAL-REPORT-MARCH-2024.PDF](#)

[ANNUAL REPORT 2024 - 2025 | KASP.ORG.UK](#)



If you are viewing this document in a paper copy, please contact fvawp@fife.gov.uk for further information about any of the resources including the National Equally Safe Quality Standards report.