

RESOURCE

Information and Checklist for Violence Against Women Partnerships and Child Protection Committees

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Introduction

Child protection is a complex system requiring the interaction of services, the public, children and families. For the system to work effectively, it is essential that everyone understands the contribution they can make and how those contributions work together to provide the best outcomes for children. Social workers, health professionals, police, educational staff and anyone else who works with children and their families, as well as members of the community, need to appreciate the important role they can play in remaining vigilant and providing robust support for child protection.

Improving outcomes for children and young people is a fundamental objective for all services and organisations. Agencies can improve outcomes for Scotland's most vulnerable by adopting common frameworks for assessment, planning and action that help them to identify needs and risks and work together to address them appropriately.

This resource and checklist has been designed to help child protection committees (CPCs) and Violence Against Women Partnerships (VAWPs) to work together to consider, and to create satisfactory solutions for children, women and families, on emerging issues such as domestic abuse, contact arrangements for children, female genital mutilation (FGM), sexual exploitation, young runaways, rape of children outside the family, and under-age sexual activity, which have not traditionally been their responsibility but where there is now considerable overlap and shared responsibility.

EQUALLY SAFE (2014) Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls and the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2014) both emphasise the importance of working together to develop robust operational and strategic partnerships, in order to prevent abuse and better protect women, children and young people who experience or are affected by it.

There are many good examples of practice across Scotland, and this resource and checklist has been designed to assist both partnerships in formalising the structures and processes involved in developing good partnership working within the context of community planning, shared outcomes and joint performance management framework arrangements. It is also intended to help you find information, identify a common agenda, and provide suggestions which will help facilitate the development of robust partnerships in relation to women, children and young people who experience or are affected by violence towards themselves or their families.

Section 1: National Context

National Performance Framework and Policy Context

Child protection planning fits together with the wider planning processes in a local area, showing how child protection is integral to wider economic and social objectives, as expressed in community and integrated children services planning, the national outcomes shared by national and local government, and the key national policy frameworks.

This outcomes approach has changed the way public services are planned and provided, with Community Planning Partnerships the vital mechanism for decision-making and local funding. This means that VAWPs and CPCs need to find ways of formally integrating with the Community Planning Partnerships and the associated community plans. Across Scotland some CPCs and VAWPs are connected through Public Protection structures and processes which are separate from community planning structures, while others are connected through community planning-themed partnerships or sub-groups of the themed partnerships.

Regardless of the structures and processes involved, it is important that VAWPs and CPCs are able to identify common themes and connect more formally. Work to

address violence against women and child protection should reflect the 15 national outcomes set out in the National Performance framework. Within this context CPPs (VAWPs and CPCs) should have a common and sharp focus on some key priorities such as Early Years, Safer and stronger communities, and reducing offending and health inequalities where the aim should be to achieve transformational performance improvement.

Listed below are the national outcomes which are most relevant to children, and those which are cross-cutting and will impact on children's well-being (information sourced from Scotland Performs). The table highlights the relevance for both CPCs and VAWPs providing a common framework.

At the local level and as part of Single Outcome Agreements, CPCs and VAWPs will be developing action plans with local outcomes that link to the national outcomes. Currently in development is the National Violence Against Women Outcomes Framework which is one of Scotland's Equally Safe Strategy work streams developing a performance management framework. Where there are common areas of focus, these will have implications in relation to ensuring that there is consistency across partnerships, strategies and plans.

National Outcomes	VAWP	CPC
<p>Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens. (NO4) Young people developing these capacities are enabled to thrive and make a positive contribution to society. The Curriculum for Excellence is raising standards of educational achievement and young people are entitled to additional support if required. An increase in standards of educational achievement leads to improved outcomes for children and young people. This also links with Scottish Government GIRFEC policy and planned developments in early intervention and prevention (“The Early Years Framework”), “Equally Well” and the anti-poverty strategy.</p>	✓	✓
<p>Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed. (NO5) The early years of life are largely defined by the family. Children need to experience stability to achieve this outcome. Developing parents’ capacity to be the best parents they can for children and helping them in the vital role that they play in their child’s life is key to this. This national outcome is important because it links with “The Early Years Framework”. The Framework takes an early intervention approach, moving from dealing with the symptoms of inequality to addressing the causes, and it is about giving support at the first opportunity.</p>	✓	✓
<p>We have tackled significant inequalities in Scottish society. (NO7) This outcome is important because women and children can face barriers because of their race, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation or faith, and reducing inequalities is a major challenge. Children affected by domestic abuse have reduced access to income, employment and good housing, and experience more challenges in life which diminish their opportunities. The Government’s role in this is stated as “addressing key issues, such as supporting women and children affected by domestic abuse and tackling the wider issues of violence against women”.</p>	✓	✓
<p>We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk. (NO8) Disadvantages impact adversely on the life chances of our children. This outcome encourages us to focus our efforts on reducing inequalities and ensuring that we have a vision for children’s services, to enable all agencies to work together to get it right for Scotland’s children. We are also required to act swiftly in identifying and dealing with risks to children, young people and families. Under this outcome, child protection responsibilities are of paramount importance, but alongside this we need to support families and communities. We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others. Children and families fulfil their potential when they live in safe communities, where people care about one another and are involved in their community life.</p>	✓	✓

National Outcomes	VAWP	CPC
<p>We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger. (NO9) Our communities should be safe for us all. This means safe streets, safe homes, safe schools, safe facilities and safe workplaces. Scotland has made good progress in responding to domestic abuse by means of criminal justice and resources for survivors, but there is still much to achieve. People should have enough confidence in the criminal justice system to come forward, for example, to report rape or sexual assault, knowing that their attackers will be faced with a robust response. No one should be forced into marriage or be trafficked. These are all areas of violence experienced disproportionately by women and perpetrated predominantly by men. At the same time, our justice system must treat women and men fairly. Women should not be imprisoned for lesser crimes than men, and if imprisoned, they should be able to stay in touch with their children, as long as it is safe to do so. Resources should be allocated to preventing sexual violence and exploitation and promoting zero tolerance of this, for example in schools, prisons and through the media. Our institutions, families, schools and public services must challenge the kinds of attitudes that promote or condone violence against women and girls.</p>	✓	✓
<p>We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others. (NO11) People are more likely to live fulfilling lives and realise their social and economic potential in strong, resilient and supportive communities. Communities that are tolerant, and where people support each other, provide a better quality of life. They allow a greater proportion of people to contribute to a growing economy, to lead healthier, more independent lives and to live in a more sustainable way which is better for the environment. Being part of a strong community gives us the support we need locally. It minimises crime, antisocial behaviour and their social and economic costs, and it allows us to bring up our young people to be successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens. A strong community is one which is secure and welcoming, with access to high-quality services and amenities. It is a place where people recognise their responsibilities and their rights, and it has a legal framework of laws and practices respecting and protecting diversity, promoting tolerance and maximising the opportunities for everybody to thrive.</p>	✓	✓
<p>Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to people's needs. (NO15) Better and more efficient public services enhance our quality of life, support sustainable economic growth and assure those who fund and rely on them that their public services are responsive, provide value for money, and are continually improving. The public sector's success in developing new user-focused planning and the delivery and monitoring arrangements aimed at achieving specific outcomes to improve accountability, create incentives for improving services and drive progress forward. Other key contributory factors will be simplifying the delivery of public services and making partnerships work across organisational boundaries. The Government's approach to public services is advanced greatly by the relationship with local government, based on mutual respect and partnership. This is supported by the implementation of Single Outcome Agreements and a performance framework for local authorities, delivered in association with Community Planning Partners.</p>	✓	✓

Section 2: Local Context

Links between Violence against Women and Child Protection

“The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014” highlights that the child protection landscape in Scotland has developed since the Scottish Office guidance, Protecting Children – A Shared Responsibility, was published in 1998. New legislation, new areas of practice and new approaches have shaped activity at both national and local level. Online safety, child trafficking and the protection of children affected by parental alcohol and/or drug misuse are some of the specific issues which have become the focus of our attention in recent years.

Part 4 of the National Guidance introduces indicators which include domestic abuse, female genital mutilation, honour-based violence and forced marriage, as well as harm outside the home and specific circumstances, which include online and mobile phone child safety and child trafficking. These illustrate some of the overlap between the partnerships in recent guidance.

There are many other areas of overlap between violence against women and child protection. Violence against women encompasses, but is not limited to, physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family and within the general community or 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.

Activities such as pornography, prostitution, stripping, lap dancing, pole dancing and table dancing are forms of commercial sexual exploitation. These activities have been shown to be harmful for the individual women involved and have a negative impact on the position of all women through the objectification of women’s bodies. This happens irrespective of whether individual women claim success or empowerment from the activity.

These issues all have a direct cross-over to important issues in child protection and violence against women.

Gender based violence is a function of gender inequality, and an abuse of male power and privilege. It takes the form of actions that result in physical, sexual and psychological harm or suffering to women and children, or affront to their human dignity, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. It is men who predominantly carry out such violence, and women who are predominantly the victims of such violence. By referring to violence as ‘gender based’ this definition highlights the need to understand violence within the context of women’s and girl’s subordinate status in society. Such violence cannot be understood,

therefore, in isolation from the norms, social structure and gender roles within the community, which greatly influence women's vulnerability to violence. (source: Safer Lives: Changed Lives A Shared Approach to tackling Violence Against Women in Scotland).

Domestic abuse initiatives also recognised the need for more integrated working. Domestic abuse pathfinders were created in 2007 to bring together a multi-agency response to tackling domestic abuse and child protection within the GIRFEC principles. Key outcomes were improvements in multi-agency working and processes, and increased awareness of domestic abuse and potential impacts on children. ("Review of the Domestic Abuse Pathfinders" (2011).)

From 2008 to 2011 the "National Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan for Children and Young People" was rolled out.

There are complex issues for women, children and young people. Abuse may start in childhood and continue into adulthood. Some situations may affect children directly, and other children and young people will be affected by their mother's circumstances. An example of this could be the risk of harm to the child of a woman who was raped and who is being trafficked.

Child Protection has traditionally dealt with young people up to the age of 16, but "The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014" and much of the new legislation extends this age range up to 18 and beyond. This results in complex transition points between childhood and adulthood. The emphasis on children's rights and the Children

and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 stress the importance of parenting and ensuring that services are delivered in an integrated way.

Other examples of legislation which recognises the need to protect young people beyond 16 are:

- **Protection of Children and Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2005**, covering up to the age of 17-18 in parts;
- **Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation (Scotland) Act 2005**, referring to persons – no age mentioned; and
- **Safeguarding Children in Scotland Who May Have Been Trafficked** – in which a child is a person under 18 years.

Examples of where joint strategic responses could be developed:

Prostitution and sexual exploitation

We know that prostitution (indoor and street) is an issue across Scotland, and it is an aspect of violence against women that VAWPs are tackling. Trafficking (internal and from other countries) for the purpose of sexual exploitation is an issue which involves adults and vulnerable young people. We know that some women involved in prostitution also have family responsibilities, and this can impact on their children.

In terms of good practice, how could the CPC and VAWPs ensure consistent and co-ordinated responses?

Brandon Lee Muir Significant Case Review

In the report a number of issues were highlighted which included:

- The focus of attention on the mother's wider parenting skills and the home environment, rather than the threat of violence from her partner.
- The need for full background checks on all household members.
- The impact of domestic abuse and substance misuse on children.
- The need for clear multi-agency ownership and leadership of child protection.

Within your own partnerships, would all the risk factors be considered and would they be given equal consideration?

How might the partnerships work more strategically together to support operational interventions?

How might partnerships work together to share training on issues?

How might CPC and VAWP come together to discuss the findings from the case review in relation to providing a strategic and practice development overview?

Research by Colin Pritchard, Jill Davey and Richard Williams (2012) highlights the risk to children from violent men, and the need to give greater weighting to this in risk assessments (see reference section).

Roles and Responsibilities of Violence Against Women Partnerships (VAWPs)

Safer Lives: Changed Lives and more recently EQUALLY SAFE, Scotland's strategy to prevent and eradicate violence against women and girls have established the Scottish Government's intention to take an inclusive approach to a wide range of connected issues on violence against women with the key objectives of preventing and reducing violence against women. This approach has strategic and operational consequences for VAWPs.

www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/274212/0082013.pdf

VAWPs are key to implementing EQUALLY SAFE in local areas, bringing together the services in an area which have an interest in or responsibility for work to address men's violence against women. The intention is that action to tackle violence against women will be integral to the core activities of local agencies and structures such as community planning partnerships. This mainstreaming approach is vital for improving outcomes for all those affected by men's violence against women.

The focus is on women and children because they are, overwhelmingly, the victims of men's violence. This is not to deny that there are other forms of interpersonal violence and abuse, some of which are based on the abuse of male power and privilege. All forms of violence need to be taken seriously but this does not detract from the importance of tackling violence against women. Marianne Hester's research (2009) indicates that men use fear and control tactics more readily than women and this impacts on their children. In her research children

were present in the majority of incidents, and some incidents were related to child contact.

Roles and Responsibilities of Child Protection Committees

Child Protection Committees (CPCs) were established in 1991, and were strengthened in 2005 as part of the Child Protection Reform Programme. Their main functions are continuous improvement, strategic planning, public information and communication. For further details: “The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014”.

www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/334290/0109279.pdf

Child Protection Committees are locally based, inter-agency strategic partnerships responsible for the design, development, publication, distribution, dissemination, implementation and evaluation of child protection policy and practice across the public, private and wider third sectors in their locality, and in partnership across Scotland.

Their role, through their respective local structures and memberships, is to provide individual and collective leadership and direction for the management of child protection services across Scotland. They work in partnership with their respective Chief Officers’ Groups and the Scottish Government to take forward child protection policy and practice across Scotland. The work of the CPC must be reflected in local practice and meet local needs.

Child Protection Committees work within the wider community planning framework, and it is essential that they link with Violence against Women partnerships and other relevant partnerships, such as Alcohol and Drug Partnerships. CPCs produce an annual report and business plan, in addition to other local or national reporting mechanisms, and it is essential that this coalesces with other action plans. Representation on CPCs is usually at a high level, as members should have delegated responsibility to make decisions on behalf of the services that they represent.

Section 3:

Developing the Partnership between CPC and VAWP

Guiding Principles and Common Core Messages

Both partnerships have guiding principles and common core messages which have been developed from knowledge, research and experience. They reflect the rights of children spelt out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the Scottish Children's Charter (2004). They include:

- **Promoting the well-being of individual children and young people:** This is based on understanding how children and young people develop in their families and communities, and addressing their needs at the earliest possible time.
- **Keeping children and young people safe:** Emotional and physical safety is fundamental and is wider than child protection.
- **Putting the child at the centre:** Children and young people should have their views listened to, and they should be involved in decisions that affect them.
- **Taking a whole child approach:** Recognising that what is going on in one part of a child or young person's life can affect many other areas of his or her life.
- **Building on strengths and promoting resilience:** Using a child or young person's existing networks and support where possible.
- **Promoting opportunities and valuing diversity:** Children and young people should feel valued in all circumstances, and practitioners should create opportunities to celebrate diversity.
- **Providing additional help that is appropriate, proportionate and timely:** Providing help as early as possible and considering short- and long-term needs.
- **Working in partnership with families:** Supporting, wherever possible, those who know the child or young person well and know what they need, what works well for them and what may not be helpful.
- **Supporting informed choice:** Supporting children, young people and families in understanding what help is possible and what their choices may be.
- **Respecting confidentiality and sharing information:** Seeking agreement to share information that is relevant and proportionate, while safeguarding children's and young people's right to confidentiality.
- **Promoting the same values across all working relationships:** Recognising that respect, patience, honesty, reliability, resilience and integrity are qualities valued by children, young people, their families and their colleagues.
- **Making the most of bringing together each worker's expertise:** Respecting the contribution of others and co-operating with them, recognising that sharing responsibility does not mean acting beyond a worker's competence or responsibilities.
- **Co-ordinating help:** Recognising that children, young people and their families need practitioners to work together, when appropriate, to promote the best possible help.
- **Building a competent workforce to promote children's and young people's well-being:** Being committed to contributing individual learning and development, and improvement of inter-professional practice.

Common Areas of Focus: Developing the Partnership between CPC and VAWP

EQUALLY SAFE, Safer Lives: Changed Lives and “The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland” emphasise the importance of working together and developing robust operational and strategic partnerships.

While there are distinct roles and expectations of the function of VAWPs and CPCs, there are also areas of work which are common to both, in respect of planning requirements, performance management, values, training, and development of services.

The “Checklist for CPC and VAWP Working Together to Achieve Common Goals” in Appendix 1 aims to provide a focus and opportunity for joint discussion, to review how effective the partnerships are at communicating and working together. The checklist is divided into 4 sections, although there is some overlap between the sections.

The partnerships may want to consider common areas of focus under the checklist headings:

- Shared Vision, Ethos and Understanding
- Training, Information and Knowledge
- Structures and Accountability
- Outcomes, Actions and Measures

The following list illustrates some of the common areas of focus that can be developed together.

Shared Vision, Ethos and Understanding

Partnerships should always take account of diversity and equality issues when developing joint areas for work. Sometimes it is assumed that partnerships speak the same language, however subtle differences create barriers to joint working. VAWPs and CPCs may want to clarify common themes and vision, expectations of those attending both partnerships, and that each partnership has a clear remit for members.

Training, Information and Knowledge

Partnerships can promote good practice by jointly identifying and promoting good evidence-based policy and practice developments, addressing issues of poor policy and practice, and encouraging learning from effective policy and practice developments. The partnerships can also identify networks, mechanisms and opportunities to share these lessons more widely across services and other partnerships, and promote them on a national basis.

Multi-agency training is an essential component in building common understanding and fostering good working relationships. The partnerships both have a remit to co-ordinate training and may have opportunities to develop joint training.

Structures and Accountability

Both partnerships have responsibility to actively promote effective communication, collaboration and co-operation between all services and agencies, and to identify and resolve any issues between services and agencies that hinder the protection of children and young people. The partnerships can identify joint opportunities for sharing knowledge, skills and learning with each other, with other national and local networks, and forums across Scotland.

Each partnership also has a responsibility to make and maintain links with other planning groups. In relation to how the partnerships could maintain links with each other, this could be done by identifying where joint working would be beneficial or duplication could be avoided, and ensuring that action is taken to address these issues. The partnerships could have in place, and regularly review the effectiveness of, joint protocols around particular identified issues, and ensure that plans and priorities are clearly linked to other national and local plans.

CPCs and VAWPs may work together to promote developments beyond their immediate settings and be inclusive towards the wider community of voluntary, community, faith and sporting groups, and other community planning fora.

Outcomes, Actions and Measures

Public information and communication are significant functions of both partnerships. VAWPs and CPCs could work together to raise awareness of the common areas of focus, improve decision-making, take the views of children and women into account, and involve them in the design and development of public information, communication strategies etc.

CPCs and VAWPs may also want to consider how they can work together to ensure that where there are common goals, approaches to monitoring and evaluation can be aligned.

Working Together: Some Practice Examples

Across Scotland VAWPs and CPCs are already working together. However there are always new opportunities for improvement. This is reflected in the evolving nature of the partnerships and the varying stages of development.

This section of the resource highlights examples where joint VAWPs and CPC work already exists and demonstrates the range of opportunities for further development.

Practice examples:

How VAWPs and CPCs are broadening the local agenda so that it is consistent with the national strategic direction, to tackle all forms of violence against women where it relates to the protection of children and young people.

- North Ayrshire – Public information campaigning is carried out jointly.
- Forth Valley (Falkirk, Stirling and Clackmannanshire) have developed a Human Trafficking Protocol, fit-for-purpose event and training pack.
- South Ayrshire – Awareness-raising sessions in secondary schools around domestic abuse, in partnership with Campus Police Officers.
- Dumfries and Galloway Domestic Abuse and Child Protection Training references all forms of gender-based violence.

Agreeing and adopting a definition of violence against women consistent with the national definition and applying it to the protection of children as appropriate.

- North and South Lanarkshire – The VAWPs and CPCs in Lanarkshire came together to write guidance on domestic abuse and the protection of children.
- In Inverclyde the CPC and VAWP jointly developed their Child Protection and Domestic Abuse Practice Guidelines.

How CPCs and VAWPs assess common ground on which future strategic work can be developed, with partners signing up to the strategy/action plan which comes out of this.

- Dundee VAWP, ASP and MAPPA co-located with the focus on the protecting people agenda. Through the restructuring, MAP will now report directly to the Chief Officer's Group.
- In East and Midlothian the "public protection" strategic lead officers have been co-located to enable better planning of work. The EMVAWP, the CPC, the APC and the ADP share a sub-committee for Learning and Development (see training) and Engagement and Communications.
- Highland – VAWP and CPC report to the same scrutiny and governance framework, Safer Highland.
- Dumfries and Galloway Lead Officers from CPC, APC, ADP and Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women Partnerships have regular meetings to develop common areas of work.

How VAWPs and CPCs are working towards using shared management information/collating complementary management information.

- North Ayrshire – A shared approach to using management information, whereby the CPC and VAWP have used a Logic Model approach to develop indicators for measuring progress against outcomes. As a result, the VAWP and CPC will use similar statistical information to assess progress in future.

VAWPs and CPCs are identifying and providing common training/information.

- Shetland – The CP training covers domestic abuse and the domestic abuse training covers issues of child protection.
- Angus – There has been domestic abuse awareness training, delivered jointly by training consortium/SW department trainers to staff from various agencies.
- North Ayrshire – CPC training programmes include links to the VAW agenda and domestic abuse.
- Highland – There is a good working relationship between the VAWP and CPC. A joint training pack on the impact of violence against women on children and young people includes elements on working with CP on VAW case issues.
- East Dunbartonshire – Delivered youth worker training sessions – “Under Pressure” – growing up in a porn culture. Training for trainers sessions delivered prior to roll-out of “Crush” and “Gold Stars and Dragon Marks” in schools.
- Scottish Borders – CPC Training Sub-group includes both the VAW Co-ordinator and the VAW Training Officer, to ensure consistency across a range of training courses in relation to core messages.
- Scottish Borders – CPC Practice Development Sub-group includes VAW Co-ordinator, to enable clear communication and a shared language within practice, and consultation on National Child Protection Guidelines.
- Inverclyde – VAWP and CPC worked together to plan a local conference on Children Affected by Domestic Abuse. There is a Level 3 course – Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence – that is delivered jointly by CPC and VAWP. We are also in the process of further developing the training programme in relation to CP and VAW.

- Dumfries and Galloway VAWP Development Officer sits on CPC Training and Communications Sub-committee.

Agreeing a common purpose for the joint work between CPC and VAWP

- Child protection self-evaluation has included a focus on domestic abuse in Dumfries and Galloway.

Identifying the best route into community planning partnership and links to local planning structures, in order to promote the mainstreaming of violence against women and protection of children and young people.

- Highland VAWP and CPC report to the same governance frameworks, Safer Highland.
- Angus – CPC and VAW Partnership wanted to improve inter-agency working for children affected by domestic abuse, and developed the Inter-Agency Early Screening Group, which meets weekly to assess and evaluate police child concern reports.
- South Ayrshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a themed group of the Community Planning Partnership – the VAWP reports directly to the CSP.
- Dumfries and Galloway DAVAWP and CPC now report directly to D&G Chief Officers’ Executive Group.

Identifying where resources can be pooled.

- Dumfries and Galloway have developed a joint public protection newsletter in place of separate issues.

Co-ordinating services: VAWP Co-ordinator attending CPC meetings and CP Lead Officer attending VAWP meetings, and working jointly on initiatives, for example, 16 Days of Action to Eliminate Violence against Women and Children.

- Across East Lothian and Midlothian there is a drive to streamline public protection. Lead Officers from the CPC, ASP, VAW and ADP meet regularly to discuss development, as well as providing reports to one another's strategic groups, and this informs provision of joint consultation responses.
- Clackmannanshire and Stirling – Child protection Lead Officer attends both VAW partnerships and provides written reports. There are also written reports provided by VAW partnership for the CPC.
- Stirling Council is the first White Ribbon-accredited local authority area in Scotland, and the work to take this forward has involved both CPC and VAWP, e.g. annual White Ribbon marches highlighting violence against women and children.
- Inverclyde – Inverclyde Safer Community Service/ Inverclyde VAWP and Inverclyde CPC began a joint project in August 2010 to raise awareness of the effects of domestic abuse on children. The initial priority was to link the work with the 16 days of activism to Eliminate Violence Against Women.
- Argyle and Bute – Dunoon Grammar School was involved in the annual VAW conference. As part of this, the school's drama department produced an excellent short film on child trafficking called "In Her Shoes", in association with Argyll and Bute Women's Aid. Subsequently, the DVD has been used at child trafficking briefings to open up discussion on the trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation.

- South Ayrshire – Lead Officer for VAWP sits on CPC and wider Services for Children Communications Sub-group, and CPC Co-ordinator is a member of the VAWP. Looking to develop joint action through work of VAWP Sub-group.

How CPCs and VAWPs are encouraging and supporting each other's initiatives and contributing where appropriate.

- Inverclyde Child Protection Lead Officer was involved in recruitment and selection of candidates for local CEDAR project led by VAWP.
- Dumfries and Galloway undertake joint public awareness campaigns.
- Joint conferences have taken place to encourage staff to identify links across the public protection agenda.

Consultation responses should be consistent. Are joint consultation exercises and responses possible?

- Highland – VAWP and CPC respond jointly or in conjunction with one another to consultations.
- East Lothian and Midlothian CPC, APC and EMVAWP provided a response on the Sale and Purchase of Sex Bill consultation and the Forced Marriage Bill.

Appendix 1:

Checklist for CPC and VAWP Working Together to Achieve Common Goals

Shared Vision, Ethos and Understanding

Partnership Working

- Do CPCs and VAWPs value each other's perspectives (for example, diversity and equality issues), and how do you incorporate them into the overall assessment of women's and children's lives?
- How do the partnerships ensure a shared gendered analysis and vision when supporting women and children?
- Are CPCs and VAWPs clear about each other's role?
- How will they make sure there is clarity?
- Who needs to be involved?
- At what level should members from each partnership (i.e. CPC and VAWP) be involved (for example, strategic, operational, practitioner, advisory or other)?
- How will you ensure "buy-in" from Chief Officers to ensure good partnership working?
- How will you agree common outcomes/ improvement objectives, strategy and action plan consistent with the national and local outcomes?
- How will decisions be made?
- How do the VAWP and CPC link together?
- How do the VAWP and CPC tell people what they are doing?
- Who do the VAWP and CPC report to and how often?
- How are the VAWPs and CPC accountable to women and children directly affected by men's violence, and to the wider community?
- How do the VAWP and CPC measure their effectiveness and evaluate their work?

Training, Information and Knowledge

Training

- What joint training are VAWP and CPC developing?
- What training themes do VAWP and CPC have in common?
- Who can provide this for you?
- How can local VAWPs contribute to the national child protection training framework led by the CPCs?

Information and Knowledge

- Are members of both the CPC and VAWPs knowledgeable about violence against women and its implications for child protection?
- What information do you need about violence against women and child protection in your area?
- What are the information gaps and how can you work together to fill these?
- How can those directly affected by violence against women contribute to the information sharing/gathering process to assist in service development and improvement?
- When children are affected by violence in the family, how do we ensure that their views are reflected in child protection plans?

Structures and Accountability

Membership

- Do the CPC and the VAWP have members who can inform action planning in respect of VAW and how it impacts on the protection of children and young people?
- Are the partnerships clear about what is expected of members?
- Are members clear about their role?
- Do they have a "contract" with members or the agency they represent?
- What will they do if members are unable to contribute to the shared agenda of CPC and VAWP?

Accountability and Information Sharing

- How are the VAWP and CPC accountable to the children and families within the local community?
- How will they consult with local women's groups, children and young people and others working in the community?
- How will the VAWP and CPC work together to contribute to the national agenda?
- How will the VAWP and CPC contribute to the local planning structures and joint initiatives, and which structures will they report to?
- How will constituent members of the VAWP and CPC report back to their own agencies on areas of joint interest?

Making the Right Connections

- Are CPC and VAWP linked into community planning structures or public protection?
- Are CPC and VAWP linked in through equalities?
- What other local plans do you need to link with?
- How will you go about ensuring you have influential links?
- Are CPC and VAWPs linked into the same structures?

Outcomes, Actions and Measures

Taking Action

- Are the VAWP and CPC ready to work together on the broader issues of violence against women, where it relates to the protection of children and young people?
- If not, what do you need to do to develop your capacity to do so?
- How will you go about this?
- What support do you need?
- How do VAWP and CPC co-ordinate services/ actions?
- Do you have a joint action plan (or joint actions) on violence against women where it relates to the protection of children and young people, for example, commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking and forced marriage?
- If not, how will you go about formulating and adopting this?
- How will you monitor and evaluate the plan?
- Do you have a mechanism for pooling resources for joint initiatives?

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Do the CPC and VAWP have separate monitoring/ evaluation frameworks?
- How will you work together to ensure that where there are common goals/outcomes, they are present within each framework and used to check progress and performance?
- How will you involve service users in this process?
- How will you involve the wider community in this process?
- Can CPC and VAWP provide evidence where there are areas of joint planning, and where can the evidence be found?

Appendix 2: Policy Drivers and Legislation

Achieving Our Potential: A framework to tackle poverty and income inequality in Scotland

www.scotland.gov.uk/

[Publications/2008/11/20103815/0](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/11/20103815/0)

Action on Violence in Scotland: Reducing violence. An alliance for a safer future

www.actiononviolence.com

Children and Young People Act

<http://www.sccyp.org.uk/policy/children-young-people-scotland-act>

Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland 2011

www.scotland.gov.uk/

[Publications/2011/03/14094421/0](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/03/14094421/0)

Concordat between the Scottish Government and local government, the Scottish Government and Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) (2007)

www.scotland.gov.uk/

[Publications/2007/11/13092240/concordat](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/13092240/concordat)

Curriculum for Excellence: (introduction to review of Scottish curriculum from age 3-18)

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education/Schools/curriculum

Curriculum for Excellence: components

www.ltscotland.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence/

Curriculum for Excellence: an overview

www.ltscotland.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence/curriculumoverview/index.asp

Delivering a Healthy Future: An Action Framework for Children and Young People's Health in Scotland

www.scotland.gov.uk/

[Publications/2007/02/14154246/0](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/02/14154246/0)

Draft National Strategy for the Development of the Social Service Workforce in Scotland 2005-2010: A Plan For Action

www.scotland.gov.uk/

[Publications/2004/12/20418/48839](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2004/12/20418/48839)

Early Years Framework

www.scotland.gov.uk/

[Publications/2009/01/13095148/0](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/01/13095148/0)

Equally Well: Report of the Ministerial Task Force on Health Inequalities

www.scotland.gov.uk/

[Publications/2008/06/25104032/0](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/25104032/0)

EQUALLY SAFE: Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls

<http://withscotland.org/resources/equally-safe-scotland-s-strategy-for-preventing-and-eradicating-violence-against-women-and-girls>

Equally Well

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/health/Inequalities/inequalitiestaskforce

For Scotland's Children (2001)

Edinburgh, Scottish Executive

Getting it right for every child

www.scotland.gov.uk

Getting Our Priorities Right 2003

www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/47032/0023960.pdf

Growing Support: A Review of Services for Vulnerable Families with Very Young Children (2002)

Edinburgh, Scottish Executive

Guidance on Child Protection Committees 2005

www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/02/20675/52303

It's everyone's job to make sure I'm alright – Report of the Child Protection Audit and Review (2002)

Edinburgh, Scottish Executive

Joining the Dots: A Better Start for Scotland's Children

Professor Susan Deacon

Looked After Children and Young People: We Can and Must Do Better

www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/01/15084446/0

More Choices, More Chances

www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/06/13100205/0

Moving Forward in Kinship and Foster Care: Report from the “Getting it right for every child in kinship and foster care” reference group

www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/02/27085637/0

National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland, 2014

www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/17115558

National Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan for Children and Young People, 2008

www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/17115558

A Partnership Approach to Tackling Violence against Women in Scotland: Guidance for Multi-Agency Partnerships

www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/01/22135945/14

Protecting Children and Young People: The Charter (2004) Edinburgh, Scottish Executive

Protecting Children: Framework for Standards (2004) Edinburgh, Scottish Executive

Protecting Children and Young people – Interim Guidance for Conducting a Significant Case Review (2007)

Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act (2007)

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/children-families/pvlegislation

Respect & Responsibility – the sexual health strategy

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/health/sexualhealth/respect

Safer Lives: Changed Lives: A Shared Approach to Tackling Violence Against Women in Scotland, 2009

www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/06/02153519

Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People

www.sccyp.org.uk

The Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act

<http://www.chscotland.gov.uk/the-childrens-hearings-system/development-of-the-childrens-hearings-system/>

The Road to Recovery: A New Approach to Tackling Scotland's Drug Problem

www.scotland.gov.uk/

[Publications/2008/05/22161610/0](#)

UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking 2007

www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/254429/0101030.pdf

Valuing Young People: Principles and connections to support young people achieve their potential

The Scottish Government, Edinburgh, 2009.

www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/270002/0080381.pdf

Vulnerable Children and Young People Guidance Pack 2003

www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2003/07/vcyp/0

Youth Justice Framework

www.scotland.gov.uk/

[Publications/2008/06/17093513/0](#)

Violence Against Women National Training Strategy: Phase II

www.scotland.gov.uk/

[Publications/2010/02/11120930](#)

International context

The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/

Global Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, links this approach to tackling violence against women with commitments made by the UK Government.

The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, which entered into force in the UK on 1 April 2009

www.conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/QueVoulezVous.asp?NT=197&CM=1&CL=ENG

The "Palermo Protocol", formally the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. This is a protocol to the UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime.

www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/index.html

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

www.unicef.org/crc/

Appendix 3: References/Research

Hester, M. (2009) *Who Does What to Whom? Gender and Domestic Violence Perpetrators*,

Bristol: University of Bristol in association with the Northern Rock Foundation Blake Stevenson Ltd 2011
Review of the GIRFEC Domestic Abuse Pathfinders

Domestic violence and child protection: partnerships and collaboration

Potito, Christine, Day, Andrew, Carson, Ed and O’Leary, Patrick (2009) “Domestic violence and child protection: partnerships and collaboration”. *Australian Social Work*, 62(3), 369-387. (doi:10.1080/03124070902964657)

Children and families experiencing domestic violence: police and children’s social services’ responses

Stanley, Nicky, and Miller, Pam, and Foster, Helen Richardson, and Thomson, Gill
London: NSPCC, 2010

Literature review: Better outcomes for children and young people experiencing domestic abuse: directions for good practice (PDF)

Humphreys, Cathy, Houghton, Claire, and Ellis, Jane
Edinburgh: Scottish Government, 2008
ISBN: 9780755958023

“Who Kills Children? Re-examining the evidence”

Colin Pritchard, Jill Davey, Richard Williams
British Journal of Social Work, March 2012.

About this resource

This checklist was written in partnership with the National Violence Against Women Network and originally published in October 2012. It was reproduced in February 2015 to reflect updates in policy, guidance and legislation. It is intended to be used by Child Protection Committees and Violence Against Women Partnerships to build on good practice and develop relationships. It focuses on highlighting core messages and common areas of work and setting these within the context of national policy.

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