

**Perth & Kinross Violence Against
Women Partnership
Annual Report
2014/15**





TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Chairperson's Foreword	2
2. Background to PKVAWP	3
3. Introduction to PKVAWP	5
4. Strategic Partners	6
5. 2014/15 Activities	10
6. Moving Forward	14
7. Action Plans	17



1. CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWARD

This has been a challenging year for the Perth and Kinross Violence Against Women Partnership. Against a background at the launch of the Governments Equally Safe Strategy, which we strongly support, we lost our Chair, Co-ordinator and our Deputy Chair in quick succession. We now have an inexperienced but enthusiastic Chair and Deputy Chair and have a collective commitment and momentum. We have a delivery plan for Equally Safe, we have short term funding in place for a new Co-ordinator and what we lack in experience we make up for in enthusiasm and determination.

I acknowledge the tremendous efforts of our former Chair and Deputy Chair Mike Whitford and Jim Wallace respectively and make special mention of the work of our former co-ordinator Leighanne Gregg who worked so hard to maintain our momentum at a time of unprecedented change for everyone. Thank you all.

I am pleased to introduce this, my first annual report on the work of Perth and Kinross Violence Against Women Partnership. In it I will seek to tell you where we are now and what our ambitions are for 2016/17.

This report does not seek to tell the reader everything that each of our members does, for that you must look to each members own annual report, it will rather highlight where our collaborations add value to our members core activity and to demonstrate how, by working together, we deliver a better and stronger service for Women and Girls in Perth and Kinross.

Lex Greig

Chair



2. BACKGROUND to PKVAWP

This year the Partnership was pleased to respond to the reorganisation of Community Planning arrangements in Perth and Kinross. Violence Against Women and Girls was included in the Vulnerability Theme of the Community Safety and Environment Delivery Group and this Group has agreed to provide oversight for the work of the Partnership.

The Police Local Area Commander was identified as a suitable lead for this theme. This role currently filled by Chief Inspector Maggie Pettigrew. She is supported by the Perth and Kinross Co-ordinators Group which additionally provides the Delivery Group with updates on Children, Adults, Suicide and Self Harm, Missing People, Hate Crime, People Trafficking, Mental Health. This ensures that the different policy areas are not considered in isolation.

CO-ORDINATOR ROLE

During the past 2 years the Violence Against Women Co-ordinator role was filled by a Police Officer provided without cost to the partners, initially by Tayside Police and latterly by Police Scotland. It was always recognised that this arrangement would not continue beyond March 2015.

The partnership developed an initial response by dividing the work between the Chair, the new Vice Chair, Team Leader Community Safety and some welcome administrative support provided by Perth and with Kinross Council. This was a reasonable response in the short term but the subsequent loss of the Chair highlighted the need for co-ordinating and policy support.

The partnership submitted a bid to the Integrated Care Fund and was successful in gaining funding for an 18 hour post for 1 year to consolidate the changes, develop the Partnership response to Equally Safe and consider how the role can be mainstreamed in the future either through obtaining sustainable funding or subsuming its elements within the roles of other existing posts.

John Evans was appointed to the post and commenced work on 14 March 2016.

LOCAL CONTEXT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Across Scotland in 2014/15 recorded crime fell by 4.7% (Police Scotland, 2015). The exceptions to this were sexual offences, which rose 9.3%, and domestic abuse for which reports increased by 1.8%. Improved ways of tackling such crimes have been introduced and increased media attention has undoubtedly led to an increase in victims of historical offences coming forward.



“The number of domestic abuse incidents reported during 2014/2015 increased by 1.8 per cent to total 59,471. One or more crimes were recorded in 57 per cent of all domestic incidents.

Sexual crime recorded by Police Scotland increased by 9.3 per cent. There were 1,797 rapes recorded during the 12 month period, an increase of 91 compared to 2013/2014. Nearly 40 per cent of those reports were historic”.

The number of incidents attended by Police across Tayside where a victim of domestic abuse was identified is recorded as 1525. Of these incidents, 14% identified victims that were high risk. Perthshire Women’s Aid supported 282 women, a 5.2% increase compared to the previous year. Furthermore, demand for refuge also remained fairly high with 58 requests for refuge being received last year. Of these requests, 37 women and 30 children were able to be accommodated.

Reports of sexual offences increased significantly across 2014/15, with the Scottish Government’s 2014 November Statistical Bulletin states that reports of sexual crimes are at their highest since 1971 (8,604 across 2013-2014). Of these, 3742 were recorded sexual crimes against children and young people up to the age of 18.

RASAC P&K received 61 new referrals and 675 helpline calls. The organisation delivered 685 face to face support sessions and 202 email support sessions. A significant growth in referrals from young people has taken place, with 25% of the organisation’s referrals coming from survivors aged 12-18 years old.

Perth & Kinross Violence Against Women Partnership is committed to working collaboratively to prevent gender based violence and enhance the provision of support services to those affected.

EQUALLY SAFE

Equally Safe is the Scottish Government’s Strategy to take action on all forms of violent and abusive behaviours perpetrated against women and girls in Scotland. The strategy acknowledges the root cause of the violent and abusive behaviour as being a consequence of gender inequality across all strata of society.

Originally developed in 2014 by the Scottish Government and COSLA in association with a wide range of partners from public and third sector organisations, Equally Safe was updated in March 2016 to reflect the additional harm caused to children who may be directly or indirectly affected by abuse, and has four key areas for priority action:

- Scottish society embraces equality and mutual respect, and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls
- Women and girls thrive as equal citizens: socially, culturally, economically and politically
- Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising the safety and wellbeing of women and girls
- Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response



3 Introduction to PKVAWP

Perth and Kinross Violence Against Women Partnership (PKVAWP) has a multi-agency membership, including partners from statutory and voluntary sectors across Perth and Kinross.

The partnership aims to encourage an integrated response to addressing gender based violence and coordinates a range of activities aimed at raising awareness and preventing gender based violence within Perth and Kinross.

The partnership works to address the causes and consequences of violence against women via the 4 P's:

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

The Partnership seeks to ensure that all organisations and individuals within Perth & Kinross are supported to work together effectively to reduce the prevalence and impact of violence against women within our local communities.

The Partnership strives to ensure that women, young people and children affected by such forms of violence are protected, that the existence of violence against women is challenged and not condoned and that perpetrators are brought to account for their actions.



4 Strategic Partners

Barnardo's www.barnardos.org.uk

Barnardo's Domestic Abuse Service support women and children following an incident of domestic abuse and are deemed to be at high risk of further harm. They team are co-located with Police Scotland.

The work consists of undertaking direct work with clients and their children on a short to medium time bases. We offer advice guidance and support that includes: - safety planning, with the adult, young people and children, this can include putting together a package of support involving, statutory agencies, police and other voluntary organisations. We undertake one to one sessions with children and their families to help them move on or effect positive change.

Contact: 01738 892516 Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm

NHS Tayside

Central Healthcare is a Nurse-Led Service which aims to target and deliver healthcare to hard to reach groups, including: those at risk of homelessness and those who are vulnerably housed, including prisoners on discharge, children/young people living with or fleeing Domestic Abuse, and Gypsy Travellers.

Services include:

- an outreach team of qualified Nurses and Healthcare Assistants who take referrals from any organisation/ agency, and/or self referrals.
- a practice-based team based located within the Drumhar Health Centre in the centre of Perth
- a Podiatrist, Optician and Dentist.

Contact: Tel: 01738 564261



Young People's Health Team

Young People from Perth & Kinross aged 12-25 years old can access broad based advice, information and one-to-one support on any health issue. Young people can self-refer or access our drop-in service:

Every Monday: 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Every Saturday: 1.00pm - 4.00pm

Venue: Youth Service @ScottStreet, Perth

Contact: 01738 564294

Email: yphtperth.tayside@nhs.net www.facebook.com/youngpeopleshealthteam

Perth & Kinross Community Health Partnership

Perth and Kinross CHP provides advice and support to practitioners on child protection issues and facilitates child protection multi agency work.

Contact: Child Protection Nurse Advisor on 01738 564295

Perthshire Women's Aid

Woman can contact regarding their legal rights, right to homeless accommodation or if they want to talk about their situation. Women's aid offers Refuges (safe confidential accommodation) and counselling (11 hours per week by appointment only.)

Contact:

Business line: 01738 635404

Available: 9:30 - 5pm Monday - Friday

Email: contactus@perthwomensaid.org.uk

Support line telephone: 01738 639043 Available 9:30am - 4pm Monday - Friday

Perth & Kinross Council Services

Perth & Kinross Council Homeless Service is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The Advice Team offer free and confidential advice, support and assistance in relation to housing or homelessness to persons who are at risk of violence or abuse.



Applicant's self-assessment of violence/threat of violence will be accepted and no further questions need to be asked other than: Source of violence or threat of violence and place of violence or threat

of violence, to ensure re-housing offered in a safe place. Please contact us straight away if you are at threat of domestic abuse or living in fear.

You can contact us Monday to Friday at the Housing Advice Centre or the nearest local Housing Team. Contact Housing Advice Centre, 10-16 York Place, Perth

Tel: 01738 474500 Available 8.45am – 5pm Monday – Friday

Email: HomelessAdvice@pkc.gov.uk

Emergency Tel number out with office hours – 0800 917 0708

Children and Families Service Child Protection / Duty Team should be contacted if there are any concerns for the welfare of children or young persons affected by domestic abuse or sexual violence.

Advice should be sought from on 01738 476768.

The Access Team can be contacted on 0845 30 111 20 to provide support and guidance and access to a range of services for adults over the age of 16, who may be at risk, where a woman has particular vulnerabilities and additional needs and or have a community care need.

Police Scotland

Police Scotland is a national service and is committed to “keeping people safe”.

In relation to domestic abuse/violence against women it provides an investigative response to ongoing incidents and reports of historical domestic abuse and sexual violence. Officers from the Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit work within the Public Protection Unit alongside the Barnardo's Worker. They provide assistance to uniform colleagues when dealing with Domestic Abuse, Risk Assessment of Incidents, an investigative response into serious crimes (current or historical) and advice and assistance to victims.

For advice or assistance in non-emergency situations contact 01738 892910 or, alternatively, 01382 591912.

For ongoing crimes or incidents contact the non-emergency number 101. In an emergency contact 999.

RASAC P&K
www.rasacpk.org.uk



RASAC P&K(Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre, Perth & Kinross) provides free and confidential support, information and advocacy services to survivors of rape and sexual abuse across Perth & Kinross. The Centre supports anyone who identifies as a woman age 12+, and boys age 12 – 18.

Support is provided either face to face, or via telephone, email and letter. A helpline runs throughout the day Monday – Friday, which can also be accessed by family members or friends looking for support and/or information. Training for external agencies is available and the Centre has a comprehensive resource library for anyone seeking further information.

RASAC Youth Initiative deliver prevention workshops to young people age 12 – 18 across a range of educational and community settings. For further information please contact us.

Contact: RASAC P&K, 18 King Street, Perth, PH2 8JA
Business Line: 01738 626290 Helpline: 01738 630965
Business Email: info@rasacpk.org.uk Support Email: rasacpk@gmail.com

Scottish Prison Service (SPS)

www.sps.gov.uk

The Scottish Prison Service (SPS) is an agency of the Scottish Government and was established in April 1993. The SPS sets out its business objectives in the three year Corporate Plan for the spending review period 2012-2015 and an annual Delivery Plan which is published in the spring of each year.

Its principal objective is to contribute to making Scotland Safer by Protecting the Public and Reducing Reoffending. The SPS aims to achieve this by ensuring delivery of secure custody, safe and ordered prisons, decent standards of care and opportunities for prisoners to develop in a way that help them reintegrate into the community on release.

HM Prison Perth was built between 1840 and 1859 and is Scotland's oldest occupied prison. In its 168 year history it has housed all categories of prisoners. The establishment has undergone significant structural changes over the years and this redevelopment has transformed this former Napoleonic prison into a modern fit for purpose community-facing establishment.

The management and staff of HM Prison Perth are fully committed to a course of transformational change that puts our work firmly in the context of the wider Scottish Government agenda to create a safer and stronger Scotland through reduced offending and re-offending.

VICTIM SUPPORT

www.victimsupportsco.org.uk

Victim Support Scotland (VSS) provides emotional support, practical help and essential information to male and female victims, witnesses and others affected by crime. The service is free, confidential and is provided by trained volunteers through a network of community based victim and court based witness services.

Contact: 01738 567171 Email: victimsupport.perth&kinross@victimsupportsco.org.uk

Victim Support Perth & Kinross, Unit B1, Highland House, St Catherine's Retail Park, Perth. PH1 5YA.
Service Delivery Officer: Jo Armstrong



5 2014/15 Activities

Safe Accommodation Strategy

During 2015 key partners came together to discuss safe accommodation for vulnerable women:

- Domestic Abuse
- Trafficking
- Rape/Serious Sexual Assault
- Women with no recourse to Public Funds
- Protected Witnesses

They recognised that obtaining funding for a purpose-built hostel was unlikely and determined that a partnership approach whereby existing accommodation is shared to meet the needs of vulnerable women and families.

This approach will ensure good value for money and that vulnerable women get access to safe accommodation when they need it. The approach was endorsed by the Community Safety and Environment Outcome Delivery Group and it is currently being implemented. This implementation will include the development of a performance framework to support delivery.

Sexual Assault Referral Network

RASAC P&K continue to be the referring agency for SARN (the Sexual Assault Referral Network) within Perth & Kinross. The SARN enables survivors to be referred by RASAC P&K for forensic medical examination following a rape or/and sexual assault. This service is available to anyone who has been assaulted within the last 7 days and who does not wish to report to the police at this time. A forensic examination can be organised and should survivors decide to report in the future (within 8 years) that valuable forensic evidence will have been stored.

MARAC

The Perth and Kinross Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) comprising representatives from local Police, Criminal Justice Social Work, Health, Independent Domestic



Abuse Advisors (IDAAs) and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sector, meets on a monthly basis to share information and discuss the safety needs of the highest risk victims of domestic violence. A Safety Plan for each victim is developed at the meeting and each agency accepts responsibility for agreed actions.

The MARAC has, to date, been chaired by a senior police officer but a number of MARAC members have recently received training on the issues requiring to be addressed by those chairing MARAC meetings and it is intended that the MARAC chair will in future rotate between these members on a three meeting cycle.

To further develop the effectiveness of joint working and to share a better understanding of the work of other partners, training for all MARAC representatives is proposed for the coming year and will ensure that the MARAC continues to be as effective as possible in co coordinating the safety issues of high risk victims of domestic abuse.

MATAC

Working In conjunction with the MARAC, Multi Agency Tasking and Coordinating meetings (MATAC"s) focus attention on the highest risk perpetrators with a view to prevent them committing further incidents of domestic abuse.

Actions against offenders would include focussed investigations, bail compliance and other enforcement activities and at a local level police activity is centred on specialist officers in the Domestic Abuse Investigation Team. The Domestic Abuse Task Force operates on a national level and targets the most serious offenders and those who are serial offenders.

Claire's Law

Claire's Law, otherwise known as the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, or Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAD) was rolled out across Scotland on 1 October 2015 following pilot schemes in Aberdeen and Ayrshire.

The initiative is named after Clare Wood, who was murdered by her violent ex-boyfriend several years ago. The 36-year-old was strangled and set on fire by George Appleton in Salford, Greater Manchester, in 2009. She was unaware of his history of violence against women.

Her father, Michael Brown, campaigned for people to have the right to ask for information about partners, and for the police and other agencies to have the power to take the initiative and tell someone if there are grounds for concern.

In the past, it was difficult for anyone entering a new relationship to find out if their partner had prior convictions for violence or domestic abuse but the scheme now allows for this information to be made available. Disclosures can also be triggered by friends, relatives, social workers or police officers. If checks show that someone does have a record of abusive behaviour, the police will consider sharing the information with the people "best placed" to protect potential victims. Requests are made via a form on the Police Scotland website.



Advocacy and Support Project

Shortly after a release of crime figures which highlighted an increase of 11% amongst sexual offences across 2014-2015 (9, 557), the Scottish Government declared an extra £1.85 million investment to support for victims of sexual offences across Scotland. From this, RASAC P&K have been awarded £40,000 in 2016 and 2017 to employ a dedicated Advocacy and Support Worker. This post will enhance the support given to those who are either considering, or who are currently going through the criminal justice process. This support will be available right through the reporting and court process. This increase in capacity to support survivors is vital in supporting RASAC's commitment to providing timely access to support and advocacy services on a consistent basis throughout this often difficult time.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) includes a wide range of sexual activities which objectify and harm others (usually women) such as prostitution, stripping, internet sex/chat rooms, pole dancing, lap dancing, pornography, trafficking, and sex tourism/mail order brides, often for the financial gain of others.

It is recognised that many of those affected by CSE will be accessing a range of services in order to address their needs, however, it is also a fact that CSE is often not disclosed. Therefore, no estimated statistics about the prevalence or context of CSE within Perth & Kinross currently exist.

The group is producing a leaflet to be issued to women affected by CSE. The leaflet will include national numbers to ensure that it is relevant for any women moving / being moved around the country.

CEDAR

Perthshire Cedar is now in its fourth year and continues to provide child centred support to families recovering from domestic abuse across Perthshire. The project delivers a therapeutic parallel group work programme enabling mothers to support their children through this healing process. This joint approach is fundamental with children and their mothers learning and moving forward together but supported in separate groups. **This year we ran 2 Women's Groups and 6 Children's groups supporting 38 women and 60 children, 98 in total. In addition providing one to one work as part of the Cedar project.**

Cedar has been referred to as "GIRFEC" in motion. It is an early intervention that works to strengthen the relationship within the family and their wider community, enabling families to be more safe, confident and actively engaged in their education and community. Cedar helps to build and strengthen mother-child relationships as part of domestic abuse recovery. The group work



programme uses a variety of creative tools to work with Mothers and their children, aged 5-16 years over 12 weeks, building resilience, improving communication, emotional intelligence, confidence and self-esteem. The ethos of Cedar is empowerment and the Cedar Co-ordinators work closely with families from initial referral to gain trust and allow families to make choices about their future.

Developments this year have included the project offering its 1-1 work with children/young people prior to, during and following group work to meet the specific needs of families. This also means that as soon as a family is referred to the project they receive family centred support to address their individual needs. A key part of Cedar is our multi-agency approach and we are indebted to our Co-Facilitators who have been 'donated' from a range of statutory and voluntary agencies across Perthshire to facilitate the 12 week group work programme. Over the past years we have had **25 co-facilitators** who have trained and/ or facilitated our group work. Co-ordinators have expressed the many benefits of this multi-agency approach, the sharing of skills and experiences across the statutory and voluntary sector. This year Cedar has been active in raising awareness about Domestic Abuse and Healthy Relationships within the community, schools and by delivering training to other statutory and voluntary agencies. We have had a really positive response to these sessions and wish to continue this prevention work.

A recent external evaluation which gathered the views of all stakeholders, fully endorsed the value of Cedar. We are fortunate in Perth and Kinross to have Cedar in our area and the drive in the last few months has been to secure continued funding for this project which is due to end in September 16.

Perthshire Domestic Abuse Outreach Project

Perthshire Domestic Abuse Outreach Project provides information, emotional and practical support, advocacy, housing support and follow on assistance to women and children in rural Perthshire who are or have experienced domestic abuse. Access to outreach staff within their own area reduces isolation and provides links to vital services. Women are empowered to make positive choices by building their self confidence and resilience. Staff support them to remain safely in their home or when it is not safe to do so, to access suitable, alternative accommodation elsewhere. Support from our statutory partners is vital to meet the needs of women and families. We also now have specialist advocacy support for women in rural areas who have been assessed as being at high risk.

A recent appointment gives the project a complement of 3 outreach workers and an advocacy worker. **In this year the project has assisted 79 women who have 97 children between them, with emotional and practical support and an additional 53 women assessed as being at the highest risk have been supported by the advocate for the project.** This project received its funding from Big Lottery in July 2014. Prior to the inception of the project a very small number of women in rural Perthshire received support from PWA in the rural communities in which they were resident (4 prior to new service). Women in rural areas also have access to our refuges, 7 out of 8 of which are based in Perth.

We worked with the Perthshire Advertiser to raise awareness of domestic abuse in a succession of articles over the Festive Period. Our staff began to reach out to community groups in Highland Perthshire as a pilot, to begin to raise awareness of domestic abuse and explore new ways of



preventing rural isolation of vulnerable women and children and getting services to them at the earliest stage. Along with our Violence Against Women Partners our aim in this coming year is to continue this work, raising the profile of domestic abuse in rural communities. Our aim is to enable and support communities to assist us in our preventative work by increasing their understanding of this sensitive and complex issue and how communities can help. We will continue to work with local representatives and provide advice and information to all those interested in helping us to tackle domestic abuse and to source funding to allow us to continue to do so.

Independent Domestic Abuse Advocacy Project

Perth and Kinross Independent Domestic Abuse Advocacy secures the safety of women and children who have been victims of domestic abuse and are at high risk of harm from intimate partners or ex-partners working in close collaboration with the police. It is a short term, normally 6-8 week intervention. The advocate works closely with police in the Domestic Abuse Unit which has enabled a more effective and preventative approach to be taken. Advocates engage with adult victims from point of crisis, liaise with multiple services to keep women and their children safe, initially by putting in safety measures and ensuring safe accommodation. Making contact with women as close to the point of incident as possible is key to successful outcomes. The primary goal of the service is early intervention and prevention of repeat victimisation.

This year we have substantially improved the time frame of access to the advocacy service with the advocate now working with women as close to the incident as possible. This early intervention, quick access to safety measures and support from other agencies has seen a very sharp reduction in the number of high risk cases in Perth and Kinross. **The number of women on the Police high risk register has reduced from 25-30 to as low as 3. 58 women were supported in Perth area and as above, 53 in rural Perthshire, 111 women in total with 62 of these being referred to Marac.**

Advocates are the primary source of contact for women going through the MARAC Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference, ensuring their voice is heard at the meeting and feeding back decisions.

Prevention and Education

The RASAC Youth Initiative has developed significantly and across the last year alone has worked with over 3,000 young people in schools, alongside an additional 132 through community groups.

From evaluation of the prevention work we have undertaken in both schools and community groups our workshops have enabled young people to develop an increased awareness about sexual abuse and violence. Additionally, evaluations from both young people participating in the workshops alongside teachers and other workers supporting them has indicated that the workshops have provided a safe platform for young people to explore issues such as sexualisation, sexual abuse and exploitation.



The project has produced a DVD in partnership with Ad Lib, a local youth theatre arts group based in Perth, RASAC Youth Ambassadors and the Media students and Lecturers from Perth College. A supporting educational resource for Teachers and Community group workers has been developed to accompany the DVD.

We have continued to co-ordinate a local prevention forum to bring together other services for young people, identify good practice and explore partnership working opportunities. The 'Prevention Network' also provides a forum for new agencies to profile their work. Representatives from agencies who attend are the Drug and Alcohol team, Hope Pregnancy and Perth College. Additionally, we are currently dedicating time to participate in recently established locality groups which aim to support a local approach to the planning of services for children, young people and families.

We are exceptionally proud of the young people involved in our Youth Ambassador Programme, a peer mentoring and campaigning initiative for young people between the ages of 14-18 years. The Youth Ambassadors work alongside Youth initiative Workers participating in local awareness raising events and national campaigns and co-deliver workshops to youth and community groups about the context, prevalence, and impact of gender based violence and equality issues within their own communities. Participation in the Youth Ambassador programme begins with the young people participating in interactive and practical induction sessions where the young people have the opportunity to develop increased understanding of the root causes of gender based violence and the aspects of society which perpetuate it.

The induction sessions also provide young people with the space to explore their own beliefs. Participation in the training enables the young people to develop skills in communication, team work and presentation. Ongoing training on related issues is provided to the young people as they progress through the programme. Four of our existing Youth Ambassadors have already attained a Saltire Ascent award and their portfolios for a Bronze Youth Achievement award have been entered for external verification. Additionally we were thrilled when this group of inspirational young people won a Spirit of Youth Award earlier this month.

Measuring Performance

All members of the partnership keep records the various services they provide on an individual basis. Currently there is no effective collation of this information by which to measure the effects of working in partnership towards reducing and preventing violence against women.

Work is ongoing with partners to design a template by which this information can be gathered and displayed. At a national level, the National Violence Against Women Network is working with the Scottish Government to design a set of performance indicators in relation to the Equally Safe Strategy and the PKWAWP is an active member of this group.



Working with Offenders

One Stop Women's Learning Service (OWLS)

The establishment of the One-stop Women's Learning Service was the response by Perth and Kinross to a number of recommendations in the report by the Commission on Women Offenders (the Angiolini Report) published in April 2012. The report clearly stated that the lives of women offenders are characterised by multiple complexities and their potential to offend and re-offend links directly to their chaotic lives and lack of social supports.

The Commission endorsed a holistic approach, a fundamental part of which is the practical support and guidance provided through the mentoring service, progressing to social support via befriending. This approach allows women to build their self confidence and self-esteem and to live more productive and fulfilling lives as valued members of their families and communities.

The OWLS service operates six days a week from its new permanent premises on Mill Street, Perth.

Group work activities cover a wide range of topics including advice and support to stop substance misuse; enhancing and improving women's mental wellbeing; safe guarding and promoting their physical, mental and sexual health; learning to improve their interpersonal and family relationships as well as their everyday life skills for example, cooking and budgeting. Principally all group work activity is aimed at promoting women's self-confidence, self-esteem and self-worth. The activities have involved a broad range of services that have creatively utilised their skills both personal and professional in adapting their way of working to collectively meet the needs of the women in OWLS.



6 Moving Forward in 2016

The Partnership has identified a number of key areas for development in the coming year.

- To carry out a critical path analysis for service users to identify gaps in service provision and areas of good practice
- To share this information amongst the partners and work collaboratively in the development of individual and joint services
- To develop a performance framework, taking account of national guidance, to measure effectively the work of the partnership
- To plan an integrated programme of activities to coincide with the national 16 Days of Action and ensure the maximum publicity achieved across Perth & Kinross
- To identify and acknowledge the particular issues affecting women and girls in highland and rural Perthshire and work with a full range of partners towards addressing them