

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY TO ADDRESS DOMESTIC ABUSE IN SCOTLAND

PROGRESS REPORT

Ministerial Foreword

DRAFT DOMESTIC ABUSE FOREWORD

There is no excuse for domestic abuse – which is why the Scottish Executive has made tackling this problem one of its highest priorities.

We have achieved much since 1999, as this progress report by the National Group to Address Domestic Abuse shows, and I would like to pay a personal tribute to everyone who has helped make the changes of which we can all be very proud.

There is now a network of refuges across Scotland, from Orkney to Stranraer. The first ever national fund to tackle domestic abuse was set up on April 2000 and this supports vital work across the whole country, including preventative work in schools, training for staff and volunteers, and work with children – who are often the forgotten victims of domestic abuse.

And our ground breaking awareness campaigns have brought the reality of domestic abuse into people's homes and helped many hundreds of women take that first step to changing their lives for good.

But we can never be complacent – there are still far too many victims of domestic abuse. Scottish Women's Aid estimate that up to 100,000 children are living with domestic abuse and the domestic abuse helpline averages 70 calls a week – rising to 500 a week when the television campaigns are on our screens.

The National Strategy also recognises that while much has been done to improve the protection of women who have been sexually abused, stalked or harassed, there is still more to do. The group is convinced that we need to consider the issues of violence against women and domestic abuse together so we can develop a coherent, systematic approach to tackling all violence against women and children.

By adopting this approach, we will take the first steps towards creating the kind of Scotland we all want – one where woman and children can live a full and satisfying life, free from the fear of violence.



Margaret Curran
Minister for Social Justice

Introduction

1. A Scottish Partnership on Domestic Abuse was established in November 1998 with a remit to recommend minimum standards and levels of service for women experiencing domestic abuse in order to encourage consistent service delivery throughout Scotland, having particular regard to the needs of women from rural areas, from ethnic minorities and with disabilities and taking into account the impact on children and young people affected. It reported to Ministers with comprehensive recommendations in November 2000 and produced a National Strategy to Address Domestic Abuse in Scotland.

2. The Strategy identifies key areas of work which need to be carried out and instructs the way forward at both national and local levels. It is therefore for anyone working to tackle domestic abuse both in the public and voluntary sectors.

3. The Scottish Executive is committed to implementing the National Strategy according to the programme for action it sets out. This report describes what the Executive has done and is doing to fulfil this commitment.

The National Group to Address Domestic Abuse in Scotland

4. A National Group to Address Domestic Abuse in Scotland was established in June 2001 with a remit to:-

- Oversee the implementation of the National Strategy to Address Domestic Abuse in Scotland in accordance with the priorities set out in the Action Plan;
- Identify and disseminate good practice;
- Identify key issues and develop a common national response
- Provide advice in relation to monitoring data and the identification of the research required;
- Establish and oversee a structure of specific issue-based groups and local multi-agency groups working with a coherent framework;
- Review and monitor progress against the Action Plan;
- Consider links between domestic abuse and the wider issues of violence against women.

5. The National Group is chaired by the Minister for Social Justice and the current members are DCC Robert Ovens, Chair of ACPOS Community Safety Sub Committee, Dharmendra Kanani, Director, Commission for Racial Equality

Scotland, Jon Harris, COSLA, Professor Sheila Hunt, Dean of Nursing Dundee University, Keir Bloomer, Chief Executive Clackmannanshire Council and a Director of Learning and Teaching Scotland, Claire Houghton Scottish Women's Aid, Janette de Haan, Women's Support Project and Sheriff Pamela Bowman. Between June 2001 and February 2003, the National Group met 7 times

Specific-Issue Working Groups

6. The first task of the National Group was to prioritise the work to be carried out and to establish the appropriate Working Groups to take forward particular initiatives within the Strategy. Three working groups were established in the first instance; to review the COSLA recommendations on refuge provision, to review current legislation and to prepare a prevention strategy. A fourth group was established in August 2002 to develop a training strategy.

The Working Group on Legislation

7. The Working Group on Legislation had a remit to review all legislative provision relating to domestic abuse, to assess the strengths and weaknesses thereof and to make recommendations to the National Group as to how the weaknesses should be addressed. The membership was:-

Sheriff Pamela Bowman, chair	Judiciary
Ms Susan Burns	Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service
Lord Carloway	Judiciary
Ms Claire Connelly	Law Department Glasgow University
Ms Jean Cuthbert	Edinburgh Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre
Ms Sarah Erskine	Erskine, MacAskill & Co, solicitors
Ms Louise Johnson	Scottish Women's Aid
Mr John McDonald	Fife Multi-Agency Forum
Supt Tom McIntosh	Strathclyde Police
Ms Jan McLeod	Women's Support Project
Ms Shona Smith	Family Law Association
Ms Lorna Belfall, secretary	Scottish Executive

8. The working group considered a number of information and research papers and consulted within their own areas of interest. It also circulated the local multi-agency domestic abuse partnerships asking them to pool their knowledge and experience, including their views on any shortcomings in the way that legislation is implemented.

9. There is considerable legislation, both civil and criminal, which impacts upon domestic abuse in Scotland. The working group looked at those aspects of civil law which were directly relevant, including the Matrimonial Homes (Family Protection)(Scotland) Act 1981, the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, the Protection from Abuse (Scotland) Act 2001, the Housing (Scotland) Acts 1987 and 2001, the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and the Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986.

10. In Scottish Criminal law there is no specific offence of domestic abuse. It is covered by the general provisions of the criminal law and is dealt with by statute and common law. The group identified a number of problems in relation to the protection available in the criminal law and criminal justice process for women and children who experience domestic abuse. Some related to the measures and means used to deal with the perpetrators and others to women's experiences of the criminal justice process itself.

11. The group concluded that domestic abuse was a complex issue and that the current remedies to address it were also complex, leading to confusion, misunderstanding and duplication of effort. It was therefore of the opinion that it would be helpful to simplify the law in relation to domestic abuse and to have all the remedies available brought together in one Act. It also concluded that it was necessary to establish a cohesive and simplified court process for domestic abuse cases and recommended a feasibility study to examine the possibility of setting up a special domestic abuse court.

12. The working group's report was endorsed by the National Group in May 2002 and its recommendations are being taken forward by the Executive.

The Working Group on Refuge Provision

13. In 1991 COSLA estimated that there was a need for 1 refuge place per 7,500 of the population, which pointed to a need for 650 places throughout Scotland. There are at present approximately 360 refuge places available. Since 1991 there has been a growth in population and changes in demographic distribution as well as changes in perception of the standard and type of refuge accommodation required.

14. The Working Group on Refuge Provision had a remit to conduct a review of the COSLA recommendations for refuge spaces, to establish whether they had been met and whether revision was required. It included an audit of current refuge provision and an assessment of future needs for refuge spaces, including the standard, type and diversity of provision and the needs of disabled women

and children, minority ethnic women and children and women and children living in rural areas.

15. The membership was:-

Ms Janette de Haan, chair	Women's Support Project
Ms Claire Houghton	Scottish Women's Aid
Ms Kate Arnot	Scottish Women's Aid
Ms Lily Greenan	Eva Project
Mr Wladyslaw Mejka	Disabled Persons Housing Service
Ms Maisie McCrae	COSLA
Ms Janet Robertson	Cairn Housing Association
Ms Jacqueline Small	Glasgow Council Social Work
Ms Famida Ali	Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid
Ms Ann Paton	North Ayrshire Women's Aid
Ms Lorna Belfall, secretary	Scottish Executive

16. The Working Group commissioned a Statistical Analysis of applications for refuge to women's aid groups. This was carried out by the Statistical Division of the Justice Department. It also commissioned research, by Dr Suzanne Fitzpatrick of Glasgow University, to investigate women's and children's experiences, preferences and priorities in relation to refuge provision and to assess the level and standard of available accommodation. Also to produce an audit tool to be used in future years to gauge refuge need.

17. The Working Group will report to the National Group in the summer and the research report will be published.

The Working Group on Prevention

18. The Prevention Working Group therefore had a remit to develop a National Prevention Strategy. The membership was:-

Keir Bloomer, chair	Learning and Teaching Scotland
Ms Moira Andrew	Domestic Violence Probation Project
Mr Rory Macrae,	Domestic Violence Probation Project
Dr Kate Cavanagh	Glasgow University
Ms Heather Coady	Scottish Women's Aid
Ms Ann Hamilton	Zero Tolerance Charitable Trust
ACC John McLean	Strathclyde Police
Ms Susan Moffat	Lothian NHS Board
Ms Girijamba Polubothu	Shakti Women's Aid
Ms Julie Reynolds	Scottish Women's Aid

19. The Working Group met from November 2001 to May 2002. A paper was commissioned from the Zero Tolerance Charitable Trust to assist the Working Group. The paper included a review of good practice in prevention work internationally and a discussion of the issues to be considered in developing the strategy.

20. In addition to producing a National Prevention Strategy, the Working Group participated in the National Debate on Education and the Education, Culture & Sport Committee's investigation into the future of school education. A paper 'With all Due Respect' was commissioned from Margaret McGhie, director of the Health Promoting Schools Unit, Learning & Teaching Scotland. The paper was launched at an event hosted by the Working Group on 13 June 2002, attended by education specialists and members of multi agency domestic abuse partnerships.

21. The report of the Prevention Working Group, including the National Prevention Strategy, was presented to the National Group at its meeting on 28 August 2002. The National Group endorsed the Report and agreed that the draft National Prevention Strategy should go out for consultation. Responses were requested by 31 December 2002. These are currently being considered and a revised strategy will be published in the summer.

The Working Group on Training

22. The Training Working Group had a remit to develop a National Training Strategy and met from August 2002 to November 2002. Members were:-

Mr Jon Harris, chair	CoSLA
Sheriff Pamela Bowman	Judiciary
Dr Kate Cavanagh	Glasgow University
Ms Katie Cosgrove	Greater Glasgow NHS Board
Ms Dawn Giffen	Scottish Women's Aid
Ms Sheila Noble	Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator, Fife
Ms Sandra Paton	South Ayrshire Women's Aid
Supt Bob Renfrew	Strathclyde Police
Ms Girijamba Polubothu	Shakti Women's Aid
Ms June Strachan	Consulting Training
Ms Liz Watson	Forth Valley NHS Board
Ms Monica Wilson	CHANGE
Ms Lesley Irving, secretary	Scottish Executive

23. The Working Group identified the need for specific training for staff in a number of sectors: social work, education, health, police, housing, criminal justice system and civil court system, voluntary sector, private sector. In addition, there was a need for multi agency training for all. Capacity building for delivering training was also addressed, as was the need for standards and good practice in domestic abuse training. A draft National Training Strategy was submitted to the National Group for consideration at their meeting in November 2002 and issued for consultation on 17 February 2003. Responses are requested by 23 May.

The Refuge Development Programme

24. The Scottish Executive has responded by providing £10 million, to be channelled through Communities Scotland, over the 3 years from April 2001 (£2 million in 2001/02, £2 million in 2002/03 and £6 million in 2003/04). to either build or purchase new refuges or to adapt, extend and upgrade existing ones, taking into account:-

- the **amount** of provision already available in the local authority area against the level deemed to be necessary.
- the **types** of accommodation available against those deemed to be necessary, including the availability of any special provision for women with specific needs.

25. Local authorities were invited to bid for capital housing projects (to be developed by Registered Social Landlords) to either build or purchase new properties or adapt existing ones. Proposals for funding had to demonstrate that a partnership approach had been established involving all relevant partners, including Communities Scotland, Registered Social Landlords and Women's Aid. Bids had to show how projects would be sustained in terms of revenue support streams. Applications were received from 24 local authorities. Ten of these made more than one bid.

26. 10 projects were approved to begin in 2001/2 - in Angus, Dumfries and Galloway, East Renfrewshire, Fife, Glasgow, Highland, North Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, South Ayrshire and Stirling.

27. Three projects were approved to begin in 2002/3 - in Orkney, East Dunbartonshire and Edinburgh (Shakti). With the building of the refuge in Orkney, all local authority areas in Scotland will have refuge provision.

28. For the final year of the programme 16 projects in 14 local authority areas have been approved. Work will begin in 2003/4 on refuges in Dumfries and Galloway, Dundee, East Ayrshire, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Fife, Glasgow, Highland, Inverclyde, Moray, North Lanarkshire, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire.

29. To date:-

- a new 6 person unit has been created in Angus;
- 3 properties in South Ayrshire have been purchased;
- twelve purpose built flats will become available in Glasgow in January 2003;
- 4 places in a 21 unit project in South Lanarkshire was provided in March 2002 - and another 4 in September 2002; and a further 3 spaces in December 2002;
- 6 units with 15 bed spaces became available in North Lanarkshire in October 2002;
- refurbishment of an existing refuge in Midlothian will be completed in April 2003 and a new build extension with 6 self-contained flats will be completed by December 2003;
- projects in Fife, North Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway and Highland will be completed between February and March 2003.

The Domestic Abuse Service Development Fund

30. The Domestic Abuse Service Development Fund, which started on 1 April 2000, is the first ever national fund in Scotland to tackle domestic abuse. Initially for 2 years, £3 million was available in each of the years 2000/1 and 2001/2. (£1.5 million from the Scottish Executive and £1.5 million matched funding) to encourage local authorities to work with their local partners to improve provision in their areas.

31. Local authorities were invited to apply for grants for projects which would carry forward the work contained in the National Strategy. Bids had to demonstrate the involvement of multi-agency partners, especially local voluntary organisations, such as Women's Aid, and show how the projects would improve local circumstances and improve or develop multi-agency working.

32. In recognition of the success of the Fund it was extended for a further 2 years, to 2004. The second round of the Fund was heavily oversubscribed but the Executive is currently supporting 57 local projects which include outreach work, multi-agency development, work with children, training, work in rural areas, preventive work through schools, support work in refuges and partner support.

33. The Scottish Executive has drawn up a specification for research to evaluate the first round of the Fund and the National Helpline. This will be put out to tender in March 2003.

Awareness Raising

34. The Executive's "Behind Closed Doors" domestic abuse campaign continued during 2001/2002 using TV adverts, print adverts, an 8 page supplement distributed with the Daily Record on 26 December 2001, adverts on outdoor sites and in female washrooms in public places and beer mats in 450 pubs in Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen. In addition, the domestic abuse website was improved and re-launched.

35. A new television advertisement was launched on 26 December 2002. "Dolls House" makes it clear how domestic abuse affects children - how they pick up on what is going on in the home. We know that children are in the same or next room in 90% of domestic abuse incidents and Scottish Women's Aid estimates that 100,000 children in Scotland are living with domestic abuse. It is therefore very important to raise awareness of what domestic abuse can do to children.

The Domestic Abuse Helpline

36. The Helpline number has been included in all advertising materials, and has therefore been promoted extensively throughout Scotland. In addition, the helpline number was highlighted in a campaign in Lanarkshire run by the local radio station, Clan FM. Information about the Helpline was distributed to all police forces, local authorities, NHS Boards, Women's Aid groups and CABx for local awareness raising.

37. It offers access to services for women and children by providing one, central, easily memorised freephone number **(0800 027 1234)** which allows them to get relevant local information, for example about housing, legal matters or benefits, as well as an opportunity to speak in confidence about what has been happening to them. Calls to the Helpline are not recorded on telephone bills.

38. The Helpline has 2 full time co-ordinators who arrange rotas, keep statistics, provide cover, support workers, train new workers and develops the service. It has been staffed by experienced women's aid workers and now new volunteers have been trained to take the calls. They have relevant local information for all parts of Scotland. Calls so far this year average about 70 per week, rising to 500 per week when the TV advert is being screened.

39. The Helpline extended its hours during 2002 and now provides a service from 10.00am – 12.00 midnight every day of the year. In addition, a textphone service was introduced for people with hearing impairments and is available from 10.00am – 2.00pm and 10.00pm – 12.00 midnight every day.

The Development of Multi-Agency Working

40. All local authority areas now have active multi-agency domestic abuse groups. Membership includes a "core group" of police, Women's Aid, Victim Support, Health Boards and Trusts and council officers representing social work, housing, education and community safety. In addition some groups have members representing Procurators Fiscal, Benefits Agency, Family Mediation, advice agencies, Racial Equality groups, Barnardos, Children First and other voluntary action groups.

41. Information is collected from the multi agency partnerships prior to each National Group meeting (4 times a year). A summary of this information is provided to the National Group and posted on the Executive's website with the report of the meetings. Once complete, the summary is also circulated to all the multi agency partnerships in order to share information and promote good practice.

Parliamentary Debate

42. The Scottish Parliament debated a motion on 28 November 2002:-

"That the Parliament approves the considerable progress made in increasing the protection of, and provision of services to, women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse; further approves work aimed at reducing the intolerably high incidence of domestic abuse in Scotland, and welcomes the work of the National Group to Address Domestic Abuse in Scotland in tackling this unacceptable behaviour."

43. The Minister for Social Justice opened the debate with a report of the work of the Executive. She also announced the allocation of £237,000 to March 2004 to fund part-time workers in the seven affiliated and four unaffiliated women's aid groups that currently do not have that provision.

44. Ms Curran also announced that the National Group to Address Domestic Abuse in Scotland had decided that it was time to widen its focus to look at the links with other forms of violence against women and that it had therefore changed its title to the National Group to Address Violence Against Women.

45. The motion was passed by 105 votes to 3.

Annual Seminars

46. The first national seminar was held at the Scottish Executive Victoria Quay on 13 February 2001. Jackie Baillie, then Minister for Social Justice, gave a keynote speech which was followed by a question and answer session and workshops devoted to an exchange of good practice, views on the implementation of the strategy and a discussion on the way forward.

47. A report of the seminar was circulated to participants in June 2001.

48. The second seminar was held on 5 March 2002, again at Victoria Quay. The Minister for Social Justice, Margaret Curran gave a progress report on the implementation of the national strategy, followed by an open forum and workshops to enable local multi-agency groups to comment on progress, national and local, exchange information and guide future action. A Report of the seminar concludes this report.

Education

49. A pilot of an educational package, "Respect" produced by the Zero Tolerance Charitable Trust (ZTCT) was carried out from January to June 2001. "Respect" aims to challenge attitudes which condone violence against women and promote relationships based on equality and mutual respect. The materials include primary, secondary and youth group curriculum materials, teacher training materials, posters, a CD Rom and screensaver. One of the youth groups in the pilot was for homeless people. The pilot was evaluated by Dr Sheila Henderson of Reid-Howie Associates and the report was published in June 2002.

50. The "Respect" package evaluated very positively and ZTCT was offered further funding to amend the materials in the light of the evaluation, produce copies for each local authority and promote them to relevant education specialists. This work will be carried out by 31 March 2003.

51. In addition the Domestic Abuse Service Development Fund supported the production of 2 packs "Healthy Relationships" and "Healthy Relationships for Teens" for use in primary and secondary schools and youth group settings. These packs are now in use in a number of areas.

52. The National Prevention Strategy developed by the Prevention Working Group will make further, more detailed, recommendations about the role of education in the prevention of domestic abuse.

Support for Children

53. The National strategy recognises that children are witness to domestic abuse and that there is some correlation between domestic abuse and the mental, physical and sexual abuse of children. The Strategy is therefore concerned to address the needs of both women who experience abuse and their children.

54. A number of projects supported by the Domestic Abuse Service Development fund involve work with children. But we are aware that there is still a shortage of people working to specifically support children. The Executive is therefore providing £237,500, to March 2004, to fund part-time children's workers, in the 7 affiliated and 4 unaffiliated Women's Aid groups which do not currently have this provision. This will at least ensure that all children in refuge will have access to support, while longer term solutions are explored.

Data Collection

55. It is clearly important that we should be as well informed as we can be about the scale and nature of domestic abuse. It is difficult to know how many women experience it because it tends to be under reported. But research shows that it is widespread and that the level of repeat victimisation is high. The Scottish Crime Survey indicates that 1 in 5 women in Scotland experience domestic abuse from a male partner in their lifetime and 1 in 10 in any one year.

56. All police forces in Scotland have collected and collated statistics of domestic abuse incidents according to an agreed definition since 1 April 1999. Statistics covering the period January to December 2001 were published in October 2002. These show that incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in this period represented 700 incidents per 100,000 population in Scotland.

57. In all police returned details of 35,800 incidents. In 91% of incidents the victim was female and the perpetrator male. In 9% of incidents the victim was male. (comprises 0.6% with a male perpetrator and 8.5% with a female perpetrator.)

Protection from Abuse (Scotland) Act 2001

58. On 6 February 2002 the Protection from Abuse (Scotland) Act 2001 came into force. This, the first Committee Bill from the Scottish Parliament, was initiated by the Justice and Home Affairs Committee, which subsequently became the Justice 1 & 2 Committees.

59. This Act provides for a power of arrest to be attached to any common law interdict which has been granted for the purpose of protecting someone from abuse by another person. There are no requirements to prove any sort of relationship between pursuer and defender, nor are there any connections with occupancy rights, as with the Matrimonial Homes (Family Protection)(Scotland) Act 1981. Anyone in need of a power of arrest can therefore now apply to the court to have one attached to an interdict. The Act therefore greatly extends the legal protection available to those experiencing abuse. Research into the use of the Act is now underway and is expected to report in the spring.

60. We have liaised with bodies such as Scottish Women's Aid and Citizens' Advice Scotland to ensure that they are able to give accurate advice and have asked local multi-agency partnerships on violence against women to disseminate information locally. The legal professions have also been alerted to the new Act and the courts have full information about how to deal with applications for power of arrest under the Act through the relevant Rules of Court. The Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS) Working Group on Domestic Abuse has been asked to consider how best to ensure that police officers receive appropriate information about the Act.

Protection from Harassment Act 1997

61. Last year a package of measures to strengthen the protection for victims of stalking and harassment was announced. A new statutory power of arrest for breach of non-harassment orders will be introduced through the Criminal Justice Bill. The statutory power of arrest is an automatic power of arrest which will enable the police to act immediately to stop any further harassment taking place. The police would be able to arrest without warrant in circumstances where there was reasonable cause for suspecting that a breach had occurred.

62. Extensive research has also been commissioned into the existing legal remedies, procedures and practice and to examine the nature, prevalence and awareness of incidents of stalking and harassment. The research findings were published on 15 November 2002. It indicates that there is little support amongst victims and practitioners for a change in the current law but there is a widespread view that current provisions could be used more effectively.

63. The Executive is therefore working with the police and others to examine the training and guidance available for those who came into contact with victims of stalking and harassment and whether this could be improved. New measures have been introduced to ensure that the recording of previous incidences of stalking and harassment is improved and available in subsequent investigations.

The Sexual Offences (Procedure & Evidence)(Scotland) Act 2002

64. The Sexual Offences (Procedure & Evidence)(Scotland) Act 2002, which received Royal Assent in April 2002 and will come into force by the end of the year, makes changes to the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995. It will:

- prevent accused in rape and other sexual offence cases from personally cross-examining complainers
- require such accused to be legally represented for the whole trial;
- require the court to appoint a solicitor for such an accused if he fails to do so himself;
- prevent such an accused case from personally taking a statement from a complainer;
- require such an accused to give prior notice of any defence of consent;
- Strengthen existing provisions restricting the extent to which evidence can be led regarding the character or sexual history of a complainer.
- Create a legal presumption in favour of disclosure of previous sexual offence convictions of accused, following successful application to lead sexual history/character evidence about complainer.

Legal Aid

65. Women sometimes face difficulty in obtaining the protection they need because of the cost of obtaining legal aid. This relates primarily to civil law, namely application for interdicts and exclusion orders, transfer of tenancy orders etc. The Executive recognises these difficulties and has made a number of significant changes to legal aid. These are:-

- From 1 July 2002, increased the lower and upper capital limits to £6,000 and £10,000 respectively
- From 1 December 2002 increased the disregard from clawback in matrimonial cases in both civil legal aid and advice and assistance from £2,500 to £4,200
- From 1 December a new regime for handling contributions in urgent legal aid cases; no longer will women need to pay solicitors 'up front' for urgent legal aid before actions can be raised in court - they will deal directly with the Scottish Legal Aid Board.

- From 1 December, extended civil legal aid to Social Security and Child Support Commissioners, and exempting any winnings awarded by the Commissioners from clawback.

Guidance to Healthcare Workers

66. "Responding to Domestic Abuse in NHSScotland - Guidance for Healthcare Workers" was launched for consultation by the Minister for Health in June. This guidance has been produced by the Scottish Executive Health Department with the help of a Short Life Working Group chaired by Professor Sheila Hunt, a member of the National Group.

67. The guidance outlines the nature and prevalence of domestic abuse in Scotland and presents the Scottish Executive's definition and policy, its action plan and campaign. It describes measures taken so far to address the issues. The role of the NHS is clarified as well as the background to this NHSScotland guidance, published by a Short Life Working Group set up by the Scottish Executive.

68. Some of the health effects of domestic abuse and the difficulties in discussing it are explored. The signs which may suggest abuse are outlined and the principles established which should inform practice and give guidance on supporting and advising women appropriately.

69. The guidance identifies the help and support that health care workers can expect from NHS Boards, NHS Trusts, LHCCs and local management to ensure that they are able to respond effectively to anyone experiencing domestic abuse. The role of NHS employers in dealing with domestic abuse is clarified and their responsibilities outlined. Factors for NHS employers to take into account when developing a local strategy are discussed and education and training needs are addressed.

70. A list of sources of advice and support is provided for health care workers who are responding to domestic abuse cases. Information is given on other agencies and bodies which play a role in tackling the issues and which provide services.

71. The guidance was issued for wide consultation with NHS staff, partner agencies and services in the police, local authorities, voluntary organisations and the public. The consultation period ended on 20 September 2002 and the guidance has been finalised, taking account of the comments received. It will be submitted to the National Group for endorsement and published as Scottish Executive guidance.

Rape Crisis

72. The Executive recognises the link between domestic abuse and rape in that women are more likely to be raped by a partner or ex-partner than a stranger. The Executive has therefore agreed to fund a National Office for the Network to enable it to support existing rape crisis centres in Scotland and to assist in the establishment of new centres in areas where there is an identified need for provision. A grant of £80,000 a year has been made available for this purpose, with a capital grant of £20,000 in the first year for start up costs.

73. The establishment of a National Office is a necessary first step in looking at the need for this type of provision.

Abuse of Men

74. Domestic Abuse and rape are, on the basis of current information, most commonly perpetrated by men against women. The Scottish Executive is therefore satisfied that the scale of abuse against women is such that it requires a specific response. However, it recognises that men may be abused and commissioned a research project to establish the scale and nature of the problem. The report of this research was published on 4 September 2002

75. It shows that, from the evidence available, there are fewer male victims than female and that the abuse they experience is, in general, less frequent and less severe. It also appears that, from the sample of men interviewed, most are also perpetrators of violence. It concluded that there was no evidence to suggest that there is presently a need for a new agency whose specific remit is to support male victims nor does there appear to be a need for refuges for abused men. However, some males might benefit from support and advice regarding housing and welfare and the Minister for Social Justice has written to the relevant authorities drawing their attention to the report.

SEMINAR ON THE NATIONAL STRATEGY TO ADDRESS DOMESTIC ABUSE IN SCOTLAND: 5 MARCH 2002

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY MARGARET CURRAN

Welcome to this second annual seminar on the National Strategy to Address Domestic Abuse in Scotland. Since the last seminar in February 2001 much progress has been made at both national and local levels, so there is a lot for us to tell each other.

The first step forward is down to you. There is now a local multi-agency group devoted to tackling domestic abuse in every local authority area in Scotland. This enables us to fulfil the requirement of the National Strategy to bring representatives of each local group together once a year to review overall progress, highlight key issues and encourage networking. I hope we will achieve all three aims today.

The National Group to Address Domestic Abuse in Scotland is now well into its stride. Before each meeting, in accordance with the National Strategy, it has gathered information from each of the local multi-agency groups relating to current initiatives. This information has been summarised and circulated to all the groups. The National Group has found it helpful to know what you are all doing and I hope that you have found it equally useful to share good practice.

The National Group has also established the first three specific issue-based working groups. One is working on a Prevention Strategy, another is reviewing the current need for refuge provision. This will enable us to see not only how many refuge places are needed but where they should be and what they should provide to meet the diverse needs of women and their children seeking refuge.

The third group is looking at how current legislative provision serves women and children experiencing domestic abuse. This group recently drew on the experience of the local groups and was grateful for the information that many of you provided.

I expect all three working groups to report to the National Group in the early summer. The National Group will then identify its next priorities and set another three working groups in motion. Your views on what the priorities should be will be invited in the workshops this afternoon.

The work of the National Group in gathering and sharing information and in identifying areas where improvements need to be made is very important. But that is not all it will do. Importantly it has a significant budget of £1.5 million a

year for 3 years to ensure that its recommendations will actually be put into practice.

This is not just a talking shop - I am confident that by 2004, the term of the Strategy Action Plan, we will be able to see significant and measurable improvements in the services and protection available to abused women. I am also confident that we will see a widespread change in attitude and that domestic abuse will be more widely understood and condemned throughout Scottish society.

The National Strategy calls for the development of general public awareness raising through a widespread media campaign. The Executive has many years' experience in producing memorable and effective television advertisements. The latest one, "Behind Closed Doors" with which I am sure you are all very familiar, has been shown intermittently since December 2000 and is also shown in cinemas. Its effectiveness is being monitored by a research consultancy, System 3, which has found that the adverts have consistently maintained an awareness factor of over 75%, which is very high in advertising terms.

To widen the campaign, in accordance with the Strategy, a new phase was launched by the First Minister, the Minister for Social Justice and me last December. This aims to show that domestic abuse affects women of all races and backgrounds. Inclusion of a visually impaired woman for the first time demonstrates that disabled women can be abused too. This message is going out on beer mats in over 400 pubs in Edinburgh, Dundee, Glasgow and Aberdeen and on posters on outdoor sites and in female washrooms in shopping centres.

We have also been really up-to date and established an inter-active website. Visits to the website are untraceable and survivors of abuse can post their own stories for publication once they have been screened for suitability and to remove all identifying details. The website was visited 2000 times during the first month after its launch.

The national telephone Helpline, introduced to support the television advertisement, has also gone from strength to strength. It now operates permanently between 10.00 am and 10.00 pm seven days a week. It has two full time co-ordinators and is staffed by experienced volunteers who are able to give relevant local information for all areas of Scotland - for example on housing, refuge provision, legal matters or benefits.

It is also important that women can speak in confidence about what has been happening to them in the knowledge that calls are not recorded on telephone bills. Calls average about 60-70 per week, rising to 500 during periods when the advertisement is being shown.

In addition to the resources the Scottish Executive has committed to the awareness raising campaign and to implementing the Strategy Action Plan, it has embarked on an ambitious Refuge Development Programme.

It began in 2000/1 when the Executive put £2 million into the then Scottish Homes budget to increase refuge provision and move-on accommodation. Twelve projects were undertaken, providing 56 additional refuge units and move-on accommodation for 15 families.

The Executive has followed this with a further £10 million in the now Communities Scotland budget for a comprehensive programme over three years from April 2001. This Programme is another example of successful multi-agency working. Bids were invited from local authorities for capital housing projects to be developed by Registered Social Landlords for local Women's Aid groups.

Ten projects were started in the first year, in Angus, Dumfries and Galloway, East Renfrewshire, Fife, Glasgow, Highland, North Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, South Ayrshire and Stirling. These vary from providing new self-contained family flats to buying housing units and upgrading and extending existing refuges.

I hope to announce very shortly the new projects which will start in April 2002. However, most of the money (£6 million) will come on stream in the following year so please don't despair if your area is not successful this time round.

Our aim is that by 2004 we will have sufficient suitable refuge accommodation, as defined by the working group I mentioned earlier, for all women and children who need it. It is important not only to have the necessary level of refuge provision but to ensure that it meets modern standards and the diversity of needs of those who wish to use it.

For example we must ensure that the specific needs of women and children from ethnic minority groups and those who live in rural areas are met. We must also consider the difficulties in gaining access which might be faced by women with alcohol and drug dependencies or with learning difficulties or mental health problems.

And last but far from least, we must ensure that disabled women and children can access the services they need. That is why an important aim of the Programme is to ensure that there are sufficient barrier free refuges in Scotland and that they are in the right places.

We have also provided (in 2001) funding to 18 Women's Aid groups to improve disabled access to existing refuges and offices. The money was used to provide such things as wheelchair access, stairlifts and quirky phones. We also funded a number of groups to improve facilities for children and young people.

What else have we achieved over the past year?

We have published Preventing Violence Against Women - Action Across the Scottish Executive. This document provides comprehensive information about violence against women and how it is being tackled in the many policy areas of the Executive which have a responsibility for some aspect of this very wide ranging issue. It has been very widely circulated and demand has been brisk so I hope that it has been useful. We are still happy to accept orders!

The year has also seen two important changes in legislation. The Protection from Abuse (Scotland) Act came into force last month. This is the first Parliament Committee Bill to reach the statute books and allows for a power of arrest to be attached to a common law interdict which has been granted to someone to protect them from abuse. The only criterion the court has to apply is whether the power of arrest is necessary to protect the applicant against the risk of abuse through breach of the interdict.

The second important change is the Sexual Offences (Procedure and Evidence)(Scotland) Bill, introduced in the Scottish Parliament in June 2001. It makes changes to the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 which will have the effect of tightening up the restrictions on questioning in court on previous sexual history and character. The Bill is expected to become law very soon. The Bill will also ensure that a victim of rape or other sexual offence can no longer be cross-examined personally by their alleged attacker.

We are now about to enter the second phase of the Domestic Abuse Service Development Fund. The first phase of this Fund over 2000/1 and 2001/2 supported 58 projects in 31 local authority areas. Many of these projects were instrumental in establishing and supporting the network of multi-agency groups we have today.

We were then in the fortunate position of being able to approve all the applications which fulfilled the criteria. This time we have received bids to fund 83 projects at a cost of nearly £2_ million. This clearly indicates the popularity and success of the Fund but it means that we have to disappoint a number of applicants.

An assessment panel, which included two members of the National Group, took the view that the Fund should not, at this stage, support local training projects because the National Group intends to address this issue in the near future. It hopes to develop a national training strategy from which local strategies might flow. Other projects failed because they had not provided satisfactory progress reports or financial accounts or because they did not otherwise fulfil the criteria, mostly through the absence of appropriate match funding.

I am very pleased to be able to announce that we have been able to approve 57 projects at a cost of just under £1,519,000. Of these, 37 are continuations of previous projects and 20 are new ones. Letters to all applicants were posted yesterday and a list of successful projects is available.

I am afraid that I can't enter into details of individual projects but if anyone has any questions about their applications, whether successful or not, my officials would be happy to give further information or feedback.

I think that is probably enough talk from me. I am sure you have plenty that you wish to say and I will try to answer any questions you may have. I hope you feel that we are making real progress both in the way we are working with the key agencies with a role to play and with the practical measures we have introduced to improve service provision and legal protection and to raise awareness.

I am certainly very heartened by the work you are doing. That we now have a multi-agency group working to eliminate domestic abuse in every area of Scotland is a notable step forward.

Of course we all still have a great deal to do, but I am confident that together we can continue to work our way through the Strategy Action Plan and that by 2004 we will have made a real difference. In 2004 I want to see a Scotland where domestic abuse is abhorred by the whole of society and where any woman who experiences it can get all the help and support she needs.

Thank you all for your commitment and hard work. I hope that you enjoy the rest of the day and that you go home feeling that you have both learned something new and have taught the rest of us something.

OPEN DISCUSSION SESSION

The Minister asked for comments and questions from the floor. The following points were raised:-

- It would be useful to have a mechanism to allow groups around Scotland to exchange information, for example through the Scottish Executive Website. **Ms Curran agreed that this would be useful and said that the National Group would look at multi-agency networking.**
- There were gaps in the provision of services for the children of women experiencing domestic abuse which needed to be addressed. There should be links with other policies with regard to children such as child protection provision and child sexual abuse. **The Minister agreed that there was a need for cross-cutting with other portfolios and said that the National Group had accepted that it should address the issue.**
- The difficulty sometimes encountered in getting men involved in training was mentioned. Managers had a tendency to send women to training sessions in the belief that domestic abuse was a "women's issue". **The Minister agreed that this was an ownership issue and that work was needed in awareness raising and political argument to broaden senior managers' understanding of the issue.**
- Feedback was requested on failed bids for funding from the second round of the Domestic Abuse Service Development Fund. **Ms Curran regretted that some bids had had to be refused as the Fund had been heavily oversubscribed but she promised that officials would provide feedback on request.**
- The Executive's plans for training were welcomed and further detail was requested. **Ms Curran said that that the next working group to be established by the National Group would be to develop a National Training Strategy. It would be set up in the summer with a timescale of about 3 months.**
- Concern was expressed that funding for local training projects had been suspended meanwhile. It was felt that there would be a hiatus and that the momentum of local work would be lost.
- Concern was expressed that the level of funding for work on domestic abuse was not evenly spread throughout Scotland. Services needed to be successful in all geographical areas and there was the fear that those areas not well serviced would continue not to be and that this should be addressed by local strategies. **The Minister felt that progress had been made in this area but agreed that more needed to be done and that local authorities should be encouraged to take a strategic view.**
- It was pointed out that some people present at the seminar had been disappointed at learning that day that their projects had not been successful in

obtaining money from the Domestic Abuse Service Development Fund. It was felt that decisions should have been communicated earlier. **Minister promised to look at how this process had been managed and what lessons should be learned.**

- A question was raised about what the Executive was doing about domestic abuse as a health issue.
- It was suggested that training about domestic abuse should be included in teacher training programmes. **Ms Curran said she did not wish to pre-empt the work of the training working group but she thought this might be possible.**
- A question was asked about the research currently being undertaken on abuse of men. **It was explained that an interim report had been received and that the full report would be published in the summer.**
- A query was raised as to whether the Executive had any plans to expand the national helpline. **Ms Curran said that the Executive would be reviewing the helpline project and would look at how issues such as women unable to speak English might be addressed.**
- Concern was expressed at the use of beer mats as part of the current phase of the awareness raising campaign. It appears that they had resulted in a number of calls from drunk men after closing time.
- It was suggested that children and young people should be represented on the National Group and its working groups. **The minister said that she did not intend to add to the National Group but that children's interests would be represented as appropriate on the working groups.**

WORKSHOPS

TRAINING

DELTA project, Edinburgh - Laura Aitken

The aim of the DELTA project was to implement the Multi-Agency Strategy to Tackle Violence Against Women in Edinburgh through the development of cluster groups. Delta itself did little direct training but arranged training days with those agencies with the relevant expertise. Basic awareness training was undertaken by Delta, Women's Aid, Shakti Women's Aid, the Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre and Pathway. Specific training had been undertaken by housing providers, police, the Domestic Violence Probation Project and West, a substance support group.

Three cluster groups were established, one in Pilton associated with the local Social Inclusion Partnership group, one in Craigmillar and one in south Edinburgh. The latter had proved to be the most difficult because it covered a large area comprising several different communities. Membership of the groups included the police, education, social work, health, housing and benefits agency.

It had originally been intended to have a cluster group for disabled and black and ethnic minority communities but concern was expressed about having separate clusters, mainstreaming being the preferred option.

Moving from training into practice, Glasgow - Isabelle Kerr and Kirsty Hay

The Glasgow Multi-Agency Partnership on Violence Against Women seeks to improve co-ordination and cohesion of existing initiatives and responses by all agencies in Glasgow, as well as to address gaps and weaknesses. There were currently 6 multi-agency forums in Glasgow and one coming on stream, which feed into the Partnership encouraging a bottom up approach. The membership of the local forums mirrored those of the Partnership.

The Partnership also facilitated work by other agencies and had organised briefing sessions around the National Strategy to Address Domestic Abuse in Scotland and Preventing Violence Against Women: Action Across the Scottish Executive.

The Partnership was considering a rolling training programme starting with basic awareness raising and would meet soon to discuss the practicalities. For example there might be difficulties in agencies releasing staff to attend the courses, especially teachers. Also planned is a training providers database and an evaluation of work carried out in Easterhouse. This will be to assess the impact of the course on practice after 8 months.

The Development of a Training Package for Teachers in East Renfrewshire - Eleanor Thomson

East Renfrewshire is a small local authority area with only 7 secondary schools which makes training easier. However, the development of a women's aid group in East Renfrewshire was relatively recent, with funding from the Domestic Abuse Service Development Fund. The area's first refuge was currently under construction with funding from the Refuge Development Programme. This meant that schools had had no training on domestic abuse and little experience of children from abusive backgrounds.

A beginning had been made by looking at education materials already available in Scotland, including the North Ayrshire Healthy Relationships pack, material from Dundee on nurseries and an excellent pack from Glasgow. These materials were going out to schools in the area.

Some training has already been done with guidance staff and the local authority has a calendar for training, which provides 4 days training for teaching staff. All primary headteachers have requested training. The Education Department has also made a presentation to the Child Protection Committee and a drama production "To Have and To Hold" has been performed in secondary schools by the Baldy Bane Theatre Company.

Discussion

The group made a number of suggestions, viz:-

- There should be inducements to encourage people to attend training sessions, especially with regard to doctors and legal practitioners. For example, to make it part of a professional qualification.
- There should be a national list of resource packs. But care would have to be taken that they were kept up to date.
- A champion should be found in the field of education.
- The priorities for future action were training for policy makers/senior practitioners; in-service training for staff; multi-agency training, development of curriculum materials and monitoring of the Domestic Abuse Service Development Fund and Helpline.

WORKING WITH MEN

CHANGE (Men Learning to end their Violence to Women) Ltd - Monica Wilson

CHANGE was established in 1989 as a pilot criminal justice-based men's programme founded on a shared understanding of domestic abuse informed by women's experiences and by agencies working with women. The goals for intervention were victim protection, offender accountability, and changing the existing social climate. As a national training initiative, CHANGE currently receives funding from the Scottish Executive through section 9 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.

CHANGE is based upon a model of good practice developed in the USA which comprises a Women's Service, Men's Programme and Related Services. The aims of the Women's Services are to:

- Increase safety / emotional wellbeing of women and children
- Promote realistic expectations of work with men
- Provide appropriate, safe and accessible services

The aims of the Men's Programme are:

- To focus on violence / abuse
- To change attitudes and beliefs
- To develop skills for non-violence
- To monitor progress

Currently CHANGE Ltd is consulting with local authorities in Scotland about training needs and is holding awareness raising days with local Women's Aid groups. CHANGE provides specialist skills training, and is involved in the monitoring of responses and evaluation of outcomes.

Domestic Violence Probation Project - Moira Andrew

The workshop was shown a diagram illustrating where the work of the DVPP was traditionally placed, i.e within the criminal justice system working with court-mandated men. There is not a lot of information on working with men, and much of what does exist comes from women as victims. A partnership of agencies had now been developed in Edinburgh to look at this issue and to consider the development of services for men outwith the criminal justice system.

A number of men are not accessing intervention service for a variety of reasons, such as

- Partners work in criminal justice system
- Members of black and minority ethnic community

- Partners are ill
- Partners fear social services will remove children
- Partners feel they are not being abuse in a ‘criminal’ way (i.e. non physical abuse)
- Partners afraid to contact police

A recent consultation found that the bulk of practice was directed towards women and children, and that abusing men were rarely approached. Workers are often unskilled at working with men and are therefore unwilling or afraid to do so. Often there is no facility for referral, or workers are reluctant to get involved for fear of making things worse. A large number of agencies were found to be unaware of Edinburgh’s strategic plan to tackle domestic abuse but welcomed the suggestion of a multi-disciplinary access service for men.

The Working with Men Partnership Group which has been established in Edinburgh is comprised of a wide range of agencies including – Council Social Work Dept, Primary Health Care, Reporter to the Children’s Panel, Lothian and Borders Police, Women’s Aid, Couple Counselling and the Council Education Dept.

South Lanarkshire Council - work with men - Mairi Brackenridge

The impetus to look at the issue of working with men, came initially from training provided to Council officers on gender awareness and on domestic abuse – both of which suggested that work with men should be a vital part of their work. This belief was strengthened when training was provided by CHANGE. South Lanarkshire Council is now very keen to develop work with men and to adopt a partnership approach to this work. Money has been provided from the Community Safety budget, though it is clear that there is still a large imbalance between funding levels for offenders and victims.

South Lanarkshire Council is hoping to work with men on probation and to provide two female workers from the Criminal Justice Services Dept who will work as Partner Support Workers. It is planned that group work with the men will take place over a period of 12 weeks. Local police have agreed to conduct external checks on the safety of the women. There is a strong will to continue with this type of work and to develop the Council’s domestic abuse programme.

Discussion

- Several delegates wondered how the effectiveness of work with men was measured.

Monica Wilson said that research had been conducted into the impact of perpetrator programmes. Although this research was still controversial, it suggested that 75% of men who had not been on a perpetrator programme would re-offend after a year. And 33% of men who had attended a programme would re-offend after a year. There is a need for further research in this area. Concern was expressed over 'quick-fix' anger management courses which men are sometimes advised to go on. It was felt that such courses do not look at the beliefs underpinning the abuse and can also provide the man with an excuse or reason for his actions.

- Moira Andrew stressed the need for a partnership approach to working with men, and the need for links between agendas and agencies both nationally and locally. She also suggested that there was a need for more local authority housing for men, as this was a more economical and more effective means of dealing with the problem.

A number of delegates felt that there was a shortage of funds available to provide for perpetrator programmes. Sandra MacInnes agreed that efforts should be increased to rehouse men rather than women. She pointed out that when a man is bailed and chooses not to return to his home, he is deliberately homeless and the local authority is not therefore required to do anything for him. Mairi Brackenridge said that another problem was the lack of local authority housing available.

- Several delegates asked where their local forum or authority should start if they wanted to look at developing work with men.

Monica Wilson suggested that the criminal justice system was the most usual starting point and offered to come to local areas to help them get started if this would be helpful.

PUBLICITY

Presentation 1

Publicity materials from Fife Domestic Abuse Forum were demonstrated, including magazines for women and for children and young people; a range of posters; key rings with a concealed compartment for telephone numbers and telephone cards with contact numbers and 5 minutes of free phone calls. The materials had all been made widely available around Fife, the children and young people's magazines being distributed through schools.

Presentation 2

Phone cards similar to Fife's, produced by Midlothian Domestic Abuse Forum, were also demonstrated, along with costings and information about production.

Presentation 3

Dawn Wilson and Susan Mitchell of Angus Partnership on Domestic Abuse gave a presentation about developing and implementing a publicity strategy. In a rural area, and with no domestic abuse co-ordinator, it has fallen to a few to do publicity work. Attention has been concentrated on people who can effect change in their organisations. An inter-agency awareness raising day was held to look at the roles of each agency. All partners are mentioned on publicity for awareness raising, which has focussed on giving women information about their options. Leaflets have been produced with contact numbers and tips for leaving/staying, whichever women choose. Cards to fit in purses with contact numbers have been produced and are given out through the police domestic abuse liaison officer.

Training is provided to the police – as a first point of contact for many women, their response is very important. Leaflets are sent to women as a follow up after the police have been called. Usually this is after the man has been arrested and before he is released – but safety issues were a concern. The Women's Aid phone number is only given to women if the man has been removed from the house.

Publicity ideas from other areas included:

Leaflets for GPs to give out to women; adverts on bin lorries in Argyll & Bute as they go everywhere in rural communities; info on NHS Board pay slips; outreach surgeries in local Housing Offices throughout Angus; quiz in schools with free pen with contact phone numbers; video produced with Dunoon High School pupils; have contact phone number non-geographical so it is not associated with particular area; questionnaire for midwives about domestic abuse and leaflet in packs for new mothers; leaflet in toilet at ante natal clinic with red sticker to be applied to urine sample receptacle if more info desired.

Difficulties had been experienced in engaging with GPs and getting them to attend training. It had been found to be more successful to pay GPs to attend training. The cost of advertising in newspapers was also a difficulty, especially in large rural areas with no free newspapers.

WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Young People Producing Peer Materials - Sandra Paton

Work developed in South Ayrshire is aimed at involving young people in the production of peer materials on domestic abuse. This involved direct contact with a mix of pupils from both urban and rural backgrounds with funding and support from South Ayrshire Council. A group was formed, including a practising teacher, to work with fifth year pupils in Carrick Academy. Pupils' views were sought on what they would expect teachers to do in dealing with a domestic abuse situation. The consensus was that teachers could demonstrate greater willingness to engage pupils in open and frank dialogue; teachers to receive specific training in order to provide direct support and counselling to pupils in a domestic abuse situation and to be more aware of the signs and patterns of behaviour of pupils who may be in a domestic abuse situation. These views were taken back to the teachers.

The Group also engaged nineteen pupils of mixed age and social background in a range of activities on an awayday. These involved young people participating in activities using several different mediums including artwork and videoing designed to encourage debate on the myths and realities associated with domestic abuse. This approach was very well received by the pupils involved. This resulted in the publication of the Carrick Academy Handbook "domestic violence happens to nice people – we want to be safe." It is anticipated that the materials will eventually be used in other schools, further developed by young people themselves from their ideas, experience and views.

Input into PSD Curriculum - Francine Orr and Michelle McCann

Work in Clackmananshire is aimed at knitting together the Children's Services Plan. This is primarily being done by raising awareness in schools through a number of initiatives and led by a team teacher. Some initiatives which have been delivered are; the Grampian Child Safety interactive CD-ROM; a drama modelled around themes concerning domestic abuse attitudes; the 'Feeling Yes' 'Feeling No' programme and the 'Home Truths' package. This package depicts in cartoon form how children are affected by domestic abuse but also assures them that there is a network of support there for them. The difficulties are

getting both families and teachers on board. Teachers need to be trained to deal with issues such as disclosure. Community Schools for example aim to bring more co-ordinated support to families.

The consensus was that an across the board awareness training programme was required. The view was that the legal system let children down with regard to providing evidence in court against a perpetrator who was known to them. Currently, any request to erect a screen between accused and victim required the Sheriff's approval. It was felt that the introduction of a screen should be mandatory in all cases involving young people involved in giving evidence against someone known to them. It was recognised that it was difficult to get advice to Procurators Fiscal and to General Practitioners and others and there was clearly a need for training to be provided to these areas to achieve consistency of approach.