

## **Domestic Abuse in Argyll and Bute**

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### **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1** This report indicates the levels of domestic abuse in Argyll and Bute compared to the national picture, and highlights the activities of the Argyll and Bute Against Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women (ADA and VAW) Partnership.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1** That the Social Affairs Thematic Group supports the ongoing work of the ADA and VAW Partnership to address the issues of domestic abuse and violence against women in Argyll and Bute.
- 2.2** That the Social Affairs Thematic Group raises awareness of the issues among CPP partners.

### **3. DETAILS**

- 3.1** Argyll and Bute ADA and VAW multi-agency partnership is an independently constituted partnership which feeds into the Social Affairs Thematic Group as part of the community planning process. The partnership has representatives from organisations including Argyll and Bute Council; NHS Highland; Strathclyde Police; Third Sector including Women's Aid, Rape Crisis, Homestart, Victim Support, Befrienders, Church of Scotland, and ACHA. It seeks to address collectively issues around violence against women, including domestic abuse. The ADA and VAW Partnership has two sub-groups focussing on Training, led by NHS, and on the Strategy, led by Argyll and Bute Council.

- 3.2** Records of domestic abuse from the Police in Scotland show that:

- The overall instance of domestic abuse was 1,000 per 100,000 in 2009-10.
- Females are at most risk of being victims of domestic abuse when aged between 22 and 25 years old and males when aged between 31 and 35 years old.
- In 41% of cases (20,953) in 2009-10 where relationship

details were recorded, the victim and perpetrator were ex-partners or ex-spouses. This has been steadily increasing from 30% (10,509) in 2000-01.

- The overwhelming majority of incidents of domestic abuse took place in the home/house - 89% of all incidents, where the location was recorded.

Further details from the Police in Scotland are included in the table below:

<b>Detail</b>	<b>2008-2009</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>
Incidents recorded by the police	53,931	51,926
Incidents recorded by the police leading to a recording of a crime or offence	29,526	32,066
Incidents which involved victims who had previously been recorded as a victim of domestic abuse	30,595	25,602
Incidents recorded by the police involving co-habitees or partners	*	22,496
Incidents recorded by the police involving spouses	*	7,632

Source: [Domestic Abuse Recorded by the Police in Scotland, 2009-10](#). (The publication presents key statistics on the number of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by police forces in Scotland.) \* These statistics are not available

Records of domestic abuse recorded by Scottish Women's Aid are detailed in the table below:

<b>Detail</b>	<b>2008-2009</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>
Number of women supported by Women's Aid	642	737
Number of young people supported by Women's Aid	307	451
Number of women in refuge	365	350
Number of young people in refuge	360	351

Source: Scottish Women's Aid

- 3.3** Figures relating to domestic abuse in Argyll and Bute are included in the table below:

<b>Detail</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>	<b>2010-2011</b>
Number of women supported by Women's Aid	273	435
Number of young people supported by Women's Aid	56	60
Number of women in refuge	16* (215 requests)	17 (Dunoon refuge was closed for 6 months due to refurbishment)

Source: Argyll and Bute Women's Aid

\*Low turnover in refuge as re-housing of women took on average 1 year

- 3.4** In order to address the issues of domestic abuse and violence, the ADA and VAW partnership has, in line with its strategy which was adopted by the CPP Management Committee, carried out a large number of activities. A few recent key activities are detailed below. A full list of activities is contained in the Strategy Progress Report 2009-10. (See Appendix 1)

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Partners</b>
2 x 4-day Training for Trainers courses produced 6 trainers who will then cascade this training further to ensure the message is spread as widely as possible.	NHS Highland, Argyll and Bute Council, Women's Aid, Homestart
Conference held in March 2011, with 54 attendees from a wide range of partners. Trainees were able to put training into practice and raise awareness among partners.	All partners
New refuge in Campbeltown opened in November 2010, and refurbishment of Dunoon refuge completed in May 2011. Refuge places available in Argyll and Bute are now 9.	Women's Aid, ACHA
The film 'In her Shoes' was produced by young people from Dunoon Grammar School through the Shooters Media and Film Project, which gives young people a platform to express themselves through the medium of film.	Women's Aid, NHS Highland, Dunoon Grammar School

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

**4.1** The ADA and VAW Partnership has developed and established a good robust working arrangement. In order to continue with the developments of the Partnership an ADA and VAW Development Day has been arranged for 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011. The purpose of the day is to address the ongoing commitment of the partner agencies, and agree procedures to develop a new Strategy and Implementation Plan for 2012–2015. There continues to be opportunities to raise awareness of, and address, domestic abuse and violence against women across Argyll and Bute, and Argyll and Bute Council and its partner agencies are hoping to be at the forefront of this ever-growing agenda.

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