



Dumfries and Galloway

Violence Against Women and Girls

Annual Report 2022 - 23



Overview of activity in this year

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences

– met 13 times and discussed 113 high risk victims of domestic abuse with a total of 156 in the households.

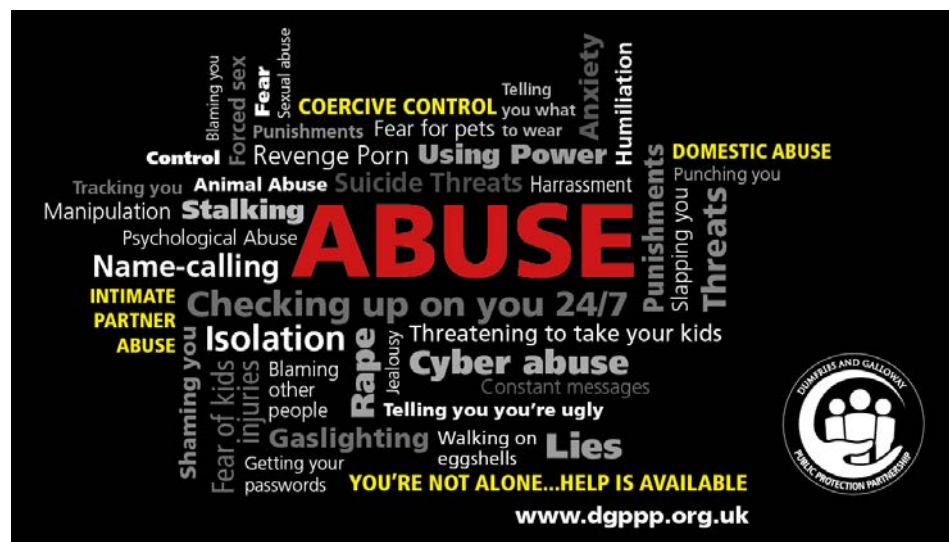
Held **domestic abuse training sessions** to staff from across agencies.

Held a **Bystander Event** to support people to understand how best to challenge sexism.

Safe and Together – 130 members of staff attended overview sessions and 50 out of a possible 100 staff undertook Core Training to support better responses to survivors of domestic abuse, supporting children to be safe, recover from trauma and have greater stability whilst intervening with perpetrators to reduce risk and harm to children

Rape Crisis Sexual Violence Prevention Worker worked in schools to raise awareness of sexual violence and change understanding and increase challenge to sexism.

Started the new **White Ribbon Steering Group** and held training sessions for members and White Ribbon Champions. WR encourages men (as well as women) to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women.



Worked with men convicted to domestic abuse as part of the **Caledonian System.**

Partners provided **refuges and support** to women survivors of domestic abuse and their children.

Dumfriesshire and Stewartry Women's Aid continued to provide safe accommodation, support in the community to women and children affected by domestic abuse as well as increasing understanding in their community. DSWA became settled in their new offices at North West Resource Centre – College Drive, Dumfries DG2 0BX.

"Thank you for the support you have given my daughter. She is back to being the girl I know and love. Her confident and outgoing personality has returned. She is studying again and has decided she wants to be a teacher. I'm sure she will achieve her goal although for a period of time her future was in doubt. I can't thank you enough."

Wigtownshire Women's Aid offered support to women and children survivors in their safe accommodation and throughout Wigtownshire. They also worked with the local Secondary Schools to raise awareness of healthy relationships and how to get support.

"I was at my lowest ebb and would be dead now if it wasn't for Women's Aid."

Overview of activity in this year

Together, **Dumfriesshire & Stewartry Women's Aid, Wigtownshire Women's Aid** and **D&G Rape Crisis** received **941** referrals; **236** were self-referrals.



ASSIST (Advocacy Support Safety Information Services Together) started to work in our region to support victims of domestic abuse in the justice process.

Rape Crisis provided support and advocacy to victim/survivors of rape and sexual assault over the age of 12.

Police Scotland continue to provide the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS). This is similar to Clare's Law in England where people in a new relationship (or their friends and family) have the right to ask if there is any information relating to their partner's domestic abuse history or agencies can ask for the power to tell when they are aware of a domestic abuse perpetrators' past.

Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS)

You have the right to ask about whether your partner or someone you're seeing has an abusive past.

You can also apply on behalf of a friend or relative.

Find out more at:

www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/domestic-abuse/



RIGHT TO ASK

The Mentors in Violence Prevention programme continued in schools to increase awareness of gender-based violence and supports pupils to develop confidence and leadership skills. This was in 11 of the 15 secondary schools across Dumfries and Galloway.

Dumfries and Galloway Sexual Assault Reporting Centre (SARC) continued to offer forensic sampling to victims of sexual assault (including those who do not want to report this at the time).

Overview of activity in this year

370 people took part in the VAWG Community Survey – 45% had experience of sexual harassment and 23% stalking. 59% of the participants indicated they had experienced domestic abuse in the past as well as rape and sexual assault. 80% acknowledged the impact of media on the sexualisation of young women.

Your views will help us tackle **Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls** in Dumfries and Galloway.

Please click the link below and take part in

Our Community Survey



Overview of activity in this year

Police Scotland continued to arrange and chair regular Multi Agency Tasking and Coordinating meetings (MATACs) where the focus is on domestic abuse perpetrators. There are links with MARAC where referral to MATAC is a common action. There has been agreement that information on MATAC will be brought to VAWG Sub Committee meetings giving us a fuller picture of issues and responses.

Measuring impact:
Data – significant progress was made in data collection and analysis. This work remains ongoing but is already adding value.

We responded to **two national consultations** and attended additional national consultation meetings ensuring a local perspective was reflected.

16 Days of Activism for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is an international campaign that runs from 25 November (the International Day for the Elimination of VAW) until the 10th December (International Human Rights Day). As in previous years there was a local programme of events running alongside national events and public information with the messages #what next and #lightup.

Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls in Dumfries and Galloway

25 November - 10 December



Find out more at: www.dgppp.org.uk/16days

Challenges

- Delays in the justice system and court back logs led to significant trauma and challenges for survivors and the agencies supporting them.
- The cost of living crisis started to have increased impact on survivors of abuse and on all services.
- Short term funding continues to be a challenge for services.
- Agencies reported staff burnout and inflationary impact.