

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Acting Director of Social Work Services

Social Justice Committee: 13 September 2006

Subject: West Dunbartonshire Domestic Abuse Partnership

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to present to Committee the End of Project Report of the West Dunbartonshire Domestic Abuse Partnership under the Scottish Executive Domestic Abuse Development Fund and to update Committee on some of the achievements of the partnership during the period 2004/2006.
- 1.2** The report will also present the Draft Action Plan 2006/2008 for the first phase of the project under the new Scottish Executive funding stream to address the broader agenda of Violence Against Women.
- 1.3** The end of Project Report and the Draft Action Plan are appended to this report.

2. Background

- 2.1** In 2001, WDDAP launched its local Strategy for tackling domestic abuse. The Partnership comprised Argyll and Clyde NHS, Clydebank Women's Aid, Dumbarton District Women's Aid, Greater Glasgow NHS, Scottish Reporters' Administration, Strathclyde Police, West Dunbartonshire Council. The eight objectives in West Dunbartonshire's Domestic Abuse Partnership's Strategy reflected the concerns within the Scottish Executive's National Strategy on Domestic Abuse. In line with the National Strategy, the local Action Plan stressed the value of multi-agency working in tackling domestic abuse and focused on three main pillars of action: prevention, protection and provision – known as the 'three Ps'.
- 2.2** The Partnership was required to submit progress reports on a six monthly basis to the Scottish Executive as a condition of its receipt of funding from the Scottish Executive's Domestic Abuse Service Development Fund (DASDF). Throughout the lifetime of the Partnership, feedback from the Executive indicated that the Partnership was successful in achieving its objectives.
- 2.3** West Dunbartonshire Council (WDC) priority actions in relation to tackling domestic abuse and violence against women are progressed through the WDC Intra-Agency Domestic Abuse group and its Education Sub-group.
- 2.4** This report updates the information in the report submitted to the Social Justice Committee in April 2006.

3. Progress since March 2006

- 3.1** Since 2003 WDC has invested heavily in services and other initiatives to tackle domestic abuse: £400,000 in 2003/04, £574,000 in 2004/05 and in 2005/6 £750,000.
- 3.2** This funding supports both Women's Aid refuges, the CARA project, the Domestic Abuse Education Prevention Project in our schools and the development of the Partnership agenda.
- 3.3** West Dunbartonshire is committed to working in partnership with all other agencies and as well as financial support, we commit a high level of officer time to support the partnership.
- 3.4** The report on the findings of The Argyll and Clyde Domestic Abuse Prevalence Study was published in October 2005. Both WDC, NHS Greater Glasgow / West Dunbartonshire Community Health Partnership have agreed to adopt a number of the report's recommendations as priorities for tackling domestic abuse during the period 2006 to 2008 These will be included in WDDAP's new Violence against Women Strategy and Action Plan for 2006 to 2008.
- 3.5** West Dunbartonshire has been selected by the Scottish Executive as a location for one of four pilot schemes for the implementation of Getting It Right For Every Child, Domestic Abuse – Better Outcomes for Children Pilot (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference MARAC) in 2006. The lead agency in this pilot will be the Scottish Children's Reporters' Administration. Funding for the pilot scheme is provided by Scottish Executive.
- 3.6** The agencies involved in keeping children safe in West Dunbartonshire are committed to working in partnership with local Women's Aid Groups and WDDAP to ensure appropriate support is made available to women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse. The partnership was successful in jointly commissioning with Communities Scotland a refuge in Alexandria and the refuge in Clydebank has been extensively refurbished.
- 3.7** The Integrated Children's Services Planning Group (ICSPG) is committed to integrating the Scottish Executive Guidance for Children's Services Planners in relation to children and young people experiencing domestic abuse into our service planning process. This will include the implementation of the Scottish Executive's recommended monitoring and evaluation framework for projects funded through the Scottish Executive/Women's Aid Children's Services Fund 2006 to 2008.
- 3.8** West Dunbartonshire's ICSPG was commended by the Scottish Executive for the successful integration of the needs of children and young people experiencing domestic abuse into its children's services planning process.

- 3.9** WDDAP's Domestic Abuse Education Project which carries out work in schools and other youth settings is managed by the Education Sub-group of the council's Intra-agency Group.

An evaluation of the first year of the project was published in April 2006. This found that the project had successfully achieved its objectives.

- 3.10** In April 2006 the project was renamed the Reduce Abuse (RA) Project as a result of a competition run with S2 pupils in Clydebank High School to redesign the name and logo.
- 3.11** In April 2006 the RA published a new teaching pack for use by teachers in WDC secondary schools. The manual is a compilation of materials from existing education packs and new materials written during the first year of the Project. The pack shows progression through S1 to S4 avoiding duplication and ensuring a consistent delivery on the topic of domestic abuse throughout all the secondary schools.

The manual will be distributed to all secondary schools in WD accompanied by training for teachers delivering Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) to ensure that the materials are delivered by staff who feel confident and informed about domestic abuse.

- 3.12** The work of the Project is now being extended to primary schools in West Dunbartonshire. These plans have been incorporated into RA's Action Plan for 2007-2008.

The RA Project Co-ordinator delivers classes in secondary schools in partnership with Clydebank and Dumbarton District Women's Aid and with Domestic Abuse Liaison Officers at Strathclyde Police.

Funding for a further two years for the RA Project has been secured from the Community Planning Partnership through the Community Regeneration Fund.

A mapping exercise is being undertaken by RA / WDDAP examining support services available for children and young people affected by domestic abuse. This is due to be completed by the autumn of 2006.

- 3.13** An evaluation of the second year of the CARA Project is currently underway and its findings will be published in the autumn of 2006.
- 3.14** As part of their Constructs Programme and targeted intervention, West Dunbartonshire Social Work Criminal Justice Team has developed a module aimed at male perpetrators of domestic abuse who are the subject of a supervision order through the Courts. Two twelve week programmes were delivered during 2005-6 and will be subject to ongoing evaluation. Female partners or ex-partners of men undertaking the programmes receive support provided by a Partner Support Worker and the CARA Project.

4. New Funding Arrangements

- 4.1** In February 2006, WDDAP was successful in obtaining funding from Scottish Executive's Violence Against Women Fund to undertake the strategic development work necessary to extend the principles of protection, prevention and provision to the broader national agenda of violence against women within West Dunbartonshire.
- 4.2** Both Clydebank Women's Aid and Dumbarton District Women's Aid were successful in their applications to the fund created by the Scottish Executive to improve support and services to children and young people affected by domestic abuse through the recruitment of additional workers. This funding was effective from April 2006 and is monitored through the Integrated Children's Services Planning Structures.
- 4.3** WDDAP is a member of the Argyll and Clyde Domestic Abuse Training Consortium alongside multi-agency Partnerships from Argyll and Bute, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire. A combined training needs analysis for all four areas was commissioned and the findings published in June 2006. The Consortium submitted its Action Plan and Budget for 2006-2007 to the Scottish Executive for approval in July 2006. Local implementation of the Consortium's Action Plan will be progressed through WDDAP's Training Sub-group.

5. Personnel Issues

- 5.1** In order to progress the work of the partnership the Council will require to continue to commit officer time.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1** In line with the Scottish Executive's matched funding arrangements the Council will require to sustain the current level of investment. There will also be financial implications as a result of the training needs analysis. This will be brought to a future committee.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1** That Committee continues to support the work of WDDAP in line with the development of its Action Plan for 2006 to 2008.
- 7.2** That Committee agrees the need to maintain the issues of tackling domestic abuse and violence against women as Council priorities.
- 7.3** That Committee requests regular progress reports on the work of the Partnership.

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Background Papers: WDDAP's End of Project Report for Scottish Executive
DASDF 2004-2006
WDDAP's Strategy and Action Plan 2006-2008

Wards Affected: All