

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Director of Social Work Services

Social Justice Committee: 12 April 2006.

Subject: West Dunbartonshire Domestic Abuse Partnership (WDDAP)

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the success of the West Dunbartonshire Domestic Abuse Partnership (WDDAP) in securing funding through the Scottish Executives Violence Against Women and Children's Services fund. The report will also update Committee on some of the achievements of WDDAP over the period 2001/06.

2. Background

- 2.1** In 2001, West Dunbartonshire's Domestic Abuse Partnership launched its local Strategy for tackling domestic abuse. The Partnership which has been currently funded through the Scottish Executive Domestic Abuse Development Fund for the past five years, comprises Argyll and Clyde NHS, Clydebank Women's Aid, Procurator Fiscal Service, Dumbarton District Women's Aid, Greater Glasgow NHS, Scottish Reporters' Administration, Strathclyde Police and West Dunbartonshire Council (WDC). The eight objectives in WDDAP's Strategy reflect the concerns within the Scottish Executive's National Strategy on Domestic Abuse. In line with the National Strategy, the local Action Plan stresses the value of multi-agency working in tackling domestic abuse and focuses on three main pillars of action: prevention, protection and provision – known as the three 'Ps'.
- 2.2** The Partnership's current Action Plan, including its objectives for tackling domestic abuse is attached as an Appendix to this report.
- 2.3** The Partnership requires to submit progress reports on a six monthly basis to the Scottish Executive and a final report under this funding stream will be available to council in May. Feedback from the Executive indicates that the Partnership has been successful in achieving its objectives over the period.
- 2.4** On 10 August 2005 a report on WDDAP by the Acting Director of Social Work Services was submitted to the Social Justice Committee. What follows is an update on progress made to date.

3. Update on Funding Applications

- 3.1** Both Dumbarton District Women's Aid and Clydebank 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. This funding of £67,190 in 2006/07 and £65,190 in 2007/08 is effective from April 2006 and will enable the recruitment of additional children's workers to increase the capacity of each group to employ three children's workers in total.

- 3.2** 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. The grant is for a two year period and amounts to £48,397 in 2006/07 and £45,525 in 2007/08
- 3.3** 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 £750,000 in 2005/6. This commitment has been recognised by the Scottish Executive.
- 3.4** This funding supported both Women's Aid refuges, the CARA project, the Domestic Abuse Education Prevention Project (DAERP) in our schools and the development of the Partnership agenda.
- 3.5** West Dunbartonshire is committed to working in partnership with all other agencies and as well as its financial contribution commits a high level of officer time to support partnership working.

4. Update on Achievements

- 4.1** WDDAP is part of a multi-disciplinary research team which carried out the first Domestic Abuse Prevalence Study of its kind in Scotland. The study, funded by Argyll and Clyde Health Board's Health Improvement Fund, was undertaken in primary care settings within the Lomond Local Health Care Co-operative area during 2003-2004. The report on the findings of The Argyll and Clyde Domestic Abuse Prevalence (DAP) Study was launched in October 2005 by Malcolm Chisholm, Communities Minister.
- 4.2** In October 2005, WDDAP's Domestic Abuse Education Project launched a public advertising campaign to promote awareness and raise the profile of domestic abuse. This poster campaign was the outcome of a collaborative project with staff and students in the School of Communication Arts at Napier University, Edinburgh.
- 4.3** WDDAP hosted two public exhibitions on the themes of domestic abuse and violence against women. The 'International Anti-violence Poster Exhibition' an international touring exhibition curated by Colm Dempsey from the Irish Republic and '104 Pairs of Shoes', an exhibition curated by the Scottish Y.W.C.A. Both exhibitions were on display in the Dumbarton Municipal buildings and as well as visits by members of the public they were also attended by young people from local secondary schools.

- 4.4 'To Have and To Hold', a theatre production by The Baldy Bane Theatre Company, toured West Dunbartonshire schools in the autumn of 2005. The performances which focus on the topic of domestic abuse and which are followed by an interactive workshop with the young audiences, were attended by around 1,000 young people from the area.
- 4.5 On 20 April 2006, the Domestic Abuse Education Project's (DAERP) Domestic Abuse Learning Pack will be launched following the successful conclusion of the Project's first pilot year.
- 4.6 An evaluation of DAERP's first year has recently been undertaken and the findings are that the project has successfully achieved its objectives. This report will also be published on 20 April 2006.
- 4.7 Following the success of the first year of the CARA (Challenging and Responding to Abuse) Service, an evaluation of its second year of operation is currently underway. The findings will be published in July 2006.
- 4.8 Glasgow City Council has approached WDDAP to undertake consultancy work in relation to the development of their new action plan for improving services to children and young people affected by domestic abuse.
- 4.9 The Government of Gibraltar in conjunction with a Gibraltar based charity, Women in Need, invited a representative of WDDAP to undertake local consultations on the feasibility of establishing Gibraltar's first Multi-agency Panel on Domestic Abuse. A report is being prepared for Gibraltar's Minister of Social Affairs.

5. Integration of WDDAP within Wider Strategic Partnerships.

- 5.1 Domestic Abuse is a priority issue across a range of strategic planning and joint working arrangements.
- 5.2. The six month progress report to the Scottish Executive should be reviewed within Community Planning. Health Improvement and Social Justice and Better Integration Partnerships

6. Personnel Issues

- 6.1 There are no Personnel issues

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 The terms of the Scottish Executive grant request matched funding from all partners either financial or in kind. Agreement was reached with all partners and formed part of this bid.

8. Recommendations

8.1 Committee is asked to:-

- i) endorse the work of WDDAP and recognise the numerous achievements of the partnership.
- ii) encourage the integration of the local strategy within the joint work of all relevant strategic partnerships
- iii) receive regular progress reports on the work of the Partnership.

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Background Papers: WDDAP Application to Scottish Executive Violence Against Women Fund (Including Progress Report Sept. 2005)

Wards Affected: All