



Violence against
Women Partnership

Terms of Reference

ANGUS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PARTNERSHIP

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1. Introduction

The name of the partnership shall be the **Angus Violence Against Women Partnership (AVAWP)**. This Multi-Agency partnership is dedicated to tackling violence against women in all its forms and coordinating services from voluntary and statutory agencies to ensure appropriate support is provided to those affected by it.

AVAWP recognises that partnership working is essential for providing a comprehensive response to violence against women and that by working together agencies can intervene more effectively with the men who perpetrate violence; safeguard the women and children affected by it; and take steps to prevent it happening in the first place.

The partnership has adopted the Scottish Government definition of Violence Against Women and will develop an outcomes based approach to its work.

2. Strategic Vision

We aspire to eradicate Violence Against Women in Angus and make it a place where women and children can, with support when necessary, live safely free from the inequalities and harm associated with gender based violence.

3. Definition of Violence Against Women

“Gender based violence is a function of gender inequality, and an abuse of male power and privilege. It takes the form of actions that result in physical, sexual and psychological harm or suffering to women and children, or affront to their human dignity, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of their liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. It is men who predominantly carry out such violence, and women who are predominantly the victims of such violence. By referring to violence as ‘gender based’ this definition highlights the need to understand violence within the context of women’s and girls’ subordinate status in society. Such violence cannot be understood, therefore, in isolation from the norms, social structures and gender roles within the community, which greatly influence women’s vulnerability to violence.

Accordingly, violence against women encompasses but is not limited to:-

Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, within the general community or in institutions, including: domestic abuse, rape, incest and child sexual abuse;

Sexual harassment and intimidation at work and in the public sphere; commercial sexual exploitation, including prostitution, pornography and trafficking;

Dowry related violence;

Female genital mutilation;

Forced and child marriages; and

Honour crimes”.

The focus is on women and children because they are overwhelmingly, the victims of men's violence. This is not to deny that there are other forms of interpersonal violence and abuse some of which are not based on the abuse of male power and privilege. All forms of violence need to be taken seriously but this does not detract from the importance of tackling violence against women.

4. Guiding Principles

The guiding principles which underpin the work of the Angus Violence Against Women Partnership are:

- **Prevention** – to prevent, remove or diminish the risk of violence against women and its impact on children and young people
- **Protection** – to protect women from victimisation, repeat victimisation or harassment by perpetrators and protect the children and young people affected.
- **Provision** – to provide adequate services to deal with the consequences of violence against women and children to help them rebuild their lives.
- **Participation** – to ensure policy making and practice development around violence against women is shaped by the experiences, needs and views of those who use services.

5. Aims

- Ensure that gender inequality is integrated into the planning processes of partner agencies.
- Raise public awareness of violence against women and ensure that its related harms are better understood.
- Work with children and young people to challenge attitudes towards violence against women.
- Influence public attitudes so that people are no longer prepared to tolerate violence against women.
- Encourage and support all partner agencies to take into account the views of women and children in families affected by violence against women when developing services.
- Strive to achieve a policy of co-operation and co-ordination of services between agencies.
- Identify gaps in service provision and make recommendations for the development of future services in Angus.
- Ensure that appropriate training is provided to staff from all agencies so that they can recognise all forms violence against women and give appropriate support to those affected.
- Reduce the extent and impact of violence against women on those affected.
- Identify mechanisms whereby perpetrators can be held accountable for their behaviour.
- Develop and monitor the delivery of an AVAWP Outcomes Framework and Action Plan.

6. Composition of the Partnership

Each of the organisations and individuals listed are entitled to representation on the Angus Violence Against Women Partnership:

- Angus Alcohol & Drugs Partnership
- Angus Child Protection Committee
- Angus Council Corporate Equalities Committee
- Angus Council Education
- Angus Council Housing
- Angus Council Social Work & Health
- Angus Community Health Partnership
- Angus Community Safety Partnership
- Angus Housing Association
- Angus Women's Aid Respect & Equality (AWARE)
- Barnardos Tayside Domestic Abuse Initiative
- Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service
- Ministry of Defence Welfare Services
- NHS Tayside
- Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
- Scottish Prison Service
- Tayside Community Justice Authority (CJA)
- Tayside Police
- Victim Support Scotland
- Women's Rape and Sexual Assault Centre (WRASAC)

7. Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

- A chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall be elected from the membership.
- Meetings will be chaired by the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson or the Coordinator.
- The appointment of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall not be time limited.
- In the event that the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson stands down all members of the partnership will be invited to nominate existing members for appointment to either of the posts. All nominations must have a proposer and a seconder. In the event that more than one nomination is received for either of the posts then a vote will be taken at the next scheduled Partnership meeting.
- Only full members present will be entitled to cast a single vote. The nomination with the highest number of votes will be elected to the vacant post.

8. Coordinator

The activities of the partnership shall be supported by a coordinator employed on its behalf by Angus Council. Responsibility for circulating nomination papers, collating responses and overseeing the voting process will rest with the Coordinator.

9. Meetings

- The Partnership shall meet once every three months with additional meetings called as necessary.

- Meetings of the Partnership shall be quorate when at least 5 members are present.
- Members shall be permitted to send nominated deputies.
- Members are required to send written updates to the Coordinator no less than 8 working days prior to meetings.
- Agenda and supporting papers shall be circulated at least 6 working days prior to meetings.
- The business of all meetings shall be recorded in the form of a minute.

10. Governance

AVAWP is accountable to the Angus Community Planning Partnership and reports to it through the Community Care and Health Partnership (CCHP) which provides immediate oversight of the group's activities. (See organisational chart in Section 14)

AVAWP will submit progress and performance updates on its work to the CCHP no less than twice a year. AVAWP will also accept direction or tasking from CCHP.

11. Finance

The Partnership shall advise the appropriate administration of funds made available by the Scottish Government, Angus Council, NHS Tayside or any other relevant funding body to develop the violence against women agenda in Angus.

All necessary costs associated with the day to day running of the Partnership will be met by way of a budget held by Angus Council who will host the Coordinator's post within the Social Work and Health Department.

AVAWP will (usually with an applicant's consent), objectively consider any funding requests to the Scottish Government, Angus Council, NHS Tayside or other funding body from organisations or departments involved in work to tackle Violence Against Women or supporting women and children affected by same. Providing the proposed activity for which the funding is sought is intended to address a partnership priority and is likely to make a significant contribution to an associated partnership outcome(s) AVAWP will support the application and endorse same accordingly.

Where there is clear evidence that any such application meets the criteria outlined above the Chair and Coordinator (jointly) have authority to support same on behalf of the partnership and will provide details of same at the next full partnership meeting. In the event that the Chair and Coordinator are not prepared to support an application or have any significant concerns about same it will be referred to the next full partnership meeting for a decision.

Members of AVAWP will submit all such requests from their respective organisations or

departments to the partnership for consideration save in exceptional circumstances.

12. Decision Making

Within the ethos and principles of true Partnership decisions shall be made democratically with the consensus carrying any decision forward.

13. Review

This document shall be reviewed on a regular basis. The minimum timescale for review shall be no less than two years from the date of the last review.

14. Working Groups

Three Working Groups shall provide a support and research capability to the main committee of the Angus Violence Against Women Partnership.

The three working groups will address the following topics:-

- **Strategy & Outcomes**
- **Publicity & Training**
- **Service Delivery**

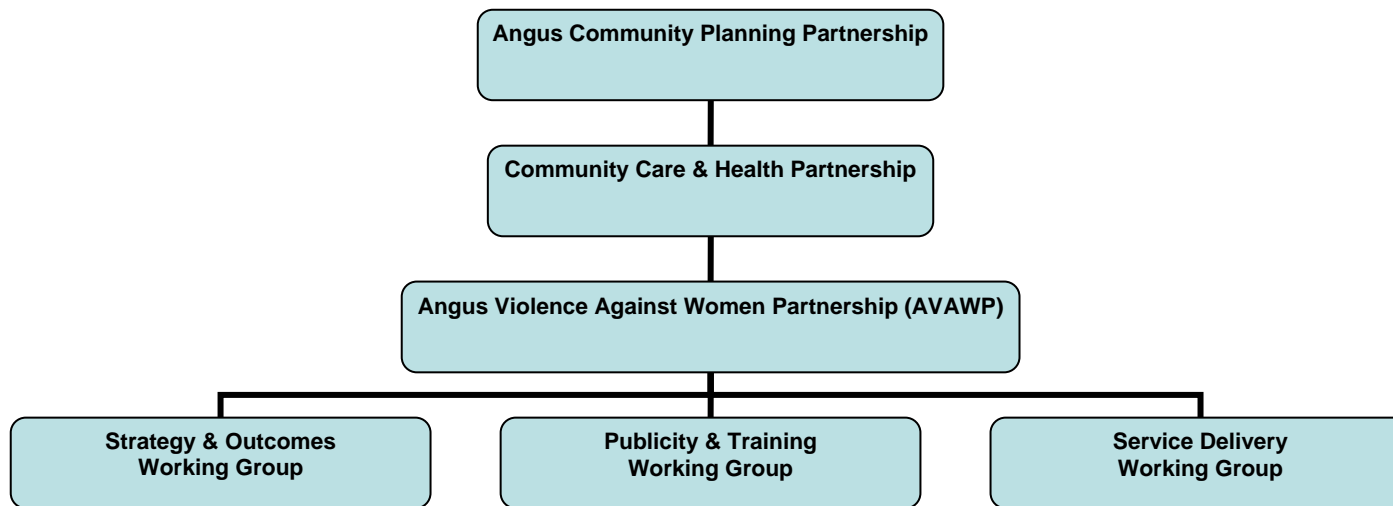
Each of the three working groups will be provided with a detailed remit and shall be chaired by a nominated member of the Partnership.

Membership of the Working Groups shall be made from the Partnership or from the organisations represented.

The Partnership may refer matters to any of the Working Groups for research, comment or recommendation.

The Chair of each Working Group will ensure that a record of its work is maintained and will provide a brief written update on progress to each full meeting of AVAWP.

Angus Violence Against Women Partnership (AVAWP)



15. Agreement

Members of the Angus Partnership on Violence against women agreed the terms of this document at a meeting held on 13 September 2011.

September 2011



Violence against
Women Partnership

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