

About GBV Services

Gender-Based Violence Service is a small, specialist multi-disciplinary team working in the field of violence against women and gender inequality.

The work applies a gendered analysis to the issues of *domestic abuse, rape and sexual assault, commercial sexual exploitation, human trafficking, 'honour'-based violence, female genital mutilation and childhood sexual abuse.*

Since inception, the service has developed and adapted as both a frontline service and a source of expertise for NHSL, building a quality reputation locally and nationally.

Advocacy

This service is aimed towards women who are subjected to high risk of harm from a current or ex-partner.

- The number of referrals this year has more than **doubled** from the previous year, with cases highlighting multiple forms of harm co-occurring.
- **71%** of women have experienced psychological /emotional abuse, followed by **43%** indicating financial harm, and **39%** physical assault.



Pandemic

- "UN Women has estimated that the impact of Covid-19 for women's equality could mean the loss of 25 years' worth of progress, and Scotland is not immune."

Current Issues

Consultancy

The advocacy team can discuss circumstances of a case to help consider the issues of violence and abuse.

- The number of consultancy calls this year have increased by **20%**, and continue to highlight the complexity of co-occurring issues.
- **Health Visitors and Mental Health** contact the service most frequently.



Cost of living

- In a recent study carried out by Women's Aid England, almost three quarters (73%) of victims-survivors, said that the cost of living crisis had either prevented them from leaving or made it harder for them to leave a domestic abuse situation.

Training

Training sessions delivered by our specialist trainer include *Dynamics of Abuse, Routine Enquiry, Risk Identification Checklist and Safe & Together™.*

- **20** core training sessions with **208** NHSL staff attending .
- **8** bespoke sessions with **65** NHSL staff attending
- Routine Enquiry of Domestic Abuse in Practice to approx. **80** UWS Midwifery Students.
- **232** NHSL staff attended domestic abuse training through a Multi-Agency training calendar.



Prevalence

- "At least one in five women in Scotland will experience domestic abuse in her lifetime." Engender 2021."

National Updates

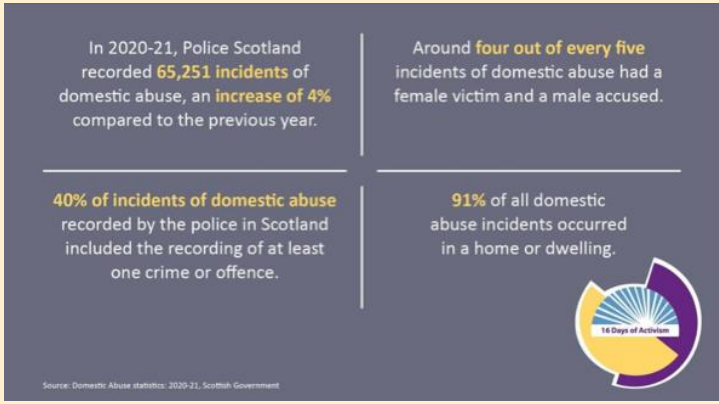


Exciting times! The Violence Against Women (VAW) sector has lots of activity currently including:

- The Scottish Government Strategy on VAW, Equally Safe, is being refreshed and is due out by the end of this year – we are hoping to see more focus on health service actions across the country, as we know VAW is a public health issue.
- Although Lanarkshire was an innovator in establishing Multi-Agency Risk Assessments (MARAC) in 2005, MARAC is finally now operating in every local authority in Scotland. The Scottish Government VAW team in Equalities worked hard during the pandemic conducting a series of ‘deep dives’ to explore future developments. Going forward, this will include – quality standards for all MARACs, a gap analysis to explore the current landscape and a move to make MARAC a statutory requirement in Scotland.
- An independent national funding review of VAW commissioned by the Scottish Government, that aims to revitalise how funding is allocated for the demands of the sector.
- The NHS GBV Leads Network is mapping data systems in health boards and where GBV data could and should feature and be collated to guide service improvement – watch this space!



The international theme for the global 16 Days campaign this year was **‘UNITE! Activism to end violence against women and girls’** and calls for global actions to increase awareness, galvanize advocacy efforts, and share knowledge and innovations.



NHS Lanarkshire
25 Nov 2022 · 🌐
Today marks the start of 16 days of Action Against Gender-Based Violence. University Hospital Wishaw Tower will be lit up orange this evening to encourage everyone to take action and get involved in local activities using #WhatNext



NHS Lanarkshire attended and contributed to an event organised to help celebrate **International Women's Day**.

This was a very inspiring day with some fantastic speakers including Heather Russell -Women's Aid South Lanarkshire & East Renfrewshire, Helen Provan - Lanarkshire Rape Crisis Centre, Ann Hayne - NHS Lanarkshire, Leanne Crichton - Women and Football and Julie McCarrison – South Lanarkshire.

Highlights can be found [here](#)

What next?
Our advocacy and training development workers will work closely with Alcohol Drug Partnership (ADP) commissioned services to offer GBV consultancy and training.
Safe and Together™ training will continue to be rolled out for multi-agency staff across Lanarkshire to further develop domestic abuse -informed systems.