

# **Social Recovery Taskforce Women's Workstream**

## **Single Sex Provision Statement**

### **SRTF Women's Workstream**

The Women's Workstream (WW) is one of 11 Workstreams established through the Social Recovery Taskforce, established to respond to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

WW members include representation from Glasgow City Council Empowerment and Equalities, Health and Social Care Partnership, University of Glasgow and Voluntary Sector.

The Terms of Reference for WW are;

- Identify changes that are required to mitigate current inequalities experienced by women in relation to Covid 19 and potential future pandemics.
- Ensure research on women's experiences is available to both the Social Recovery Taskforce and the city's economic growth structures to aid their decision making. The Economic Recovery Taskforce has now formally wound down with action being passed to existing economic structures including the Glasgow Economic Leadership Group and the Glasgow Partnership for Economic Growth. The latter is represented on the Social Recovery Taskforce and leads on the Youth Employment Workstream. Officers from the Council are working on a new Glasgow Economic Strategy which will be presented to a Council Committee later in 2021
- Identify key themes for the Equality Impact Assessments of current and future GCC policy and strategy work.
- Highlight long term impacts of Covid 19 on women and how these can be addressed.
- Utilise the 4 priorities of the Equally Safe Strategy to ensure all decisions are made with women who experience violence are included.
  - Scottish society embraces equality and mutual respect, and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls
  - Women and girls thrive as equal citizens – socially, culturally, economically and politically
  - Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising the safety and wellbeing of women, children and young people
  - Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls, and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response
- Work with partners and other workstreams to identify potential working opportunities.

### **Glasgow City Council violence against women's partnership's definition of violence against women**

For the purposes of this statement we endorse the Glasgow Violence Against Women Partnership's definition of violence against women.

"Gender-based violence, this is when violence is directed against someone on the basis of their gender.

'Violence against women' and 'gender- based violence' are often used interchangeably as most gender-based violence is inflicted by men on women and girls. It is important though to acknowledge that most men do not commit acts of gender- based violence and that they too can be victims.

We recognise that gender-based violence is a significant community safety and wellbeing issue, affecting people from a wide range of diverse backgrounds.

We understand that violence against women happens because of the inequalities that exist between men and women. We recognise that this abuse can take many different forms and can be physical, sexual, emotional, financial and can happen over the lifetime of any victim. The following are included in our understanding of what is violence against women and girls: domestic abuse; sexual assault; stalking and harassment and intimidation at work and in public settings; commercial sexual exploitation, this includes but is not limited to prostitution, stripping/pole or lap dancing, pornography, trafficking etc; child sexual abuse and adult survivors of child sexual abuse; harmful cultural practices such as forced and child marriage, female genital mutilation, 'so called' honour crimes and dowry related violence."

### **Single Sex Provision Statement**

Glasgow City Council has a long history of providing services to women and children who have experienced male violence. This includes services unique not only to Scotland but also Western Europe. It is a history to be proud of and it has been recognised that in Glasgow, "a strong equalities agenda has been sustained across a similar time period, with VAW always a core component of policies on women/gender equality." (Kelly, L. (2007) Map of Gaps: The Postcode Lottery of Violence Against Women Support Services.)

WW continue to recognise the value of these services. Unfortunately Glasgow continues to experience high levels of violence against women and girls. A wide range of research and the reality of women and girls using Glasgow's violence against women services emphasises the importance of ensuring services remain effective in responding to women and girls needs.

There is no doubt that violence impacts on all communities in Glasgow, and where individuals experience multiple forms of discrimination, this increases the opportunity for targeting by perpetrators and vulnerability to discrimination in services and organisations. This reduces the opportunity to access services and impacts on the effectiveness of the criminal justice system. It is vital that those women and girls experiencing the more extreme forms of discrimination, domestic violence, sexual violence, including through commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking, have access to specialised services in order to escape violence and abuse and recover. This reduces the opportunity for further targeting in the future.

WW believes this can only be achieved by maintaining services that recognise and respond to the lifecycle of discrimination and violence experienced by women and girls, see appendix 1. This requires services to provide an emotional and physical space based on sex rather than gender. These spaces not only provide women with support that recognises their

reality and supports their recovery, but provides a space free from the discrimination encouraged by gender stereotypes and expectations.

This does not prevent services, where possible, to provide support, consultation and / research to other members of Glasgow communities, but requires any service describing themselves as a specialist violence against women service to justify those additional services. WW recognises that due to the high levels of male violence against women not all women can access the services they require in Glasgow. Funding provided to these services therefore should be focussed.

This statement is focussed on violence against women service provision, however WW believes that all services should consider the content of this statement and prioritise women's safety in all policy and practice.

November 2022

MALE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
LIFECYCLE OF ABUSE

