

‘It shouldn’t take a pandemic to see that these services are essential.’

Report for the Standing Group on Violence Against Women

Audit of Specialist Violence Against Women Services and the
Benefit they make to Glasgow

April 2022

Table of Contents

<i>Executive Summary</i>	3
<i>Purpose of this Report</i>	7
<i>Methodology</i>	8
<i>Policy Context</i>	10
<i>Literature review</i>	13
Costs of Violence Against Women	13
Benefits of Women’s Only Services	13
Why Specialist VAWG Services	15
Challenges of Current Funding Practices	19
<i>What We Learned</i>	20
VAWG Services in Glasgow	20
The Scale of the Issue in Glasgow	23
The Cost of VAWG to Glasgow	24
Investment in Specialist VAWG by Glasgow City Council	25
Expenditure Avoided as a Result of VAWG Services	26
The benefit of VAWG services to Glasgow	29
Impact of Current Funding Arrangements	33
<i>The Case for Specialist Violence Against Women Services</i>	36
<i>Conclusion</i>	38
<i>Appendix 1</i>	40

Executive Summary

The Standing Group on Violence Against Women (SGVAW) is a forum of 8 specialist violence against women services based in Glasgow. The SGVAW works from a gender-based, human rights approach based on the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women.

In October 2020, the group commissioned a consultant to review the need for specialist violence against women services and the benefits for women, children and young people (WCYP) who access services, the wider community and public services in general. A literature review was conducted, interviews and an online survey were carried out with key partners.

Glasgow is recognised as spearheading innovative and creative responses to challenging all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG). The city has services that can respond to a wide range of needs identified by survivors of gender-based violence. These services work across all forms of violence against women and girls.

The Map of the Gaps¹ report identified Glasgow geographically as an area of good practice in terms of the breadth of support services available across the city. These services continue to provide a range of expertise to individuals experiencing all forms of gender-based violence.

The provision of services to address violence against women helps governments at all levels meet their responsibilities under CEDAW, the Istanbul Convention and the Public Sector Equality Duty.

There is continuing fragility within the sector due to the lack of core funding, short-term funding arrangements and often small teams dealing with a combination of increased demand for crisis-driven support work, longer-term recovery work as well as working a strategic level locally and nationally.

The specialist services in Glasgow provide direct support to women, children and young people with experience of violence against women, activities aimed at preventing violence against women and activities aimed at improving responses of non-specialist organisations to individuals with experience of different forms of violence against women. Common themes in service delivery include:

- Taking a trauma-informed approach and an in-depth understanding of the impact VAWG has as this is their specialism which has been developed over many years listening to and working with women, children and young people. Starting from what happened to you rather than what's wrong with you.
- The importance of building trusting relationships
- Person-centred services where at the outset the individual identifies areas of support as well as strengths and building on these helps them to increase their space for action.
- Providing options and choices and accepting the choices individuals make

¹ https://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/map_of_gaps1.pdf

- Recognition that the survivor is the expert in their life
- Recognising that women, children and young people may need long-term support (either because of the impact of their experiences or because abuse continues) and as such individuals may dip in and out of services
- Recognising the impact that poverty, class, racism, ethnicity, immigration status, gender, economic status etc have on women's lives and how this impacts their options and choices
- Providing safe women-only spaces including refuge accommodation

Based on responses to the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey² and the numbers who have experienced different forms of VAWG this report estimates that there are **135,926** potential service users for existing provision in Glasgow who are currently experiencing or have recently experienced violence. This number does not quantify those who have experienced violence and abuse in the past as children who seek support to deal with these experiences. Neither does it count those who are affected by other forms of violence against women and girls such as Female Genital Mutilation, forced marriage, 'honour based' crimes or involvement in selling or exchanging sex.

The analysis on page 24 estimates that the cost of VAWG to Glasgow per year is **£1,189,203,000**. This sum is made up of the human and emotional cost, the cost to the public sector and the cost of lost economic output.

The Standing Group on Violence Against Women members received funding income totalling **£2,273,855.24** from Glasgow City Council in 2020-21. As a result of this, they were able to bring **£3,544,111** in additional funding into the city (from a variety of funders), the services supported **4987** individuals which equates to a cost per person of **£1,166.62**.

The funding received by these organisations is primarily short-term with the majority of funding currently received due to end by September 2023. These organisations are in a constant cycle of applying for funding, receiving funding and then reapplying often being asked to innovate and change service provision to meet funder requirements and have been operating with standstill or reduced funding from Glasgow City Council and the Scottish Government.

By funding violence against women services, this research estimates on page 26 that there is a saving of **£6,415,107** to the public purse each year (this does not account for savings made from the prevention of deaths from murder or suicide).

Survey respondents felt that the specialist violence against women services gave women choices about which services to engage with and if these services were not available women would choose not to engage with statutory organisations.

In addition, it was identified that these specialist organisations played a vital role in amplifying the voices of women, children and young people ensuring they were heard by

² <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-crime-justice-survey-2019-20-main-findings/pages/19/>

those in policy and strategic roles ensuring that VAW was kept on the strategic and political agenda.

Survey respondents and interviewees recognised that specialist violence against women services played a valuable role in meeting the needs of those affected by different forms of VAWG and these services reduced the need for statutory intervention reducing pressure on these agencies. It was also felt that the work of the specialist organisations played a preventative role in terms of VAWG but also in relation to child poverty, mental health and suicide prevention, substance misuse and drugs deaths, the criminal and community justice systems and adverse childhood experiences.

The funding raised by violence against women services helps Glasgow City Council to:

1. Meet its legal and policy obligations
Investment in specialist violence against women services helps public bodies satisfy/meet the legal obligations specified under the Public Sector Equality Duty to have due regard to and advance equality of opportunity by removing disadvantages experienced by women and girls and by ensuring that women and girls' needs are met.
2. Meet the aims of the Community Plan
The work of specialist VAWG organisations helps GCC to achieve its strategic priorities. The work of these groups is intrinsically linked with the Community Planning Partnership's priorities.
3. Reduce the cost of VAWG
Interviewees and respondents participating in our survey were clear that the work of specialist violence against women and girls organisations reduced women, children and young people's reliance on statutory services including criminal justice services, social work and health. Our analysis shows that services prevent over £6million in spending per year (this is based on a conservative estimate of savings VAWG services make and doesn't include the savings from preventing suicide or murder).
4. Take a preventative approach to VAWG, child poverty, drug deaths, suicide and gender inequality
VAWG has a wide-ranging impact and is a root cause of many societal issues which are policy priorities at a national and local level. By providing support to help individuals to recover from their experiences of VAWG and tackling the attitudes and beliefs which allow VAWG to occur within society, specialist organisations help tackle child poverty, drug deaths, suicides, homelessness, need for social work intervention and gender inequality.
5. Saves and changes lives
The work of specialist violence against women organisations saves and changes lives. They help reduce the risk from perpetrators, helps individuals recover from their experiences and deal with the impact of trauma, as well as mitigating the impact of poor agency responses through advocating for individual and systems change at a

Glasgow and National level. As a result women, children and young people's lives are made better.

Specialist violence against women services provide a multitude of benefits to the women, children and young people who access these, to wider society, to public services and the economy.

Providing long term secure core funding will allow specialist services to continue to develop innovative practices meeting the needs of survivors, helping to address local and national policy priorities whilst saving the public purse from escalating costs

Violence against women can often be a root cause of wider societal issues such as drug deaths, suicide, child poverty and homelessness. Specialist and dedicated violence against women organisations are key in preventing and confronting these issues through the provision of direct support to those who have experience of VAW and also working to prevent VAW from happening in the first place. To fulfil these roles, it is essential that specialist violence against women organisations have secure core funding.

Purpose of this Report

The Standing Group on Violence Against Women (SGVAW) is a forum of 8 specialist violence against women services based in Glasgow, (The Daisy Project, Greater Easterhouse Women's Aid, Glasgow Women's Aid, Glasgow & Clyde Rape Crisis, Hemat Gryffe, SAY Women, Wise Women and The Women's Support Project). The SGVAW works from a gender-based, human rights approach based on the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women.³

In October 2020, the SGVAW commissioned a consultant to review the need for and benefit of specialist violence against services for WCYP who access services and for the wider community and public services in general

The first section of the report outlines how the research was undertaken and sets some context in terms of Glasgow and the policy field at an international and Scottish level. The second section contains information from a literature review, the third section contains an analysis of the data collected and lastly, the conclusion contains the justification for specialist violence against women services.

Thanks to everyone who took part in this project for their time and for sharing their experiences.

³ https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocities-crimes/Doc.21_declaration%20elimination%20vaw.pdf

Methodology

Desk Based Research

Freely available research (available on the internet) relating to the benefits of women's only services and from specialist violence against women services was reviewed. Local authority and other statutory organisations' reports on the demographics in Glasgow, who lives there and what was known about the needs of citizens were also reviewed. Members of the standing group provided information relating to service provision. Included is information about the funding Glasgow City Council provides to specialist violence against women services received via a freedom of information request.

Interviews

Interviews were conducted with the Standing Group members and the Glasgow Violence Against Women Partnership (GVAWP) lead, the chair of the VAWP, the VAW lead at the Improvement Service and the lead at COSLA, these interviews aimed to identify:

- The contribution/value specialist VAWG services make/bring to the city.
- The contribution of specialist VAWG services achieving local and national outcomes/policy.
- The challenges the current funding models present.

Survey

An online survey was developed and circulated to members of the GVAWP and others partner agencies that the standing group members work with.

This was completed by 18 people, those who completed it had the following involvement with the members of the standing groups

- 10 made referrals to the service
- 9 recommend and signposted women, children and young people make contact with the service
- 8 involved in partnership working in relation to service delivery
- 1 involved in partnership working in relation to policy development
- 6 involved in partnership working at a strategic level
- 6 received training from services
- 1 in research dissemination

Analysis

We carried out a thematic analysis of the interviews and survey responses to identify key themes. Using the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey data along with academic research we conducted an analysis of the costs of VAW to Glasgow and the savings that VAWG services make. This looked at the emotional and human costs, costs to public services and the cost of lost economic output.

Glasgow Context

Glasgow is Scotland's largest and most diverse city with a population of 635,640 (11.5% of Scotland's population).⁴ The city is home to a significant and growing black and ethnic minority population, currently estimated to be around 12% of the total population. 323,798 (50.9%) of the population is female with 49.1% male of these 49.197 are under 15.⁵

In March 2020 it was estimated by Glasgow City Council that over 36,000 children were living in poverty in the city and that over 16,000 of these children were from lone-parent families.⁶

In 2020-21 Police Scotland recorded 9388 incidents of domestic abuse which equates to 148 per 10,000 population.⁷

Glasgow is recognised as spearheading innovative and creative responses to challenging all forms of violence against women and girls. The City has services that can respond to a wide range of needs identified by survivors of gender-based violence. These services work across all forms of violence against women and girls.

The Community Planning Partnership has set the following priorities for the area:

- Economic Growth
- Resilient Communities
- A Fairer More Equal Glasgow⁸

Glasgow City Council Equality Outcomes for 2021-2025 sets the following outcome: -

Glasgow's work to end violence against women and girls results in:

- women and girls can access the right services based on identified need and are protected from further harm;
- experiences of women and girls inform the planning and activity to eradicate gender-based violence and
- prevention approaches support tackling the root causes of violence against women and girls⁹

The Health and Social Care Partnership has no specific outcomes concerning violence against women.¹⁰

⁴ National Record of Scotland Estimates 2020

⁵ <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files/statistics/council-area-data-sheets/glasgow-city-council-profile.html>

⁶ https://www.gcph.co.uk/assets/0000/8225/Health_in_a_changing_city_Glasgow_2021_-_report.pdf

⁷ <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files/statistics/council-area-data-sheets/glasgow-city-council-profile.html>

⁸ <https://www.glasgowcpp.org.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=39367&p=0>

⁹ <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=53324&p=0>

¹⁰ <https://glasgowcity.hsc.scot/sites/default/files/publications/Final%20Equalities%20Mainstream%20Report.pdf>

Policy Context

The following section outlines the policy context around violence against women services at an international and Scottish level.

Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

CEDAW is the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. This international human rights treaty focuses specifically on equality between women and men in all areas of life. CEDAW defines Violence Against Women as

“violence which is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately”.

Under this obligation, States have a duty to take positive action to prevent and protect women from violence, punish perpetrators of violent acts and compensate victims of violence.¹¹

In 2021, the Scottish Government announced plans to embed aspects of CEDAW into new Scottish Human Rights legislation.¹²

Istanbul Convention

Article 18 of the Istanbul Convention and its explanatory report (paragraphs 111 to 123) explicitly state that support for victims of violence against women (VAW) should be rooted in a ‘gendered understanding’ and focused on ‘the human rights and safety of the victim’.

‘Victims’ human rights include dignity, privacy and bodily integrity. There are a number of further aims/principles for support, such as avoiding ‘secondary victimisation’ – this should include not blaming victims or making them feel responsible for what has happened to them. It should also be rooted in a ‘culture of belief’.

Support should also aim at ‘empowerment’. Violence takes away control over one’s body and life, so support should give control back and enable victims to make their own decisions (what is sometimes called ‘self-determination’). This can be decisions about, for example, whether to make a formal report or whether they want to see a female professional. It should also enable the achievement of ‘economic independence’.

Specialist agencies are expected to be widely available geographically and able to cover short, medium- and long-term needs across all forms of violence.¹³

¹¹ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/WRGS/Pages/Gender-based-violence.aspx>

¹² <https://www.gov.scot/news/new-human-rights-bill/>

¹³ **MAPPING SUPPORT SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN LINE WITH THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION STANDARDS**, Liz Kelly 2018
<https://rm.coe.int/mapping-support-services-vaw/16808ec66b>

Public Sector Equality Duty

The Public Sector Equality Duty was introduced by the Equality Act in 2010 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Act') on 5 April 2011. This requires public authorities and those organisations carrying out a public function to consider how they can positively contribute to a fairer society through advancing equality and good relations in day-to-day activities. This offers an important mechanism enabling public bodies to tackle violence against women and domestic abuse more effectively.

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires bodies (and those contracted to carry out public functions) to have due regard to the need to:

1. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act
2. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not
3. Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

In practice, this means that the Equality Duty must be integral to the decision-making process and cannot be an after-thought. If public authorities do not have enough information or evidence to have due regard, they must obtain that evidence to ensure they meet the duty properly. This might mean the public authority has to consult on its proposals to ensure they obtain evidence about the possible impact on gender equality.

The Act explains that having 'due regard' to the Equality Duty involves removing or minimising disadvantages as a consequence of protected characteristics, taking steps to meet the needs of those with protected characteristics and to encourage those groups to participate in public life and any other activity in which participation by those people is disproportionately low.

Protected Characteristics as defined in the Act are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation¹⁴

Public authorities, when having due regard to the need to foster good relations, must take cognisance of the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.¹⁵

¹⁴ <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/equality-act/protected-characteristics>

¹⁵ Spotted: Obligations to Protect Women Students' Safety & Equality (2015)

<https://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Spotted-Obligations-to-Protect-Women-StudentsEy-Safety-Equality.pdf>

Equally Safe

The Scottish Government's vision is of a strong and flourishing Scotland where all individuals are equally safe and respected, and where women and girls live free from all forms of violence and abuse, as well as the attitudes that perpetuate it.

Equally Safe is the Scottish Government and COSLA's Strategy on Preventing and Eradicating Violence Against Women. This policy document establishes VAWG as a cause and consequence of gender inequality and states:

VAWG cannot be solely addressed as a 'justice' or 'public protection' issue but instead, a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach is required. This means considering how policy and practice in areas such as early years, education, employment, health, housing and welfare impacts on women's lives and what decision-makers working within these areas can do to tackle gender inequality.¹⁶

It recognises gender-based violence as a

"Function of gender inequality, and an abuse of male power and privilege... By referring to violence as 'gender based' this definition highlights the need to understand violence within the context of women's and girl's subordinate status in society. Such violence cannot be understood, therefore, in isolation from the norms, social structure and gender roles within the community, which greatly influence women's vulnerability to violence."¹⁷

¹⁶ Why Adopt a Gendered Analysis to Violence and Abuse, Improvement Service

¹⁷ Equally Safe, Scotland's Strategy for Preventing and Eradicating Violence Against Women and Girls, Scottish Government (2016)

Literature review

The following literature is based on open source data (available on the internet) covering:

- The Costs of Violence Against Women
- The Benefits of Women Only Services
- Why Specialist VAWG Services
- Challenges from current funding practices

Costs of Violence Against Women

According to the Home Office, in 2017, *'the estimated cost for a single victim of domestic abuse is £34,015. While this represents an average, there are a range of different types of violent and sexual offences that victims of domestic abuse can experience. Most extreme is the cost of domestic homicide, which has an estimated unit cost of £2.2 million arising from the cost of harms, health services and lost output. This report estimates the cost of domestic abuse for victims over 2017 to be approximately £66 billion'*¹⁸

As well as the effects on survivors, sexual abuse also impacts the State. According to the Government, each rape costs over £96,000, and in 2003-2004 alone the cost of sexual violence to society was £8.5 billion.¹⁹

In England and Wales, the cost of childhood sexual abuse in 2019 is estimated at 10.1 billion per year, this estimate does not include the costs associated with online and non-contact sexual abuse.²⁰

The Scottish Government policy document Safer Lives: Changed Lives (2009) extrapolated from the New Philanthropy Capital report Hard Knock Life that the estimated cost of failing to address the prevalence and impact of VAWG in Scotland amounted to an estimated £4 billion per year.²¹

Benefits of Women's Only Services

Research tells us that women's only services provide safe, supportive and empowering environments and a holistic service meeting the diverse needs of women.

Irish research by Finlay (2016) showed that one of the benefits of women's only services was that the,

'Empowerment of women who enter women's organisations and groups seems to be related to the information and choice they are provided with. One interviewee highlighted the importance of women being provided with information so they can

¹⁸ The economic and social cost of domestic abuse

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/918897/horr107.pdf

¹⁹ Rape Crisis South London SROI 2011, [https://socialvalueuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Hidden%20Value_WRC%20SROI%20Report_%202011%20\(2\).pdf](https://socialvalueuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Hidden%20Value_WRC%20SROI%20Report_%202011%20(2).pdf)

²⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-economic-and-social-cost-of-contact-child-sexual-abuse/the-economic-and-social-cost-of-contact-child-sexual-abuse>

²¹ Safer Lives: Changed Lives

<https://www.webarchive.org.uk/wayback/archive/20170110044652/http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2009/06/02153519/5>

*make informed choices. Others talked about the empowerment of women and how it manifests itself in greater self-confidence and a greater ability to articulate their needs.*²²

While Mapping the Maze (2017) identified the benefits of women-only services involve: *'empowerment-based approaches that build on women's strength, give women control and a sense of self-efficacy that go hand in hand with practical service delivery which is holistic, addresses the multiple needs of women and offered in a woman-only space.'*²³

According to the Social Return on Investment analysis of the Wellsprings Women's Support Programme (2021), states women's only services have been shown to:

*'meet a critical gap in the service system by engaging with women who may not otherwise be able to access support, enabling them to access the support they need.'*²⁴

The Equality and Human Rights Commission research (2012) stated that women participating in the research found:

*'the women-only aspect of the service was important in their decision to attend in the first place. Reasons for this revolved around feelings of: safety and security; building confidence and trust; peer support; and the ability to talk more freely and open up about the issues facing them. This was particularly the case for ethnic minority women.'*²⁵

A study carried out by Lopez & Smith (2019) identified

*'that appropriately supportive women-only spaces can also be important for women to be able to fully express emotions without fear of repercussions, and even engage in meaningful and constructive "conflict" or disagreement, providing a place where women can heal from trauma and learn to process their experiences in novel and transformative ways.'*²⁶

Mapping the Maze (2017) showed that one of the benefits of women's only services is that *'women-centred representatives' are present at a policy level to inform strategic decision making, planning and commissioning. Therefore advocacy goes beyond the*

²² Women Only Services and their Benefits, Finlay 2016, <https://www.womensregionalconsortiumni.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/July-2016-Women-Only-Services-and-their-Benefits.pdf>

²³ Mapping the Maze, <https://www.mappingthemaze.org.uk>

²⁴ Realising and Rebuilding Resilience SROI, <https://socialvalueuk.org/report/realising-and-rebuilding-resilience-a-social-return-on-investment-evaluation-of-the-wellsprings-womens-support-program/>

²⁵ EHRC – the impact of changes in commissioning and funding on women only services <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/research-report-86-the-impact-of-changes-in-commissioning-and-funding-on-women-only-services.pdf>

²⁶ Gendered Approaches to Service Provision, Lopez & Smith 2019 University of Dundee, <https://www.dvawp.co.uk/sites/default/files/2020-04/Gendered%20Approaches%20to%20Service%20Provision%20-%20Final%20Report.pdf>

individual to enable women's voices to be heard at the wider political and strategic spheres of influence.²⁷

The Women's Resource Centre (2007) found that

'some mainstream services were not able to meet women's needs for a variety of reasons. Generic services, even in a specific field of work, often failed to identify and meet the specific needs of women. Without a 'gendered lens', the specific issues impacting on women can be left unaddressed.'²⁸

This research found that

'women-only services are viewed as effective in increasing women's confidence, independence and self-esteem. In addition, women reported feeling a greater sense of control over their lives and that they had more options to make positive changes. The research also found that women-only services were able to address the marginalisation, isolation and exclusion many women experience.'²⁹

While the Women's Resource Centre (2007) research focused on the benefits to women who access services it also explored the wider benefits of women-only services and spaces to communities and society as a whole. The themes that arose were:

- Supporting women supports families
- Giving something back
- Economic impact
- Challenging the under-representation of women
- Raising awareness
- Social change
- Community cohesion and integration

This research also found that:

'women-only services help women to access employment, tackle poverty and make a positive contribution to the economy. Conversely, if women-only services did not exist then there would be a greater cost to the economy in terms of the drain on public services due to increased mental health problems, revictimisation and so on. The economic impact of women-only services was referred to in both these ways.'³⁰

Why Specialist VAWG Services

Several Social Return on Investment (SROI) assessments of violence against women services (detailed below) have shown that specialist organisations provide benefits to:

- Women, children and young people who access support
- Families of women who access support
- Wider society and the economy

²⁷ Mapping the Maze, <https://www.mappingthemaze.org.uk>

²⁸ Women's Resource Centre – Why Women Only, <https://www.wrc.org.uk/why-women-only-the-value-and-benefits-of-by-women-for-women-services-2007>

²⁹ Women's Resource Centre – Why Women Only, <https://www.wrc.org.uk/why-women-only-the-value-and-benefits-of-by-women-for-women-services-2007>

³⁰ Women's Resource Centre – Why Women Only

These benefits accrue from increasing women's immediate safety, improving access to justice, improving physical, mental and financial well-being helping individuals to move on with their lives. *'Society benefits from women and children being able to reach their full potential and lead empowered lives.'*³¹

The Rape Crisis South London SROI (2011) found *'there is a need for specialised VAWG services as these are essential for enabling women to name their experience as violence and they provide the added value of offering a safe, supportive and empowering environment.'* This SROI suggested that for every £1 invested £6 of social value is created for survivors, their families, wider society and the state.³²

The Social Return on Investment (SROI) carried out on Moray Women's Aid (2008) services showed that *'MWA appears to have a preventative role, in avoiding future costs that might have been experienced by social work/NHS/police and other stakeholders, by highlighting issues and addressing them with service users.'* The SROI suggested that for every £1 invested a return of £6.82 is realised.³³

While Refuge's SROI (2016) showed that counting only those families who used Refuge's services in the year 2015/16, savings of £1.7 million of public funds were made in the criminal justice system, and £4.2 million were made in healthcare costs. Whereas, during the same period gains of £3 million were made, through economic productivity and reduced benefit payments.³⁴

The SROI report on Ascent Advice and Counselling service (2018) in London found *'increased independence/ autonomy; self-confidence and self-esteem; improved physical and mental health; increased economic independence; improvements in social interactions, personal wellbeing and emotional safety; suicide reduction and improved parenting. Similarly, it shows that specialist BME organisations have a unique reach within communities and enable people who may have little information about their rights and no access to mainstream support to access help.'* They found that around £5.99 of social value is generated for every pound invested.³⁵

SAY Women carried out an analysis in 2019 of the value they provided and found that their model of service provision provided potential cashable savings of £865,246 versus traditional care for 30 young women, they also estimated that potential costs totalling £537,864 could be avoided to the public purse as a result of the support they provide.³⁶

³¹ SWA Resourcing Recovery 2020, <https://womensaid.scot/resourcing-recovery-march-2020/>

³² Rape Crisis South London SROI 2011

³³ Moray Women's Aid SROI - 2008

³⁴ <https://www.refuge.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Refuge-SROI-report-July-2016-final.pdf>

³⁵ Social Impact Report Ascent Advice and Counselling, 2015, https://www.solacewomensaid.org/sites/default/files/2018-05/Social%20Impact%20Report%202015_Ascent%20A%26C_Exec%20Summary.pdf

³⁶ Establishing the financial and social case for SAY Women

An Equality and Human Rights Commission parliamentary briefing into women-only services in 2020 showed that:

*'women-only support services make a significant contribution to statutory services such as child protection; an evaluation of IDVA services found that over two-thirds (69 per cent) of victims accessing IDVA services had children, a large proportion of whom were of primary school age or younger. Safeguarding children is a statutory duty and offering services that accommodate children, while keeping them safe and with their mother, was seen as having substantial long term benefit.'*³⁷

Map of the Gaps 1 (2007) used a case study approach, to show that in Hammersmith & Fulham where there are services, the cost to the State of providing dedicated and specialised support to a woman and her children that enables them to establish safety is £9,654, while in Shrewbury, where there are no appropriate services, her situation could spiral to an ultimate cost to the State of £337,054.³⁸

EVAWP Survivors Rights Briefing (2015) tell us that:

*'the independence of VAWG services is essential. It matters to women who may lack trust in statutory agencies. We know this, because women tell us, the services they prefer to use are: independent, confidential, with safe women-only space.'*³⁹

While Map of Gaps 1 (2007) states

*'Only a minority of victim/survivors ever report violence to statutory agencies – their access to support relies upon there being alternative routes. Moreover, statutory services have not proved themselves consistent in response; rather engagement has waxed and waned with government priorities, and focused primarily on crisis intervention. The longer-term support many women need has never been a priority for any statutory agency.'*⁴⁰

Research by the Australian Women's Alliance (2016) shows that not just 'any old service' will do ill-equipped services that lack well-trained staff discourage help-seeking, prevent disclosure of abuse and may inadvertently increase the risks for victims/survivors or lead them to return to abusive situations. Good service provision is underpinned by a gendered understanding of violence. It is focused on women's and children's safety, provides gender and cultural safety, works from a client-centred, trauma-based, empowering framework, supports women to navigate the complex systems, recognises children as clients in their own right, and works towards greater gender equality recognising the complexity of intersectionality and that women are best qualified to decide their pathway to recovery from violence and trauma.⁴¹

³⁷ EHRC, Survival, recovery and justice: specialist services for survivors of domestic abuse, https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/parliamentary_briefing_specialist_services_for_survivors_of_domestic_abuse.docx

³⁸ https://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/map_of_gaps1.pdf

³⁹ EVAWP Survivors Rights Briefing <https://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Survivors-Rights-EVAW-Coalition-September-2015.pdf>

⁴⁰ https://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/map_of_gaps1.pdf

⁴¹ Australian Women Against Violence Alliance, The role of specialist women's services in Australia's response to violence against women and their children

While Donaldson (2022) shows that:

*'access to specialist support and information services provided by women has been identified as a critical factor in enabling women who have experienced gender-based violence to report their experience to the police, to establish and continue their engagement in the criminal justice system, reduce attrition rates and to recover from the impact of their experiences.'*⁴²

According to EVAWP (2016) research shows that Black and Minority Ethnic services support women with the individual, family and community contexts of the violence as well as other factors such as immigration and asylum restrictions, access to language support, racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination which women can experience as part of their victimisation. Women stated that they were more likely to approach these services for help as these are the spaces they trust and feel safe, understood and less alone.⁴³

In a Safer Pair of Hands (2020) it was found that:

*'BME women's organisations talk about their work as 'casework plus, plus, plus': as the women they are supporting have layers of issues and needs including: immigration status; racist harassment and abuse of themselves and their children; poverty; and for some destitution.'*⁴⁴

According to the EHRC in its parliamentary briefing (2020),

*'services by and for ethnic minority women have developed specialisms in working with survivors of particular forms of VAWG. Some services are open to all ethnic minority women, while others serve particular ethnic minority groups, recognising that ethnic minority women are not a homogenous group. Such services are skilled at identifying specific forms of VAWG that may be missed in mainstream settings.'*⁴⁵

According to research by the University of Central Lancaster (2018),

*'The value of specialist VAWG agencies was understood in terms of their expertise, knowledge and understanding of what service users wanted, especially in relation to survivors with additional or complex needs. Most valued the confidence service users had in these specialist agencies and their ability to respond to changing local need.'*⁴⁶

According to the Australian Violence Against Women Alliance, a key benefit of specialist violence against women services was the systemic advocacy organisations undertake. Helping to ensure that the fact that VAWG is a cause and consequence of gender inequality is not forgotten.

⁴² Annie Donaldson, By Women for Women

https://www.academia.edu/73237731/By_women_for_women_Why_we_need_single_sex_violence_against_women_services_in_Scotland_A_research_and_policy_briefing_by

⁴³ EVAWP Survivors Rights Briefing <https://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Survivors-Rights-EVAW-Coalition-September-2015.pdf>

⁴⁴ A safer pair of hands (BME violence against women work) https://www.tavinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Safer-Pair-of-Hands-Report_Final-Published.pdf

⁴⁵ EHRC, Survival, recovery and justice: specialist services for survivors of domestic abuse

⁴⁶ Scoping Study: Violence Against Women and Girls Services

<https://clok.uclan.ac.uk/24762/1/24762%20Scoping%20Study%20Violence%20Against%20Women%20and%20Girls%20Services%20FINAL%20Oct%202018.pdf>

'Being attentive to existing power imbalances, these services seek to restore power, dignity and strength to survivors/ victims, while advocating more broadly for social justice and equality in the recognition that people of all genders experience detrimental consequences from rigid gender expectations and the violent use of power.'

*'In practice this means helping women to recognise patterns of coercion and control, advocating for a woman as she navigates the complex legal and service systems and mitigating possible negative assumptions others may have about gender equality and violence against women. Specialist women's services in supporting women treat their safety as a paramount principle. Operating from a client-centred, trauma-informed, empowering framework, specialist women's services work towards greater gender equality while recognising the complexity of intersectionality and that women are best qualified to decide on their own pathways to recovery from violence and trauma.'*⁴⁷

Challenges of Current Funding Practices

An Equality and Human Rights Commission (2012) report into women's services showed that:

*'the current funding arrangements for women's only services i.e. short-term funding, commissioning processes meant that 'sourcing and securing funding had become a major issue for service providers, squeezing out other management activity. A lot of provider time was spent on locating funding opportunities and filling in often complicated and resource intensive application forms. Several service managers expressed their frustration over the time and resources it took to chase small and shrinking pots of funding. This had a very direct impact on the morale and stability of providers, and their staff were usually fully aware of the threat of redundancy.'*⁴⁸

University of Central Lancashire (2018) research into the VAWG sector found:

*'The fragility of the sector needs to be understood. The insistence on project funding while not achieving full cost recovery, not allowing organisations to achieve full cost recovery. We need core funding. It's nightmare-ish. You're moving from project to project to project. You're often trying to get on with doing the work... the frontline services that are supporting women to stay alive and then you're having to prove innovation when actually your ability to innovate has been squeezed out by the difficulties you're facing. Or you're constantly having to innovate because that's the only way to survive....'*⁴⁹

⁴⁷ <https://awava.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/SWS-Brochure-web-version.pdf>

⁴⁸ EHRC – the impact of changes in commissioning and funding on women only services

⁴⁹ Scoping Study: Violence Against Women and Girls Services

<https://clock.uclan.ac.uk/24762/1/24762%20Scoping%20Study%20Violence%20Against%20Women%20and%20Girls%20Services%20FINAL%20Oct%202018.pdf>

What We Learned

VAWG Services in Glasgow

The Map of the Gaps (2007) report held Glasgow up as an area of good practice in terms of the breadth of support services available across the city. Glasgow still has a breadth of services available to those with a variety of experiences of violence against women and girls, although there is a continuing fragility to the sector in Glasgow due to a lack of core funding, short-term funding arrangements and often small teams dealing with a combination of increased demand for crisis-driven support work, longer-term recovery work as well as working a strategic level locally and nationally. Despite this, during the Covid-19 pandemic, VAWG organisations showed themselves to be flexible in their models of service delivery and were quickly able to make changes to their services to ensure that women, children and young people were able to continue to access the vital support they offer.

Standing Group on Violence Against Women (SGVAW)

The SGVAW is a sub-group of the Voluntary Sector Women's Network in Glasgow it is made up of the following specialist VAWG organisations:

- Daisy Project
- Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid
- Glasgow and Clyde Rape Crisis
- Glasgow Women's Aid
- Greater Easterhouse Women's Aid
- SAY Women
- The Women's Support Project
- Wise Women

See Appendix 1. for a description of each organisation's service provision.

The key activities of the specialist violence against women services include direct support to women, children and young people with experience of violence against women, activities aimed at preventing violence against women and activities aimed at improving responses of non-specialist organisations to individuals with experience of different forms of violence against women.

Direct support activities include:

- crisis support for women, children and young people (safety planning, provision of accommodation, support to report to police, information on legal rights)
- social and emotional support to aid recovery from experiences of VAW (1-1 support, counselling, group work, access to alternative therapies, support with parenting and rebuilding relationships, support with addictions)
- practical support and material aid (help with benefits, financial support, access to food banks and vouchers)
- advocacy support (on an individual and systemic level) and provision of information about women and children's rights (in relation to the criminal and civil justice systems)
- support to access external services (housing, mental health, legal advice)
- support around immigration and destitution issues

- partnership working including engagement with and support of multi-agency processes such Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)

Prevention activities include:

- Confidence building and personal safety courses and other forms of group work
- Attending community events to raise awareness of VAWG and support available
- Delivery of sessions in schools
- Social media work to raise awareness

Activities aimed at improving responses of non-specialist organisations:

- Carrying out consultations with women that feed into service reviews, policy development etc
- Attending strategic partnerships meetings and taking on work forward as part of Council action plans and strategies
- Attending national partnership meetings and influencing national policy and practice
- Delivering training
- Engaging with research requests

SGVAW members work across a broad range of violence against women issues including:

- Domestic abuse
- Rape and Sexual Violence
- Childhood Sexual Abuse
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation
- FGM and harmful practices
- Stalking and harassment
- So-called honour-based crimes
- Trafficking

Support is provided to individuals with current and historic experiences of violence and abuse, services provide language-specific support to women from BME communities. Referrals are received from women and young people directly as well as from a variety of professionals including health visitors, social workers (criminal justice and children and families), teachers, police, CPNs and other mental health professionals, substance misuse services, ASSIST, housing officers, lawyers and other voluntary organisations.

Support pre-covid was primarily delivered face to face through drop-ins, 1-1 and group work and helplines but since March 2020 services have moved to providing support by phone, zoom, WhatsApp, online chat, and text.

Interviews with staff from all standing group members were undertaken, common themes which ran through these interviews about how these organisations work and provide their services included:

- The importance of building trusting relationships
- The need for services to be person-centred, that starts where the individual is and works with them to identify strengths and builds on these, helping individuals to increase their space for action.

- Providing options and choices and accepting the choices individuals make
- Taking a trauma-informed approach and having an in-depth understanding of the impact VAWG has as this is their specialism which has been developed over many years listening to and working with women, children and young people. Starting from what happened to you rather than what's wrong with you.
- Recognition that the survivor is the expert in their life
- Recognising that women, children and young people may need long-term support (either because of the impact of their experiences or because experiences of abuse continue) and as such individuals may dip in and out of services
- Recognising the impact that poverty, class, racism etc have on women's lives and how this impacts the options and choices they have
- Providing a safe women's only space

The organisations described how they deliver their services and the foundational principles of these, resonate with what was found in the literature review about why women accessed women's only and specialist violence against women's services and why they are able to make the difference they do.

Organisations felt that their services made a positive impact on:

- an individual's sense of safety in a physical and emotional sense,
- the physical and emotional wellbeing of individuals who access support (as a result of practical and emotional needs being met),
- the wellbeing of women's children (if they have them) and wider family
- interactions with statutory agencies and can lead to reductions in the need for their involvement over time
- wider society and the economy through the model of empowerment they work to which creating opportunities for individuals to create an economic contribution to society.

The following are quotes from individuals who have accessed services which show the impact these have had:

"I've tried other services. I felt like they didn't help, it was more about speaking about what happened than building a relationship and working through things."

"The staff don't give up on me when life gets hard, even when I push them away, they are still there for me. We are encouraged to be independent."

"I had a boyfriend for a while, but I realised that it wasn't for me and something wasn't right. It was the first time that I felt confident in making the decision to leave without anything bad happening. It's a huge step for me."

Other specialist services in Glasgow include:

- Routes Out – offers support to women who sell sex

- Trafficking and Awareness Raising Alliance (TARA) – helps to identify and support women who may have been trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation (this support is available to women across Scotland)
- ASSIST – provides support advocacy support to individuals through their involvement in the criminal justice system
- Caledonian System Women and Children’s Service – provides support to the current and ex-partners of men who are subject to a community payback order with a Caledonian requirement (which aims to address their offending behaviour and improve the safety of women and children)

The Scale of the Issue in Glasgow

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) provides the best estimate for Scotland of the extent of violence in women’s lives. It measures domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking across the lifetime and the last 12 months.

Table 1 presents findings from the 2019/20 SCJS. We use the 2020 population estimates to convert the prevalence rates into actual numbers. Whilst these estimates are not entirely accurate for several reasons, this is the closest we can get to current potential support needs. We use the lifetime prevalence rates and calculate the actual number of women from the baseline of the female population aged over 15 (this is based on the method used in the map of the gaps research).

Table 1: The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) 12 months prevalence converted into numbers of women in Glasgow

Type of Violence	The rate in SCJS for experiences over 16*	Extrapolated to numbers in GCC**
Partner Abuse	21.2%	58,215
Sexual Violence	16.2%	44,485
Stalking	12.1%	33,226

*Taken from 2019-20 SCJS report

** Extrapolated based on 2020 population figures (274,601 women over 16 in Glasgow)

This exercise suggests that there are **135,926** potential service users for existing provision in Glasgow who are currently experiencing or have recently experienced violence.

This number does not quantify those who have experienced violence and abuse in the past as children who seek support to deal with these experiences, nor does it count those who are affected by other forms of violence against women and girls such as FGM, so-called ‘honour based’ crimes or involvement in selling or exchanging sex.

According to that Scottish Crime and Justice Survey for 2019/20, ‘16% of those who reported partner abuse said that the police came to know about the most recent (or only) incident of partner abuse somehow (this may have been because a neighbour called).’ The survey showed that ‘Respondents who had experienced serious sexual assault since the age of 16 were asked if the police were informed about the most recent (or only) incident. Just

over a fifth (22%) of respondents said the police came to know about the most recent (or only) incident of forced sexual intercourse.’ While only 1 in 10 of those who experienced stalking reported it to the police.⁵⁰

The Cost of VAWG to Glasgow

This section extrapolates the potential cost of Violence Against Women to Glasgow based on the most recent cost estimates available for England and Wales. Table 2 shows the estimated costs for England and Wales the estimated costs for Scotland based on being 10% of this population (as used by the Scottish Government in Safer Lives: Changed Lives 2009) and for Glasgow based on 11.5% of the Scottish population.

Table 2: Costs of VAWG to Glasgow

Type of Violence	Cost for England and Wales	Cost for Scotland	Cost for Glasgow	Amended for inflation for 2021 prices*
Domestic abuse	£66 billion ⁵¹	£6.6 billion	£ 759million	£100 2017 = £111.94 in 2021 £849,594,194
Sexual Violence	£8.5billion ⁵²	£850million	£97,750,000	£100 in 2011 = £129.68 in 2021 £126,765,251
CSA	10.1. billion ⁵³	£1.1 billion	£116,150,000	£100 in 2019 = £105.61 in 2021 £122,664,513
Prostitution	2.1 billion ⁵⁴	£210 million	£24,150,000	£100 in 2004 = £163.37 in 2021 £39,453,197
Violence Against BME women	1.6 billion ⁵⁵	£160 million	£18,400,000	£100 in 2004 = £163.37 in 2021 £30,059,579
Trafficking	1.1 billion ⁵⁶	£110 million	£12,650,000	£100 in 2004 = £163.37 in 2021

⁵⁰ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-crime-justice-survey-2019-20-main-findings/pages/19/>

⁵¹ The economic and social cost of domestic abuse

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/918897/horr107.pdf

⁵² Rape Crisis South London SROI 2011

⁵³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-economic-and-social-cost-of-contact-child-sexual-abuse/the-economic-and-social-cost-of-contact-child-sexual-abuse>

⁵⁴ Hard Knock Life, <https://www.thinknpc.org/resource-hub/hard-knock-life/>

⁵⁵ Hard Knock Life, <https://www.thinknpc.org/resource-hub/hard-knock-life/>

⁵⁶ Hard Knock Life, <https://www.thinknpc.org/resource-hub/hard-knock-life/>

				£20,665,960
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*Based on Bank of England inflation calculator

This suggests that the cost of VAWG to Glasgow per year is **£1,189,203,000** this is made up of the human and emotional cost, the cost to the public sector and the cost of lost economic output.

Investment in Specialist VAWG by Glasgow City Council

According to a Freedom of Information request made to Glasgow City Council in 2020-21, they invested the following into specialist VAWG services for Women and Girls:

Table 3: Investment into Specialist VAWG services by Glasgow City Council in 2020-21

Client	2020/21
Daisy Project	£119,944
SAY Women	£281,954.05
Wise Women	£100,385
Glasgow Women's Aid	£1,133,433.62
Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid	£200,857.09
Rape Crisis Centre	£125,986.22
Glasgow East Women's Aid	£311,295.26
GCC / Routes Out	£475,664
Tara	£48,428
Caledonian Women's Programme	£229,710.53
ASSIST	£40,119
Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability VAW Services	£98,760
Total	£3,166,536.77

Based on the numbers we believe are affected by VAWG in Glasgow (135,926) this investment equates to £23.29 per individual. If we calculate this on the 1/3 of survivors that are estimated to access specialist services,⁵⁷ this equates to £69.87 per individual.

The above shows that the eight specialist organisations that make up the Standing Group on Violence Against Women received **£2,273,855.24** in funding from Glasgow City Council in 2020-21. As a result of this, they were able to bring **£3,544,111** in additional funding into the city, the services supported **4987** individuals which equates to a cost per person of **£1,166.62**.

The funding received by these organisations is primarily short-term with the majority of funding currently received due to end by September 2023. The current funding structure is not static as these organisations are in a constant cycle of applying for funding, receiving a grant and thereafter having to reapply often requiring them to innovate and change service provision to meet funder requirements.

⁵⁷ Safe Lives, Whole Lives Survivors Survey, <https://safelives.org.uk/policy-evidence/whole-lives-improving-response-domestic-abuse-scotland>

Expenditure Avoided as a Result of VAWG Services

Between April 20 and March 21, the SGVAW members had contact with 4987 individuals across Glasgow (this is broken down as 4187 women and 800 children). The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey states that individual's experiences of abuse had the following impact:

'Three-in-four adults (74%) with experience of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview reported psychological effects of some sort. A range of psychological effects were reported, including low self-esteem (49%), depression (38%), and anxiety/panic attacks (32%).'

Women were more likely than men to have experienced three of the twelve effects:

- anxiety/panic attacks (42% of women, compared to 17% of men)
- fear (25% compared to 10%)
- isolation from family or friends (21% compared to 9%)
- 6% of individuals had tried to kill themselves, 5% self-harmed, 2% felt forced to terminate a pregnancy.'

'Respondents who had experienced at least one incident of serious sexual assault since the age of 16, were asked about the physical impact of the latest (or only) incident. Of those who had experienced forced sexual intercourse, 67% said that the last (or only) incident had resulted in some form of physical impact; either minor (37%), serious but not treated by a medical professional (22%) or serious and treated by a medical professional (13%). Just under one-in-ten (9%) said that the last (or only) incident had resulted in pregnancy.'⁵⁸

The following table shows the estimated costs for Health and Social care services in 2020⁵⁹ and from these extrapolates the annual costs avoided to the public purse as a result of specialist violence against women services being available.

Table 4: Cost Avoided by Public Services as a result of women accessing Specialist Violence Against Women Services based on 2020-21 figures

Service	Cost	Assumptions	Annual costs avoided
Admission to a mental health care cluster	£424 per day	GGCHB area 14560 admission in 2019 (1.2% of the population) most stays last between 1 and 28 days. ⁶⁰ We estimate that through accessing services 50 women a	£148,400

⁵⁸ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-crime-justice-survey-2019-20-main-findings/pages/20/>

⁵⁹ https://kar.kent.ac.uk/84818/13/Unit_Costs_of_Health_and_Social_Care_2020%20%281%29.pdf

⁶⁰ <https://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Mental-Health/Publications/2019-09-10/mental-health-inpatient-activity/trend-data/>

		year would avoid a mental health admission of 7 days.	
Adult requiring A&E mental health services	£222 per contact	According to SCJS 6% report attempting suicide as a result of their experiences. We estimate that through accessing services 251 women would not attend A&E	£55,722
Eating disorder (adults) – admitted (per bed day)	£544 per day	108 people were admitted as inpatients in 2018 average length of stay in 2018 was 88 days. ⁶¹ We estimate that 1 person would avoid treatment for an eating disorder	£47,872
Behavioural activation delivered by a non-specialist	£205 per person per group	The SCJS shows that 38% of people said they had depression/anxiety. We estimate that 794 (19%) would avoid having to use these services.	£162,770
Substance misuse worker	£72 per hour	2019 prevalence of hazardous drinking in women was 11% ⁶² We estimate that 460 women would not require treatment for substance misuse – we estimate this based on 2 hours per week for 6 months	£1,722,240
Accessing CAMHS	£252 per contact	Referrals to CAMHS for NHS Glasgow and Clyde was 9.2% in 2019 ⁶³ We estimate that 73 young people would avoid seeing CAMHS on a weekly basis for 6 months	£478,296

⁶¹ <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/independent-report/2021/06/national-review-eating-disorder-services/documents/appendix-5-admissions-data/appendix-5-admissions-data/govscot%3Adocument/appendix-5-admissions-data.docx>

⁶² <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-health-survey-2019-volume-1-main-report/pages/7/>

⁶³ <https://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Mental-Health/Publications/2019-06-04/2019-06-04-CAMHS-WaitingTimes-Report.pdf>

Counselling intervention for children	£1,1,65 per programme	As above we estimate that 73 young people would avoid accessing a counselling intervention	£85,045
Looked after children – local authority care home	£4986 per child per week	20% of GEWA referrals in 2020-21 were from Social work, we estimate that 41 (5% of social work referrals) children avoid needing to be looked after each year and 10 of these avoid being accommodated in a care home for 6 months	£1,296,360
Foster care	£622 per child per week	As above we estimate that 31 children and young people avoid being looked after by a foster carer for 6 months	£501,332
Children’s social worker	£52 per hour	We estimate that as a result of accessing specialist support that 209 (5%) of families no longer require social work support (this is based on 2 hours per week)	£565,136
Accessing parenting programme	£4102 per programme	We estimate that as a result of accessing specialist support 104 women don’t need to access parenting support	£426,608
Abortion services	£1599	According to the SCJS, 2% of individuals accessed abortion services as a result of partner abuse. We estimate that 50 women avoid accessing abortion as a result of accessing services	£79,950
Cost of Homelessness	£20,128 ⁶⁴	2045 women presented as homeless in 2019 ⁶⁵ We estimate that as a result of accessing support 42 women avoid becoming homeless	£845,376
Total Savings per year			£6,415,107

⁶⁴ Pleace, N.(2015).At what cost? An estimation of the financial costs of single homelessness in the UK. London: Crisis.

⁶⁵ <https://www.glasgowalliance.org/glasgows-homeless/>

It is estimated that in 2016 the cost of each murder was £3,291,046⁶⁶, through the provision of specialist services we know that women, children and young people are safer and that risk is reduced, it is impossible to say how many murders are avoided. While the cost of suicide in Scotland was estimated at £1.3million in 2006.⁶⁷ Again there is no way to estimate how many suicides are prevented as a result of the intervention of specialist services but the savings to the public purse is immense.

The benefit of VAWG services to Glasgow

Interviewees and survey respondents identified that specialist violence against women services benefited Glasgow in the following ways:

Gives Women Choices

All survey respondents stated that frontline specialist violence against women organisations were extremely valuable in providing crisis support and supporting women, children and young people to recover from their experiences and that the variety of services meant individuals had a choice about who to engage with and when to engage.

'I think a lot of women would be suffering in silence if these services did not exist or were not available. These services are tailored and delivered in such a way that it makes it 'easier' for women to access and feel comfortable. I have dealt with customers directly who use this VAWG service and they wouldn't turn to the police or relative and would often remain being subjected to abuse. without this service, this would continue across many cases.' Survey Response

'Specialist VAW services each form part of a continuum of support in the City for Women and children who experience all forms of VAW, enabling the right service to be available to meet the needs of the victim. Collaboration across the services enables each provider to deliver their interventions and support knowing that colleagues will support with their skills.' Survey Response

Participants also stated that if these services were not available and individuals did not have a choice, women would opt not to access support. This ties in with the literature review and reinforces why women engage with women's only and specialist VAWG services.

Certain interviewees stated that the services in the city provided women with a choice about who to engage with and also ensured that whatever a woman's experience of violence against women and girls there were services there for you

'We should take some pride in and aim for it to be part of our vision that whether you are a woman fleeing domestic abuse or a woman who has been trafficked for the

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https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/954485/the-economic-and-social-costs-of-crime-horr99.pdf

⁶⁷https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/215808/dh_123993.pdf

purposes of sexual exploitation, a woman who has experience of sexual violence and sexual harm or who is a survivor of Childhood Sexual Abuse and needs support there is a service available for you.' Interviewee 1

'Services are essential, bring the trauma-informed and specialist knowledge, offer options for women to engage with that doesn't involve statutory agencies.'
Interviewee 2

'When we meet a woman, we're looking at who she is already in contact with, hopefully to ease her, to give her a bridge into the other services that she needs.'
Interviewee 7

As identified by the literature review, survey respondents highlighted that the availability of specialist women's services not only impacted directly on women being supported but there were wider benefits for families and communities from these services.

'They make an impact in not just the clients but because of confidence, they instilled in clients. Their families their friends and neighbours all benefit as they are dealing with happier more content people that they don't need to support as much. These classes are life-changing. VAWG specialist services are making day and daily a difference in their lives.' Survey Response

'We inform and support and educate and encourage women to kind of move from enduring these situations to managing the situations, to walking away from the situations. And that is in anything, that's not just domestic abuse, that's in anything, that's bullying in the workplace or harassment in the workplace or your sister, your mother that makes demands on you' Interviewee 5

Act as a Critical Friend & Improve Practice in Other Organisations

All survey respondents who had an opinion (16) felt that the frontline organisations were extremely valuable due to them using their expertise to support staff in partner organisations and because of the work they do advocating for changes in policy and practice to help ensure women, children and young people's needs are better met.

'VAWG services play a key role in each of these areas using their specialist expertise, knowledge and skills to support women and children as well as supporting wider support services when working with these individuals and also advocating and driving forward strategic/structural changes.' Survey Response

Interviewees reflected that frontline VAWG organisations play a critical role in holding organisations and agencies to account to ensure that policy and practice in relation to how they work with those affected by VAWG. The expertise that the frontline organisations share helps develop better policies and service responses within Glasgow. Interviewees raised that frontline organisations were not always resourced to do this work and often this was undertaken on top of other work and this could make it challenging for organisations to participate or to be heard.

'I think overwhelmingly we bring experience and we also, we're not scared. We're not frightened to say what we feel, and we're not frightened to challenge, and we're not frightened to praise. We're not frightened to support. I think that we have a good reputation for that. And I think that's a reputation you get when you've been doing it for nearly 30 years.' Interviewee 5

'Acting as a critical friend for non-specialist services provides added value if they are able to play that role and if it is resourced' Interviewee 3

'Inform policy and approaches to tackling and eradicating VAWG' interviewee 1

Survey respondents also stated that the training provided by specialist violence against women organisations was extremely valuable in helping improve practice in non-specialist organisations

'Any organisation offering support, raising awareness, providing training etc relating to violence against women are extremely valuable to the community.' Survey Response

'Training for staff in the various agencies is vital for service delivery.' Survey Response

Inform Strategic Developments Across the City

Both survey respondents and those interviewed believed that specialist violence against women organisations are essential for ensuring the voices of women, children and young people were heard by those in policy and strategic roles.

'We are dependent on frontline women organisations tell us (as a strategic level) this is an issue, this a trend and bring this lived experience/learned experience to create awareness of issues, because of the diversity of the organisations in Glasgow we get information on all forms of VAWG and not just domestic abuse, this brings a bigger picture together for us, which is fundamentally important for strategic planning.' Interviewee 1

'Violence against women continues to be a widespread issue within households across Glasgow and worldwide. At a Glasgow level, we need the practical, emotional and strategic support that these services offer to women and children, their families and also to hear their voices through the citywide and national supports and strategies that develop as well as skilling up organisations to respond appropriately to the VAW issue without prejudice and with compassion.' Survey Response

'The services also provide evidence of need and lived experience to create a greater understanding of VAW in the City, evidencing the need to make systemic change, impacting both local and national strategy and outcomes.' Survey Response

Interviewees highlighted the importance of having specialist VAWG services, they recognised that specialist support is essential and proactive in ensuring that violence against women is an agenda item across a wide variety of policy areas.

It was recognised by survey respondents and interviewees that the impact of VAWG cut across a huge number of policy areas due to its wide-ranging impact and that it was the experience of these workers that those in other policy areas did not think about VAWG or have an understanding of how violence against women impacts on women's lives.

'It's not difficult to link VAWG work with other priorities – drugs deaths, child poverty, suicide prevention etc, specialist services are constantly having to retroactively have this area identified in these work plans – silo working has developed and puts barriers up but if properly resources specialist organisations can help ensure this is addressed across all relevant policy agendas.' Interviewee 4

'Leadership isn't as strong about how VAWG and gender inequality impacts on other areas of work – Partnership only reports into safe committee and isn't seen by other committees or management team, so that it isn't seen politically and doesn't have the profile that is needed. Still seen as a women's issue and needs to be everyone's issue, need to see the links with wider gender inequality.' Interviewee 2

Reduce the need for statutory intervention now and in the future – reducing costs to the public purse and preventing future harm

Survey respondents and interviewees recognised that specialist violence against women services played a valuable role in meeting the needs of women affected by different forms of VAWG and having specialist services reduced the need for statutory intervention reducing pressure on these agencies.

It was also identified that the work of specialist organisations played a preventative role in terms of VAWG but also in relation to child poverty, mental health and suicide prevention, substance misuse and drugs deaths, the criminal and community justice systems and adverse childhood experiences.

'There would be a significant gap in service provision for women and children affected by VAWG. This would place additional pressure on wider statutory and voluntary services. There would also be a gap in terms of strategic drivers both in terms of policy and procedures as well as pressure to change wider societal structures affecting women and children.' Survey Response

'I believe it is imperative that the services provided are retained, the impact if they were not available could have a catastrophic effect on current and future service users; also services such as these mitigate costs to statutory services, as they are able to intervene/provide support at crucial early stages and tailor support. The worry would be if the services were not retained, the replacement statutory 'support' could become regional or even national, the impact of this would be a lot less women and girls contacting for help, the impact of this again could be catastrophic.' Survey Response

'The women I work with heavily rely on these services for practical and mental health and peer support, awareness-raising and advocacy. These services play a critical role in tackling violence against women. Strained resources, barriers to access and lack of specialist provision in the statutory sector mean women would be largely left to fend for themselves without these critical services.' Survey Response

'We're talking about the needs of over 50% of Glasgow's population - to have those services available, as no woman or girl knows in advance when or if she might need them There's a plain and well-documented epidemic of VAWG - it would be a total disaster if specialist services were not be expanded and better-funded, as the supply does not yet meet the demand. Specialist services have demonstrated that prevention work is effective - but it's a long-term process, which needs time and support, before VAWG is eradicated.' Survey Response

'If we did not have the front-line specialist services, we would have a greater level of crisis and families in need of intensive intervention, potentially statutory intervention by colleagues in SWS, Police. There would also be a significant risk of harm/murder if we did not have the services. Our front-line services support women and children to make informed choices, of risk assessing and safety planning to determine their future. This is a long slow journey and women and children experiencing Violence need intensive support in their road to recovery, to reintegrate into mainstream society and to build resilience'. Survey Response

'if women are coming to us and receiving a good service, they are reducing the footfall in social work and housing and health care. People are actively able to get back to work, or into education and make an economic contribution, all of those things.' Interviewee 9

Several interviewees explored the idea that gender inequality and VAWG are the root cause of many other societal issues which are priorities for agencies at a local and national level yet VAWG is often unseen within these (i.e., drugs deaths, suicide prevention, rapid rehousing)

'Why are we throwing money at symptoms? Let's get to the root cause and then you'll have more long-term benefits of the investment that you're making.'
Interviewee 11

'It's a Public health issue and we need to protect women and we need to take this seriously and join the dots' Interviewee 2

Impact of Current Funding Arrangements

The SGVAW organisations have a patchwork of funding the majority of which is due to end by 2023.

The impact of the rollercoaster of short-term funding arrangements has upon the organisation's service development was commented upon by several interviewees, namely:

- The diversity of funders is time-consuming in terms of application preparation, submission and reporting which can take the focus away from service development.
- The constant cycle of temporary funding arrangements and fixed-term contracts impacts negatively upon staff morale, retainment of experienced workers, investment in training and development and staff capacity
- Constant reducing grants impacting upon specific areas of budget whilst there is an increased demand for support/service.
- The timescales set by funders in relation to the successful outcomes or otherwise of funding applications are in our experience given at short notice. Managers, therefore, do not know whether staff costs and running costs will be paid. This creates anxiety and worry.

'Worried about the toll this is taking on organisations. Shouldn't take a pandemic to see that these services are essential' Interviewee 2

'local specialist services not having to be in a constant short-term funding cycle would free up capacity.' Interviewee 3

'Short term funding means organisation run from one funding stream to another and you lack the opportunity to evolve, develop and look to the future what are we doing next as there is no consistency across funders and organisations who have multiple funders then have to spend a huge amount of time meeting the needs of funders.' Interviewee 1

'When it comes to doing funding and justifying our existence that's really stressful, how we impact women is what is the most important thing to us – behind every stat is a woman' Interviewee 5

'It's the patchwork that becomes the challenge for services which are recognised increasingly as not optional.' Interviewee 10

'it means you're staggering around trying to jigsaw all those pots together to make sure that you can project forward and have a plan that keeps running for the next three years.' Interviewee 8

'Knowing that we might be made redundant, waiting for the date when they would tell us we would be made redundant so that we can put an exit plan in place, an exit strategy because the cost attached to it is huge and we need to know quite specifically when do we stop and how do we run down this service safely. for me, it's, what about the women that are left in these circumstances. And I think it's so important that whoever makes those funding decisions knows the impact of the decisions they're making. So if they cut services or they reduce services, what that means to women.' Interviewee 7

The specialist providers spoke about the impact that standstill or reducing funding has on services and how they have been constantly juggling increasing costs and increasing demands without the required increase in funding.

'Given that we've had a lack of increase to our budget over the past God knows how many years and accommodation is going up and transport is going up and childcare is going up and interpreters and personal assistants are going up, it leaves us very, very little money for other costs.' Interviewee 5

'Despite Glasgow City Council not funding us 'we still do get quite a demand from Glasgow City Council, and also for social workers and other city council workers wanting to refer to us.' Interviewee 6

'It got to the point where the funding was for the southeast. And really what we've done is we've just extended the boundary, but we've never really got more funding for that.' Interviewee 7

'And that's staffing and overheads and different things, and it's really difficult getting them to pay. I mean it's insane to get them to pay for overheads.' Interviewee 8

'It's alright somebody sitting somewhere saying let's just take ten grand, but ten grand for a small organisation's massive. I think it's that. I think it's unbelievable that we're living in this day and age still all these years later, with domestic abuse increasing rather than getting less. That we're still sitting here, scrambling for money, from a council, and councils across the place that - what would they do without us?' Interviewee 8

'The challenge that any third sector organisation has is that the funding is always for the delivery of the work, and a lot of them if you like, the other costs, the management corporate overheads you know, so investment in a decent website, investment in management and finance processes and policy campaigns work, training - the nice to haves - is not often something that you can secure funding for. So I guess as part of the strategy, I'm looking at the investment and income raising strategy. And I suppose what I see is a huge vulnerability, because if we don't get the core funding from the ring-fenced funds, then it's difficult to know how we could sustain ourselves as an organisation.' Interviewee 9

The Case for Specialist Violence Against Women Services

The funding provided to violence against women services helps Glasgow City Council to:

1. Meet its legal and policy obligations
2. Meet the aims of the Community Plan
3. Reduce the cost of VAWG to the city
4. Take a preventative approach to VAWG, child poverty, drug deaths, suicide and gender inequality
5. Saves and changes lives

1. Meet its legal and policy obligations

Investment in specialist violence against women services helps meet public bodies (including Glasgow City Council's) legal obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty to have due regard and advance equality of opportunity by removing disadvantages experienced by women and girls and by ensuring that women and girls needs are met.

The Scottish Government have announced their intention to introduce the human rights obligations set out in CEDAW into Scottish legislation, ensuring women, children and young people have access to independent specialist services will likely help meet obligations under this.

Equally Safe is the Scottish Government and COSLA strategy to prevent and eradicate VAWG. The work of these specialist organisations helps Glasgow City Council achieve the outcomes set out within this.

2. Meet the Aims of the Glasgow Community Plan

The work of specialist VAWG organisations helps the City to achieve its strategic priorities. As shown above, the work of specialist violence against women services is intrinsically linked with the Community Planning Partnership's priorities. In terms of Economic Growth their work:

- helps women to regain their independence, build confidence and self-esteem and help many to move into education, training or employment.
- the organisations bring over £3million in additional funding from a variety of funders creating jobs and spending in the area.
- provides financial support to women and girls and tackles financial exclusion (organisations work with asylum-seeking and refugee women, as well as those with No Recourse to Public Funds)

In relation to Resilient Communities, their work supports:

- Women to develop confidence and skills to participate in their communities
- It supports those who access services to amplify their voices by being involved in the development of their support, the overall service as well as systemic advocacy to help break down the barriers that they often experience when coming into contact with agencies
- Increases women and girls' sense of safety in their environments

In relation to a Fairer and More Equal Glasgow their work:

- Reduces gender inequality and tackles gender stereotypes
- Tackles the attitudes and beliefs that cause VAWG
- Tackles homelessness and the root causes of homelessness

3. Reduces the Cost of VAWG to the City

As stated earlier in this report (pg24) it is estimated that VAWG costs Glasgow over £1.1billion each year arising from the cost of harm, costs to public services and lost output.

Social Return on Investment assessments of specialist services estimates that for every £1 spent on them a return of between £5.99 and £6.82 is achieved, these benefits accrue from increasing women's immediate safety, improving access to justice, improving physical, mental and financial wellbeing helping individuals to move on with their lives and reduces the costs to wider society from VAWG.

Interviewees and respondents to the survey were clear that the work of specialist violence against women and girls' organisations reduced women, children and young people's reliance on statutory services including criminal justice services, social work and health.

The analysis on page 26 identified that services prevent over £6million in spending per year (this is based on a conservative estimate of savings VAWG services make and doesn't include the savings from preventing suicide or murder).

Services help amplify the voices of women, children and young people improving responses from non-specialist agencies, by raising awareness of VAWG so it is identified earlier and that when it is identified responses are appropriate, so harm is reduced and as such costs to the public purse are reduced.

4. Take a preventative approach to child poverty, drug deaths, suicide, homelessness and gender inequality

VAWG has wide-ranging impacts and is a root cause of many societal issues which are policy priorities at a national and local level. Providing support to help women to recover from their experiences of gender-based violence, tackling attitudes and beliefs which allow VAWG to occur, specialist organisations positively respond to tackling child poverty, drug deaths, suicides, homelessness, need for social work intervention and gender inequality.

5. Saves lives and changes lives

The work of specialist violence against women organisations saves and changes lives, reduces risk from perpetrators, helps women, children and young people recover from their experiences, deals with the impact of trauma, and mitigates the impact of poor agency responses by advocating for individual and systems change at a local and national level.

Conclusion

Specialist violence against women services provide a multitude of benefits to women, children and young people who access these services, to wider society, to public services and to the economy.

Violence against women (VAW) is endemic in Scottish society. It costs Glasgow over £1.1 billion per year, as evidenced by the harm it causes to women, children & young people, the cost to public services and the cost to the wider economy through lost output. VAW is linked with:

- Women and children's homelessness
- Women's problematic substance use
- Suicide and suicidality in women
- Child poverty
- Destitution (no recourse to public funds)
- Barriers to service provision
- Socio-cultural traditions and harmful practices
- Having an insecure immigration status
- Child removals and social work intervention
- Poorer mental health in women, children and young people (including issues with body image, anxiety and depression and trauma-related symptoms)
- Long-term physical health conditions in women, children and young people
- Women's inequality

The current short-term funding arrangements impact negatively upon these organisations' ability to:

- focus on the development of services
- retain staff and keep staff morale high
- manage increased demand for services (some services are running waiting lists which impacts survivor's ability to access services at the point they require them)
- be visible at a strategic level over a number of policy areas, ensuring the links with VAW and gender inequality are recognised across these policy areas.

By providing longer-term and secure core funding, specialist services will be able to continue to develop innovative services which meet the needs of survivors and help address local and national policy priorities while saving the public purse from escalating costs if these issues are not immediately aren't addressed.

Violence against women can often be a root cause of wider societal issues such as drug deaths, suicide, child poverty and homelessness. Specialist and dedicated violence against women organisations are key in preventing and confronting these issues through the provision of direct support to those who have experience of VAW and also working to prevent VAW from happening in the first place. To fulfil these roles, it is essential that specialist violence against women organisations have secure core funding.

Appendix 1.

Services provided by Standing Group Organisations

Daisy Project (<https://thedaisyproject.org.uk/about-us/daisy-services-at-a-glance/>)

Provides services to women, children and young people across the South of Glasgow, services include:

- One to one advocacy and information for women, children and young people
- One to one practical and emotional support for women, children and young people
- Risk assessment and safety planning (IDAA qualified staff)
- Culturally appropriate BME service (Urdu and Punjabi spoken by our staff members)
- Court support – especially around civil court matters
- Peer support groups
- Attendance at multi-agency and strategic groups
- Awareness-raising in communities across the South of Glasgow

Greater Easterhouse Women's Aid (https://www.gewa.org.uk/support/#rslider_9)

Provides services to women, children and young people across the East of Glasgow services include:

- One to one advocacy and information for women, children and young people
- One to one practical and emotional support for women, children and young people
- Safe temporary accommodation for women, children and young people
- Drop-in service for crisis support
- Risk assessment and safety planning (IDAA qualified staff)
- Trauma Counselling
- Specialist support for women with co-occurring domestic abuse and substance misuse issues
- Family support with a focus on building attachment
- Family Financial Support
- Peer support groups
- Attendance at multi-agency and strategic groups
- Training to other agencies
- Awareness-raising in communities across Glasgow

Glasgow and Clyde Rape Crisis (<https://www.glasgowclyderapecrisis.org.uk>)

Provides services to women and girls and those who identify as women, who have experienced sexual assault, rape or abuse at any time in their lives

- One to one advocacy and information for women and young people who have or are considering reporting a crime
- One to one emotional support for women and young people
- Drop-in service
- Helpline

- Instant messaging service/support
- Peer support groups
- Prevention work (focused on schools)
- Culturally specific support to BME communities
- University support service (based in Strathclyde university)
- Attendance at multi-agency and strategic groups
- Training to other agencies
- Awareness-raising in communities across Glasgow

Glasgow Women's Aid (<https://glasgowwomensaid.org.uk>)

Provides service to women, children and young people from across Glasgow, services include

- One to one advocacy and information for women, children and young people
- One to one practical and emotional support for women, children and young people
- Safe temporary accommodation for women, children and young people
- Crisis helpline (Drop-in suspended due to Covid)
- Risk assessment and safety planning (MARAC service across Glasgow for those not engaged with the criminal justice system)
- Group work (own my life, living life to the full, yoga, mindfulness)
- Peer Support Group on child contact
- Play therapy for children and young people
- Helping Hands group for children
- Prevention work (focused on schools)
- Attendance at multi-agency and strategic groups
- Training to other agencies/organisations
- Awareness-raising in communities across Glasgow

Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid (<https://www.hematgryffe.org.uk>)

Provides service to women, children, and young people from across Glasgow primarily from the Asian, Black and Minority Ethnic communities, who are victim-survivors of domestic abuse, forced marriage and so-called 'honour based' abuse. Services include

- Culturally appropriate BME services: Refuge, follow on and crisis/outreach services
- Bilingual support available to women, children, and young people
- Support women who have an insecure immigration status and have no recourse to public funds
- Support for forced marriage, honour abuse and intimate partner/multi perpetrator abuse
- One to one advocacy and information for women, children and young people
- One to one practical and emotional support for women, children and young people
- Refuge accommodation for women, children and young people
- Risk assessment and safety planning
- Peer Support Groups
- Attendance at multi-agency and strategic groups
- Training to other agencies/organisations
- Awareness-raising in communities across Glasgow

SAY Women (<https://www.say-women.co.uk>)

Provides services to young women aged 16 to 25 who are survivors of sexual abuse, rape or sexual assault and who are homeless, or threatened with homelessness, services include:

- Safe temporary accommodation
- One to one emotional and practical support
- Support to sustain tenancies
- Peer Support Groups (storytelling, art therapy)
- Attendance at multi-agency and strategic groups
- Training to other agencies/organisations
- Awareness-raising in communities across Glasgow

Wise Women (<https://www.wisewomen.org.uk>)

Wise Women address women's fears and experiences of crime and violence in local Glasgow communities, services include:

- Women's confidence and personal safety courses
- Attendance at multi-agency and strategic groups (including providing the secretariat to the Glasgow Women's Voluntary Sector Network)
- Training to other agencies/organisations
- Awareness-raising in communities across Glasgow

Women's Support Project (<https://www.womenssupportproject.org.uk>)

Women's Support Project works to end violence against women, they work to raise awareness of the root causes, extent, and impact of male violence and for improved services for those affected. They focus on addressing unmet needs and emerging issues, making links between different forms of violence and abuse, and supporting multiagency and partnership approaches. Services include:

- Rights and Choices (provides befriending support and short courses to migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women)
- FGM Aware – producing resources to raise awareness of FGM
- Reducing harm from CSE (leads on work to reduce the harm caused by CSE)
- Attendance at multi-agency and strategic groups
- Training to other agencies/organisations