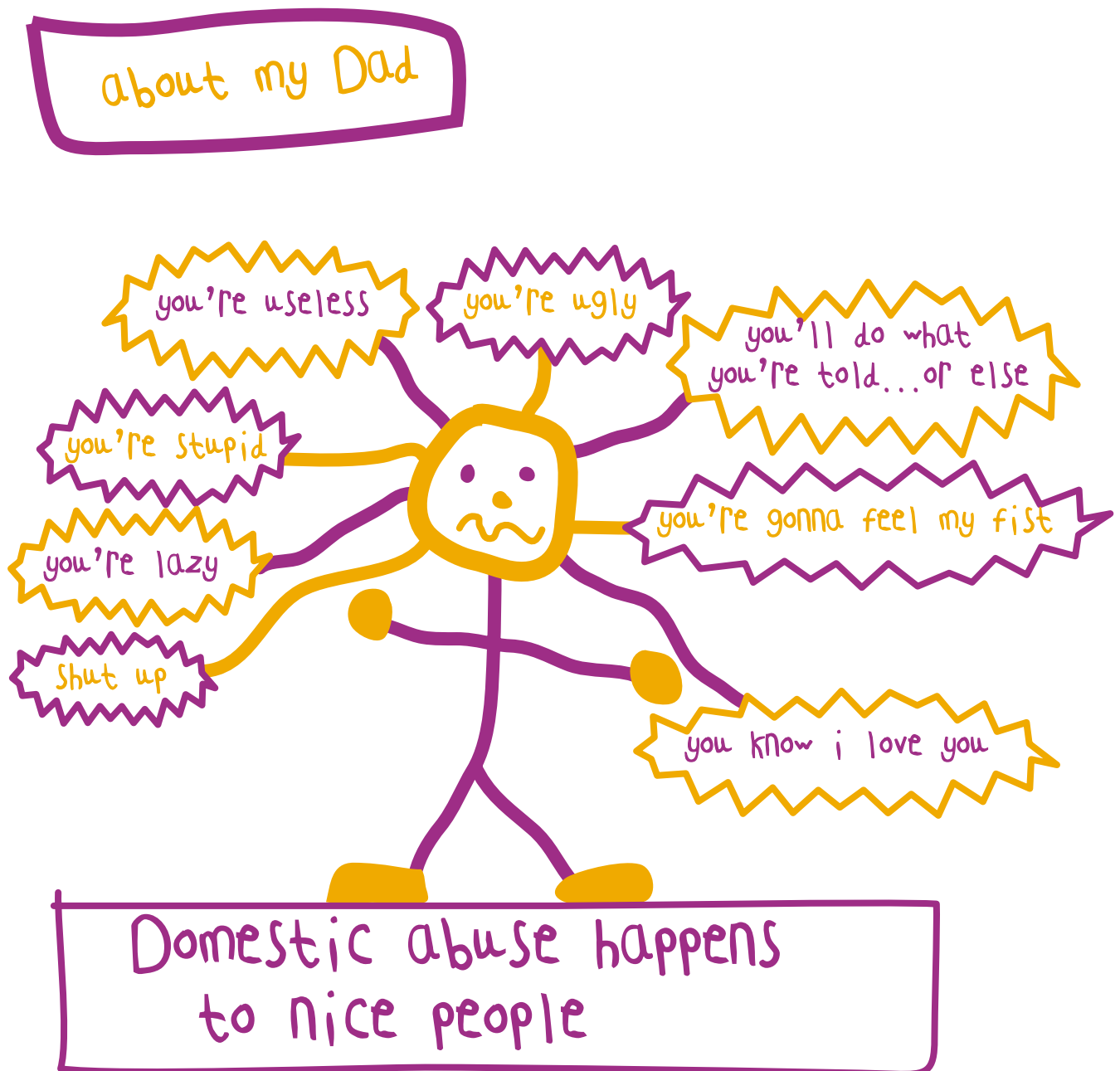


Children and young people

EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC ABUSE

Guidance Note for Planners



abuse



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

I am entitled to

Reell

SAFFA!



Children and young people

EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC ABUSE

Guidance Note for Planners

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Ministerial Foreword



Our vision is for every child and young person in Scotland, whatever their circumstances, to be safe, nurtured, healthy, achieving, active, respected, responsible and included.

It is estimated that around 100,000 children and young people in Scotland may be affected by domestic abuse. The National Strategy to Address Domestic Abuse in Scotland (2000) acknowledged the impact that domestic abuse can have on lives of children and young people; on their emotional well-being, their physical health, their education and their lifestyles. There is correlation between domestic abuse and the physical and sexual abuse of children. Children and young people affected by domestic abuse tell us themselves of their feelings of guilt, shame, anger, fear and helplessness.


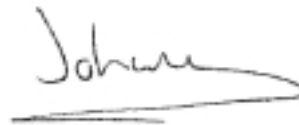
Since January 2003 we have provided additional funding of almost £0.5 million to ensure that every Women's Aid group in Scotland has at least one dedicated children's worker. Research confirms positive examples of local service provision for children and young people affected by domestic abuse, but also that these services are not consistent between areas of Scotland and that provision is often insecure.

Revised Scottish Executive guidance on the preparation of local Children's Services Plans encourages local agencies to ensure integrated approaches to the planning and delivery of services for all children and young people, in particular for those who are at risk or in need of additional support. This guidance note for local planners complements that guidance and draws together existing good practice and advice on meeting the needs of children and young people affected by domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse is not acceptable in modern Scotland and we are committed, with others at national and local levels, to tackling its causes and consequences. We encourage local children's services planners to consider the attached guidance note and to ensure that the needs of children and young people affected by domestic abuse are reflected in their strategic plans and local service delivery.



Euan Robson MSP
Deputy Minister for Education
and Young People



Johann Lamont MSP
Deputy Minister for Communities

Give a firm promise
to make resources available to
support children
-
Keep your promise

The purpose of this document is to provide planners in local public agencies with a guide to incorporating the needs of Children and Young People Experiencing Domestic Abuse (CYPEDA) into key local plans to ensure effective support for this group of children and young people in need within refuges and in the community. It supplements guidance on integrated Children's Services Plan 2005-2008 issued by the Scottish Executive.

There is considerable evidence to suggest that there are large numbers of children and young people experiencing domestic abuse (CYPEDA) in Scotland and that the difficulties they face are likely to be ongoing and serious (*Scottish Executive: 2000*).

The nature and extent of the problem, gaps in the current level, quality, spread and funding of services to this group, and the importance of addressing their needs urgently and as a national priority has been highlighted in a number of recent document and reports. This document draws together findings and recommendations to aid planners in the planning process. The document is issued by the National Group to Address Violence Against Women and has been developed by a working group involving officials from the Scottish Executive Equality Unit, Health Department and Education Department Child Protection, Early Education & Childcare and Integrated Children's Services Teams, COSLA, Scottish Women's Aid, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and NHS Health Scotland. It specifically aims to:

- Ensure CYPEDA are recognised as 'children in need'¹ and a particular group requiring service.
- Ensure a strategic, integrated approach to providing the range of services to address the therapeutic, practical and support needs of CYPEDA, locally and nationally.
- Consider the requirement for increased specialist service for CYPEDA in each area.
- Improve and integrate the response of all agencies to increase partnership working and good practice in relation to CYPEDA.

This guidance note is issued within the context of the joint COSLA and Scottish Executive partnership priority for better integrating services for children and young people, in particular for those that are vulnerable or disadvantaged. The note complements revised guidance issued on integrated children's services planning and specific policy initiatives, including the Child Protection Reform programme, Integrated Community School approach, *Starting Together* – Integrated Early Years Strategy.

¹ The definition of 'children in need' contained in the Children Scotland (Act) 1995 was expanded in Audit and Review of Child Protection to include CYPEDA

The Scottish Executive has set out a broad vision of expectations and aspirations for all children and young people, applying across the full range of policy initiatives and services. Each of the statements within the vision is relevant to the experiences of CYPEDA. Children and Young People in Scotland should be valued by ensuring that they are:

- **Safe:** Children and young people should be protected from abuse, neglect and harm by others at home, at school and in the community.
- **Nurtured:** Children and young people should live within a supportive family setting, with additional assistance if required, or, where this is not possible, within another caring setting, ensuring a positive and rewarding childhood experience.
- **Healthy:** Children and young people should enjoy the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, with access to suitable healthcare and support for safe and healthy lifestyle choices.
- **Achieving:** Children and young people should have access to positive learning environments and opportunities to develop their skills, confidence and self esteem to the fullest potential.
- **Active:** Children and young people should be active with opportunities and encouragement to participate in play and recreation, including sport.
- **Respected & Responsible:** Children, young people and their carers should be involved in decisions that affect them, should have their voices heard and should be encouraged to play an active and responsible role in their communities.
- **Included:** Children, young people and their families should have access to high quality services, when required, and should be assisted to overcome the social, educational, physical, environmental and economic barriers that create inequality.

The guidance recognises that the support of the non-abusing parent is crucial to the child's welfare, and therefore that making genuine alliances with non-abusing parents, providing support for them and recognising that this a key element in the support and protection for the child, is crucial to short and long term outcomes for the child.

2

Nature and Extent of the Problem

help with the
children because
there hurt.
E

This section provides information for local children's services planning partners about the extent and seriousness of the difficulties facing CYPEDA² in Scotland.

The National Strategy (*Scottish Executive: 2000*) estimated that a quarter to a third of all women in Scotland will experience domestic abuse at some point in their lives. While no precise figures exist about the number of CYPEDA in Scotland, extrapolating from what is known about women, it can be assumed that it is extensive (*Mullender et al 2002*); somewhere in the region of 100,000 children (*Scottish Executive: 2001*). The National Strategy also highlighted the difficulties faced by children living in situations where mothers are being abused:

It must be recognised that children are witness to and subjected to much of this abuse and there is some correlation between domestic abuse and the mental, physical and sexual abuse of children (*Scottish Executive: 2000*).

² For the purpose of this note the definition Domestic Abuse contained in the National Strategy to Address Domestic Abuse in Scotland will be used 'Domestic abuse (as gender based abuse) can be perpetrated by partners or ex-partners and can include physical abuse (assault and physical attack involving a range of behaviour) sexual abuse (acts which denigrate and humiliate women and are perpetrated against their will, including rape) and mental and emotional abuse; withholding money and other types of controlling behaviour such as isolation from family and friends.' (*Scottish Executive: 2000*)

The 2002 Audit and Review of Child Protection highlighted some of the likely effects and implications for children living in households where there is domestic abuse:

‘In addition to the emotional impact of living in an atmosphere of violence, there is also evidence to suggest that men who abuse their partners may also abuse their children, or force them to participate in the abuse of their mothers. Children often try to protect their mothers from physical assaults and may be injured themselves as a result. Children living with domestic abuse may suffer from stress-related illnesses and conditions and experience feelings of guilt, shame, anger, fear and helplessness’ (*Scottish Executive: 2002*).

Children in this situation have varying experiences and different kinds of difficulties. This has implications for planners in needing to ensure there is a range of services in place to meet the needs of children facing different levels of difficulty and trauma.

to help us keep
safe.

R

feel what the
children feel.

L

3

CYPEDA: A Priority Group for Service

Think about the consequences of denying young people support. We are the adults of the future. We will vote we will make decisions and we will run the country

A

CYPEDA have been identified as a priority group for service in reports and documents produced and commissioned by the Scottish Executive since the publication of the National Strategy to Address Domestic Abuse in Scotland in 2000.

- **The National Strategy to Address Domestic Abuse** (*Scottish Executive: 2000*) highlighted the duty to this group under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular in relation to Article 19:
‘States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child’. (*UNICEF*)
- **The National Strategy** recognised the extent of the problem and recommended urgent action to ‘develop a clear understanding of the needs of CYPEDA as a specific group’ (*Scottish Executive: 2000*):
‘All women or children who experience abuse must receive the support and services to enable them to identify their needs, to make choices and to have these needs addressed, as well as to participate in developing services to address their needs in the future. It should be recognised that children require services which meet their specific needs’. (*Scottish Executive: 2000: 7*)

- **The Audit and Review of Child Protection** (*Scottish Executive: 2002*) also highlighted the needs of CYPEDA by recommending they be regarded as a particular group 'in need' under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, widening the definition of child abuse to include CYPEDA:
 'As understanding of child abuse and neglect has increased, situations which are considered to be abusive or neglectful have broadened to include domestic abuse (primarily of mothers) which causes physical or emotional abuse of children' (*Scottish Executive: 2002*).
- **The Audit and Review** also recommended that provision of services to CYPEDA should be a priority for interagency planning and that a more comprehensive and unified approach to meeting their needs was required (*Scottish Executive: 2002*).
- **'Responding to Domestic Abuse: Guidelines for Healthcare Workers in NHS Scotland'** (*Scottish Executive: 2003*) states that good health care, education and family support are essential services to safeguard and promote children's welfare, recognising that:
 'Children and young people suffer in many ways when living with and witnessing domestic abuse. They may experience emotional disturbance, physical disorders and disruptions to lifestyle.'
 (*Scottish Executive: 2003*).
- **'Protecting Children and Young People: the Charter'** (*Scottish Executive: 2004*) and **'Protecting Children and Young People: Framework for Standards'** (*Scottish Executive: 2004*), while not mentioning CYPEDA directly, are relevant and key in considering this group of children and young people.
- **Revised Scottish Executive Guidance** (2004) on integrated children's services planning confirmed CYPEDA within the definition of 'children in need' and as a priority for inter-agency planning.

With the growing recognition of the nature and extent of the problems facing CYPEDA and their inclusion in the Children's Services Planning Guidance as a national priority, local planning partners are requested to take urgent action to review and take account of their needs.

4

Service Delivery and Funding

give money to allow
workers work with
children who have
suffered Domestic
Violence

4.1 Service Delivery

Reports and reviews have highlighted service delivery difficulties (level, spread and quality) to CYPEDA:

- **The Audit and Review of Child Protection (Scottish Executive: 2002)** commended agencies for recognising that domestic abuse constitutes emotional abuse of children and that they could also be at risk of being physically and sexually abused. However, it also highlighted that agency response to these children has been 'haphazard' and that viewing them as immediately in need of child protection is not helpful (*Scottish Executive: 2002*).
- **The Audit and Review** also states that agencies and professionals need to exercise greater levels of judgement, in consultation with others, about the best approach to securing a child's welfare, and recognise that protecting the mother may be the best way to protect the child or children.

- The Scottish Executive funded research, **‘Mapping Support Services to Children and Young People Experiencing Domestic Abuse in Scotland’** (Stafford: 2003)³ reported that provision to this vulnerable group is unevenly spread between and within authorities in a way not apparently related to need or population density. In particular it highlighted a major gap in the provision of specialist services to CYPEDA living in the community who have never had contact with a Women’s Aid Refuge (Stafford: 2003).
- The Scottish Executive funded research **‘Women’s Aid, ‘Refuges for Women, Children and Young People in Scotland’** also highlighted wide variation in the level and quality of Refuges and service provision (Fitzpatrick et al: 2003).

Earlier, research reviewed in the National Strategy (and conducted in 1997/78) on domestic abuse in general, highlighted similar gaps; summarised as follows:

‘Constrained access to services from both women and children through a lack of information, confusion about service providers’ roles, inconsistent geographical provision, inconsistent funding and lack of funding, variations in application of resources, lack of consistent commitment from decision makers, the provision of responses which may be inappropriate, and a lack of overall co-ordination, training and monitoring’

Planners may wish to take account of these identified service difficulties in relation to this group of children and young people in future planning.

³ Mapping Support Service to Children and Young People Experiencing Domestic Abuse in Scotland (Stafford: 2003) is available on the SE website.

4.2 Funding

Funding for services to CYPEDA has also been highlighted as *ad hoc*, uncertain, highly mixed and financed from more than 20 sources. (Stafford: 2003). Funding is largely directed at 98 Women's Aid Children's Support Workers (CSW), with 6 awareness raising posts managed by the local authority.

Table 1 shows the situation at November 2003. The biggest single funding source for services to CYPEDA remains core LA grant funding.(shown as LA (Core), £714K out of £2m). Other posts were funded from the newer funding streams, in particular the Domestic Abuse Service Development Fund (DASDF) matched with local authority funding (£392K). This was followed by the interim funding released by the Scottish Executive in 2002/3 (shown as SE – Int) to fund CSWs in those Women's Aid Groups without one (£173K).

In the Glasgow Area, 9 of the 21 Children's Support Worker (CSW) posts were funded using Child Care Strategy (CC Strategy) monies, 6 were funded by the Social Inclusion Partnership (SIPs), In Fife, 5 of the 11 posts were funded from Sure Start monies, 5 using LA core grant funding, and one from Scottish Executive interim funding. Some CSW posts are funded from Trust funds. A significant number of areas use the Changing Children's Services Fund (CC SF), and one post is funded through the Health Improvement Fund (Health Im F).

Table 1: Funding by Funder

Sum of Fund Level	
Funder	Total
Benef	5,000
CC P/Ship	9,900
CC Strategy	195,445
CC SF	146,000
Comm Fund	22,000
DASDF/LA	391,730
Health Im F	25,000
LA (Core)	714,192
LA (SG)	21,000
LA/Trust	25,000
New Deal	20,000
SE – Int	173,374
SIPS	66,300
Supp Peop	99,000
Sure Start	97,220
Trust Funds	22,000
Vol Sec Grant	50,000
Grand Total	2,083,161

The majority of the posts and initiatives currently supporting children and young people experiencing Domestic Abuse are uncertainly funded and fixed term.

Planners are asked to note the above possible funding sources and think flexibly, creatively and strategically in planning for the sustainability and coherence of funding for these services in the future planning process.

Hear what the children
said and help them.

Z

5

Addressing the Problem

Listen to the
children. We need
support from adults
not sympathy

It is the responsibility of local children's services planning partners as to how to address the needs of CYPEDA. However, information from the mapping exercise and from best practice presentations to the Children and Domestic Abuse sub-group suggests that the needs of CYPEDA are likely to be best served when addressed in a strategic way and at a number of levels:

- Strategic Planning
- Services
- Prevention
- Training

These are addressed in the following 4 sections.

don't ignore me
just because I
am small?
C

6.1 Structure and Organisation

The National Strategy to Address Domestic abuse urged:

‘The development of links between service providers in planning their provision and in responding to the needs of women or children who experience domestic abuse is vital’ (*Scottish Executive: 2000: 33*)

It recommended ‘the development of multi-agency groups in each local area to oversee the identification of local needs and the development of an area approach’ (*Scottish Executive: 2000: 33*). While these are now in place, planners have acknowledged that with regard to links between relevant forums work remains to be done (*Stafford: 2003*). Evidence from the Mapping Support Services research (*Stafford: 2003*) suggests that the interests of CYPEDA might be best served where:

- The issue is directly addressed in all relevant forums, plans and planning processes i.e. Children’s Services Plans, Community Plans, Housing Plans, in the Joint Health Improvement Plan, in the Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Partnerships and Child Protection Committees.

- There are good formal and informal links between relevant forums.
- There is effective partnership working between the local authority and Women's Aid and where there is Women's Aid children's representation on key planning forums.
- Where the key role of the local Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Partnerships in co-ordinating planning services to this group and the links between this forum and the Children's Services planning process are recognised.

Planners are asked to review the way the Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Partnerships are working, and the formal and informal links between them and relevant other forums and take this into account in planning for services to CYPEDA.

6.2 Services Planning

The good practice guidelines contained in the National Strategy (*Scottish Executive: 2000*) in relation to policy and service planning included the need to:

- Carry out an audit of needs of women/children experiencing domestic abuse in the local area.
- Identify gaps in local services and priorities for local service delivery in relation to domestic abuse and identify means of meeting any outstanding needs.
- Recognise and address the specific needs of particular groups of women/children, such as women/children in rural areas, disabled women/children and women/children from black and minority ethnic groups.
- Recognise and address the specific needs of children and young people.
- Recognise and define the links between domestic abuse work and other areas of work, such as women's safety, community planning, community safety, education, health, criminal justice, the children's hearing system and other areas.

While this agenda may be underway in relation to addressing service needs of women experiencing domestic abuse, planners are asked to ensure the above applies equally to CYPEDA.



7 Services

Have a special
worker for
children so
she can talk
to them when
they are upset
or stress.

7.1 Current Service Position

The November 2003 mapping exercise reported the then state and level of service to this group (*Stafford: 2003*):

- Direct services to CYPEDA in Scotland are largely provided by the 89 Children's Support Workers (CSW) in Women's Aid.
- The majority of these (46) were exclusively based in Refuge. 43 offered various combinations of support including work in Refuge, Follow on/Resettlement support and Outreach support (5) to CYPEDA in the community and who have never been in Refuge.
- Spread of Children's Support Workers posts is uneven across local authority areas, ranging from none to 21 in a way not apparently related to need or to population density. Some of the larger authorities have a small number of CSWs while relatively small authorities are better resourced. For example, all but one LA area has at least one CSW, 17 authorities have 1 or 2 CSWs, 7 areas have 3; 2 have 4; 2 have 5 and 1 has 6. Notably, Fife and Glasgow have 11 and 21 respectively.
- 49 of the 98 CSW posts (50%) are full time (35 or more hours). Of the rest, 23 work between 25 and 34 hours; 26 work fewer than 25 hours.

- The LA contribution to services to CYPEDA is currently largely through the funding of CSW posts at Women's Aid. Few local authorities currently provide direct services to this group. Of the 98 posts identified offering support to CYPEDA, 6 are managed directly by and based in LA areas.
- Where LAs provide direct services to this group these are mainly posts focused on awareness raising, training and development.

7.2 General Service Delivery

The needs of CYPEDA are not the responsibility of one agency alone but require to be addressed by a range of local agencies, including:

Women's Aid	Housing Services
Benefits Agency	Court Services
Police	Health and medical services
Legal professionals	Scottish prison service
Social work services	Rape Crisis
Crown Office and Procurator	Scottish Children's Reporter
Fiscal Service	Administration
Education services	Other specialist voluntary organisations
Other local authority departments	

Charge the law
 Don't let men Break the
 Rules anymore ~~to~~ Because
 it not safe on children
 I miss my nice Dad not
 my angry dad. are you
 an angry Dad?
 Do you scare ~~you~~ your
 DOTS.
 M

Evidence from many sources suggests a tiered, coherent, strategic approach is needed to the provision of general services and to targeted specialist services to this group of children and young people. Local Children's Planning partners are asked to ensure agencies are singly and collectively working to promote and address the issue.

The Good Practice Guidance outlined in the National Strategy in relation to Service Delivery outlines that services should:

a. Information and Awareness

- Ensure that service providers are clear in relation to their own roles in responding to domestic abuse.
- Develop an understanding of the roles of other organisations in meeting needs.
- Undertake proactive publicity to inform women/children who experience domestic abuse, and other members of the community, about the roles of service providers.
- Develop an understanding of the diverse needs which women or children may have.
- Recognise and understand child protection issues.

Planners are asked to note that these good practice points apply equally to CYPEDA as to women.

treat domestic abuse
of women & children
as a serious crime
h

b. Approach

- Recognise the difficulties which women or children may face when disclosing domestic abuse and the specific difficulties in disclosure faced by some groups (such as disabled women/children and women/children from black and minority ethnic groups) and develop ways of encouraging disclosure (*Scottish Executive: 2000: 37*).
- Provide a means of identifying the specific needs of children (*Scottish Executive: 2000: 37*).

Planners are asked to note that these good practice points apply equally to CYPEDA as to women.

c. Evaluation and Monitoring

The National Strategy emphasises:

‘The collection of information and feedback in relation to service needs and provision is also a key aspect of good practice in responding to women or children who experience domestic abuse’ (*Scottish Executive: 2000: 40*).

It suggests among other things the need to consult women and children about services, to benchmark provision against standards, collect, collate and analyse information.

Planners are asked to note that these good practice points apply equally to CYPEDA as to women.

d. Service Standards

The National Strategy (*Scottish Executive: 2000: 41*) outlines service standards for women/children experiencing domestic abuse.

Women’s Aid and other organisations are working towards agreeing and implementing standards, both at national level (including Care Commission Standards) and locally through service level agreements. Planners are asked to monitor/ensure these standards are being applied to children’s services.

The following standards seem particularly applicable to services to CYPEDA:

- Specific support will be provided to meet children's needs.
- Refuge places will be made available to all of those who require these.
- Specific outreach support will be available to all those who require this.
- Access to specific support will be available on a 24-hour basis.

Planners are asked to note that these good practice points apply equally to CYPEDA as to women.

7.3 Specialist Support to CYPEDA in Refuge, Dispersed Flats, and Once Rehoused

Recent Scottish Executive commissioned research (*Fitzpatrick et al: 2003*) looked at the level and standard of refuge accommodation provided by Women's Aid Groups in Scotland and at women's, children's and young people's experiences, preferences and priorities in relation to it (*Fitzpatrick et al 2003*). The research made a number of key recommendations in relation to this service and this is currently being addressed by at local level by Women's Aid and at national level. Some of the recommendations are particularly applicable to the provision of refuge accommodation and continuing support on leaving refuge for children and young people, including:

- Future refuge accommodation should focus on cluster refuges containing single occupancy flats and communal areas, including age specific children's rooms.
- There should also be dispersed flats provided in each area (with support and security arrangements) to accommodate families for whom any form of clustered/shared provision is inappropriate. The resource intensive nature of supporting families in such dispersed flats should be recognised.
- All shared and cluster refuges should have workers based on-site.
- Greater access to workers at weekends and evenings should be pursued.

- Effective emergency response from WA workers on a 24-hour basis should be established in all areas.
- Children should have access to children's support workers as soon as possible after entering refuge and these workers should be available every day, at least for a short period. It is important that children have the opportunity of one-to-one contact with children's support workers and there is scope for other forms of 'depth' work such as structured group work.
- Additional provision for teenagers, particularly a separate room away from younger children, should be treated as a priority.
- Follow-on support for both women and children leaving refuge should be available in all areas.
- Wherever possible, the same 'key worker' should stay with a family throughout their contact with WA: this continuity was especially important to children.

Make Better
Clubs for children
to talk and
have basic fun.
M

Help the children in
Womens aid.
To pay for workers
when the children
move into their
safe house.

The Homelessness Task Force and Sustaining Tenancies Following Domestic Abuse (2003b) research have highlighted that the trauma and distress for women and children of domestic abuse is compounded and deepened by leaving the family home. The research states that:

The process of re-housing places great stress on the woman and her children and usually leads to housing which is either not appropriate for the family's needs or is not sustainable. Living as an independent autonomous household requires a sustainable housing outcome, the achievement of which for women experiencing domestic abuse will involve both housing and support factors (including distinct specialist support for children) (*Edgar et al: 2003*).

The research recommends distinct rehousing and longer term support for women and children, family support and in particular support when harassment and abuse continues (for the majority of families) especially in the context of child contact arrangements. Issues are also raised in relation to health services and education for children in this situation including the importance of transport to enable children to continue to attend their original and familiar school if safe.

Planners may wish to consider reviewing current refuge provision, as well as domestic abuse and homelessness strategies in the light of these research findings. They are asked to take account of these recommendations and developments in planning a comprehensive, coherent and integrated approach to services to CYPEDA. Planners are also asked to ensure that services to CYPEDA meet the appropriate Standards set out by the Care Commission, including ensuring that staffing levels are sufficient to meet the needs of children and young people and allow for continuity of care.

7.4 Specialist Support to CYPEDA in the Community

A particular gap has been identified in relation to the provision of direct services to CYPEDA in the community (*Stafford: 2003*). This poses particular challenges for planners because, the majority of CYPEDA are living in the community with no specific contact with refuge or refuge follow-up services.

The Audit and Review of Child Protection recognised the lack of support to CYPEDA in the community, for example, 'living in households with domestic abuse'. These children and young people may also have left the family home with/without their mother and be homeless, living in temporary accommodation or in other mainstream housing.

Currently, there is little direct, therapeutic, specialist support available to this large, vulnerable group of children. At Women's Aid, specialist outreach support is only currently able to be offered by dedicated Children's Support Workers in 5 Women's Aid Groups.

The research by Fitzpatrick et al (2003) recommended that Women's Aid should have an increased capacity to offer outreach support to women and children experiencing domestic abuse but living outwith refuge. This would:

'..enable a greater number of abused women and children living outwith refuge to have access to the specialist services that Women's Aid can provide. This would be of benefit to those who are unable to gain access to refuge provision because of excess demand for places; to those who do not wish to live in refuge but would appreciate support from WA; and to those whose circumstances mean they cannot be accommodated in the available refuge provision (e.g. women with drug problems)'.
(Fitzpatrick: 2003).

Local planning partners may wish to consider the specialist needs of CYPEDA in the community in the planning process.

Give my
a safe
house E

8

Prevention

educate the young
re-educate the old
and make domestic
abuse something that
used to happen long ago



The National Strategy highlights that:

The development of preventive work is a key aspect of addressing domestic abuse and violence against women, and it is important that providers of service (along with other organisations and individuals in Scotland) focus not only upon responding to the needs of women/children who seek support, but in preventing violence against women or children (*Scottish Executive: 2000: 39*).

Preventing Domestic Abuse: a National Strategy (2003) also highlights the important role of prevention strategies in work to address domestic abuse and states that it has as its ultimate goal 'to take all practicable measures towards the elimination of domestic abuse'. Primary prevention 'is largely focused on attitudinal and cultural changes' and aimed at 'Preventing violence before it happens and targets the whole population, but particularly children and young people'.

'Although providing services to those who experience abuse is essential, tackling the root causes is the only way to eradicate it'. (*Scottish Executive: 2003*).

The document outlines key elements of what a preventive strategy might look like. With regard to prevention, local authorities are responsible for:

- Identifying within the service plans of relevant departments the specific measures that will be taken to address this issue (prevention).
- Ensuring staff are trained, particularly key staff providing direct services to women and children, e.g. social workers, housing workers but also staff providing other services, e.g. teachers, home helps, nursery aids, community workers.
- Ensuring [prevention] services are adequately and appropriately resourced.

Other key public agencies such as NHS Boards and Trusts, Communities Scotland and the Police have a responsibility in relation to preventing domestic abuse to:

- Identify the positive contributions they can make to the implementation of this Prevention Strategy.
- Work effectively with other key partners to implement prevention measures.
- Ensure that they include targets relating to violence against women in their action plans and develop databases to enable monitoring progress and changes in demand for services.

The preventive strategy highlights the important role of schools in relation to preventing domestic abuse:

- ‘Education...represents the principal mechanism by which society is able to influence future generations’ (*Scottish Executive: 2003: 9*).

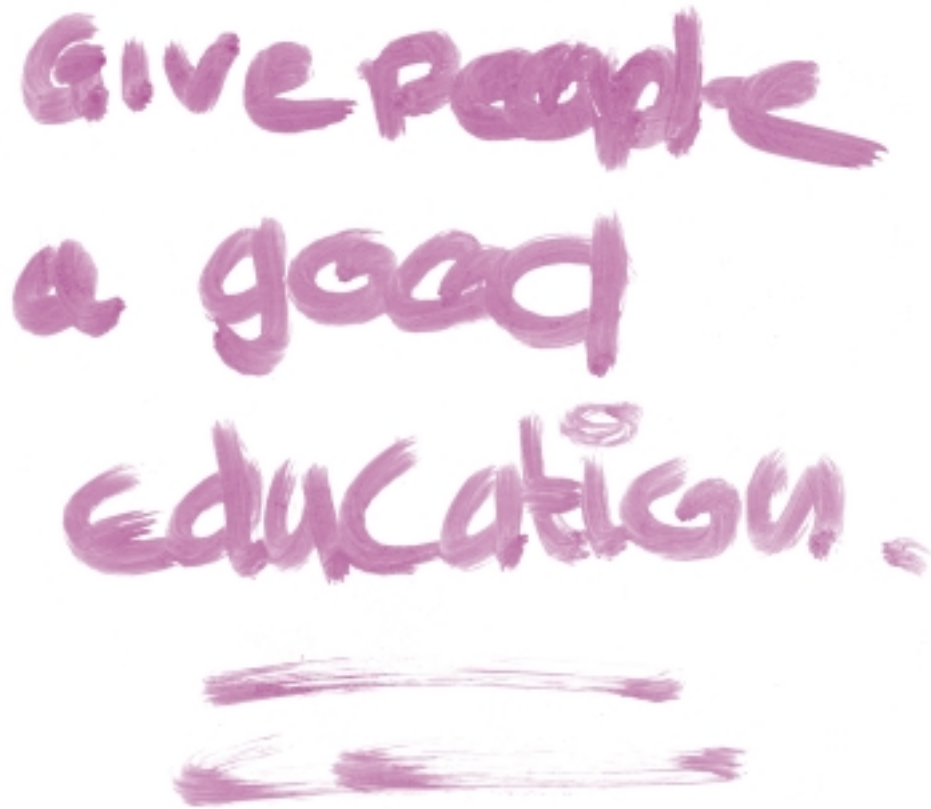
- If the mainstream learning experience of young people is to take proper account both of the educational objective of promoting respect for self and others, and of the national priority to address domestic abuse, it is important that there should be a coherent and sustained programme of values education which should: ‘... at appropriate stages, deal specifically with domestic abuse through the use of appropriate materials’.
- The national priorities for education also seek to promote ‘equality’ and ‘inclusion’, an objective which is clearly incompatible with violence:
 - ‘Raising achievement and attainment also implies action to ensure that the readiness of individual children to learn is not inhibited by adverse personal circumstances such as experience of domestic abuse’.
 - Schools have, of course, the responsibility of ensuring that national priorities are translated into powerful educational experiences at the point of contact with young people.

Prevention work with young people in schools and youth groups is not just about changing attitudes and influencing behaviour....In raising the issues, it also produces the need for support to be provided to young people who may have been abused themselves or witnessed the abuse of their mother.’

Planners are asked to take account of these in the planning process.

The Dismantling Domestic Abuse Study (2002) revealed that 32% of 254 pupils in one school in Scotland disclosed anonymously that they were currently experiencing domestic abuse. In phase two 94% of pupils recorded that they wanted to be taught about domestic abuse in school (forthcoming, *Children and Society Journal*).

GIVE PEOPLE
a good
education.



The importance of training as part of workforce development and the need for a strategic approach to it has been highlighted, as has ‘the development of our understanding of the children’s workforce requirements to ensure it has the skills, qualifications, capacity and leadership it needs’.

The Audit and Review of Child Protection (*Scottish Executive: 2002*):

‘The particular difficulties for practitioners in supporting children where domestic abuse has been identified... the important role of training in ensuring all workers have the knowledge, understanding and skills to deal with it’.

The National Prevention Strategy (2003):

‘Training can both improve service provision to women and children experiencing domestic abuse and impact on the prevention of abuse through conveying strong and unequivocal messages about its unacceptability’.

‘All public services should be aware that addressing domestic abuse is a national priority and that they have a responsibility to participate in taking forward a united strategy, including training as an integral element’.

The National Training Strategy (2004) has as its aims:

- That all agencies, individually and working together, can make the required changes to ensure that the best possible service is provided to anyone affected by domestic abuse, anywhere in Scotland.
- That all workers who come into contact with women, children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse, and men who have used violence, have the knowledge, understanding and skill required to realise the National Strategy.
- That all relevant staff are equipped with the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary for working across professional boundaries.

It asserts that:

‘It is vitally important that everyone who comes into contact with women and children who have experienced domestic abuse in the course of their work is able to give an appropriate response’ and that this is particularly true for ‘front line’ workers such as health service professionals, teachers, social workers, police officers and solicitors as well as those in the voluntary sector’ ...There is also a need for training for policy makers, senior practitioners and all levels of managers’.

‘Domestic abuse training is essential to enable staff to provide a good service. There will therefore be a requirement for all sectors to view domestic abuse training as ‘core business’.

The Training Strategy identifies the following elements as important components of a comprehensive training packages. The following aspects might be important in relation to developing packages relevant to CYPEDA:

- Nature, extent and causes of domestic abuse.
- Children and young people's experiences of domestic abuse.
- Multi-agency training.
- Joint working training.
- Specific issues relating to women, children and young people who experience additional discrimination.
- Child protection.
- Empowerment of women, children and young people.

The Training Strategy emphasises that 'due to the sensitive and complex nature of domestic abuse it is important that training is consistent with the analysis of abuse in the national strategy'. Also that it is 'essential that only suitably trained personnel carry out this task. If there is a domestic abuse trainer in post, they should deliver the training, involving Women's Aid and other specialist organisations as appropriate in planning and co-facilitating. Where there is no domestic abuse trainer, training should be provided by Women's Aid and other agencies with suitable skills.' This applies equally to training in relation to CYPEDA.

Planners are asked to take account of the above and to ensure that training and training strategies in relation to Domestic Abuse include its effects on CYPEDA as an integral part.

10 Action Points

Will we get
nice life one
day

The National Strategy to Address Domestic Abuse in Scotland (*Scottish Executive: 2000*) and the Children's Charter (*Scottish Executive: 2004*) should be the basis for developing and delivering services to CYPEDA. To progress this local children's services planning partners may wish to consider the following Action Points:

10.1 Strategic level

Action

- Review the working of the Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Partnerships, the formal and informal links between them and relevant other forums, to ensure that the needs of CYPEDA are considered as a priority for services.
- Audit the needs of children and young people experiencing domestic abuse.
- Identify gaps in local services and priorities for local service delivery in relation to CYPEDA and identify means of meeting any outstanding needs.
- Recognise and address the specific needs of particular groups of CYPEDA, such as children in rural areas, disabled children and children from black and minority ethnic groups.

- Ensure the needs of CYPEDA are singly and jointly addressed by all of the relevant local agencies including Women's Aid, Housing Services, Benefits Agency, Court Services, Police, Health and medical services, Legal professionals, Scottish Prison Service, Social work services, Rape Crisis, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, Education services, other specialist voluntary organisations, other local authority departments.
- Recognise and define the links between domestic abuse work and other areas of work, such as, community planning, community safety, health, criminal justice, the children's hearing system and other areas and in all relevant forums, plans and planning processes i.e. Children's Services Plans, Community Plans, Housing Plans, in the Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Partnerships, in the Joint Health Improvement Plan and Education Planning processes.
- Recognise in particular the key role of the local Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Partnerships in co-ordinating planning services to this group and the links between this forum and the Children's Services planning process.
- Review and ensure there are good formal and informal links between relevant forums.
- Review and ensure effective partnership working between the local authority and Women's Aid and ensure there is Women's Aid children's representation on key planning forums.

10.2 Services

a. Service planning

Action

- Ensure a tiered, coherent, strategic approach to the provision of general services and to targeted specialist services.
- Ensure agencies are singly and collectively working to promote and address the issue and the needs of CYPEDA, including, Women's Aid, Housing Services, Benefits Agency, Court Services, Police, Health and medical services, Legal professionals, Scottish Prison Service, Social work services, Rape Crisis, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, Education services, other specialist voluntary organisations, other local authority departments.
- Undertake proactive publicity to inform children who experience domestic abuse, and other members of the community, about the needs of CYPEDA, services and the role of providers. Link this with publicity on vulnerable children generally and Child Protection Framework standard 7.
- Develop an understanding of the diverse and individual needs of children in this situation.

we need your
help

♡♡♡ ♡

- Ensure effective cross reference to strategies for child protection and CYPEDA to ensure an appropriate response addressing the needs of CYPEDA and non-abusing parent, and direct services appropriately.
- Recognise the difficulties CYPEDA face when disclosing domestic abuse and the specific difficulties in disclosure faced by some groups.
- Ensure CYPEDA are consulted about services.
- Monitor standards applied to services to CYPEDA and these standards may include the following:
 - Sufficient support provided to meet the needs of CYPEDA
 - Refuge places available to all of those who require these
 - Specific outreach support will be available to all those who require this
 - Access to specific support will be available on a 24-hour basis.

HELP my MUM
PLEASE.

b. Specialist services to CYPEDA in refuges, dispersed flats and once rehoused

Planners are asked to consider and take account of following key developments in relation to the Women's Aid refuge and follow on provision:

Action

- Future refuge accommodation to focus on cluster refuges containing single occupancy flats and communal areas, including age specific children's rooms.
- Dispersed flats in each area (with support and security arrangements) to accommodate families for whom any form of clustered/shared provision is inappropriate, recognising resource intensive nature of this support for CYPEDA.
- Shared and cluster refuges should have Children's Support Workers (CSWs) based on-site.
- Greater access to children's support workers at weekends and evenings.
- Effective emergency response from WA workers on a 24-hour basis should be established in all areas.
- Children should have access to children's support workers as soon as possible after entering refuge and these workers should be available every day, at least for a short period.
- Additional provision for teenagers should be a priority.
- Follow-on support for both women and children leaving refuge should be available in all areas, with distinct specialist worker for children.

- Services to CYPEDA should meet appropriate Care Commission Standards, including:
 - Sufficient staff levels to allow continuity of care (key children’s support worker approach)
 - Adherence to ratios including 2 children’s support workers at group sessions with CYPEDA
 - Appropriately skilled staff and accordance with SSSC registration requirements
- Provision of transport for CYPEDA to attend familiar school should be considered.

c. Specialist Services to CYPEDA in the community

Action

- Local planning partners may wish to consider the specialist needs of CYPEDA in the community in the planning process.
- Local planning partners should consider the need for Women’s Aid to increase capacity to offer outreach support to CYPEDA living outwith refuge.

Stop kids
being
fritened

10.3 Prevention

Action

- Identify within the service plans specific measures to be taken to address domestic abuse prevention.
- Ensure prevention services are adequately and appropriately resourced.
- Ensure other key public agencies such as NHS Boards and Trusts, Communities Scotland and the Police identify the positive contributions they can make to Prevention.
- Work effectively with other key partners to implement prevention measures.
- Ensure targets relating to CYPEDA are included in action plans and develop databases to enable monitoring of progress and changes in demand for services.
- Schools should deal specifically with the needs of CYPEDA including affects of DA on ability to learn.
- A coherent and sustained programme of values education should at appropriate stages deal with domestic abuse through use of appropriate materials.
- Prevention work undertaken with all children to change attitudes should not be undertaken without support identified and provided for CYPEDA within classes/youth setting.
- Local authorities have important responsibilities in ensuring that school development plans reflect the national priority to 'Enhance support for children affected by domestic abuse'.

Stop daddies
hitting mummies

10.4 Training

Action

- Planners should ensure workers who come into contact with children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse, have the knowledge, understanding and skills required to deal with it.
- All relevant staff should be equipped with the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary for working across professional boundaries in relation to issues facing CYPEDA.
- Planners may wish to consider ensuring the following elements are included in training packages relevant to CYPEDA:

Nature, extent and causes of domestic abuse

Children and young people's experiences of domestic abuse

Multi-agency training

Joint working training

Specific issues relating to women, children and young people who experience additional discrimination

Child protection

Empowerment of women, children and young people

I like to be
Safe
😊 AT
ALL
Times

WOMENS CENTRE SALTS

Appendix A: References

Listen to what
young people
have to say. K

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Appendix B: For Circulation to:

Help and think
about what
abused children
& women
go through
J

Directors of Education
Directors of Social Work
Directors of Children's Services or equivalent
Child Health Commissioners
Chief Constables
Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
COSLA, SOLACE, ADES, ADSW, ACPOS
Chairs of Childcare Partnerships & Partnership Officers
Chairs of Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Partnerships
Chairs of Child Protection Committees
Relevant Voluntary Organisations

Appendix C

I feel safe with my
mum J

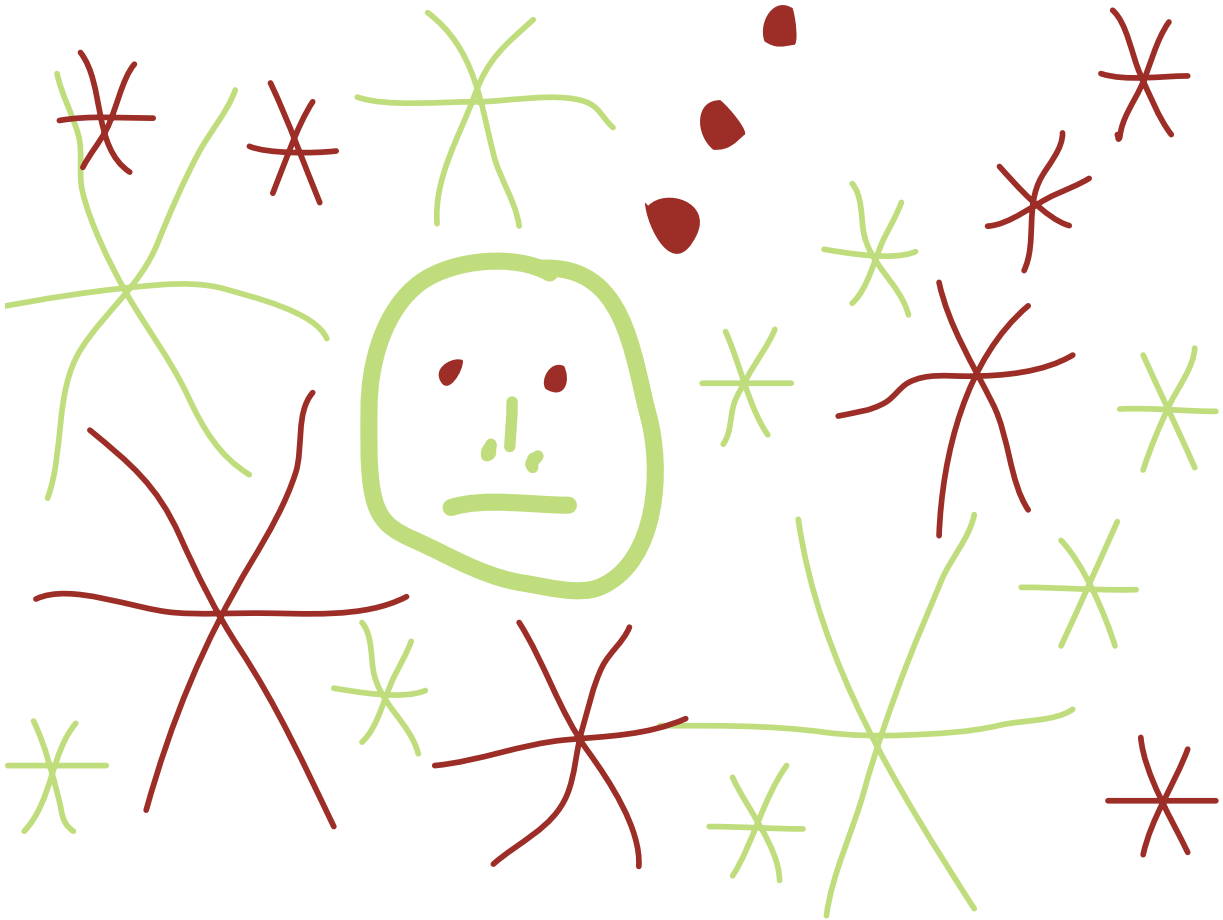
Domestic Abuse: Examples of Good Practice in Scotland

North Ayrshire Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Partnership identified the need for support for children and young people not in refuge as a priority for their services planning. Forum members agreed a proposal, strategy and identified funding partners from the forum (health, education, social services, Chief Executives office and Women's Aid) to match-fund an application to the Domestic Abuse Services Development Fund. This joint strategy enabled North Ayrshire Women's Aid to develop an outreach support service to children and young people in the community, the first of its kind in Scotland. This service has been expanded to meet the high demand.

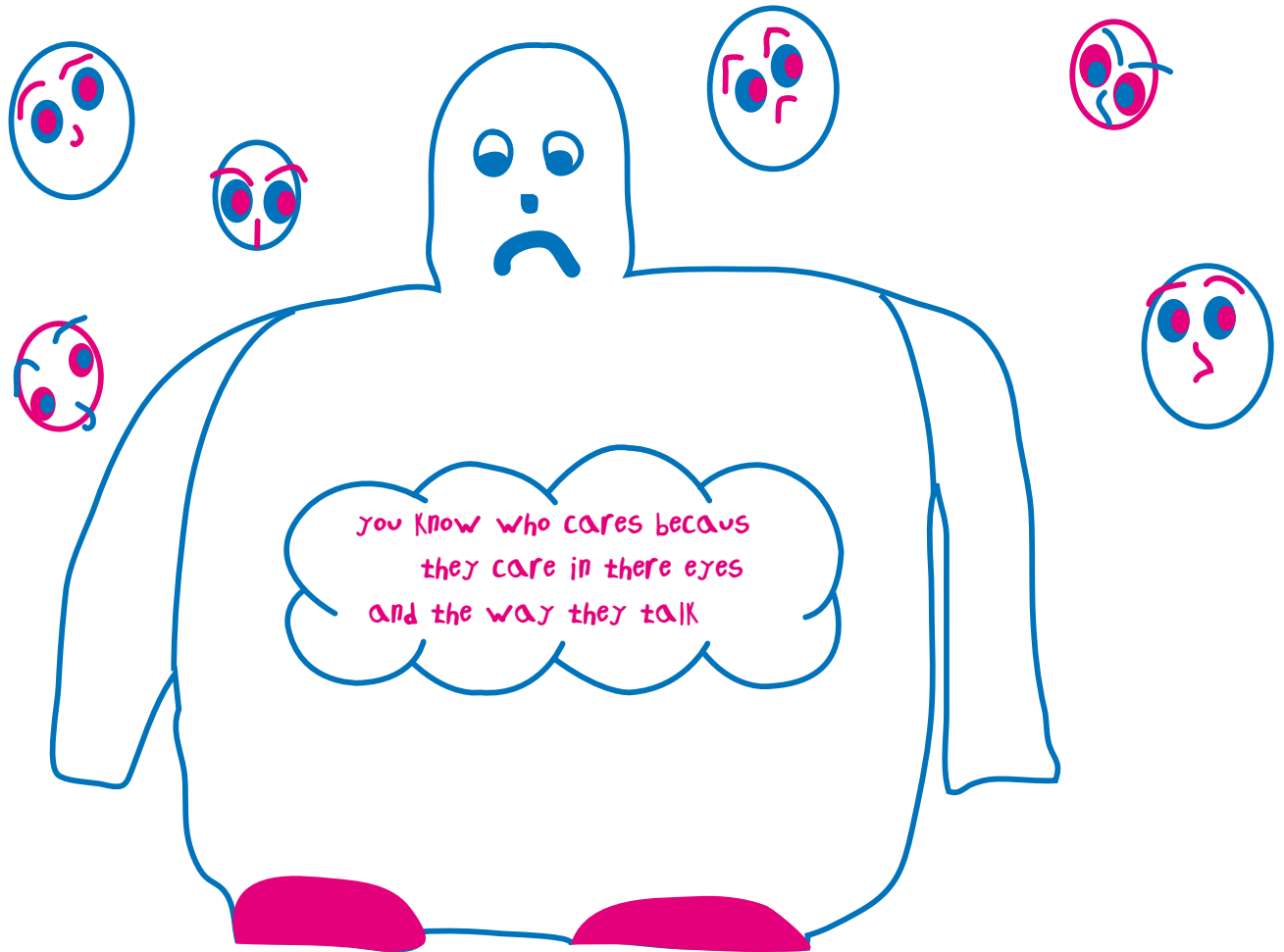
Glasgow Community Safety Partnership has employed a temporary Resource Officer (Gender Based Violence) to map service provision for children and young people affected by domestic abuse and other forms of gender-based violence, review and collate information on the needs and issues faced by this group and to help inform strategic planning and service prioritisation within the city of Glasgow. Funding for the initiative was secured from the Changing Children's Services Fund as a result of a submission from the Keeping Glasgow a Safe Place Planning Group in the Children's Services Planning frameworks, the worker is based within the Support Unit for the Glasgow Violence Against Women Partnership.

South Ayrshire's Better Integrated Children's Services fund a Women's Aid Training & Development Post to ensure that two crucial themes; Training for Children's Service Practitioners and Promoting Prevention in Schools are tackled proactively. Raising awareness of the impact of Domestic Abuse on the lives of Children & Young People has helped practitioners to respond effectively to situations young people encounter. South Ayrshire Multi-Agency Partnership to Tackle Domestic Abuse endorse and support the post and the development worker in a variety of ways and prevention work in schools is greatly enhanced by the existence of a Women's Aid Young Person's Outreach Support worker funded by Ayrshire & Arran Health Board.

its time you ask me
what it is i want



Some people stare
Some people look away



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