

# Argyll and Bute Partnership



**A strategy to address**

# **Violence Against Women**

**2009 - 2012**

<i>Table of Contents</i>	<i>Page</i>
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<i>Foreword.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Vision Statement.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Bill of Rights.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Introduction.....</i>	<i>6/7</i>
<i>Links to other strategies.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Role and Remit.....</i>	<i>9/10</i>
<i>What is Violence against Women?.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>What do we mean by gender?.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>What is a gendered analysis?.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>The Continuum of Violence against Women.....</i>	<i>12/13</i>
<i>Policy and Legislation.....</i>	<i>14/15</i>
<i>Profile of Argyll and Bute.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Statistics.....</i>	<i>17-18</i>
<i>Against Domestic Abuse Conference.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Training Consortium.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>GIRFEC.....</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Action Plans.....</i>	<i>21-34</i>
<i>Bibliography.....</i>	<i>35-37</i>
<i>Abbreviations.....</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>Membership of the Partnership.....</i>	<i>39</i>
<i>Argyll and Bute ADA Partners.....</i>	<i>40</i>

## **AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

### **FOREWORD**

Welcome to the Against Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women Strategy 2009 – 2012 prepared by the ADA Partnership.

The Partnership has come a long way since the publication of the last Against Domestic Abuse Strategy (2006). Many new developments have taken place within the ADA Partnership forging even closer links with our planning partners. We are convinced that by working more closely with our partners we can confidently develop and improve our existing services in line with the Scottish Government's objectives.

The partnership is entering a new phase in our Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women Strategy which continues to examine, address and raise awareness of the relevant issues across Argyll and Bute.

One change over the last year has been my appointment as the new Chairperson of ADA which I am sure will bring many opportunities as well as challenges. My thanks go to the previous Chairperson, Isobel Strong, who made a significant impact on the work of the ADA Partnership.

I look forward to the next three years and the integrated working approach that the Partnership has established.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Anne", with a horizontal line underneath it.

**Anne Horn  
Chairperson ADA**

# *Vision Statement*

*All women, children and young people within Argyll and Bute have the right to live free from gender based violence. The Partnership is committed to ensuring support is provided.*

## *Bill of Rights*

- ❖ I am not to blame for being beaten and abused
- ❖ I am not the cause of another's violent behaviour
- ❖ I do not like or want it
- ❖ I do not have to take it
- ❖ I am an important human being
- ❖ I am a worthwhile person
- ❖ I deserve to be treated with respect
- ❖ I do have power to take good care of myself
- ❖ I can decide for myself what is best for me
- ❖ I can make changes in my life if I want to
- ❖ I am not alone. I can ask others to help me
- ❖ I am worth working for and changing for
- ❖ I deserve to make my own life safe and happy

# Argyll and Bute Partnership Against Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women

## Introduction

The Argyll and Bute Against Domestic Abuse (ADA) and Violence Against Women (VAW) Partnership brings together relevant agencies within Argyll and Bute to address domestic abuse such as:

- **Health Services** – they may be involved through a range of service providers. They may be involved in treating injuries, in the provision of emotional support and advice, in assisting women or children to gain access to other services and in providing evidence to support legal action. Health services may also be involved in preventive work in relation to domestic abuse.
- **Voluntary Sector** – The providers as detailed below are often the first point of contact for people experiencing domestic abuse and violence against women. There are numerous other local organisations who offer support to people living with domestic abuse and violence against women. It is of paramount importance that their staff are suitably trained and are competent to recognise the signs of a person suffering from abuse, as the client may not initially present with an abuse issue, or admit to it if asked. The following provide their own specialist support to those who experience domestic abuse and their families, *this list is not exhaustive*:
  - Victim Support
  - Church Groups
  - Crossroads
  - Substance Misuse Workers
  - Mental Health Workers
  - Women's Aid
  - Rape Crisis
- **Local authorities** – the Local Authority is involved in a range of ways through Housing, Social Work, Criminal Justice and Education. Local Authority has certain statutory duties regarding domestic abuse. Depending on individual circumstances this can vary from providing information to providing emergency, temporary or permanent accommodation. Social Work Services have a legal duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need and can provide information/advice to children and young people experiencing or are affected by domestic abuse and other forms of Violence Against Women. The Education Department can support children and young people who are affected by these issues. Women's Aid are providing raising awareness and challenge attitude sessions within our local schools.
- **Police** – Strathclyde Police is committed to providing a professional, sensitive and consistent approach to victims of domestic abuse and violence against women. In dealing with these cases, every police and support officer will treat all victims and their families in a fair, sensitive and ethical manner and will strive to ensure that the needs of the individual are taken in to account. Strathclyde Police acknowledge the diversity of cultures, religions, ethnicity and sexual orientation that comprise our

society and take full cognisance of this to ensure the needs of the community are addressed. The safety of the victim and their family is of paramount importance and is our first priority.

This Policy seeks to ensure the provision of the best possible service to victims who are especially vulnerable, often isolated and frequently in danger. Our commitment is to:

- Keep victims and their families safe.
- Adopt a victim centred approach.
- Investigate thoroughly all reports of domestic abuse and all forms of violence against women.
- Actively pursue perpetrators so they can be held accountable through the criminal justice system.

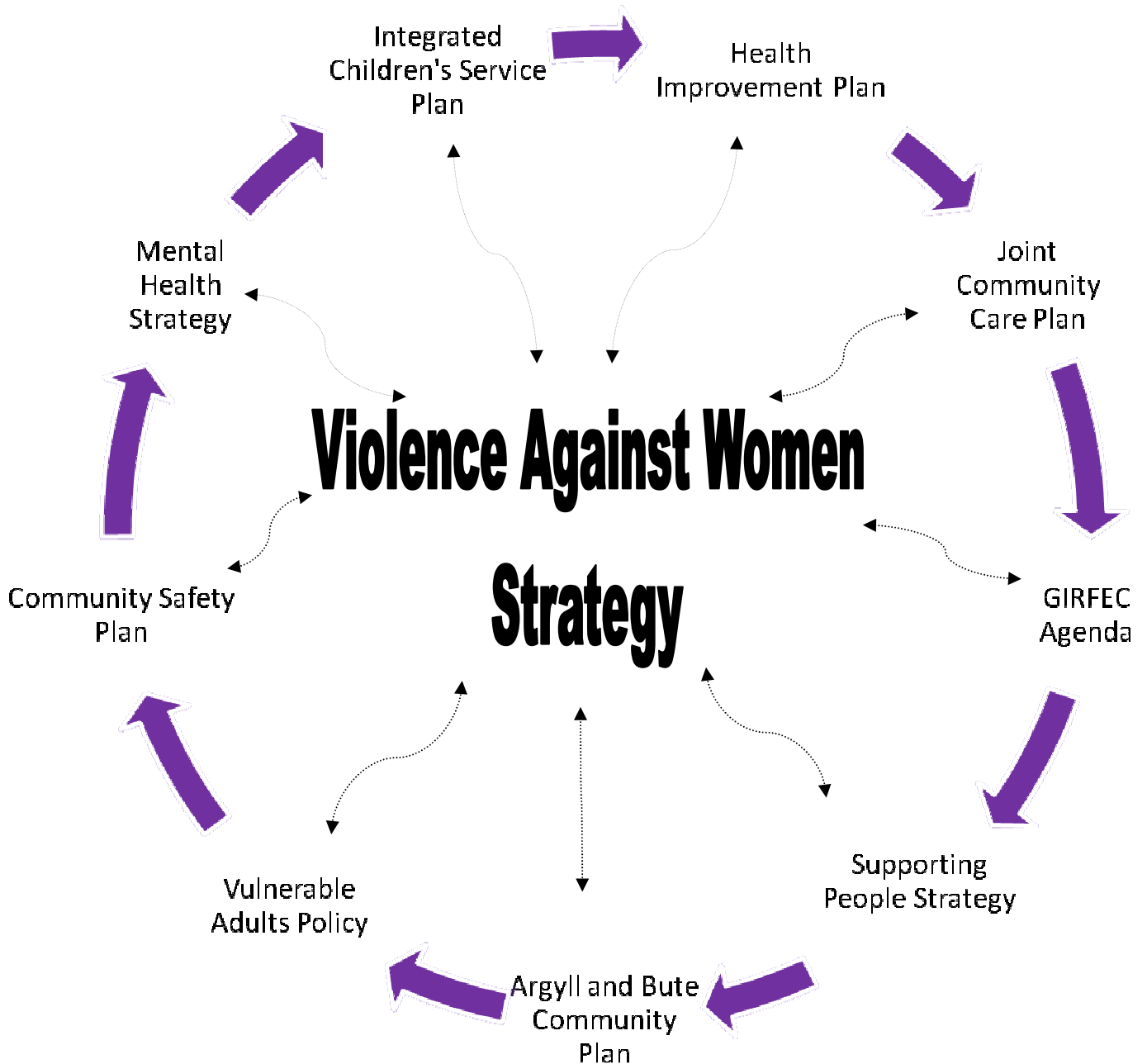
Strathclyde Police is committed to:

- Where sufficiency of evidence exists in law, to arrest the offender.
- Provision of support and information and the referral of the victim to a support agency.
- Continued contact with the victim as appropriate to individual circumstances.
- Partnership working with both criminal justice agencies and other statutory and voluntary sector services to provide better outcomes for victims and their families.

## Links to other strategies

To ensure Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women is tackled throughout Argyll and Bute, this strategy should not stand alone. It is important that the principles and specific actions are incorporated into other strategies, policies and service plans across all partner agencies.

This would include for example:





# **Role and remit of Argyll and Bute Against Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women Partnership**

**The Remit of ADA is continuing to:** Develop and review the Strategy, develop detailed action plans with designated responsibilities, timescales and outcomes and monitor and review the action plan through ADA and VAW Partnership.



These partnerships oversee planning, monitoring and delivery of the action plan to tackle domestic abuse and violence against women and support those affected by it. This strategy sets out the partnerships approach and is consistent with the National Strategy to address domestic abuse and violence against women in Scotland and addresses the local needs of the area.

The National Strategy has 4 key principles which have been adopted by this partnership, they are:

- ***Protection*** – *appropriate legal protection for women and children who experience domestic abuse.*
- ***Provision*** – *adequate provision of support services for women and children.*
- ***Prevention*** - *active prevention of domestic abuse of both women and children.*
- ***Participation*** – *children and young people affected by domestic abuse are respected, responsible and included.*

**The purpose of the strategy is to effectively address domestic abuse and violence against women within Argyll and Bute and to provide consistent and coordinated services, to those who experience it.**

The strategy is intended to address the following:

- Raise public awareness of domestic abuse and violence both physical and sexual against women and its consequences
- Challenge attitudes towards domestic abuse and violence against women
- Protect and provide support to those who experience or are affected by domestic abuse and/or sexual abuse and rape.
- Develop and support a range of services for those who have experienced domestic abuse and violence against women
- Ensure a co-ordinated approach by partnership agencies for delivery of actions
- Ensure partner agencies give due consideration to domestic abuse and all violence against women when developing and reviewing their policies and procedures.

In tackling domestic abuse and all forms of violence against women this strategy is committed to promoting equality, ending discrimination and social exclusion. In addition to recognise and address the specific issues facing those from ethnic minority groups, those with disabilities and other groups facing additional forms of discrimination and exclusion.

### Violence Against Women

Overall goals:

- ***Prevention*** – to prevent, remove or diminish the risk of domestic abuse or wider violence against women by various means, ranging from promoting social attitudinal change to creating physical and other barriers to the commission of violent acts.
- ***Protection*** – to protect victims from victimisation, repeat victimisation or harassment by perpetrators
- ***Provision*** – to provide adequate services to deal with the consequences of violence against women and children to help them both to rebuild their lives.
- ***Strategic Development*** – to support development of multi-agency partnerships including development of strategic approaches towards violence against women at a

local level. Development of effective partnership working, development of ability of MAPs to engage with and influence other local planners and partners with a view to ensuring that account is taken of violence against women issues in planning and funding.

### **What is Violence Against Women?**

Although a great deal was achieved during the life of the previous Domestic Abuse Strategy for Argyll and Bute, it was realised that particular areas of work for the future must include:

- The need to engage with and involve service users in shaping the direction of the Strategy
- Work to address the action of perpetrators
- Widening the direction of the Strategy from domestic abuse alone to encompass all forms of Violence Against Women.

Argyll and Bute has adopted the same definition of Violence Against Women as the Scottish Government:

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

*Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, within the general community or in institutions, including domestic abuse, rape, incest and child sexual abuse. Sexual harassment and intimidation at work and in the public sphere; commercial sexual exploitation including prostitution, pornography and trafficking; dowry related violence; female genital mutilation; forced and child marriages and honour crimes.*

### **What do we mean by ‘gender’?**

To say that Violence Against Women is ‘gender based’ does not mean that all perpetrators are male and all victims are female. We need to distinguish between *sex* and *gender*. Sex refers to the biological characteristics (anatomical and genetic) which sort people into male and female. These characteristics reflect reproductive systems, but do not determine the differences in other roles, behaviours, status or qualities which are given by societies to women and men. The idea of two clear ‘sexes’ is largely a social creation, unsupported by any ‘natural order’ and has required historical maintenance in order to sustain it i.e. there are many similarities biologically between the sexes and the idea of men and women being so completely different is a social creation – that of gender- but using biology as the basis for making those differences e.g. women are caring because they can give birth so it is ‘natural’.

## What is a 'Gendered Analysis'?

A *Gendered Analysis* gives us a theoretical tool, a framework for collecting, examining and interpreting information about the differences in women's and men's lives, experiences, behaviours, status, opportunities and limitations. It also investigates the social, economic, political and cultural structures and ideologies which serve to maintain or transform gender based stereotypes, inequalities and abuses.

A gendered approach says that Violence Against Women can only properly be understood by considering history, context, meanings, impact and consequences in terms of the way men and women are expected to behave according to society's version of 'acceptable' masculinity and femininity. A gendered analysis is the only way to make sense of the fact that Violence Against Women has for centuries been seen as natural and acceptable (indeed sometimes necessary) fact of life.

To say that Violence Against Women is gender based is simply to recognise that the use and experience of violence and abuse, whether perpetrated by men or by women, can only be understood if we consider it within the context of gender roles. Because it is gendered, the social environment will affect prevalence, intention and consequences of abuse differently for men and women. Society also attributes different roles based on class, ethnicity, sexuality and other factors, and this too impacts on the experience and meaning of gender based violence; it is not a straightforward or simple phenomenon, and our analysis must take account of complexity in a world of enduring gender inequality between women and men.

A gendered analysis recognises:

- Violence is widespread and functional within human interactions and structures. There are many expressions of violence which are considered normal, legitimate and even honourable.
- Violent practices and behaviours – from interpersonal to international levels, in families, communities and in wars – are gendered.
- Men are statistically and overwhelmingly the main perpetrators of violence (especially severe and injurious violence) against other men and against women.
- By no means are all men violent.
- Some women use violent and abusive behaviours.
- The meaning, use and consequences of violence by men and by women is not equivalent and cannot be understood in isolation, but as an expression (and sometimes subversion) of wider social factors.
- The key to understanding the differences between men's and women's violence lies in an examination of the context within which violence is perpetrated.

## The Continuum of Violence Against Women

Domestic Abuse is not simply a private matter, but occurs in the broad context of social, economic and cultural norms which reflect and reinforce inequalities between men and women. The gendered nature of interpersonal power, relationships and domestic arrangements (including the perpetration of domestic abuse) does not develop in isolation.

Global disparities of power, freedom of movement, opportunities and access to resources continue to discriminate against girls and women. Compelling evidence from around the world demonstrates that Violence Against Women is severe and pervasive. It takes many forms and is experienced in diverse settings, including home/family; community; workplace

or education; leisure and media; religious and political institutions; state sponsored violence; war and conflict; migration and globalisation.

It is vital to locate domestic abuse within a wider framework, acknowledging the continuum of gender based Violence Against Women. There are at least four major reasons for doing so:

- A comprehensive understanding of the roots, causes, meaning and consequences of domestic abuse is not possible if the issue is considered as a discrete 'family problem' separate from the broad cross-cultural realities of male privilege and female inequality.
- Policy and service responses which focus only on domestic abuse fail to account for the complex experiences of women's victimisation by the same and/or different perpetrators of violence in different contexts (e.g. child sexual abuse, domestic abuse, homelessness, prostitution, assault by strangers etc). A narrow focus may not be recognised, that attempts to cope with or to escape one form of abuse can make women vulnerable to others. Cumulative, complex and interlinked experiences of harm, violation and abuse in individual women's lives are by no means exceptional.
- An integrated framework which recognises domestic abuse as "intimate terrorism", as "coercive control" and as a major violation of women's human rights – both a cause and a consequence of discrimination- takes seriously the statutory and community obligation not only to provide appropriate support services, but also to address the root causes and social legitimisation of such abuse.
- Recognition that the domestic domain is only one among the many contexts where women's lives, opportunities and rights may be constrained threatened and harmed by men, will ensure that attention is paid to the violent behaviours and culpability of individual men. But it will also prioritise the need to address the problematic social attitudes, structures and constructions of masculinity which normalise and tolerate gender based inequality in all human interactions. It will not stereotype perpetrators or victims of abuse, as though they were different from 'normal' people, but will recognise societal responsibility for an everyday reality which impinges on and harms the lives of all of us to a greater or lesser extent.

This model of Violence Against Women as a continuum gives us an understanding of the commonalities and functionality of Violence Against Women. However, it is also vital for us to account for the distinctiveness and differences which shape the context and consequences of violence for individuals and groups of individuals in real lives, and in diverse circumstances.

It is neither true nor helpful to suggest that Violence Against Women affects all women equally regardless of race, class, disability, religion, sexual orientation, community, location, economic or educational resource. The suggestion that Violence Against Women affects everyone equally trivialises the different experiences of particular groups of people and makes it difficult to accurately assess the prevalence and impact of violence against them. Experiences and meanings of abuse are mediated and compounded through other sources of discrimination and inequality, including racism, poverty, age, sexual orientation, faith and disability.

We take seriously the need to research and give voice to stories and experiences of Violence Against Women from diverse perspectives. A consistent gendered analysis lies at the heart of making sense of the theoretical and practice connections between Violence Against Women and across many contexts

## Policy and Legislation

There are a number of policies and legislations which can impact upon the response to women, children and young people experiencing Violence Against Women and related issues. Some of which follow:

**Crime and Disorder Act  
1998**

**Protection from  
Harassment Act 1997**

**Family Law (Scotland)  
2006**

**The Children's  
(Scotland) Act 1995**

**Mental Health  
(Scotland) Act 1984**

**Mental Health Care  
and Treatment  
(Scotland) Act 2003**

**Protection of  
Vulnerable Groups  
(Scotland) Bill 2007**

**The Antisocial  
Behaviour (Scotland)  
Act 2004**

**UN Convention of  
Rights of the Child 1992**

**Getting It Right For  
Every Child 2006**

**National Strategy 2000**

**Bill of Rights for  
Children**

**Protection from Abuse  
(Scotland) Act 2001**

**Protection from  
Harassment Act 1997**

**The Sexual Offences  
(Procedure and  
Evidence) (Scotland)  
Act 2002**

**National Domestic  
Abuse Delivery Plan for  
Children and Young  
People 2008**

**Criminal Justice Act  
1998**

**Scottish Investigators  
Guide to Serious  
Sexual Offences 2008**

**Within Argyll and Bute a number of protocols have been implemented, which are as follows:**

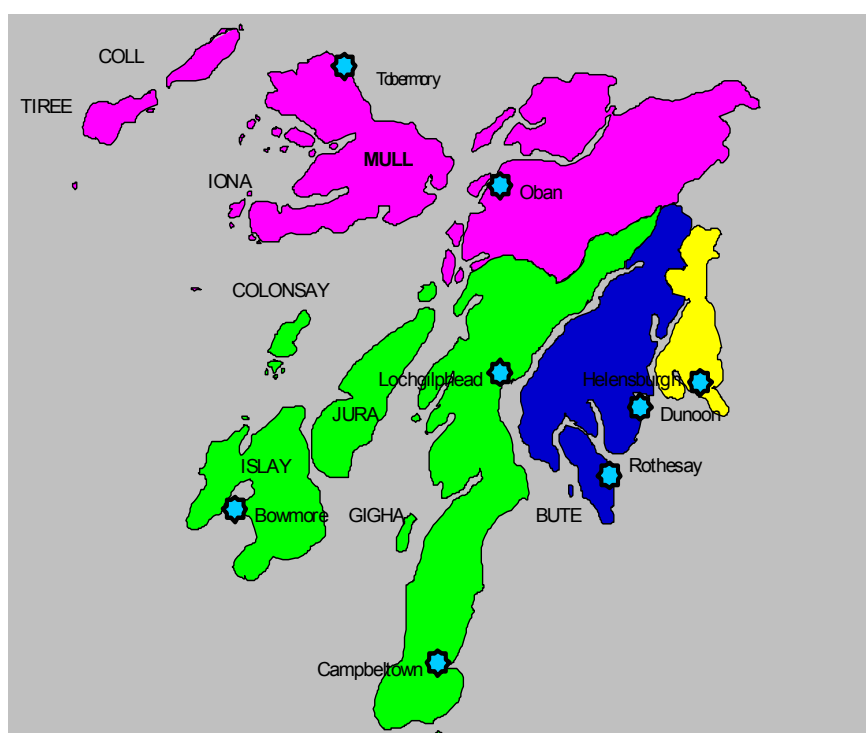


## Profile of Argyll and Bute

Argyll and Bute covers the second largest geographical area of any Scottish authority stretching for 100 miles from Appin in the north to Campbeltown in the south and more than 80 miles across from the island of Tiree in the west to Helensburgh in the east. It has 6 towns and 25 inhabited islands and over 2,700 miles of coastline.

More than half the population live in large towns, the largest being Helensburgh with a population of 16,250. The other main towns are Dunoon (9,060), Oban (8,140), Rothesay (4,990), Campbeltown (5,070) and Lochgilphead (2,350) G.R.O.S 2004 settlement estimates

In terms of area, Argyll and Bute is the second largest of Scotland's 32 Councils. In terms of population however, it ranks 22<sup>nd</sup> out of 32. The population at the census was 91,390\* a decrease since the previous census of 1991. It covers almost 10% of the total area of Scotland, but less than 2% of the population. \*\* G.R.O.S 2006 mid-year estimates



The distinct geographies have shaped a range of cultures that are as varied as the landscapes that separate them, and this, amongst other aspects makes Argyll and Bute a unique and interesting place in which to live or visit.



### **National Statistics**

Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women is not just an urban issue but also impacts greatly in rural communities. The reported police figures for contact in relation to domestic incidents demonstrate a clear need to take coordinated action to tackle this issue across Argyll and Bute area. People experiencing domestic abuse and violence against women in rural areas are often more vulnerable, are isolated and may have difficulties accessing help. These difficulties are of particular relevance to those living in Argyll and Bute.

### **Scottish Statistics**

Scottish Women's Aid provided statistics for the period 2006-2007 in relation to women, children and young people admitted to refuge.

<b>2006-2007</b>		
<b><u>Number of refuge spaces.</u></b>	<b><u>Women</u></b>	<b><u>Children</u></b>
	1248	1354

### **Argyll and Bute Rape Crisis**

Argyll and Bute Rape Crisis was set up in February 2006 to provide a specialist support and information service to women and girls (aged 13+) who have experienced rape, sexual abuse or assault at any time in their lives. Successful funding applications to Scottish Government have provided a coordinator, two support and development workers (one fulltime, one part time) and an admin and finance worker. Funding from Lloyds's TSB has provided another support worker. Rape Crisis now have three full time and two part time workers who work alongside a team of volunteers. All our staffs have completed extensive training to enable them to provide the highest quality support to vulnerable females throughout Argyll and Bute. Support can be face to face, telephone, email or letter. We can provide face to face support in Cowal and Bute, Helensburgh and Lomond and Oban and Lorne. At present only telephone and email support is available to other areas in Argyll and Bute. The provision of face to face support will expand to cover all areas as future funding for development is sourced. We will accompany survivors to the Police Station, Hospital, Court or GP Surgery. Anywhere that is reasonable to do so, to help the survivor to move forward in their lives. If requested to do so, we will provide support to non-offending partners and family members of the survivor. For children under 13, we will support the child through a non-offending parent or guardian. There are currently Women's Support Groups established in Dunoon and Helensburgh. We also provide awareness training to external agencies including voluntary and statutory organisations. This training aims to challenge attitudes to rape and sexual violence and to shatter the myths surrounding them.

<b><u>Number of women/girls who have had support from January 07 – November 08</u></b>	
Short Term Support	<b>14</b>
Telephone Support	<b>87</b>
Long Term Support	<b>213</b>
Group Support	<b>20</b>

## Women's Aid

Argyll and Bute's Women's Aid is recognised as the experts in the field of Domestic Abuse. In Argyll and Bute there is one Women's Aid group covering a large geographical area. Women's Aid provides refuge accommodation, emotional support and information such as legal issues, housing and benefit advice entitlement.

The following statistics gives an illustration of the demands placed on this much sought after organisation:

<u>Refuge Request</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Children</u>
Number admitted to own refuge.	23	26
Number turned away due to lack of space.	136	140
Number offered refuge who did not take up place.	38	33
Number who requested refuge for whom refuge is inappropriate.	1	0
Other / don't know	11	5
	<b>209</b>	<b>204</b>

<b>Number of individuals who contacted Women's Aid for information, support and refuge 2006-2007.</b>		
<u>Women</u>	<u>Children (under 12)</u>	<u>Young People</u>
4750	1199	3468

<b>Method of contact with Women's Aid</b>	
Office	740
On Call	301
Phone Call	3708
Email / Letter	1
	<b>4750</b>

<b>Purpose of Contact with Women's Aid</b>	
Requests for information and support	4541
Requests for refuge accommodation	209

## Strathclyde Police Statistics

<b><u>Domestic Incidents from April 2007 – March 2008</u></b>	
Total domestic incidents for L Division	<b>2301</b>
<b>LA:</b> Dumbarton, Alexandria, Balloch and Helensburgh	<b>815</b>
<b>LB:</b> Argyll and Bute	<b>523</b>
<b>LC:</b> Clydebank	<b>963</b>

## **Against Domestic Abuse Annual Conference**

As part of the raising awareness process of Against Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women, the ADA Partnership organised their Annual Conference which took place on March 2008.

The conference 'With Young People In Mind' was focussed on young people and the guest speaker Sandra Patron, South Ayrshire Women's Aid gave a very vibrant and passionate presentation on the concerns raised by young people. This presentation was complemented by plays delivered by students from Dunoon Grammar School entitled 'Simon Says' and 'Family Business', which illustrated a young person's perception of Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women. The plays were extremely well received by the audience. Furthermore, it was noted that there was an increase in requests for information, support and training as a result of the conference.

## **Training Consortium**

The Scottish Executive, Violence Against Women Team, granted three-year funding to multi-agency partnerships to take forward the National Training Strategy on Domestic Abuse 2004. The aim of the strategy was to ensure that frontline staff in all sectors responded effectively to domestic abuse, and that policy makers, senior practitioners and managers were trained in domestic abuse.

The funding was allocated to 15 local training consortia corresponding to health board boundaries. The Argyll and Clyde Consortia comprising Argyll and Bute, Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and West Dumbarton was awarded funding of approximately £40,000 a year from 2005 – 2008. The funding received has resulted in a significant increase in the capacity for the delivery of training on Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women.

With the dissolution of NHS Argyll and Clyde, and to correspond to Health Board boundaries, Argyll and Bute linked into the Highland Consortia in October 2008. The Scottish Government has awarded further funding for a three year period 2008 – 2011 to take forward the agenda on Violence Against Women. In accordance with national guidance the funding will be used to build capacity for the delivery of training across the whole Violence Against Women agenda.

### **In Argyll and Bute:**

- Refuse lorries displaying 'no excuse' posters with helpline number
- NHS staff training throughout Argyll and Bute
- Video and training pack, made with Dunoon Grammar School
- 104 pairs of shoes exhibition brought to Argyll and Bute
- Multi Agency training events held annually
- Annual conference on specific themes
- Constitution of ADA as an independent organisation
- participant in the Argyll and Clyde Training Consortium
- Training sub group and training strategy in production

## **Getting It Right for Every Child**

In June 2005, the Scottish Executive published 'Getting It Right for Every Child – Proposals for Action', setting out the reform programme for Children's Services in Scotland. The document sets out the requirements for the Scottish Executive, local authorities and partner agencies for practice change, legislative change and the removal of barriers to implementation. It also includes the timetable for the implementation of 'Getting It Right for Every Child'. The 'Proposals for Action' build upon the key principles set out within the 'Children's (Scotland) Act 1995, and the Ministerial 'Vision Statement', as outlined in 'For Scotland's Children 2001.

The 'Getting It Right for Every Child' programme is founded on the principles of early intervention, that is, appropriate, proportionate and timely intervention and provides a framework for putting them into action for all children and young people at an individual level.

The key aims of 'Getting It Right for Every Child' are:

- To ensure that all services are child centred.
- To ensure that children get the help they need when they need it.
- To ensure that responses to meet needs are timely, appropriate and proportionate.
- That action must improve the outcomes for the child.
- That the capacity of families and communities to meet the needs of children is strengthened.
- Integrated assessment and planning for children that engages and responds to children, families and key professionals.
- Practitioners are enabled to spend more time with children and families.

Getting It Right for Every Child will connect to the new Early Years Framework, Curriculum for Excellence and the More Choices, More Chances agenda with the aim of improving outcomes for children and young people.

# Action Plans

## **Violence Against Women Action Plan**

The Scottish Government has shown commitment and support to the Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women Agenda. They have produced guidance and high level vision statements for women, children and young people. The ADA Partnership is committed to the same principles and has structured their action plan accordingly. The action plan details existing and new developments covering the period of the ADA Strategy and will be reviewed by the Partnership annually.

### **Action Plan – Protection**

**National Objective – *Appropriate legal protection for women and children who experience domestic abuse***

<b><u>Action</u></b>	<b><u>Timescale</u></b>	<b><u>Lead Responsibility</u></b>	<b><u>Outcome</u></b>
<b>Work with Women's Aid to increase capacity to enable 24 hour access to refuge where accommodation is available</b>	<b>August 2009</b>	<b>Women's Aid and Supporting People</b>	<b>Women are able to access services any time and on any day of the week.</b>
<b>Develop joint protocol between the Council and voluntary organisations to ensure women who have experienced any form of violence can access emergency accommodation.</b>	<b>March 2010</b>	<b>Women's Aid, A&amp;B Council, ACHA and Homeless</b>	<b>All women are able to access emergency accommodation, regardless of their specific experiences of VAW.</b>

<u>Action</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>Lead Responsibility</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
Develop joint protocol between the voluntary sector and the Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) in Argyll and Bute to increase accommodation nominations from refuges.	March 2010  March 2010 March 2010	All ADA Partners	Increase numbers of women in refuges rehoused by RSL by 10%  Reduce the average period of time women remain in refuge accommodation by 20%  Waiting lists for refuges reduced by 20%
The integrated assessment tool is adopted by all partner agencies for children and young people in line with GIRFEC.	Dec 2009	ADA Partnership	Children are referred to the Key Professional for needs and risk assessment when an incident of gender based violence is happening in their home comes to the attention of the statutory services (following GIRFEC procedure).
Encourage use of D.I.A.L	Ongoing	All ADA Partners	May 2008, 6 month pilot for the DIAL Initiative has now been completed and future funding has been secured.

<u>Action</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>Lead Responsibility</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
<p>Clear agency policies and protocols on safety planning developed by NHS Scotland, Argyll and Bute Council, Strathclyde Police and relevant voluntary partners.</p> <p>Develop support mechanisms for non abusive parents and household members.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>ADA Partnership</p> <p>Women's Aid Rape Crisis</p>	<p>Safety planning with women and children becomes part of day to day business for staff in Argyll and Bute Council, NHS Scotland, Strathclyde Police and voluntary sector partners when dealing with women, children and young people who are experiencing gender based violence.</p> <p>Safety planning policies and protocols implemented.</p> <p>Guidance for supporting non abusive parents/household members and protocols for dealing with perpetrators implemented.</p>



<u>Action</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>Lead Responsibility</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
<b>Work with the Scottish Legal Aid Board to ensure women are able to access civil Legal Aid throughout Argyll and Bute.</b>	<b>March 2010</b>  <b>March 2010</b>	<b>ADA Members</b>	<b>Increase in women seeking civil Legal Aid.</b>  <b>Increase in the number of exclusion and non harassment orders applied for in Argyll and Bute.</b>
<b>Information sharing protocols between Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership, Argyll and Bute Council, Strathclyde Police and the relevant voluntary sector partners relating to Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women developed and implemented.</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>ADA Partners</b>	<b>Make risk assessments more accurate and safety planning more appropriate by having more information available.</b>
<b>Offer raising awareness training to all partner agencies.</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>ADA Partners</b>	<b>Increase in safety measures implemented by the Police and Victim Support.</b>
<b>Develop perpetrator and associated partner programmes on domestic abuse.</b>	<b>March 2010</b>	<b>Criminal Justice, Women's Aid, Training Consortium</b>	<b>Perpetrators are offered the opportunity to change while their partners or ex-partners are supported, therefore, rates of re-victimisation are reduced.</b>

<u>Action</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>Lead Responsibility</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
Victims are informed of any bail conditions before the accused is released from custody (or as soon as possible) and a safety plan is carried out with them.	August 2009	Criminal Justice	Reduction in rates of repeat offending within 48 hours of the release of an accused.
Victims are informed about the progress of their cases immediately after each court appearance by the accused.	August 2009	Criminal Justice	95% of victims are informed by VIA or the police within 2 hours of the court appearance.

## Action Plan – Provision

**National Objective: Adequate provision of support services for women, children and young people.**

<u>Action</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>Lead Responsibility</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
Improve the provision of refuge facilities across the Argyll and Bute area which includes barrier free provision.	2010 Ongoing	Women's Aid, ACHA, Argyll and Bute Council	To provide refuge spaces for all women who request them.
Increase resources to provide ongoing support to Women and their families  Support the development of outreach services to women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse and other related issues in Argyll and Bute	Ongoing	ADA Partnership	Women and children get help when they need it.
Key Worker to ensure service users are offered a review of their benefit entitlement.	Ongoing	Welfare Rights	Maximise the uptake of benefits for Service Users.
Identify funding for the sustainability of the ADA Partnership activities.	Ongoing	ADA Partnership, ADA Management Group	Continued work and ongoing development of the ADA Partnership.
Collate statistics which highlight and identify needs and gaps in service provision.	Ongoing	Women's Aid, Police, Rape Crisis, Child Protection Committee	All partners share statistics quarterly at ADA meetings.

## Action Plan – Prevention

**National Objective: Active prevention of domestic abuse of women, children and young people.**

<u>Action</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>Lead Responsibility</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
Provide awareness training across all partner agencies and local community organisations to ensure an integrated approach to domestic abuse and Violence Against Women.	Ongoing	Training Sub Group.	Annual programme of training.
Ensure that strategy to address Violence Against Women is integrated into local policies, strategies and plans across all partner agencies.	Ongoing	All relevant partners.	Violence Against Women is kept high on the agenda at Strategic Partnership Meetings.
Develop and update a program of preventative work to children and young people in schools.	Ongoing	Women's Aid, School Nurse, Health Promoting School Co-ordinator, Rape crisis.	Raising awareness exercise to children and young people.
Implement annual awareness raising campaign on Violence Against Women during the 16 Days of Action and International Women's Day.	Ongoing	ADA members	Programme of events during the 16 Days developed and implemented annually.

## Action Plan – Participation

Objectives: Clarity of structure roles and responsibilities of partner agencies in developing an integrated approach.

<u>Action</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>Lead Responsibility</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
Encourage wider membership of the ADA forum.	Ongoing	ADA Partnership	Development of ADA Partnership across all agencies.
Produce relevant information pack to assist in raising awareness of Violence Against Women.	Nov 2009	Training consortium, ADA Partnership	Up to date information is available for women, children and young people. Adoption of Best Practice guides.
Establish Structured Theme Groups across ADA partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training – develop a training strategy.</li> <li>• Strategy and monitoring group</li> </ul>	Dec 2009	ADA Partnership	Theme groups to establish an action plan.
Gather statistical evidence as part of a research programme.	Ongoing	ADA Partnership	Report back to ADA Partnership
Establish a collaborative approach in consulting with stakeholders and service users.	Annually	Area Children's Group, Supporting people	To develop and improve current services
Women's Aid children's worker to be invited onto Area Children's Group.	Dec 09		
Deliver an annual themed conference.	Annually	ADA Partnership	Raise awareness of Violence Against Women.

## Children's Action Plan

Argyll and Bute's Women's Aid successfully secured Scottish Government funding to continue the children's workers support to children, young people and their families who are affected by Domestic Abuse. As part of the grant request, plans for the ongoing development of the Refuge provision in the Argyll and Bute Council area is in the initial stage. A new build of two space unit (1 house barrier free). It is planned that this new build will be complete and ready for occupancy by the end of 2009. Within this development there are plans to increase the children's service and provide support to young people within their own areas. The following action plan for the children's work will reflect the future development of this service. Due to the monitoring and evaluation process for the children's workers, it was necessary to separate the action plan from the ADA Action Plan.

### Aim 1

Objective: To increase access of children and young people to Women's Aid services

<u>Action</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>Lead Responsibility</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
To increase the number of workers to recommended level	April 2010	Argyll and Bute Women's Aid and Young People's Service together with ACHA and Argyll and Bute Council	Children and Young People (CYP) know there is someone they can talk to who will listen and pay attention to them. Employ fourth CYP Worker.
To increase number of dedicated hours workers spend with children	April 2010		Children and young people feel more included, more valued and less isolated.
To increase flexibility and range of hours that the service provides	April 2010		Children and young people have access to refuge accommodation throughout Argyll and Bute. Flexible support by Women's Aid CYP's workers at evenings and weekends.
To increase number of CYPEDA accessing refuge, follow on and outreach	Dec 2010		New refuge accommodation within Campbeltown with barrier free access and a playroom.
To increase access by hard to reach group.	Ongoing		Improved email and website access

**Aim 2**

**Objective: To have a wide range of specialist support services that meet the diverse needs of CYPEDA**

<u>Action</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>Lead Responsibility</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
<p>Providing one to one support for children and young people.</p> <p>Children and young people have an understanding of how domestic abuse and sexual abuse can affect them.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Women’s Aid, Rape Crisis, Children and Young People’s Service to liaise with Argyll and Bute Council</p>	<p>Children and Young People (CYP) have a better understanding of domestic abuse and how it affects them. Having the opportunity to talk to a peer who has been through it as well.</p>
<p>Providing group work support (structured and unstructured).</p> <p>Use of key worker approach.</p>			<p>Providing young people an opportunity to share difficulties/knowledge with peer groups and key workers.</p>
<p>Use of a holistic assessment, support plans and other support tools.</p> <p>Provide age appropriate, ability appropriate and diverse services.</p> <p>Provide opportunities to build support networks.</p>			<p>Young people feel that supports are in place to meet their individual needs.</p>

**Aim 3**

**Objective: to ensure services for Children and Young People experiencing Domestic Abuse meet recommended practice standards.**

<u>Action</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>Lead Responsibility</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
To ensure services are registered and inspected by the Care Commission.	Registration achieved, 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> inspection successful	Argyll and Bute Women's Aid and ABWA Children's Service together with The Care Commission and SSSC	Successful registration of Housing Support, Outreach Services and annual inspection by The Care Commission.
To recruit workers with appropriated skills and knowledge.	April 2010		All workers are now qualified in accordance with The Care Commission and SSSC recommendations.
To ensure workers are trained in line with SSSC requirements.	2009- 2010		Ongoing Child Protection training.
To ensure services take account of Protecting Children Framework for Standards.	Ongoing		Appropriate policies and procedures in place and are continually updated.



**Aim 4**

**Objective: To ensure that Children and Young People experiencing Domestic Abuse inform service developments and they have an opportunity to participate in the ongoing evaluation of the services provided.**

<u><b>Action</b></u>	<u><b>Timescale</b></u>	<u><b>Lead Responsibility</b></u>	<u><b>Outcome</b></u>
<b>Children and young people are consulted with and services are developed in relation to need and relevant feedback</b>	<b>Achieved and ongoing</b>	<b>Argyll and Bute Women's Aid, Children and Young People's Service, Education Department and Rape Crisis</b>	<b>Children and young people are given an opportunity to influence all decisions in relation to them.</b>

## Aim 5

**Objective: To work in partnership with other organisations to ensure Children and Young People experiencing Domestic Abuse get the help they need when they need it.**

<u>Local Objective</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>Lead Responsibility</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
Develop good working relationships with relevant agencies including information sharing protocols.	Ongoing	Argyll and Bute Women's Aid, Rape Crisis, Children and Young People's Service together with relevant agencies	CYPEDA get help when they need it.
Advocate for children and young people experiencing domestic abuse in local planning networks.	Ongoing		CYPEDA have increased awareness of other services that can help them. Delivery of services to ensure that children are safe, healthy, active, nurtured, respected and responsible, included and achieving. CYPEDA have increased awareness of integrated services that offer them support.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>A&amp;BRC</b>	Argyll & Bute Rape Crisis
<b>A&amp;BWA</b>	Argyll & Bute Women's Aid
<b>A&amp;CDATC</b>	Argyll & Clyde Domestic Abuse Training Consortium
<b>A&amp;CDA/VAW</b>	Argyll & Clyde Domestic Abuse/Violence Against Women
<b>ACHA</b>	Argyll Community Housing Association
<b>ADA</b>	Argyll & Bute Against Domestic Abuse Partnership
<b>CJSW</b>	Criminal Justice Social Work
<b>CYP</b>	Children and Young People
<b>CYPEDA</b>	Children and Young People Experiencing Domestic Abuse
<b>DIAL</b>	Domestic Incident Alarm Link
<b>GIRFEC</b>	Getting It Right For Every Child
<b>LA</b>	Local Authority
<b>MAP</b>	Multi Agency Partnership
<b>NHS</b>	National Health Service
<b>PF</b>	Procurator Fiscal
<b>RC</b>	Rape Crisis
<b>SCRA</b>	Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
<b>SG</b>	Scottish Government
<b>SP</b>	Strathclyde Police
<b>SSSC</b>	Scottish Social Services Council
<b>VIA</b>	Victim Information and Advice
<b>VAW</b>	Violence Against Women
<b>VSS</b>	Victim Support Scotland

# Membership of the Partnership. Representatives from:

*Argyll and Bute Council*

*Argyll and Bute Women's Aid*

*Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership*

*Argyll and Bute Rape Crisis*

*Befrienders for Argyll and Bute Children*

*Church of Scotland*

*Dunoon Link Club*

*Homestart*

*Mediation Services*

*NHS Highland*

*Strathclyde Police*

*SOLAS NHS Argyll and Clyde*

# Argyll and Bute ADA Partnership



Tears of sadness in their eyes,  
Sick and tired of all the lies,  
Dreaming of a sunny day,  
At a barn lying in the hay,  
All my thoughts will float away,  
To come back another day?  
What will tomorrow bring?  
Hopefully I can hear a birdie  
sing,  
Or hear the water trickling  
down,  
While I walk through the town,  
Hearing cars as I go,  
Waiting for some Christmas  
snow.  
Will any of these good things  
ever happen to me?  
I hope so, as I jump with glee!!

## Befrienders

For Argyll & Bute Children

Because children's lives are never just black and white



*Working Together - Building safer Communities*

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