Welcome to our annual 16 Days of Action newsletter giving you information about the international campaign together with dates for local events and initiatives in Forth Valley. Please come along to one of the events and help us to make the 16 Days a time when we all speak out against violence against women.

Look out for information about our campaign on Facebook (16 Days of Action Forth Valley)
What is the 16 Days of Action?

The ‘16 Days of Action’ is an international campaign that calls for the elimination of violence against women and children. It was started by the Centre for Women’s Global Leadership in 1991. The 16 Days run from November 25th (International Day against Violence against Women) through to December 10th (International Human Rights Day) with the aim of reframing women’s rights as human rights.

Whilst this campaign focuses specifically on male violence against women, it is recognised that men can also be subjected to many of these issues, as can people in same sex relationships, however in the vast majority of cases these acts are carried out by men against women.

Please come along to one of the events detailed in this newsletter and make the 16 Days a time when we all speak out against violence against women.
Did You Know?

- Around **1 in 4 women** will experience some form of domestic abuse at some time in her life with similar figures approximated for rape, sexual assault and childhood sexual abuse.
- Scotland’s LGBT Domestic Abuse Project tells us that approximately **1 in 4 LGBT** people will experience domestic abuse.
- **3,756** incidents of domestic abuse were recorded by the police in Forth Valley in 2016-17.
- It is estimated that around **20%** of all police operational time is spent dealing with domestic incidents.
- In 2016-17, **1,755 rapes** and **123 attempted rapes** were reported to the police in Scotland. Recorded sexual crime has more than doubled in the past decade and is now at its highest level since comparable records began in 1971.
- In Scotland in 2016, **150 potential victims of trafficking** were referred to the UK National Referral Mechanism. Females are more likely to be trafficked for sexual exploitation and domestic servitude whilst males are more likely to be trafficked for labour exploitation.
- Women who are experiencing violence are **15 times** more likely to use alcohol and **9 times** more likely to use drugs than women generally.
Opening Event

The Scottish Government has a vision of a strong and flourishing Scotland where all individuals are equally safe and respected, and where women and girls live free from all forms of violence and abuse and the attitudes that help perpetuate it. This vision is mirrored in Forth Valley, with prevention work a priority for local violence against women and gender based violence partnerships.

Our opening event will explore the importance of prioritising prevention work and the benefits it can bring to our communities. It will be held on the morning of 24th November in Forth Valley College (Alloa Campus) and will take the form of a free seminar which has a focus on ‘Prevention Through Education’. Guest speakers will include:

- **Hannah Brown** (Rape Crisis Scotland) ‘Taking a Whole Schools Approach to preventing gender based violence and the importance of young people’s participation’
- **Loraine Williams** (Prevention Worker with Forth Valley Rape Crisis Centre) – ‘Sexual Violence Prevention in Forth Valley’
- **Rebecca Dawson** [Committed to Ending Abuse (CEA) Support Worker] - ‘Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse in HM Young Offenders Institution Polmont’

There will be an opportunity for attendees to participate in small group discussions aimed at influencing how we take forward the prevention agenda in Forth Valley. Places are limited and booking is essential. To reserve a place or for more information please contact gailcook.vaw@gmail.com
Forth Valley Rape Crisis

**Exhibition event:** Immediately after the opening event on 24 November, Forth Valley Rape Crisis Centre will launch an exhibition: *A Space for Action: Collective Resistance to Sexual Violence and the Reclamation of Public Space*, from 1:30pm-3:30pm in the Speirs Centre, Alloa. The event will feature a guided walk around the work on display between two different venues - the Speirs Centre and Reachout with Arts in Mind - with speakers and refreshments in the ceremony room at the Speirs Centre. The exhibition will continue to be on display in both venues right through until 10 December.

**Film screening:** Between 5 and 6.30pm on Monday 27 November, in the Spiers Centre ceremony room, there will be a film screening of ‘Hopscotch’, exploring minority ethnic and Muslim women’s experiences of street harassment.

**Workshop:** Between 1 and 3pm on Friday 1 December, there will be a workshop entitled *A Beginners Guide to Direct Action*, exploring the basics of organising direct action.
Following the success of last year’s event, Forth Valley Rape Crisis are planning another Reclaim the Night (RTN) event in Stirling, also with a theme of ‘Space for Action.’ This is open to people of all genders. Anyone wishing to come along should gather at Stirling Castle esplanade car park at 6.30pm on Thursday 7 December in advance of setting off through Stirling at 7pm with some fantastic musical support.

Attendees should arrive at the Green Lounge, Stirling Indoor Bowling Club, Riverside, FK8 1UE just before 8pm, where they will be treated to some welcome snacks, home-baking and refreshments and an after party. Further information is available via https://twitter.com/fvrapecrisis
Wellbeing Scotland Event

On **30 November** Open Secret and Wellbeing Scotland invite you to join them for a screening of *Hidden in Silence*: a documentary based on childhood sexual abuse in Scottish Ethnic Minorities, directed & produced by Nauman Qureshi & Dr Javita Narang.

The screening will take place at Alloa Cinema, Bank Street, Alloa, FK10 1HP. It starts at 3pm, and will be followed by a 30-minute panel discussion. Book online via Eventbrite by visiting bit.ly/16daysfilm or alternatively email info@opensecret.org or call 01324 630100.
Clackmannanshire Council - Awareness events

The Council is hosting two short afternoon awareness events in Kilncraigs for workers in Clackmannanshire:

**Wednesday 29th November, 2:30pm to 4:30pm**

**Fearless awareness session**

Fearless is a new domestic abuse support service in Forth Valley which supports men, the LGBT+ community and individuals from minority ethnic communities, aged 16+, who are experiencing domestic abuse. This session will:

- give practitioners an overview of the Fearless domestic abuse support service
- explore some of the barriers to support
- identify key risk factors for working with men and LGBT people
- provide information about the referral process
- discuss mentoring and support options that are offered to clients
- provide an opportunity for group discussion, to ask the Fearless workers questions and to take away valuable resources for your office base.

**Wednesday 6th December, 2:30pm to 4:00pm**

**Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse (Scotland)**

The Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse was rolled-out across Scotland in October 2015 and is a way for people to ask the police if someone has a history of domestic abuse. Delivered by colleagues from Police Scotland, this session will provide information about:

- The background to the scheme
- Who can ask for a disclosure
- How to make an application
- What happens once a form has been submitted
- How a decision will be made whether to disclose or not
- How a disclosure will be made
- How you may be able to support a service user who has received a disclosure

If you work in the Clackmannanshire area and would like to reserve a place on either of these sessions, please email gailcook.vaw@gmail.com.
As part of 16 Days of Action Forth Valley College is planning a few activities to raise awareness around gender based violence. They will have workshops hosted by White Ribbon on the 28th of November and a stall on the 7th of December to hand out information and take pledges. This will be held at Stirling campus where they will also advertise the Reclaim the Night event later that evening.

In addition they will have displays in the Learning Resource Centre with book lists available for further reading, as well as a mini exhibition of photos by artist Laura Dodsworth in coalition with Zero Tolerance. If you would like more information or would like to contribute to the activities please contact equality@forthvalley.ac.uk.
Clackmannanshire Women’s Aid

Many thanks to the women who attend Clackmannanshire Women’s Aid’s Social Group and who have been working hard over the past few weeks to design some artwork that can be incorporated into the new Clackmannanshire Violence against Women Partnership Strategy. This strategy is still in draft format but we hope to be consulting widely on it in the new year.

Thank You

The Clackmannanshire Violence against Women Partnership would like to extend a big THANK YOU to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (Alloa Fire Station) and Tesco in Alloa who have been very supportive of our Partnership this year. Specifically they have provided us with venues for our meetings and training events. Your commitment to our Partnership is very much appreciated.
Stirling and District Women’s Aid (SDWA)

SDWA will be carrying out a series of awareness raising events with Stirling Gender Based Violence partnership organisations during the 16 Days campaign, including Council Services, Forth Valley College and with staff at Cornton Vale.

Further details are included in the Domestic Abuse training section.

Committed to Ending Abuse (CEA)

On 29th November and the 4th December Committed to Ending Abuse will be hosting an information table on dealing with domestic abuse in the Howgate Shopping Centre, Falkirk. For further details, please contact info@cea.uk.com

Football Clubs on the Ball with Awareness Raising

Thanks go to football clubs across Forth Valley, who are again showing their support for the 16 Days campaign by choosing a home match during the campaign dates to send out a message that violence against women is wrong, via either tannoy announcements, website materials or articles in their match day programmes.

Alloa Athletics FC will be supporting the campaign on 3rd December; Falkirk FC on 25th November and Stenhousemuir FC on 25th November and 9 December.
Human Trafficking and Exploitation

How to identify and report human trafficking and exploitative employment practices

**Tuesday 28th November. 10am to 12 noon**
(registration from 9:30am)

This FREE awareness session will be delivered by Fiona Panetta, Enforcement Officer, Gangmasters Licensing Authority and will be held in Forth Valley College, Alloa Campus, Devon Road, Alloa FK10 1PX.

The following topics will be covered:

- What the Gangmasters Licensing Authority does
- Spotting signs of trafficking
- If you suspect trafficking or poor employment practices experienced by service users, what is the procedure for reporting

- What can be reported
- Who and how to report
- Dos and don’ts in reporting and working with victims

This session is being delivered in partnership with Central Scotland Regional Equality Council (CSREC), Forth Valley College and the Clackmannanshire Violence against Women Partnership.

Places are limited so please book early. To reserve your place please book using the link below:

http://gla-alloa-training.eventbrite.co.uk
Domestic Abuse Training

Domestic Abuse training is delivered throughout the year across Forth Valley and is recommended for all staff and volunteers who are currently working directly or indirectly with those affected by domestic abuse. The training is also suitable for anyone who wants to know more about the dynamics of domestic abuse.

Clackmannanshire training sessions are delivered at level 1 (basic awareness) and level 2 (for those who have completed level 1). Sessions running during the 16 Days of Action are now fully booked, however you can register your interest in future training by contacting gailcook.vaw@gmail.com

Stirling Women’s Aid will deliver training to a number of Council teams during the 16 Days campaign. Learning outcomes have been tailored to individual services and will take place on the following dates and locations:

27 November at the Mayfield Centre, St. Ninians: A half day event for Housing and Enforcement Team staff.

28 and 30 November (venue for 28 TBC), venue for 30 is at the Mayfield Centre, St. Ninians: Choose from one of two separate one day training days for staff working across social work teams.

Registrations for social work will be via vantage point and further details can be provided by sinclairam@stirling.gov.uk, who is also happy to progress expressions of interest from other Council services or Stirling GBV partnership organisations.

White Ribbon Scotland

The White Ribbon Campaign is the largest international movement of men working to end violence against women. Supporters are asked to pledge ‘never to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women’.

If you, or a group of men you know, want to get involved with the work of White Ribbon Scotland visit www.whiteribbonscotland.org.uk
Young People Getting Involved in the 16 Days

Pupils from High Schools across Forth Valley are once again supporting the 16 Days of Action campaign and are planning a range of initiatives to ensure fellow pupils and teachers are engaged and informed.

There are many curricular links which can be developed through involvement in the campaign. It ties in with Curriculum for Excellence in many different ways as well as being used as the basis for creative projects including drama, art, music and writing. If your school would like to support the campaign next year or take forward work around violence against women over the coming year please email gailcook.vaw@gmail.com for Clackmannanshire or sinclairam@stirling.gov.uk for Stirling in the first instance.
Consent and Healthy Relationships

Scottish Government Consultation Event on Consent and Healthy Relationships

In 2016, the Scottish Government published the ‘Pregnancy and Parenthood in Young People Strategy’. The Strategy aims to empower young people to have control over their own lives and provide equality of opportunity for the future.

The Scottish Government wants to ensure that important messages about consent and positive relationships are clear. To make sure this happens, they are keen to consult with young people and so this will be the theme for this year’s Young People’s Conference during the 16 Days.

Pupils from S3 and S4 in schools across Forth Valley have been invited to a conference on Tuesday 28th November at Queen Victoria school, Dunblane, to give their views on what the key messages could be and share their thoughts on what has been pulled together already by Scottish Government. Attendees will also be consulted on a new interactive film, which aims to give examples of how to communicate and how to recognise consent, and on other relevant social media materials.

For more information about the conference contact Anne Salter, Lead Officer Child Protection, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Child Protection Committee, on saltera@stirling.gov.uk
Getting It Right For Girls (GIRFG)

This input to staff in Stirling schools will be delivered by the Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice (CYCG) from 4-6pm on Monday 27 November at Bannockburn High School. It will highlight the issues affecting girls and help attendees understand the causation of some behaviours influenced by gender, towards achieving a better understanding of the needs of vulnerable and high risk girls. Participants can follow on by attending a 3 day CYCG programme which can allow them to cascade train in their own schools.

To book a place, please contact moffatf1@stirling.gov.uk

A further event will be scheduled early in the new year to accommodate any surplus expressions of interest.
Scottish Prison Service

In partnership with Committed to Ending Abuse (CEA), Polmont YOI will be hosting a range of awareness activities and initiatives to coincide with the 16 Days of Action campaign.

They are also supporting our opening event this year and will share their experience of working in partnership to raise awareness of domestic abuse within a custodial setting.

The Encompass Network - Inside Outside Project

The Inside Outside project of the Encompass Network is continuing on its tour across Scotland (and further afield). The project has given some women involved in the sex industry a chance to have their stories told. They have shared their experiences and thoughts through storytelling and photography over the past months. The project is now working across the sector to offer new and exciting opportunities to watch, listen and look at the work. The tour will be at the following Stirling venues on the dates highlighted:

- **27 November to 11 December**: Cornton Vale prison (internal event)
- **15 January to end February**: Pathfoot Gallery, Stirling University
MAPPA Seminar Event

**Assessing and Managing Internet Sex Offenders**

**MONDAY, 27th November 2017, 9.30am – 1.30pm Stirling Community Hospital**

Although sexual abuse seems to be declining in prevalence, there has been a great increase in sexual offending online in the last twenty years, particularly the accessing of child abuse images. This session will be based on recent advances in research and practice. The primary focus will be on child abuse image offenders, as they make up the great majority of internet sexual offenders, practitioners can be uncertain about risk in these cases, but recent research can help guide practitioners with these cases.

In this half-day event, Dr Raj Darjee, Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist & Dr Liz Flynn, Consultant Forensic Clinical Psychologist at the Serious Offender Liaison Service (SOLS), NHS Lothian, will explore: the nature and prevalence of internet sexual offending; types of internet sexual offending and offenders; characteristics and motivations; recidivism in child abuse image offenders; risk assessment in child abuse image offenders; and management of child abuse image offenders. Case studies will be used to facilitate learning.

This seminar will also feature input from the Risk Management Authority and Police Scotland.
Information about the campaign, local support services and reading lists will be available in various libraries across Forth Valley.

**On Wednesday 29 November (3:00 – 4:30 pm),** as part of Book Week Scotland, the University of Stirling and Stirling Council Libraries are hosting a panel event at Oscars, Pathfoot Building, University of Stirling, Stirling, FK9 4LA:

**Writing Gender Violence**

Please come along to then and join their panel: crime writer Alexandra Sokoloff, PhD student, Lorna Hill, who has written a novel which focuses on the crimes of human trafficking and domestic abuse and Lydia House from Zero Tolerance, who will talk about the Write to End Violence Against Women Awards. Find out about their work and studies and join the discussion on writing and gender violence.

Please book your place using the following Eventbrite link: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/writing-gender-violence-tickets-39654980113](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/writing-gender-violence-tickets-39654980113).
Central Scotland Regional Equality Council (CSREC) in partnership with Stirling Gender Based Violence Partnership and COPFS are held a focus group session with Forth Valley stakeholders on the ongoing Independent Review of Hate Crime Legislation in Scotland by Lord Bracadale from 2pm-4pm on Thursday 9th November 2017 at Council Chambers, Old Viewforth.

This was to allow a broader understanding of issues relating to hate crime and the criminal justice process from different perspectives so as to inform the response to the ongoing consultation, before it concludes on 23 November. One of the considerations is if new categories of hate crime should be created for characteristics such as age and gender, which are not currently covered. If others wish to add their voice to the consultation response, more information is available at http://www.gov.scot/About/Review/Hate-Crime-Legislation
Who to contact if you need help, advice or information

To report incidents of domestic abuse call 101 or 999 in an emergency. To speak to someone in the Police Domestic Abuse Unit, call 01324 574905. Messages can be left on a confidential answerphone and messages are picked up during office hours Monday to Friday and on Sundays. Alternatively you can email: dau@centralscotland.pnn.police.uk

**Women’s Aid**
Clackmannanshire     01259 721407
Stirling             01786 470897
Shakti               0131 475 2399
(support for BME women)
Hemat Gryffe         0141 353 0859
(support for BME women)

**Fearless**
Fearless is a new domestic abuse support service which supports men, the LGBT+ community and individuals from minority ethnic communities, aged 16+, who are experiencing domestic abuse.
Telephone: 0131 624 7266

**Forth Valley Rape Crisis Centre**
Telephone: 01786 439244

**Committed to Ending Abuse (C.E.A)**
An inclusive service committed to ending all forms of abuse
Telephone: 01324 635661

**Wellbeing Scotland**
Working with survivors of all aspects of childhood abuse, working with all ages and all genders.
Telephone: 01324 630100

**Victim Support free, confidential support & advice**
Telephone: 01786 445782
or 01324 633433

**Relationships Scotland**
Couple Counselling Central Scotland Appointments across Forth Valley: 01324 670067

**Signpost Recovery** - support and direction for drug and alcohol misuse
Telephone: 0845 673 1774

You can also speak to professional staff at your local GP practice or hospital

**The Scottish Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline** number is free, confidential and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
Telephone: 0800 027 1234

**The Men’s advice line** is a confidential helpline for all men experiencing domestic abuse.
Telephone: 0808 801 0327

**Galop** offers emotional and practical support for LGBT people experiencing domestic abuse.
Telephone: 0800 999 5428

**The Revenge Porn** helpline offers free, confidential advice and support for men and women age 18+.
Telephone: 0845 6000 459

**The Respect helpline** offers information and advice to people who are abusive towards their partners and want help to stop.
Telephone: 0845 122 8609

Don’t forget to look out for information about our campaign on Facebook (16 Days of Action Forth Valley)