
SCOTTISH BORDERS EQUALLY SAFE STRATEGY 2016

Report by SBC Chief Social Work Officer

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

24 November 2016

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report proposes that representatives of the Community Planning Partnership endorse the Scottish Borders Equally Safe Strategy**
- 1.2 Equally Safe – Scotland’s Strategy to eradicate and prevent Violence Against Women and Girls, launched by the Scottish Government in 2014, (revised in 2015), details the direction of travel to tackle gender based violence and wider gender inequalities in Scotland.
- 1.3 The Equally Safe vision is “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. Specifically, the Scottish Borders Equally Safe strategy aims to “work together to ensure that all women and girls in the Scottish Borders are equally safe at home, at work and in the community”.
- 1.4 The Strategy has four priorities underpinned by partnership activity designed to achieve the change required, namely:
- Scottish Borders’ society embraces equality and mutual respect, and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls
 - Women and girls thrive as equal citizens – socially, culturally, economically and politically
 - Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximizing the safety and wellbeing of women, children and young people
 - Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 I recommend that the Community Planning Partnership endorses the Scottish Borders Equally Safe Strategy 2016-21.**

4 SCOTTISH BORDERS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PARTNERSHIP

- 4.1 Scottish Borders Violence Against Women (VAW) Partnership is a tasking group of Safer Communities and takes a partnership approach to addressing all forms of gender based violence. Members include: Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders, Police Scotland, Crown Office, Border Women's Aid, Scottish Borders LGBT Equality, Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, Safer Communities, Children1st, Scottish Borders Rape Crisis Service, Adult Protection. The VAW Partnership is chaired by a volunteer independent chair, and reports to the Police, Fire and Rescue and Safer Communities Board.
- 4.2 Equally Safe – Scotland's Strategy to eradicate and prevent Violence Against Women and Girls, launched by the Scottish Government in 2014, (revised in 2015), details the direction of travel to tackle gender based violence and wider gender inequalities in Scotland. The Scottish Borders VAW Partnership is tasked with delivering Scottish Government's priorities on gender based violence and has developed the Scottish Borders Equally Safe Strategy to reflect these in the Scottish Borders.
- 4.3 The Strategy has been developed in partnership with key stakeholders including service users, and victims of gender based violence. There was a public consultation July- Sept 2016 and responses have been considered and reflected in the final version.

5 SCOTTISH BORDERS EQUALLY SAFE STRATEGY 2016-2021

- 5.1 The Scottish Borders Equally Safe Strategy (see attached Appendix) has four main priorities:
1. Scottish Borders' society embraces equality and mutual respect, and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls.
 2. Women and girls in the Scottish Borders thrive as equal citizens: socially, culturally, economically and politically.
 3. Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and promoting women's safety and wellbeing in the Scottish Borders.
 4. Men in the Scottish Borders desist from all forms of violence against women and girls, and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response.

Specifically, the Scottish Borders Equally Safe strategy aims to "work together to ensure that all women and girls in the Scottish Borders are equally safe at home, at work and in the community".

- 5.2 Details are given within the Strategy of the high-level activities which are proposed to deliver on each of the priorities. While the Strategy is the responsibility of the Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Board in relation to governance, the key performance indicators being developed to track progress of Equally Safe are also required to support the outcomes associated with the Reducing Inequalities strand of the Community Planning Partnership. Operationally the Equally Safe Strategy will be managed by the Violence Against Women Partnership Executive.
- 5.3 A gender based violence strategic assessment conducted by Safer Communities in 2015 provided the baseline for the Equally Safe Delivery Plan, the tool by which action and progress of Equally Safe is managed. This Delivery Plan will detail the actions, outcomes, performance data, lead agencies and timelines for completion.

6 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 **Financial**

There are no costs attached to any of the recommendations contained in this report.

6.2 **Risk and Mitigations**

Feedback from partner agencies and victims of gender based violence suggested that a public endorsement of the strategy would increase confidence as to the success of the Strategy and demonstrate commitment to working in partnership to achieve the aims of Equally Safe. The photo-launch by Community Planning Partnership has been proposed to demonstrate the commitment of all key partner agencies to an "equally safe" Scottish Borders.

6.3 **Equalities**

- (a) An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out on this proposal and it is anticipated that there are no adverse equality implications.
- (b) It is anticipated that there are no adverse impact due to race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation or religion/belief arising from the proposals in this report.

6.4 **Acting Sustainably**

There are no significant impacts on the economy, community or environment arising from the proposals contained in this report.

6.5 **Carbon Management**

There are no significant effects on carbon emissions arising from the proposals contained in this report.

6.6 **Rural Proofing**

This Strategy applies across the whole of the Scottish Borders.

6.7 **Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

There are no changes to be made to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the proposals contained in this report.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 SBC Corporate Management Team and the Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Board have been made aware of the Scottish Borders Equally Safe Strategy.
- 7.2 SBC Corporate Communications are sighted on the Equally Safe Strategy and will prepare a draft press release, to be included in the Scottish Borders 16 Days of Action programme of events.

Approved by

Name Elaine Torrance

Chief Social Work Officer

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Andrea Beavon	VAW Coordinator, Safer Communities, Ext 8242

Background Papers: Nil

Previous Minute Ref:

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Andrea Beavon can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Andrea Beavon, VAW Co-Ordinator, Safer Communities, Council HQ, Newtown St Boswells, TD6 0SA Tel: 01835824000 ext 8242 Email: andrea.beavon@scotborders.gcsx.gov.uk