



# Protecting People Annual Report Summary 2022-2023

## Foreword

As Chairs of the Protecting People Committees/Partnerships, we are pleased to present this report covering April 2022 to March 2023. This year the four Committees have moved to one Protecting People report to demonstrate the cross-cutting nature of the work undertaken. The Annual Report will highlight key cross-cutting and specific Committee achievements, challenges and areas of future work.

There has been a large volume of work undertaken by the four Committees and their partners over the past financial year, with close multi-agency working continuing to be prioritised. This year allowed the Committees to move past COVID-recovery work and progress both new and work delayed during the pandemic.

A key achievement of the Protecting People Committees was focussing on enhancing learning and organisational development. This has been progressed through creating an online multi-agency Protecting People learning resource and identifying areas of improvement through learning reviews. Further key areas the Protecting People Committees have focussed on are enhancing communication both with the public and the workforce, and meaningfully embedding lived experience into informing strategic decision making.

Amongst the large range of achievements completed by the individual Committees are:

**Adult Support and Protection Committee (ASPC):** Work to implement improvements following a Thematic Review of Fire Deaths, particularly in Care at Home Services, further development of training available for Council Officers and Second Workers, and developing a more robust approach to quality assurance.

**Child Protection Committee (CPC):** Development of the Children and Young People's Charter, implementing the national guidance for Child Protection in Scotland, and improving practice and responses to children and families affected by domestic abuse.

**Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP):** Progress with the implementation of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards, establishment of direct access clinics, increased support offered through Independent Advocacy, improving and permanently establishing the Near-Fatal Overdose response, implementation of a pathway for Residential Rehabilitation and the creation of the Alcohol and Drug Prevention Framework.

**Violence Against Women Partnership (VAWP):** Securing funding for a dedicated Gender-based Violence (GBV) Learning and Organisational Development post, creating the Young People's Intelligence and a social media presence through the StandTaygether Instagram.

Despite these achievements, there are still some challenges that persist. Capacity and availability of resources continue to have an impact on Protecting People work and the ability to progress in some areas. Due to persisting challenges of recruitment and retention of frontline staff and the increasing demands on services, it is difficult to release staff to take part in training. This also affects the ability to progress some areas of improvement work.

Funding also remains a challenge, especially within the third sector specialist organisations. Allocations are generally time limited, project based and come from a range of sources. To mitigate this, both the ADP and the VAWP have a sub-group to monitor the availability of funds and the total money in the city for their specific areas to ensure strategic priorities are being addressed. The Partnerships also actively seek out funding opportunities with the ADP being successful in obtaining over £2 million in funds through various third sector projects.

To address these challenges and continue improving Protecting People work across Dundee, the Committees will be working together on key cross-cutting areas. The Committees hope to further integrate the work by implementing a new strategic structure to address risk and vulnerability affecting members of our community collectively. The Committees will also focus on further developing their approach to gather the views from people they are working with to ensure their voice is heard and informs strategic direction, operational processes and service delivery.

We would like to thank all the members of the Protecting People Committees for their continued support and commitment to this work and to express a great appreciation to all staff across the agencies who work hard to protect the people of Dundee every day.



**Elaine Torrance**  
Chair of Adult Support and Protection Committee and Child Protection Committee.



**Emma Fletcher**  
Co-Chair of Alcohol and Drugs Partnership.



**Nicola Shepherd**  
Co-Chair of Alcohol and Drugs Partnership.



**Ann Hamilton**  
Chair of Violence Against Women Partnership.

# DUNDEE is Scotland's fourth largest city

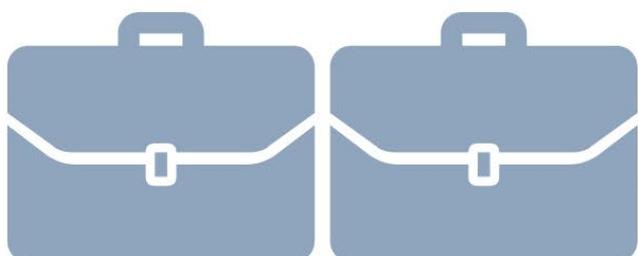
**2nd** highest population density in Scotland.



**7/8** Wards in Dundee ranked in the **20%** most deprived data zones in Scotland.

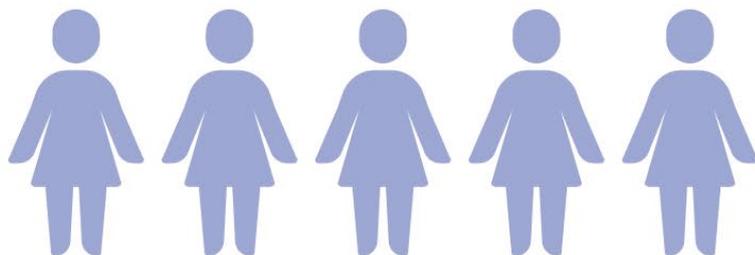


Estimated that **43% of children aged 0-15** live within the 20% most deprived data zones.



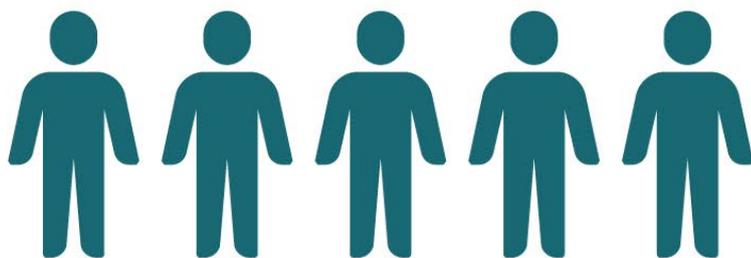
Dundee's 2022 population was estimated to be

# 148,100



**76,100 Females**

Life expectancy: 79.1 years

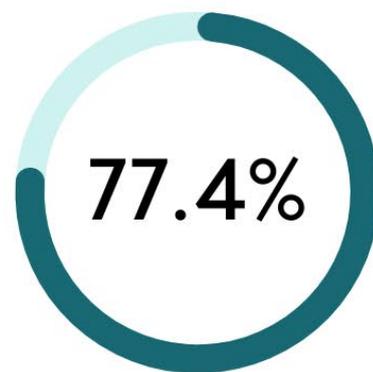


**72,100 Males**

Life expectancy: 73.5 years



Dundee



Scotland

In 2022, **73.6% of those aged 16-64** years in Dundee City were economically active.

In 2020/21, **21.84% of Dundee's population had been prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis**

(5th highest of all Council areas in Scotland).



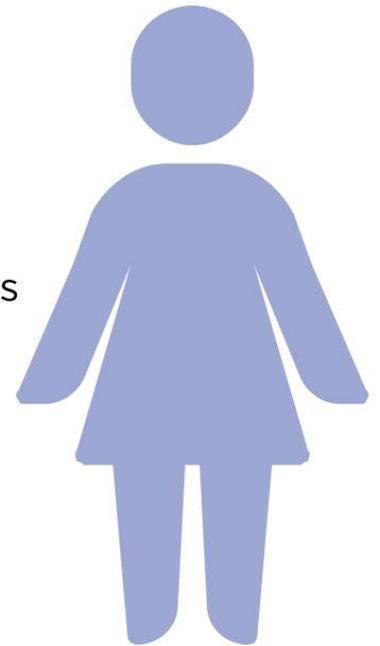
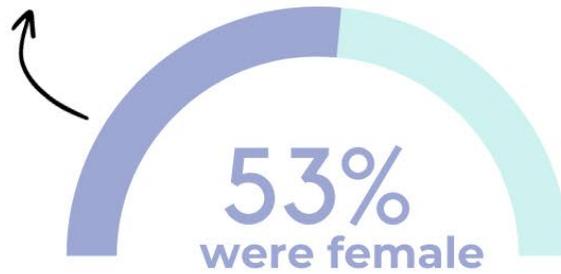
**29 Suicide** related deaths in 2022 (**19.6 per 100,000**)



**38 Drug deaths** in 2022

**(25.6 per 100,000)**

(2nd highest of all Council areas in Scotland).



**37 Alcohol-specific deaths** in 2022 (**24.9 per 100,000**)



**519 Sexual crimes** recorded by Police Scotland



**2,660 Domestic abuse incidents** reported to Police. Increase of **6.2%** from 2021/22

**Imprisonment rate:** Dundee City retained the **highest rate** of arrival **3.6** per **1,000** in 2021-2022



## Cross-Cutting Key achievements in 2022-2023

The **development of the Protecting People Learning and Organisational Development (PP L&OD) Framework**. The team have been working to bring PP L&OD into one place, an online location, that is easily accessible and locates protection training and development within a tiered framework.

The **Chief Officers Group (COG) hosted a Workforce Collaboration Event** in February 2023. As well as offering an opportunity for staff to network with their colleagues across services, the event included presentations celebrating key developments and improvements in Protecting People services. Staff and COG members participated in workshops focused on key improvement areas, giving them an opportunity to share their views and ideas with COG members.

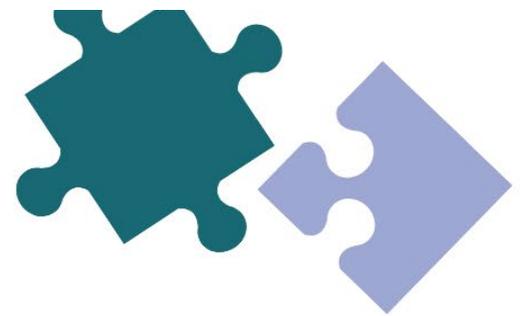
The **Protecting People Committees partnered with Dundee City Council Communications Service to offer a joint Digital Communications Graduate Trainee role**. The role has allowed Committees to develop improved ways to distribute key information, develop new digital communication channels, develop digital communication materials and improve the accessibility of information produced by the Committees.

**Dundee's Trauma Steering Group launched their implementation plan** in March 2022 and has been progressing actions throughout the year.

In 2022-23 the COG met to focus on ways in which the **contribution of the workforce could be recognised and celebrated** and how the workforce could be better involved in the work of the Protecting People Committees. Developments have included opportunities for COG to visit services to understand challenges faced and opportunities for members of the workforce to attend and observe COG meetings.

Progressing the culture change that workers within the **workforce can have lived experience of trauma and can contribute and co-produce services and strategy**. The Workforce Lived Experience Group is forming ideas about the role it wants to take and is already involved in a number of developments.

**Working with the National Authentic Voice Project as a pilot area for their leadership workstream, focused on embedding lived experience into strategic forums across Scotland**. The COG has endorsed this as a priority for senior leadership and are committed to engaging in key activities with the project. It is led in collaboration with people who have lived experience, and their input is very much at the heart of the Authentic Voice project.



## Challenges

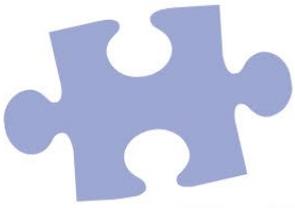
**Sourcing, delivering and releasing staff for training beyond basic/awareness level.** To address this challenge the Protecting People team are looking to **Implement the PP L&OD Framework which will encompass all Protecting People Committees.**

**Implementing improvement work.** This has been particularly difficult where improvement work has required active input, expertise and skills of people working in frontline protection services. These teams within the workforce have focused on meeting increased demand and complexity of risk, whilst dealing with gaps in normal staff capacity caused by wellbeing, absence and recruitment issues.

**Embedding an intersectional approach** in all Protecting People work. The Protecting People Team have already begun to embed intersectional approaches to their work through the **Gendered Services Project, Deaf Links partnering and the soon-to-be-launched ADP Prevention Framework**. There is however more to be done for all work to be informed by an intersectional approach.

**Ensuring staff to have access to wellbeing support.** To address this, the team seek to implement recommendations from the **Staff Burnout report and review key policies through a trauma lens and develop guidance toolkits for the multi-agency partnership to support this area.**

**Improving communication and engagement. One size does not fit all** – different audiences have different needs and preferences. Within the resources available it can be challenging to meet everyone's needs and there often must be a process of prioritisation. **Committees will continue to be proactive in their approach to communications, including with local media.**



## Challenges

**Continue embedding lived experience work.** It is important that we expand this work but **ensure that all lived experience work is trauma-informed and meaningful, not tokenistic.**

**Increasing focus on prevention and early intervention.** Due to strained capacity within frontline and strategic teams, it does not always allow for this focus to be at the forefront, with resources being assigned to crisis-driven responses. We hope to address this by **implementing the Dundee Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Framework and creating a Violence Against Women Prevention Framework.**

The public sector has continued to face a very **challenging financial landscape** during 2022-23. This has impacted a range of Protecting People services and supports, particularly those delivered in the third sector. Throughout the year the **Protecting People Committees have focused on taking positive action to mitigate risks associated with financial challenges wherever possible.** This includes the establishment of the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Commissioning Group and the Violence Against Women Partnership Funding Group.



## Key priorities for 2023/24

**ENHANCE** our focus on suicide prevention, including developing a new plan for improvement that reflects the national Suicide Prevention Strategy.

**FURTHER** integrated our work on protecting people, implementing a new strategic structure that will help the COG and committees to implement priorities for improvement.

**FOCUS** more on prevention activity, including taking a trauma-informed approach to understanding, responding to and preventing future harm.

**IMPROVE** our approach to communication, developing more consistent and more easily accessible routes for communicating our work with members of the public and the workforce.

**ENHANCE** our approach to quality assurance and learning reviews, making sure that these activities inform learning and development and lead to improvements in outcomes for children, young people, adults and families.

**DEVELOP** an approach to support services to better capture, report and understand outcomes information for people who are supported through protection processes, services and supports.

**EXPAND** our approach to experiential data collection, making sure that feedback from people involved in protection processes, services and supports is at the centre of our quality assurance approach.

**FOCUS** on making changes to our strategic and service development approaches to enhance the meaningful impact of lived experience.

# DUNDEE

## Adult Support and Protection (ASP) 2022-2023

**95**  
**ASP**  
**investigations**



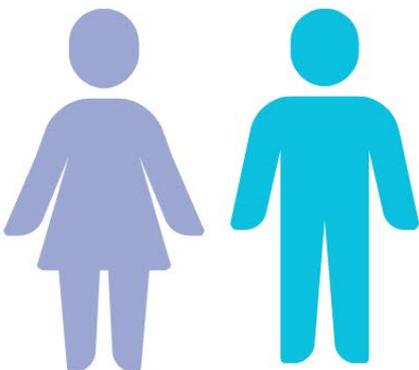
**88**

Initial case conferences were held.



**72%**

of harm happens most at home.



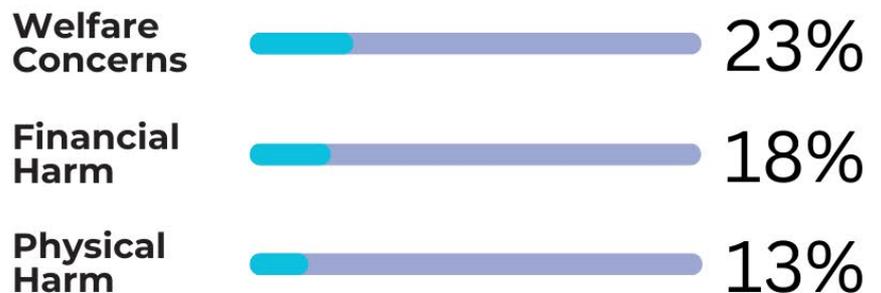
The age group **most at risk** is that of **40-64 years old** for both sexes



**18%**

increase from the previous year.

### Type of harm reported in ASP investigations



Adults with **Learning Disabilities** form the **highest group** that receive ASP investigations (**23%**), followed by those with **Mental Health** needs (**20%**).



## Key achievements in 2022-2023

Significant progress has been made in **developing and implementing a more robust approach to quality assurance, including developing a new Learning Review process** and having more effective oversight of the implementation of learning from reviews.

Partners have worked collaboratively together, both in Dundee and across Tayside, to **develop and deliver a high-quality and varied learning and development programme**. This has supported improvement priorities and enabled more practitioners to gain the confidence to participate in improvement activities.

Dundee has invested in **learning and development approaches that have resulted in a high level of Council Officer capacity, confidence and competence**. Action has also been taken to ensure good availability of Mental Health Officer capacity to ASP processes and to maintain a responsive system where a Capacity Assessment is requested.

Our comprehensive arrangements for oversight and support of the independent sector, delivered through a partnership approach, have **supported a high-quality and improvement focused approach to completing Large Scale Investigations**.

Partners have worked together to implement learning from the Thematic Review of Fire Deaths, leading to **significant improvements in the assessment of fire safety risks and provision of fire safety equipment, particularly in Care at Home Services**.



## Key priorities for 2023/24

Completing the work that has started in both Dundee and Tayside to **revise our multi-agency ASP policies and procedures** and fully implement the revised national Code of Practice.

**Achieving a more consistent approach to supporting adults at risk** and their unpaid carers / family members to be appropriately involved at all stages of ASP processes (not just case conferences).

**Continued efforts to improve the quality of chronologies, risk assessments and plans** and to gain a better understanding of the role that Initial Referral Discussion meetings have as part of wider approach to information gathering, analysis and decision-making within Duty to Inquire and investigations.

**Moving to a tiered multi-agency pathway** that supports adults at risk of harm from the earliest point of identification through to ASP processes, where these are required.

**Implementing a process for capturing experiential feedback** from adults and carers who have been subject to/supported individuals through ASP processes.

# DUNDEE

## Child Protection Committee

(CPC) 2022-2023



# 7,777

agency contacts with Multi-Agency Screening Hub.

# 2,156

## Police



CP Concern reports.

# 456

Initial Referral Discussions

# 84

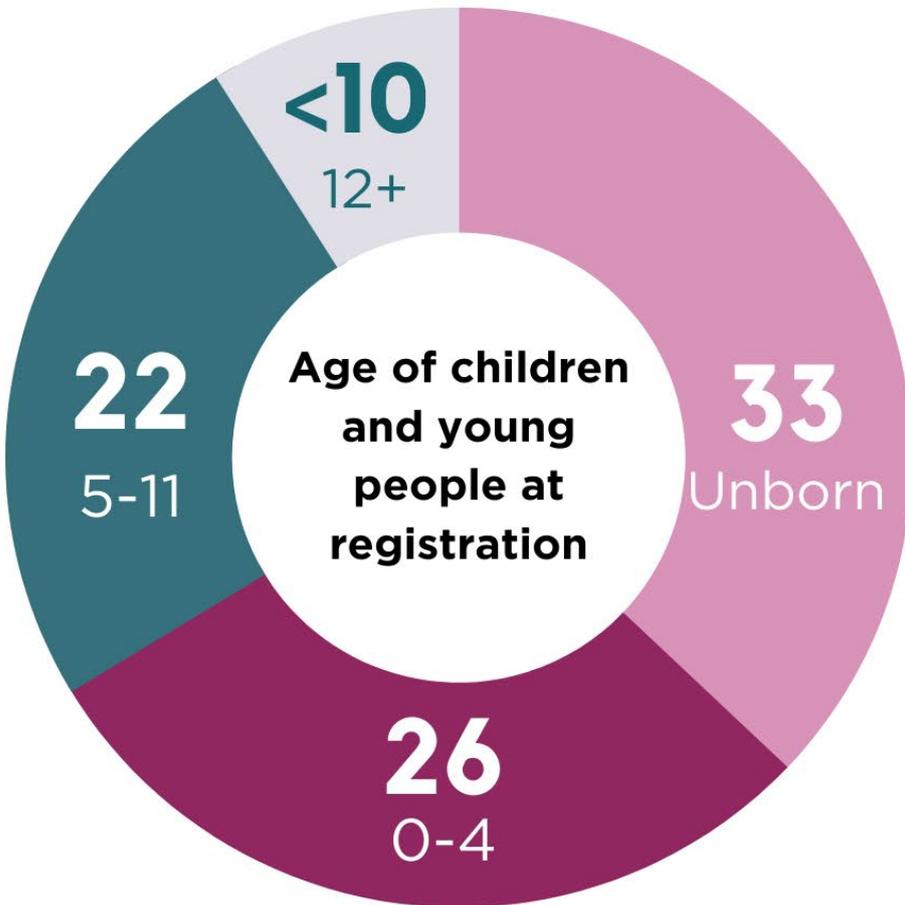


children **added** to Child Protection Register in 22/23.

# 117

Children and young people **removed** from the Protection Register in 22/23 and provided with alternative support.

As of March 2023, there were **27 children on the Protection Register.**



Most **frequently recorded concerns** for children being placed on the Protection Register:



## Key achievements in 2022-2023

Updating the Dundee Multi-agency Child Protection Procedures to fully incorporate the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland.

**Creation of the Children and Young People's Charter** which aims to **improve the involvement of children and young people (CYP) at both strategic and service level.** The Charter is based on the views of a group of CYP's experiences in the Child Protection and Care Systems and what could have been better for them.

Establishment of the **Children/Young People Experiencing Domestic Abuse (CYPEDA) working group** to ensure strong links are made between Child Protection and Domestic Abuse (DA) specialist services.

**Creation of a manager-level post** was established in Children & Families social work, with a focus on **improving practice and responses to children and families affected by domestic abuse.**

The CPC has a **well-established dataset** and the Multi-agency Data Subgroup defines themes and priorities to draw to the attention of the CPC. The **data report format was amended** in summer 2022 to reflect new national guidance and focus on exceptional indicators.

**Subgroups** which focus on **Case Reviews and Quality Assurance are now established** within the CPC structure and themes from these groups and the data group are triangulated to ensure we have a full picture to **inform strategic developments and improvements.**



## Key priorities for 2023/24

Evaluating how well aspects of the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland have been incorporated into local practice and arrangements, and **identifying any gaps that require to be addressed.**

**Continue to embed the work of the Children's Charter.**

**Continue to enhance the work of the CYPEDA working group** to develop a more in-depth pathway which will align and be embedded within Getting it Right for Every Child guidance and framework.

**Continue to implement the new Joint Investigative Interview Model and Bairn's Hoose.**



# DUNDEE

## Alcohol and Drug Partnership

(ADP) 2022-2023

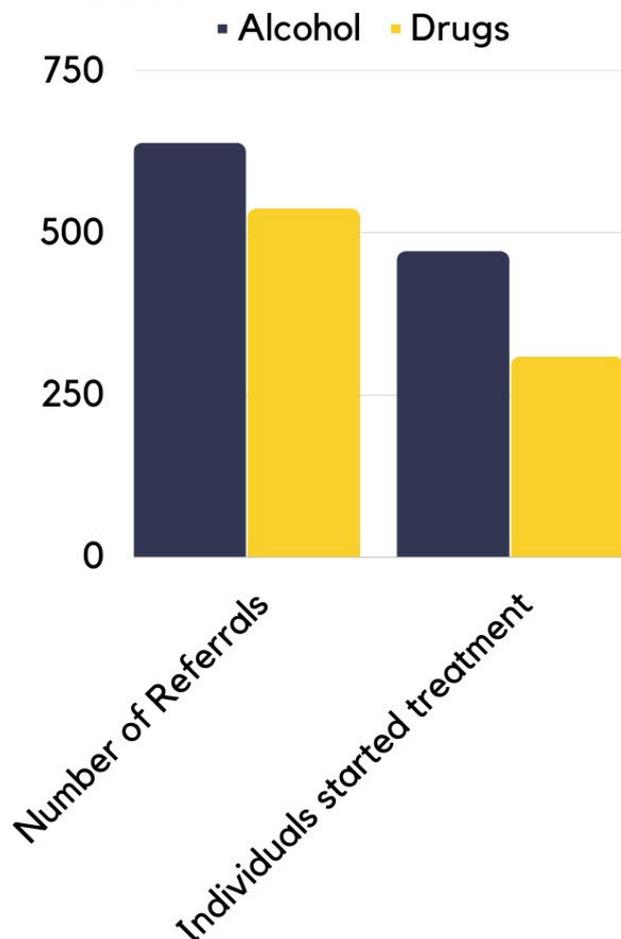
National Records Scotland:



**38 Drug deaths** in Dundee in 2022 a **17.4% decrease** from 2021. **20 (53%)** of these deaths were **female**.

**2nd Highest**

rate of drug deaths (43.1 per 100,000) of all local authority areas (2018-2022) in Scotland.



In 2022, there were **179 Near-Fatal Overdoses (NFODs)** incidents.

**Reduction from 2021** when there were **342 NFODs**.



**1,555 Naloxone kits** were distributed in 2022/23

Individuals in the most deprived areas of Dundee were



**5x** more likely to have experienced an alcohol or drug-related hospital stay/discharge than those living in the least deprived areas.



For the past four years, **75%** of all drug deaths have occurred where the deceased was a resident in the 20% most deprived areas.

## Key achievements in 2022-2023

Over the last year, the Dundee ADP developed a local multi-agency **Strategic Framework**. The Framework is supported by a two-year rolling Delivery Plan (2023-2025). **The overall aim of the Framework is to reduce harm from alcohol and drug use, support well-being and the recovery of people who experience longer-term challenges associated.**

The Dundee ADP continued to progress with the implementation of **Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards**, primarily focusing on **Standards 1 - 5 (Phase 1)**. Through this, the ADP **established direct access clinics, increased support offered through Independent Advocacy, improved and permanently established the Near-Fatal Overdose response and implemented a pathway for Residential Rehabilitation**. In the most recent Government Benchmarking Report, Dundee's ratings **improved** in 2023 from the previous year for all five MAT Standards that were involved in Phase 1 of the implementation.

During 2022-23, **six applications** from organisations in Dundee were **successful in obtaining large grants from CORRA for their proposed projects, with a total sum of £2,194,696**. These projects will be implemented in 2023-24.

The Dundee ADP created and designed the **Dundee Alcohol and Drug Prevention Framework** for the workforce to support development and action-planning across the city. **The Framework is intended to provide evidence of best practice that should be considered when monitoring or planning any services, interventions or prevention activity**. Although still in the early stages of implementation, this should result in a prevention-focused system with fewer individuals experiencing issues with drug and alcohol use.



## Key priorities for 2023/24

**Continue to focus on the implementation of MAT Standards 1-5 (Phase 1)**. This will include a review of the implementation to date regarding access to services, focusing on the work of the direct access clinics. It will also include expanding the scope of responding to high and immediate risk to include broader risks and vulnerabilities. Work will also progress with Community Pharmacies to increase their support for MAT. To support this, the capacity currently co-ordinating the Near-Fatal Overdose Pathway will be strengthened.

Shift focus to the implementation of **MAT Standards 6 - 10** with a clear focus on **improving links with mental health services and strengthening the Shared Care approach with Primary Care**.

Focus on supporting the specialist substance use organisations to develop effective Family-Focused Approaches, **ensuring carers and families are included and supported**.

**Continue and further embed work carried out by the experiential data group** to inform strategic decision-making.

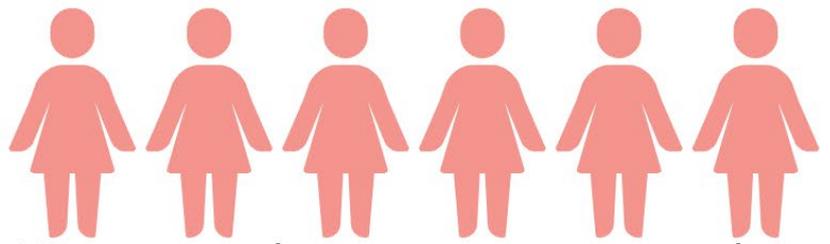
Progress implementation of the **new Dundee Alcohol and Drugs Prevention Framework**.

Focus more on **workforce development and training**.

**Launch the Dundee ADP website** to ensure that all stakeholders are provided assurance of work being conducted by the Partnership.

# DUNDEE

Violence Against Women Partnership (VAWP) 2022-2023



Women who were presented to services were predominantly **26 years or older.**

Third Sector Organisations in 2022/23 supported:

**2,191**   
Women

**211**   
Children and Young People



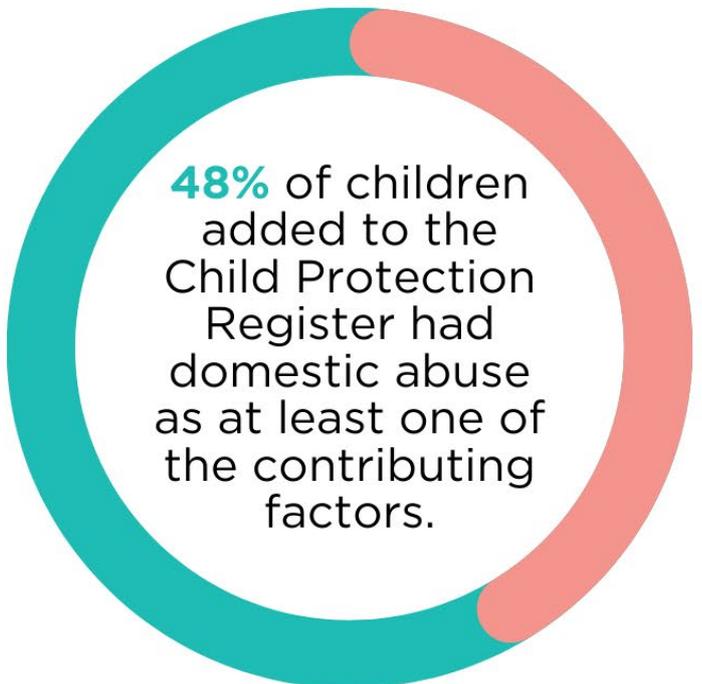
The launch of **ASSIST**, a specialist **Domestic Abuse Advocacy and Support Service**, in April 2022 contributed to this increase.



of total **referrals** to women's specialist services were **made by Police.**

**268 referrals** to Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference in 2022/23.

**33%** Increase from 2021/22.



## Key achievements in 2022-2023

The Dundee VAWP secured funding for a dedicated Gender-based Violence (GBV) Learning and Organisational Development (L&OD) post. **Through this, shared expertise and experiences between the VAWP, L&OD Team and Public Protection were brought together.** This aims to embed a culture change and build capacity in relation to VAW across Dundee at every level of the workforce.

Successfully obtained funding to deliver a **Violence Against Deaf Women Project** which provides advocacy for the Deaf, raises awareness of specific complexities, improves access to VAW services and upskills Women's Aid staff teams on BSL/Deaf Culture.

Establishment of the **Young People's Intelligence Subgroup** to focus on particular concerns for young people in their own relationships. This group has allowed the workforce to be better equipped to **understand the ever-changing worlds of young people to provide relevant advice and support.**

Secured **new funds** for the **CEDAR** project (children experiencing domestic abuse recovery) which is a **group work programme for children and their mothers who are out of the domestic abuse situation and recovering from the experience.** The group work programme aims to rebuild damaged relationships between mother and child(ren) and enable mums to better understand and support their children.

Secured **new funds** for **ASSIST**, a service which **provides advocacy and support to victims (and their children) of domestic abuse who have a case going through court.**

Developing a **social media presence** for the VAWP through the **StandTaygither Instagram** account. This account is used to provide education to the public about gender-based violence, promote the positive work conducted by the VAWP and promote public VAWP event.



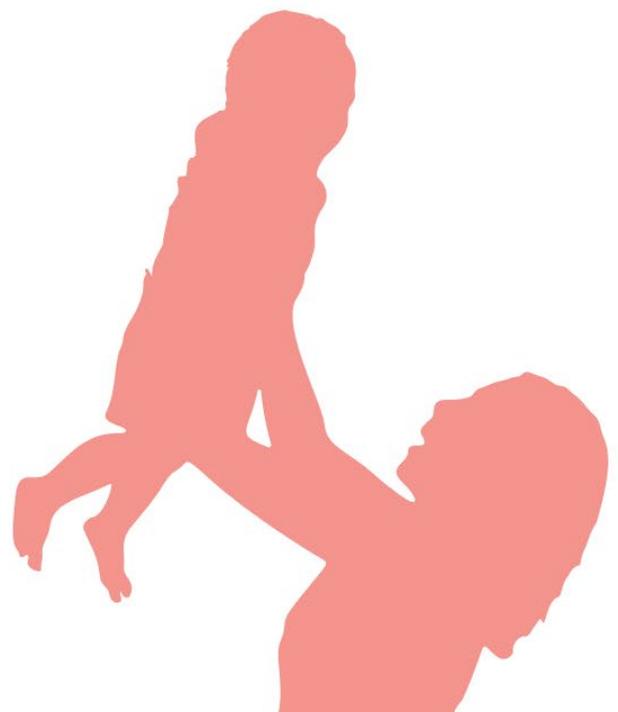
## Key priorities for 2023/24

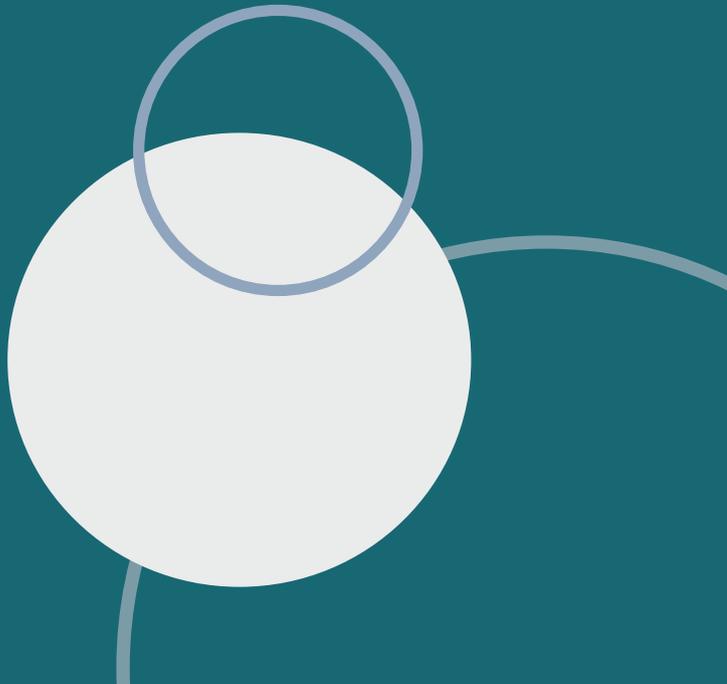
Continue to **develop a collaborative approach to funding for VAW services** and implement national actions from the Strategic review of funding.

Continue to **grow the following of the StandTaygither Instagram account** to ensure a greater cascading of GBV-related education within the public.

To **raise the profile of 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence within Dundee** by investing more resources into the promotion of the campaign.

Further **develop the work of the Young People's Intelligence Group** and ensure intel is widely disseminated throughout the workforce by creating and dispersing a workforce briefing paper.





**Protecting  
People**  
in Dundee

[dundeeprotects.co.uk](http://dundeeprotects.co.uk)