

# INFORMATION SHEET

## National Gender-based Violence and Health Programme

### Tackling Gender-based Violence Through Health Services

The Scottish Government is committed to making tangible, sustainable progress in addressing gender-based violence (GBV).

Given the considerable health implications of such abuse, the NHS in Scotland has embarked on a 3-year programme of work with NHS Boards to improve our identification and management of gender-based violence. In a Chief Executive's Letter issued in 2008 (CEL\_41), NHS Boards were asked to undertake the following key tasks to deliver the improvements required:

- introduce routine enquiry of abuse in settings where presentations of people affected by gender-based violence are highest i.e. maternity, mental health, substance misuse, A&E, community nursing and sexual health services
- disseminate good practice guides for health workers on all forms of gender-based violence
- implement an employee policy on gender-based violence which will be produced at national level
- strengthen their engagements where necessary in multi-agency collaborations on abuse.

The approach outlined in CEL\_41 is designed to build on existing good practice, and to introduce routine enquiry incrementally within services to ensure this is both manageable and measurable.

### GBV Guides for Health Workers Available Now

The National GBV Team has produced a number of resources for NHS Boards, including guidance on developing a gender-based action plan and on implementing routine enquiry, which are available to download from our website.

#### GBV Guides

A suite of guides for health workers is available on the website and in hard copy. Guides currently available include an overview of what health workers need to know and individual guides on:



- childhood sexual abuse -adult survivors
- domestic abuse
- rape and sexual assault
- commercial sexual exploitation
- stalking and harassment
- harmful traditional practices.

#### Training Programmes

Setting-specific training programmes have been developed for maternity, mental health and substance misuse services. See overleaf for more details or visit [www.gbv.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.gbv.scot.nhs.uk)

## Training Programmes (*continued*)

Further training materials are also currently being developed for sexual health services, A & E and community nursing.

Evaluations from the training delivered to date show that it has been well received by staff. The National GBV Team is also taking forward a series of staff focus groups to assess the impact of the training on practice.

## About Us

The National GBV Team was created to support NHS Boards meet their responsibilities in relation to CEL\_41, as a service provider, employer and partner agency. We also promote a response to gender-based violence across the NHS that is safe, person-centred and effective for those who have previous or current experience of abuse. We additionally have responsibility for monitoring progress across the NHS in Scotland and are working with Boards to develop effective recording and reporting systems.

We have also undertaken a research programme focusing on identification and responses to domestic abuse in health care services. Specifically, studies will consider the effectiveness of computer assisted routine enquiry and developing an intervention for community nurses.

## Contact Us

Further newsletters outlining progress of the programme are planned for the coming months. If you would like to receive these, or would like any further information on the work of the team, please contact us.

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