

# Equally Safe Quality Standards and Performance Framework

## Key Learning from 2018/19 Data Returns

### INTRODUCTION

#### **Background**

The [Equally Safe Quality Standards and Performance Framework](#) was published by the Scottish Government, COSLA and the Improvement Service in May 2018, in close collaboration with the National VAW Network and other stakeholders.

The Equally Safe Quality Standards and Performance Framework responds to the expectations set out in [Equally Safe: Scotland's Strategy for Preventing and Eradicating Violence Against Women and Girls](#) and in the [Violence Against Women Partnership Guidance](#), in relation to effective performance management.

The Quality Standards aim to raise awareness of the types of services, policies and processes that are most effective in tackling VAWG and capture data on the extent to which they are currently being delivered across Scotland. The Performance Framework aims to measure the impact that these services, policies and processes are having on the lives of people and communities affected by VAWG. Collectively, the two resources aim to support VAWPs to capture key performance data and facilitate a consistent approach to measuring and reporting on the progress being made to achieve the ambitions set out in Equally Safe at a local level.

#### **What has changed since last year?**

Following feedback from local and national partners, the indicators in the *Equally Safe Quality Standards and Performance Framework* have been refreshed for the second year of reporting to ensure they are as meaningful and measurable for members of local multi-agency VAW Partnerships as possible. This has included reducing the number of performance indicators partners are requested to provide data on, and minimising the level/ breakdown of data being requested within each indicator.

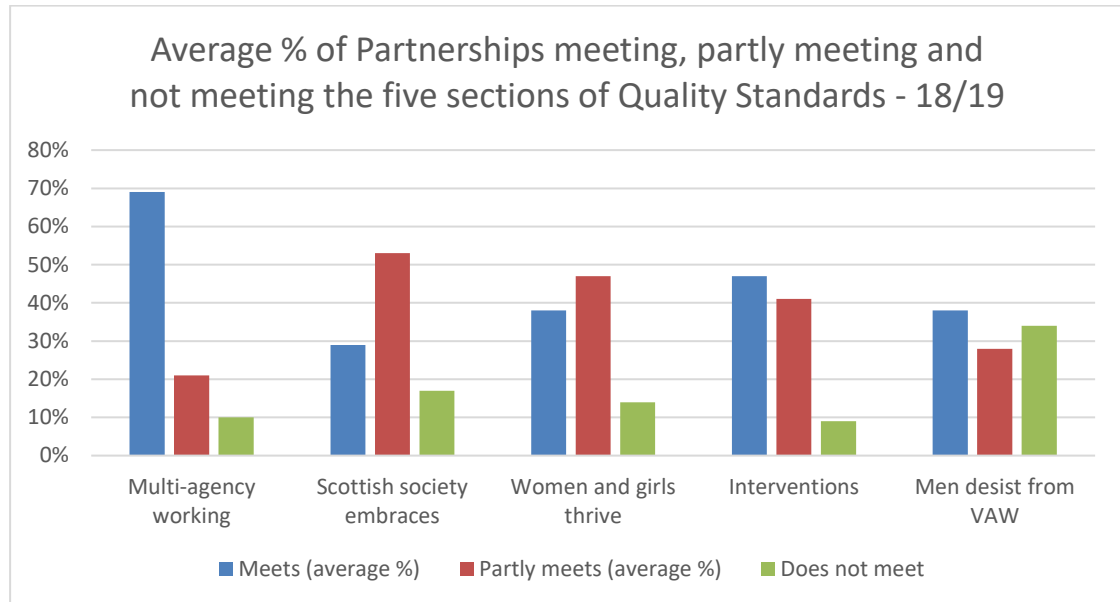
The Quality Standards have also been updated to incorporate key activities taking place locally and nationally to tackle VAWG and gender inequality, including learning from work being taken forward as part of the Equally Safe at Work pilot and the Equally Safe in Colleges and Universities programme. Additionally, the data return templates have been amended to make them more user friendly for VAW Partnerships to complete.

#### **Purpose of this Report**

The deadline for 2018/19 data returns was the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Thirty-one Partnerships provided a data return for the Quality Standards, compared with 25 returns submitted last year. This report benchmarks against last year's results to show areas of progress. Individual local reports are also being produced for each area that submitted a response.

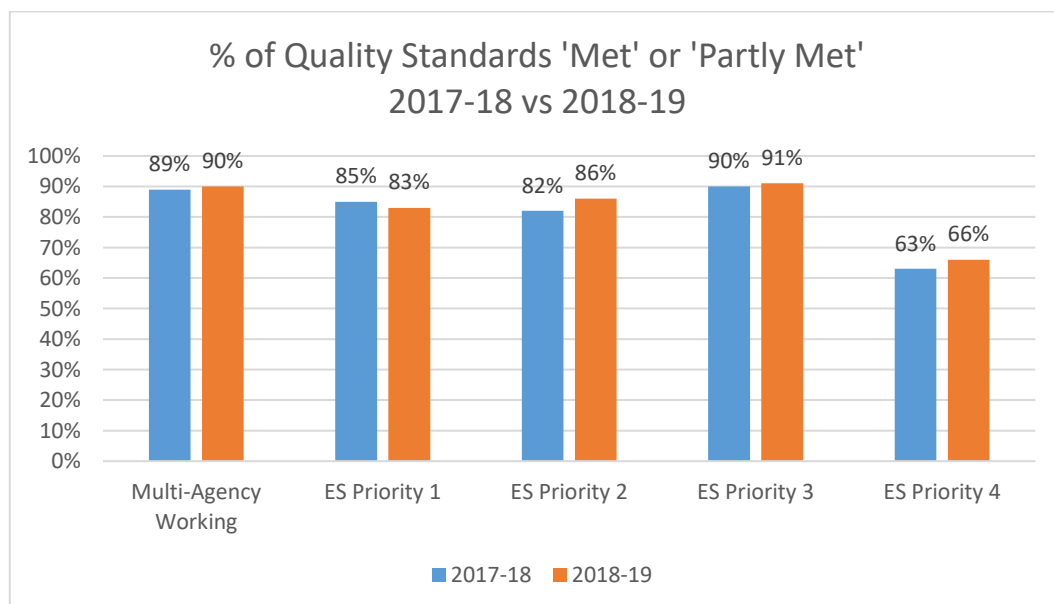
### 2018-19 Data on all Priority areas:

Partnerships reported higher numbers of either meeting or partly meeting the quality standards in all priority areas. Priority 4: Men desist from all forms of VAW, remains the most challenging with the highest amount of 'Does not meet' reported. Multi-agency partnership working is still being met in most areas, and there has been positive reporting for Priority 3 on early and effective interventions.



### Comparison with 2017-18 Data:

Overall, most of the priority areas saw an increase in Partnerships meeting or partly meeting the Quality Standards. While some of these increases are slight, it should be noted that more areas were able to provide data returns this year, an increase of 25 to 31. The addition of more data returns meant that some of the same successes and challenges were recorded this year as the previous report.



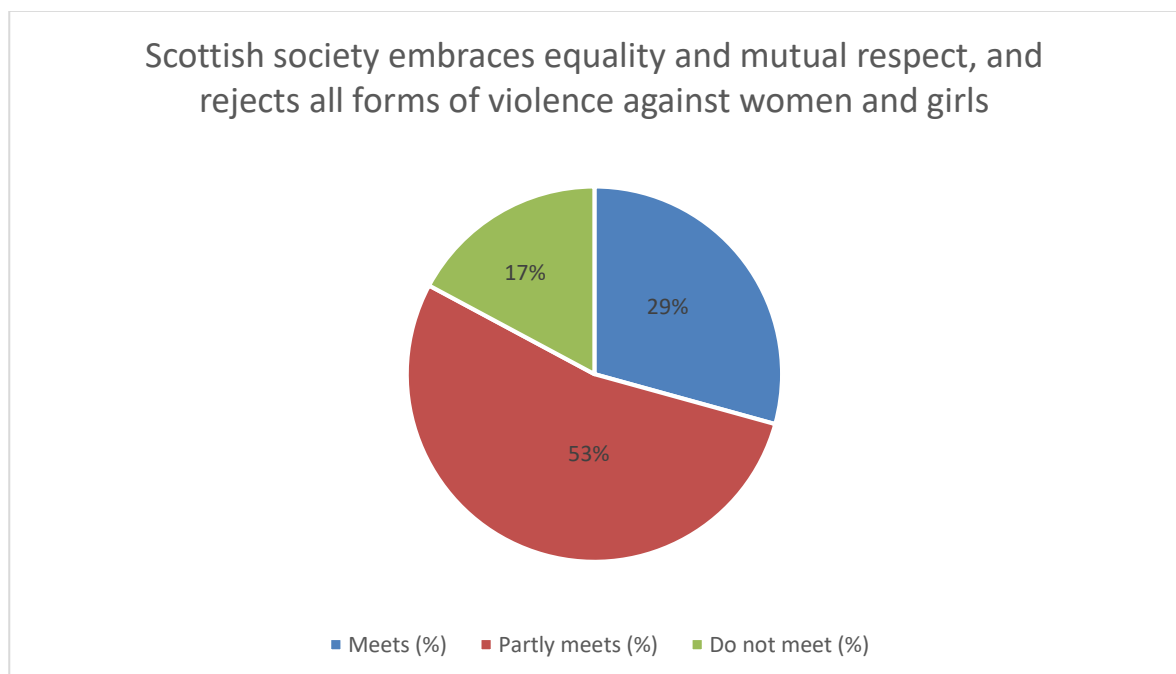
## PART 1: EQUALLY SAFE QUALITY STANDARDS – RESULTS AND KEY LEARNING

### 1. SCOTTISH SOCIETY EMBRACES EQUALITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT, AND REJECTS ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

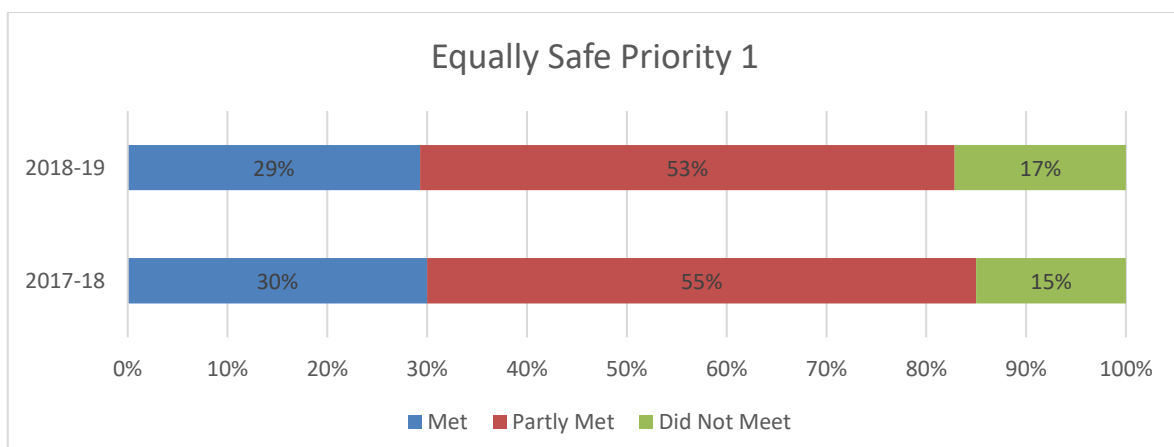
This section of the Quality Standards aimed to generate learning on the extent to which services, policies and processes are in place at a local level that the evidence-base suggests will help to achieve the following short-term and medium-term outcomes that contribute to Priority 1 of Equally Safe:

- People have increased understanding of all forms of VAWG (causes, consequences and appropriate responses); and
- Tolerance of VAWG is reduced and people are more likely to recognise and challenge it.

**Overview of percentage of partnerships meeting, partly meeting and not meeting the quality standards for Priority 1 in 2018-19:**



**Comparison with 2017-18 results for Priority 1:**



## 1.1. Key Findings

### Key findings from this section of the Quality Standards include:

- 83% of LAs report meeting or partly meeting the quality standards in this priority area. While this is a small decrease from the numbers last (85%) year, it is important to note that this figures includes data from 6 LAs who were unable to provide data last year
- In 2018-19, there have been some positive trends in Partnerships continuing to make efforts to increase community engagements and many have prioritised communications in their action planning.
- There has been a slight increase in Partnerships using data on attitudes, and many are prioritising this type of data collection for the future.
- Engagement with schools to deliver interventions has increased since last year along with collaboration with youth work organisations.
- 77% of Partnerships reported engaging with Colleges and Universities and those who did not have noted this as a priority to take forward.

#### 1.1.1. Quality Standard 1:

*Proactive engagement and communications take place in the local community to increase people's awareness and understanding of the causes and consequences of VAWG, and the role they can play in tackling it.*

- **23% said they meet the QS**
- **70% said they partly meet the QS,**
- **7% of Partnerships indicated they do not meet the QS**

#### 1.1.2. Quality Standard 2:

*The VAW Partnership regularly collects/ analyses data to understand people's attitudes in relation to VAWG and use that to inform future awareness raising activities.*

- **10% said they meet the QS**
- **40% said they partly meet the QS**
- **50% of Partnerships said they do not meet the QS**

#### 1.2. Quality Standard 3:

*All primary and secondary schools deliver age-appropriate, evidence-based interventions to raise children, teachers and parents' understanding and awareness of gender-based violence, positive, healthy relationships and consent, as part of a whole school approach to tackling VAWG.*

- **27% said they meet the QS**
- **63% said they partly meet the QS**
- **10% of Partnerships indicated they do not meet this QS**

#### 1.3. Quality Standard 4:

*Youth work organisations deliver interventions to raise young people's understanding and awareness of VAWG and the importance of positive, healthy relationships.*

- **23% said they meet the QS**
- **60% indicated they partly meet the QS**
- **13% Partnerships reported that they do not meet the QS**

#### **1.4. Quality Standard 5:**

*There is clear up to date and accessible online guidance about the services available to support families affected by VAWG and how to access them. This online guidance is well promoted, particularly amongst target groups.*

- **53% said they meet the QS**
- **47% indicated that they partly meet the QS**
- **No Partnerships said they do not meet the QS.**

#### **1.5. Quality Standard 6:**

*The VAW Partnership has processes in place to engage with colleges and universities in the local authority area and works with them to identify opportunities for partnership working in preventing gender-based violence on campuses.*

This was a new Quality Standard added for 2018-19.

- **37% said they meet the QS**
- **37% of Partnerships said that they partly meet the QS**
- **23% said that they do not meet the QS**

#### **1.6. Examples of Good Practice**

- **Clackmannanshire (Awareness raising on CSE and collaborative working with Community Justice)**

Clackmannanshire VAW Partnership held a well attended 16 Days event which raised the profile and understanding of Commercial Sexual Exploitation which was followed up by a working group and further contributions to address Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Forth Valley. The VAW Partnership was also influential in setting out a priority for the Community Justice Partnership which cites the requirement to specifically address unhealthy gender constructs.

- **Dumfries and Galloway (work in schools and with Youth Work services)**

Dumfries & Galloway Rape Crisis continue to deliver the RCS National Sexual Violence Prevention Programme across the region and have now reached into all 16 D&G secondary schools. Uptake and engagement are good. The programme evaluates well both nationally and regionally and evaluation data is available to the partnership. Youth Work Services within Dumfries and Galloway have integrated violence against women and information on healthy relationships into all their work across the region. They provide an interactive resource that covers forms of VAWG for young people

during the Youth Beatz festival. This is Scotland's largest free youth festival and is very well attended.

- **Glasgow (drama programmes)**

The Glasgow VAW Partnership support the delivery of 2 drama programmes. Crush is offered to every secondary school in the city, this drama is targeted at 3rd year pupils and explores abuse within teenage relationships. Gold Stars and Dragon Marks is a primary school drama targeted at P5 to P7 and is delivered on a 3 year rolling programme.

- **Highland (Equally Safe in Colleges and Universities)**

University of Highlands & Islands (UHI) has commenced the Equally Safe programme. The Highland VAW Partnership sits on the Working Group and helped create UHI Staff Guidance on How to Respond to Disclosure of Gender Based Violence; representatives from the HVAWP delivered workshops at the West Highland College annual staff on rape culture and responding to trauma/trauma informed practice. Inverness Women's Aid participated in the recent UHI Equally Safe Further Education toolkit seminar Love Doesn't Hurt.

### **1.7. Next Steps/ Recommendations**

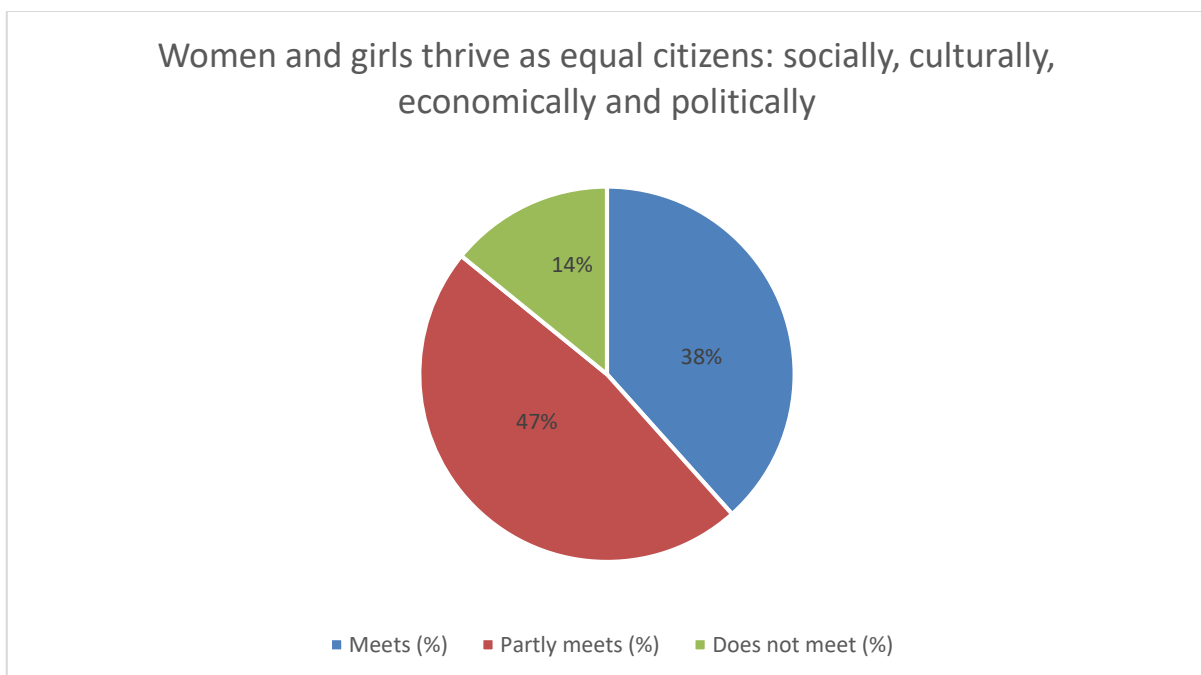
- Similar challenges and next steps to last year's report were identified under this Priority.
  - Partnerships who did not have a designated Coordinator or lead struggled to undertake some of the tasks in this priority.
  - A few partnerships also noted that information is still largely broken up over many organisations and promotion would be made easier with a centralised website. Some Partnerships are in the process of setting up their own VAWP website to share information in this way.
  - Several Partnerships are also developing or continuing a Communications strategy to improve the VAWP's ability to share and promote information and resources on gender inequality.
  - A few Partnerships noted that a challenge remains in engaging with hard-to-reach groups such as BME communities and also that education engagement is improving however there is a need to expand this to raise awareness around issues such as forced marriage, honour based abuse and FGM within schools and colleges.

## 2. WOMEN AND GIRLS THRIVE AS EQUAL CITIZENS: SOCIALLY, CULTURALLY, ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY

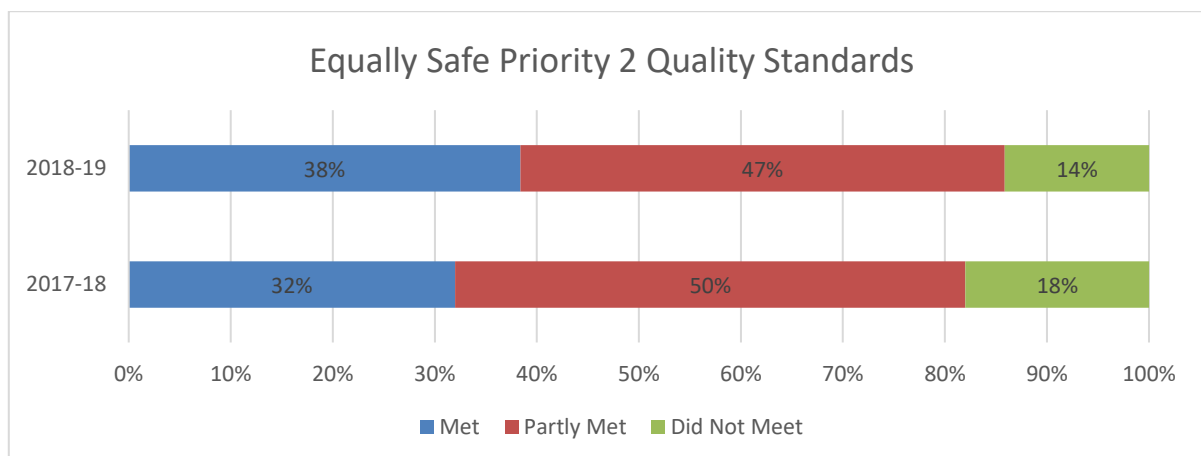
This section of the Quality Standards aimed to generate learning on the extent to which services, policies and processes are in place at a local level that the evidence-base suggests will help to achieve the following short-term and medium-term outcomes that contribute to Priority 2 of Equally Safe:

- Fewer people adhere to gender stereotypes; and
- Power, decision-making and material resources are distributed more equally between men and women.

**Overview of percentage of partnerships meeting, partly meeting and not meeting the quality standards for Priority 2 in 2018-19:**



**Comparison with 2017-18 results for Priority 2:**



## 2.1. Key Findings

### Key findings from this section of the Quality Standards include:

- This priority area has seen an increase of Partnerships meeting or partly meeting the Quality Standards compared with last year's results. Notable, Equality Impact Assessments have been routinely undertaken by more local authority areas, with an increase of 11% either meeting or partly meeting the standard.
- Increases were also shown in Quality Standards relating to public sector employers publishing data on gender pay gap information, VAWP engagement with equality groups on the VAWG agenda, and gender sensitive public sector workplace policies.
- Quality Standard 6 changed in 2018-19 to reflect the start of Close the Gap's Equally Safe at Work pilot, and over 50% of Partnerships reported being engaged in some way in this.

#### 2.1.1. Quality Standard 1:

*Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) are routinely undertaken when developing all major new policies, processes and services at a local level in partnership with Equality Groups, to ensure they do not discriminate against women and to identify ways to promote women's equality through them.*

- **20% said they meet the QS**
- **67% said they partly meet the QS**
- **13% of Partnerships indicated they do not meet the QS**

#### 2.1.2. Quality Standard 2:

*Public Sector employers publish a gender pay gap and an equal pay statement (including gendered occupational segregation information), gather and use gender-disaggregated data, in line with the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), and develop an equality outcome on gender and employment.*

- **63% said they meet the QS**
- **27% said they partly meet the QS**
- **10% of Partnerships said they do not meet the QS**

#### 2.1.3. Quality Standard 3:

*VAWPs regularly engage with local equality groups to ensure they are aware of the VAWG agenda and understand the inequalities that underpin it.*

- **17% said they meet the QS**
- **77% said they partly meet the QS**
- **7% of Partnerships indicated they do not meet the QS**

#### 2.1.4. Quality Standard 4:

*Public Sector workplace policies are gender-sensitive and recognise the barriers to women's workplace equality.*



- **40% indicated that they meet the QS**
- **53% said they partly meet the QS**
- **3% of Partnerships indicated that their do not meet the QS**

#### **Quality Standard 5:**

*Public Sector workplace policies recognise that employees may be affected by VAWG and communicate / support clear paths for women experiencing this.*

- **47% indicated they meet the QS**
- **47% said they partly meet the QS**
- **7% of Partnerships indicated that they do not meet the QS**

#### **Quality Standard 6**

*VAW Partnerships (and their member organisations) actively engage with Close the Gap's 'Equally Safe at Work' pilot.*

- **43% indicated that they meet the QS**
- **13% said they partly meet the QS**
- **43% of Partnerships indicated that they do not meet the QS**

### **2.2. Examples of Good Practice**

- **Argyll & Bute (Use of EIAs and improving use of data)**

Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) are routinely undertaken when developing all major new policies, processes and services, by the Council and Partners such as the Health Board and Police. Improving the use of data has been identified as an improvement action point in the Equally Safe Plan.

- **East Ayrshire (Make a Stand pledge)**

East Ayrshire Council has adopted the Chartered Institute of Housing's Make a Stand pledge supporting people experiencing domestic abuse. The Make a Stand pledge, developed by the Chartered Institute of Housing in partnership with Women's Aid and the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance, encourages housing organisations to make a commitment to support people experiencing domestic abuse.

- **Falkirk (Equal Opportunities Policy)**

The Council has an Equal Opportunities Policy which includes gender and the principles of this are embedded in all other policies and processes. The Council has also introduced a Supporting Older Woman in the Workplace Guidance. Following on from the implementation of free sanitary product in schools, the Council has also made these available in a number of Council premises for employees.

- **South Ayrshire (Workplace event on Domestic Abuse)**

During 2018's 16 Days of Action, an Employers Working Lunch event 'Domestic Abuse: what can I do as an employer to support staff? A practical approach' was held. This has been followed up in May 2019 with a similar event with a Working Breakfast to raise more awareness, knowledge and confidence on domestic abuse to local businesses and organisations.

### **2.3. Next Steps/ Recommendations**

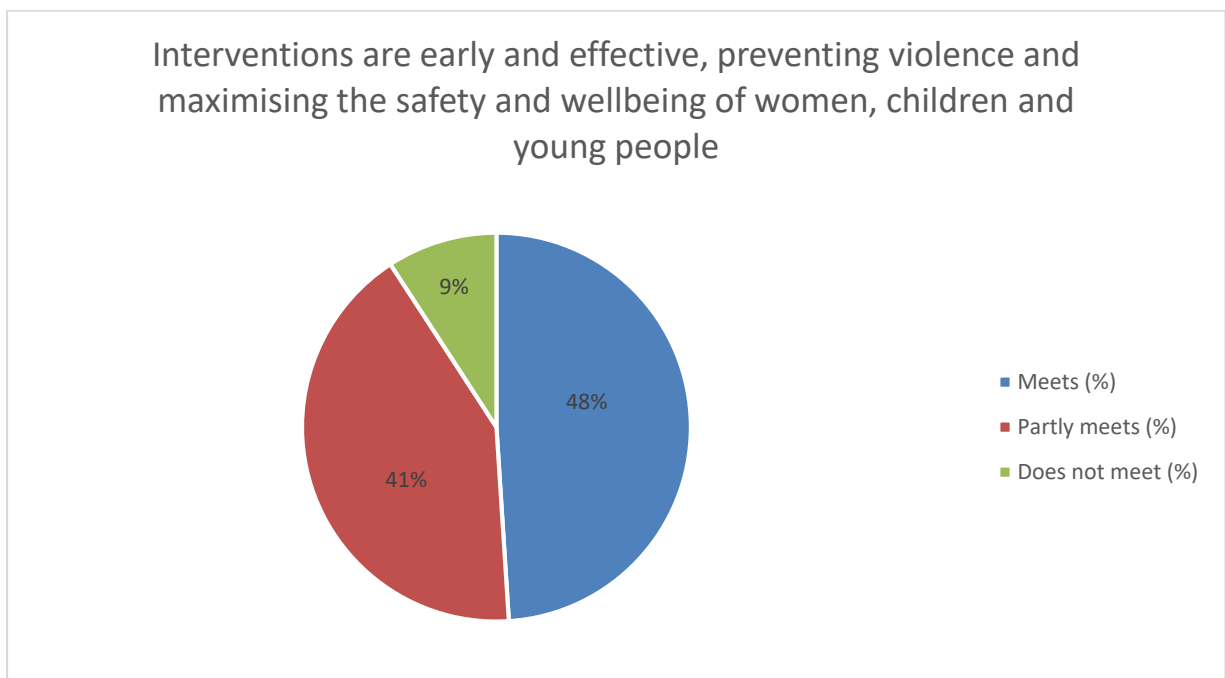
- Partnerships identified a number of barriers, next steps and recommendations for meeting this group of quality standards.
  - While there was significant improvement in use of EIAs this year, several Partnerships noted that increasing this use further is a priority for them.
  - Several areas noted that they aim to develop more meaningful engagement with Equality groups, as many still felt this collaboration could be more effective.
  - There has been an improvement in gender sensitive policies in many areas, but Partnerships noted that they would like to ensure that policies are covering all potential barriers to women's workplace equality and that VAWG policies cover different forms of violence and abuse.

### 3. INTERVENTIONS ARE EARLY AND EFFECTIVE, PREVENTING VIOLENCE AND MAXIMISING THE SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF WOMEN, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

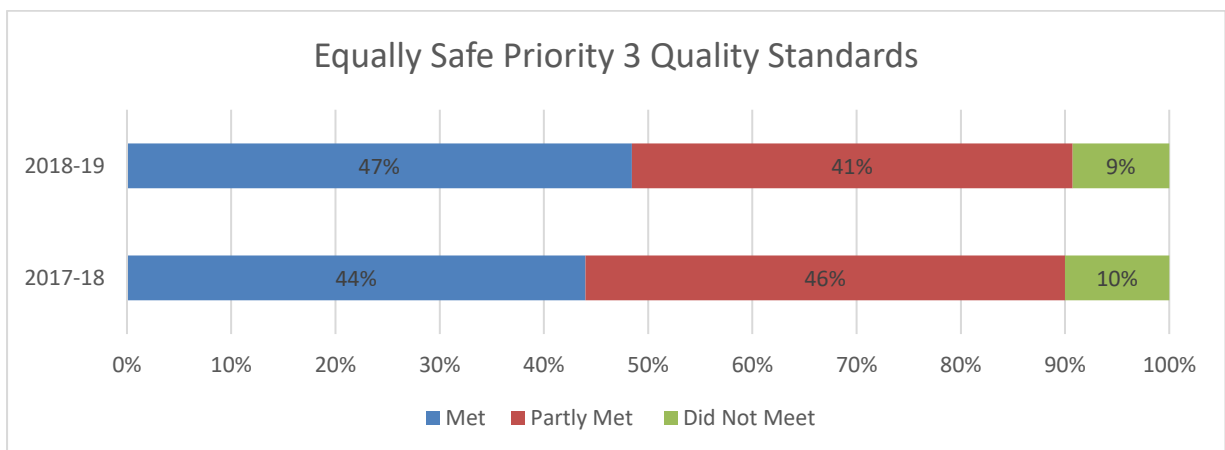
This section of the Quality Standards aimed to generate learning on the extent to which services, policies and processes are in place at a local level that the evidence-base suggests will help to achieve the following short-term and medium-term outcomes that contribute to Priority 3 of Equally Safe:

- Women and children affected by VAWG are identified at an early stage;
- Women and children’s safety needs are met; and
- Women and children’s wider wellbeing needs are met.

#### Overview of percentage of partnerships meeting, partly meeting and not meeting the quality standards for Priority 3 2018-19:



#### Comparison with 2017-18 results for Priority 3:



### 3.1. Key Findings

#### Key findings from this section of the Quality Standards include:

- This priority area saw an overall increase in meeting or partly meeting the standards compared with 2017-18, and saw particular success in public sector training on identifying and responding to VAWG, where there was an increase of 18% in Partnerships meeting this standard.
- Routine Enquiry continues to be an area of uncertainty with most Partnerships only partly meeting the standard, however there was a slight increase in the reporting of Fully Met this year.
- Most Partnerships have continued their efforts to embed MARAC and Safe & Together within their local practices, and 10% more have reported engagement with Safe & Together this year.
- Refuge and resettlement accommodation continue to be a priority and there are some good practice examples of collaborative working with the housing sector in this area.
- There continue to be recognised gaps in reaching all women and children affected by VAWG in intervention services, and to protect women with complex needs. This was addressed by many partnerships as being limited due to funding constraints.
- This year, partnerships continue to report that their Public Sector partners have robust policies in place to tackle all forms of VAWG, with most reporting Fully or Partly meeting the standard.

#### 3.1.1. Quality Standard 1:

*Public Sector staff who come into contact with members of the public have received at least basic training in how to identify and respond to women and children affected by VAWG in an appropriate way.*

- **30% said they meet the QS**
- **57% indicated that they partly meet the QS**
- **13% of Partnerships said they do not meet the QS**

#### Quality Standard 2:

*Routine Enquiry is regularly undertaken within the priority settings of maternity, mental health, substance misuse, A&E, community nursing and sexual health services.*

- **23% said they meet the QS**
- **70% said they partly meet the QS**
- **3% of the Partnerships**

#### 3.1.2. Quality Standard 3:

*Regular Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) take place, that meet Safe Lives' 10 Principles for an Effective MARAC.*

- **73% said they meet the QS**
- **10% indicated that they partly meet the QS**
- **13% of Partnerships said they do not meet the QS**

### **3.1.3. Quality Standard 4:**

*Staff in child welfare settings have received an appropriate level of training in the Safe and Together model to ensure that all responses to women and children affected by domestic abuse are underpinned by the following principles: Keeping the child safe & together with the non-offending parent; Partnering with the non-offending parent as a default position; and Intervening with the perpetrator to reduce risk & harm to the child.*

- **37% said they meet the QS**
- **33% said they partly meet the QS**
- **30% of Partnerships said they do not meet the QS**

### **3.1.4. Quality Standard 5:**

*High quality, refuge accommodation which provides emergency temporary housing is available for all women and girls affected by VAWG, who need a safe place to stay.*

- **40% indicated that they meet the QS**
- **60% said they partly meet the QS**
- **None of the Partnerships said they do not meet the QS.**

### **3.1.5. Quality Standard 6:**

*Follow-on/ resettlement support is available for all women and girls leaving refuge.*

- **87% said they meet the QS**
- **10% indicated that they partly meet the QS**
- **3% of the Partnerships said they do not meet the QS.**

### **3.1.6. Quality Standard 7:**

*Specialist advocacy services are available for all women and girls affected by VAWG, to enable them to address their support needs, take control of their lives and make informed decisions about their future. Support provided by advocacy services should include (but is not limited to): Specialist information and advice on rights and options (e.g. legal, financial or housing); 1 to 1 and group work; Safety planning; Help through the criminal justice system; and Support finding and contacting support services.*

- **87% said they meet the QS**
- **10% indicated that they partly meet the QS**
- **3% of the Partnerships reported that they did not meet the QS.**

### **3.1.7. Quality Standard 8:**

*High quality, targeted interventions are in place to engage with women and children affected by VAWG who may experience additional vulnerabilities and barriers as result of race, sexual orientation, age or disability. This includes LGBTI people, minority ethnic women and girls, disabled*

women and girls (including those with learning disabilities), refugees and asylum seekers, and women of different ages and stages of life.

- **37% said they meet the QS**
- **53% said they partly meet the QS**
- **10% of Partnerships indicated that they do not meet the QS**

#### **3.1.8. Quality Standard 9:**

*Consideration is given to how to meet the needs of women and children experiencing VAWG and have complex needs – substance misuse, mental health issues or trauma.*

- **43% indicated that they meet the QS**
- **47% said they partly meet the QS**
- **10% of Partnerships said they did not meet the QS**

#### **3.1.9. Quality Standard 10:**

*Specialist one-to-one and group-work support services are available for all children affected by VAWG, to help address their recovery needs (e.g. Cedar). This support is multi-faceted and promotes a consistent message from schools as well as targeted support from in-house or external agencies.*

- **33% indicated that they meet the QS**
- **63% said they partly meet the QS**
- **3% of the Partnerships reported that they did not meet the QS**

#### **3.1.10. Quality Standard 11:**

*The VAW Partnership works to ensure that adequate levels of funding are available for specialist VAWG services, that contribute to the local outcomes and activities that have been identified by members of the Partnership.*

- **40% said they meet the QS**
- **37% indicated that they partly meet the QS**
- **23% of Partnerships said they do not meet the QS**

#### **3.1.11. Quality Standard 12:**

*All specialist VAWG services that receive funding at a local level:*

1. *Are underpinned by a gendered analysis of VAWG, which recognises that VAWG is both a cause and consequence of women's inequality;*
2. *Are shaped by and promote the views of women, children, and young people who have experience of VAWG;*
3. *Demonstrate an understanding of the need for women-only spaces in the promotion of safety and recovery from VAWG;*
4. *Adopt a rights-based, person-centred, needs-led approach to addressing the impact of VAWG on women, children, and young people that addresses the risks they face;*

5. *Demonstrate a commitment to promoting children's rights and recognise that children and young people have their own unique needs in regard to VAWG;*
6. *Support women in realising their choices with regard to housing and accommodation;*
7. *Provide holistic, multi-faceted support for women, children and young people in partnership with other appropriate agencies; and*
8. *Are inclusive to lesbian, bisexual, trans and intersex (LBTI) women.*

**73% said they meet the QS**

**20% said they partly meet the QS**

**None of the Partnerships reported that they did not meet the QS.**

### **3.1.12. Quality Standard 13:**

*Public Sector partners have robust policies in place to strengthen approaches to tackle all forms of VAWG, including:*

- *physical, sexual and psychological violence, including domestic abuse, rape, and incest;*
- *sexual harassment, bullying and intimidation in any public or private space, including work;*
- *commercial sexual exploitation, including prostitution, lap dancing, stripping, pornography and trafficking;*
- *child sexual abuse, including familial sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation and online abuse;*
- *so called 'honour based' violence, including dowry related violence, female genital mutilation, forced and child marriages, and 'honour' crimes;*

*And processes are in place to ensure they are rigorously followed by all Public Sector partners.*

- **23% said they meet the QS**
- **70% said they partly meet the QS**
- **7% of Partnerships indicated that they do not meet the QS**

### **3.2. Examples of Good Practice**

- **Fife (Housing review project)**

Fife Council is leading on a project reviewing housing options in Fife supported by Scottish Government and involving a range of partners from both Fife Housing Partnership and Fife Violence Against Women Partnership. This involves looking at how the accommodation needs of those affected by VAWG in Fife are met including improving processes, initial contact and housing options interviews. There is a focus on reducing homelessness, helping women to look at a range of other options. Work is ongoing looking at how a perpetrator can be rehoused and women, children and young people remain in the family home safely.

- **Renfrewshire (Embedding Safe & Together)**

Safe & Together training has been provided to some staff. Large groups of staff have heard directly from David Mandel over two sessions, social work managers have undertaken the 1-day manager training, and some social work and police staff have undertaken the four-day training course. The GBV group will review the provision of Safe and Together to ensure that training is available as appropriate to the role.

- **South Lanarkshire (Routine Enquiry training)**

Routine enquiry training within all core health settings has taken place with the exception of Emergency Care. This is due to incompatible facilities in the Emergency Care patient areas for suitability for carrying out routine enquiry on abuse. A rolling programme of training is available to ensure new staff have access to learning.

- **Stirling (Addressing barriers and complex needs)**

Stirling are undertaking a pilot, with Safe Lives, on barriers for women with learning disabilities who have experienced GBV to address the gaps in support for these women. Forth Valley Rape Crisis service is able to provide support in 3 community languages apart from English and has access to cover limited interpreting costs. They also take a trauma informed approach and are able to offer support to those with complex needs with the partnership of other local and national agencies.

### **3.3. Next Steps/ Recommendations**

- Partnerships identified a number of barriers, next steps and recommendations for meeting this group of quality standards.
  - Similar uncertainties were raised about Routine Enquiry as the 2017-18 data returns. Some Partnerships were unsure if routine enquiry occurs in services such as A&E, addictions, mental health, and sexual health; and several were not clear as to how far Routine Enquiry is embedded as they are either unable to obtain evidence of this or they do not receive data from services. This area still requires some attention for Partnerships to 'fully meet' the standard, but its continued acknowledgement by many areas shows that it is a priority action.
  - Refuge accommodation is still a concern for many areas, as even when there is adequate accommodation available there are often waiting lists due to resource constraint. There are also continued barriers for women with no recourse to public funds.
  - Funding continues to constrain Partnerships in many areas, with many repeat concerns raised such as reductions in funding yet increase in demands for services, lack of funding for services to meet complex needs, and increased wait times for services further harming women and girls.

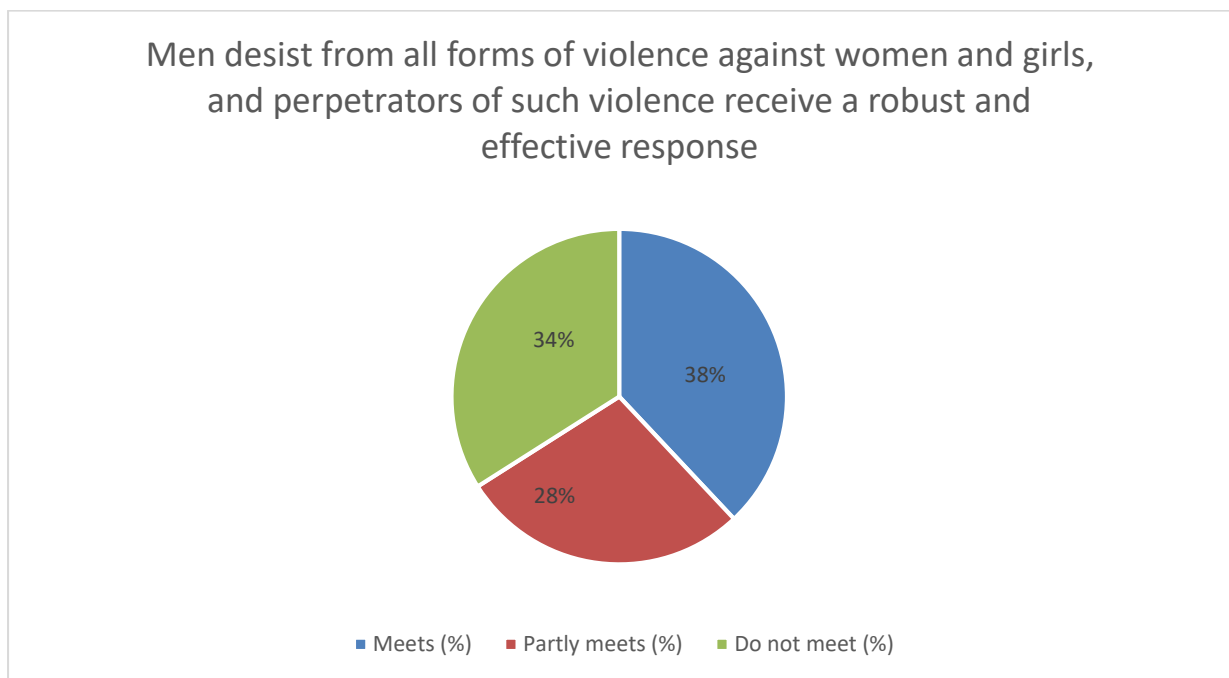


#### 4. MEN DESIST FROM ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS, AND PERPETRATORS OF SUCH VIOLENCE RECEIVE A ROBUST AND EFFECTIVE RESPONSE

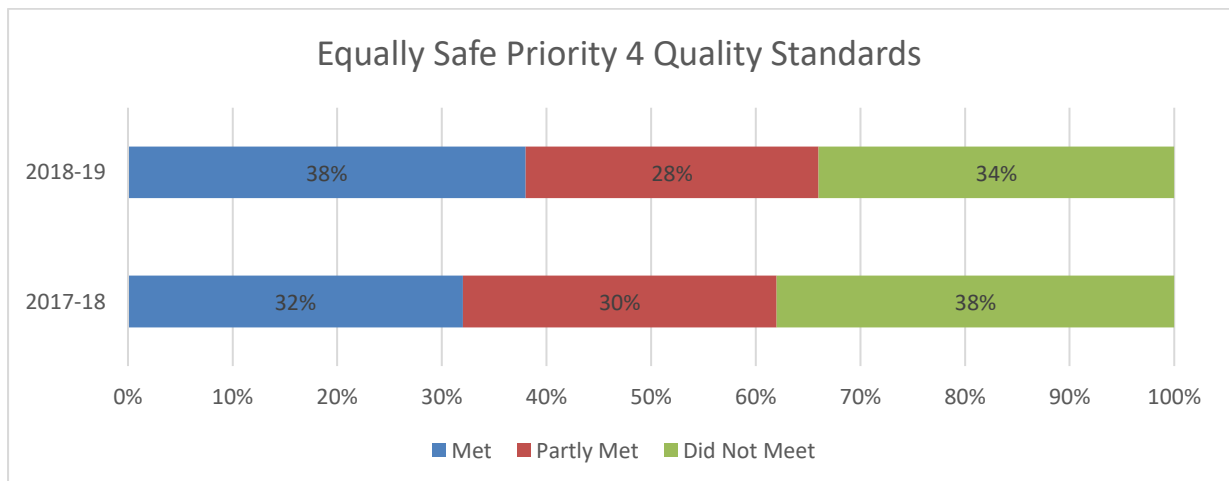
This section of the Quality Standards aimed to generate learning on the extent to which services, policies and processes are in place at a local level that the evidence-base suggests will help to achieve the following short-term and medium-term outcomes that contribute to Priority 4 of Equally Safe:

- Perpetrators of VAWG are identified at an early stage;
- Perpetrators are sanctioned/held to account for their behaviour; and
- Perpetrators are supported to change their behaviour.

#### Overview of percentage of partnerships meeting, partly meeting and not meeting the quality standards for Priority 4 in 2018-19:



#### Comparison with 2017-18 results for Priority 4:



## 4.1. Key Findings

### Key findings from this section of the Quality Standards include:

- This priority area saw a slight increase overall in meeting the Quality Standards compared with last year's data. Training on working with perpetrators is still a recognised gap in most areas.
- MATACs are in place in all areas however some Partnerships still report that their effectiveness could be improved.
- Specialist domestic abuse courts only exist in a small number of Partnerships, but this is often due to capacity or geographical constraints.
- There was an increase of 23% in Partnerships reporting that they meet the standard of having court-mandated programmes in place for perpetrators.
- Non-court mandated programmes are still a significant challenge for most areas due to lack of resources.

#### 4.1.1. Quality Standard 1:

*Public Sector staff who come into contact with members of the public have received training in how to identify and respond to perpetrators of VAWG in an appropriate way.*

- **17% said they meet the QS**
- **67% indicated that they partly meet the QS**
- **17% of Partnerships said they do not meet the QS**

#### 4.1.2. Quality Standard 2:

*Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC) groups are in place at a local authority level, to identify high risk perpetrators of domestic abuse and ensure they are held to account for their behaviours.*

- **83% said they meet the QS**
- **17% indicated that they partly meet the QS**
- **None of the Partnerships said they do not meet the QS**

#### 4.1.3. Quality Standard 3:

*Specialist domestic abuse courts are in place to ensure women and children who experience domestic abuse receive an appropriate response from the criminal justice system. This includes ensuring women and children are fully informed and supported throughout a court process, and have appropriate opportunities to input their views.*

- **13% said they meet the QS**
- **13% indicated they partly meet the QS**
- **73% of Partnerships reported that they do not meet the QS**

#### 4.1.4. Quality Standard 4:

*High-quality, evidence-based court-mandated programmes are in place at a local level that work with perpetrators of VAWG to hold them to account for, and support them to change, their behaviours.*

- **70% said they meet the QS**
- **13% indicated that they partly meet the QS**
- **17% of Partnerships said they do not meet the QS**

#### **4.1.5. Quality Standard 5:**

*High-quality, evidence-based, non-court-mandated programmes are in place at a local level that work with perpetrators of VAWG to hold them account for, and support them to change, their behaviours.*

- **7% indicated they meet the QS**
- **30% said they partly meet the QS**
- **63% of Partnerships reported that they do not meet the QS**

#### **4.2. Examples of Good Practice**

- **Dundee (Domestic Abuse Resource Worker)**

Dundee has a Domestic Abuse Resource Worker working with perpetrators on a voluntary basis. This programme is very successful but includes only one worker. An evaluation of this programme is available.

- **East and Mid Lothian (Court-mandated programmes)**

East Lothian and Midlothian operate the Caledonian System for domestic abuse offenders and have a shared children's worker. East Lothian and Midlothian operate accredited programme of work with Registered Sex Offenders. Safe & Together is being embedded into services across East Lothian and Midlothian. In 2018/19, 2 cohorts of training took place and in 2019/20, 3 cohorts are planned.

- **Na h-Eileanan Siar (1-1 work with perpetrators)**

Due to geography and the low volume of cases spread throughout the islands, the delivery of programmed group work, such as the Caledonian Programme, cannot be delivered. However Criminal Justice Social Work staff routinely engage with perpetrators through 1:1 work using other accredited or approved tools and programmes where available. A mandated Court requirement to undertake 'offence focused work' is made by the Courts locally to ensure compliance.

- **West Lothian (Evidence based perpetrator programme and DA Court)**

West Lothian has recently adopted a new evidence-based perpetrator programme called 'Up to You' which is court-mandated at the moment. There is a DA court in West Lothian, which has improved some outcomes for women and girls experiencing VAW. The Partnership did note some challenges relating to the court such as lack of understanding from visiting sheriffs, frequent adjourning or

postponing of trials impacting on the service for women and girls, and low conviction rates deterring women and girls from reporting.

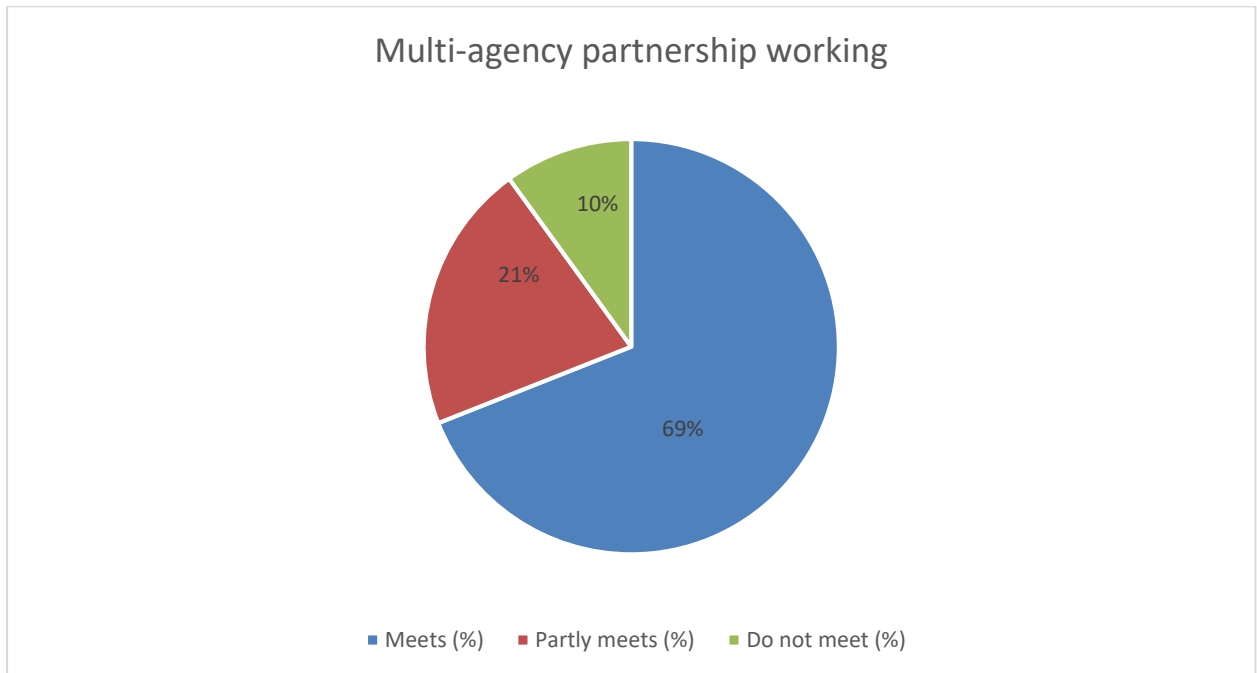
#### **4.3. Next Steps/ Recommendations**

- Similarly to last year, several Partnerships noted that training for work with perpetrators is often limited to Criminal Justice and a next step would be to roll out further where possible.
  - It was noted in more rural areas that some of the standards in this priority are unlikely to be adopted, such as group work with perpetrators and specialist domestic abuse courts. However, these areas still aim to take steps such as using learning from such programmes to adapt into an appropriate local setting.
  - Partnerships in areas where Caledonian is running report this working well, and a few Partnerships mentioned that they have undertaken the court-mandated UP2U programme for perpetrators of domestic abuse.
  - Only a small number of Partnerships reported that their area has resource for a non-court mandated programme, and where these are available the uptake is still very low and resource is limited.
  - Several areas also reported that their justice social work services do offer support around anger management, emotional regulation and healthy relationships within a context of unhealthy gender constructs with perpetrators of domestic abuse.

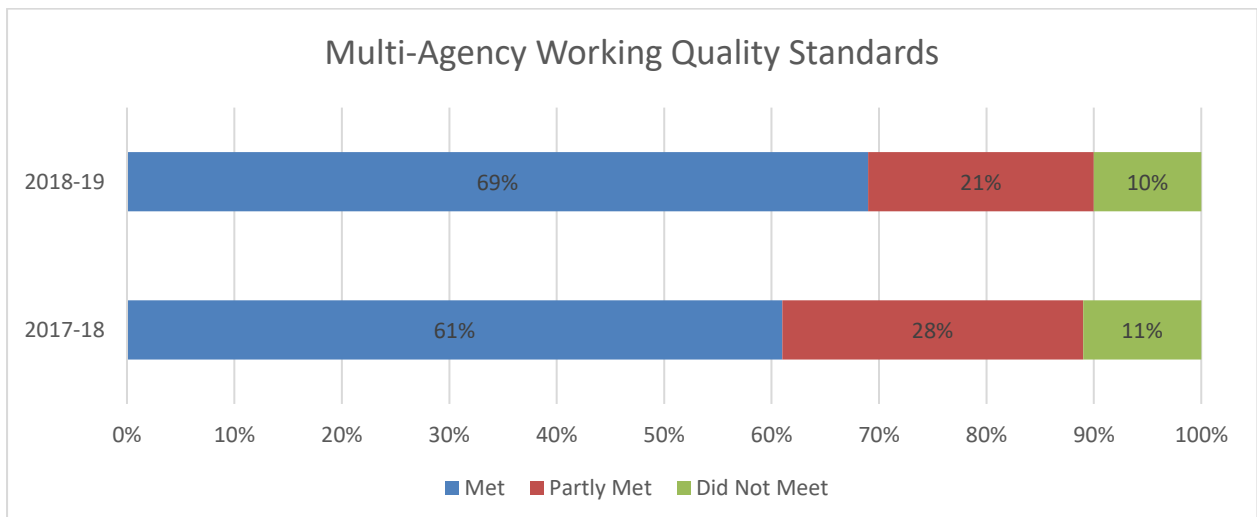
## 5. MULTI-AGENCY PARTNERSHIP WORKING

This section of the Quality Standards (QS) aimed to generate learning on the extent to which the minimum standards and key activities that the Scottish Government and COSLA set out the 2016 VAW Partnership Guidance are currently being met at local level.

### Overview of percentage of partnerships meeting, partly meeting and not meeting the quality standards for “Multi-agency partnership working”



### Comparison with 2017-18 results for Multi-Agency Working:



## 5.1. Key Findings

### Key findings from this section of the Quality Standards include:

- This priority area saw an increase of Partnerships fully meeting the Quality Standards.
- Representation of a wide range of key partners has improved since last year across those who submitted data returns, along with having a Terms of Reference for the VAWP.
- There was an increase of 20% in Partnerships reporting that they fully met the standard of having a strategic plan in place, and more Partnerships reported having process to measure its performance this year.
- More Partnerships reported meeting or partly meeting the standard around having a designated coordinator for the VAWP, however this is still an area which is uneven and several Partnerships struggle with capacity constraints.
- Many Partnerships noted that carrying out self-assessments and continuing to improve their strategic links with other local partnerships is a priority.

#### 5.1.1. Quality Standard 1:

*There is a VAWP in place that is responsible for working to prevent and eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls within the local authority area, including all forms of violence, sexual harassment, bullying and intimidation, commercial sexual exploitation, child sexual abuse and honour-based violence.*

- **97% indicated that they meet the QS**
- **0% indicated that they partly meet the QS**
- **3% said they meet none of the defined criteria.**

#### 5.1.2. Quality Standard 2:

*The VAWP brings together representatives from the key Public Sector and Third Sector organisations working to prevent and eradicate violence against women and girls within the local area. These are likely to include representatives from Adult and Child Protection Committees, Community Safety Partnerships, Health & Social Care Partnerships, Education, Housing, Social Work, NHS, Police, COPF, Women's Aid, Rape Crisis and other relevant organisations. Representatives from these organisations should be sufficiently empowered to advance the Partnership's agreed outcomes and activities within their own organisations/networks.*

- **50% said they meet the QS**
- **47% reported that they partly meet the QS**
- **3% said they do not meet the criteria for this QS.**

#### 5.1.3. Quality Standard 3:

*The VAWP has an agreed Terms of Reference, which outlines the VAWP's vision, membership, meeting and chairing arrangements and governance arrangements.*

- **93% indicated that they meet the QS**

- **7% said they partly meet the QS**
- **No Partnerships said they do not meet any of the defined criteria.**

#### **5.1.4. Quality Standard 4:**

*The VAWP has a strategic plan in place that outlines how the Partnership will implement Equally Safe at a local level, identifying the VAWP'S outcomes and activities and direct links to the CPP's Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP).*

- **80% said they meet the QS**
- **13% indicated they partly meet the QS**
- **7% of Partnerships said they meet none of the defined criteria.**

#### **5.1.5. Quality Standard 5:**

*The VAWP has a framework in place for measuring its performance and progress towards achieving its agreed outcomes. As a minimum, this framework should include all the indicators listed in the Performance Framework in section 5 of this document. Clear governance and reporting arrangements should also be in place to ensure that the Partnership is held to account for achieving its outcomes by an appropriate thematic group within the CPP.*

- **50% indicated that they meet the QS**
- **33% said they partly meet the QS**
- **17% indicated that their Partnership does not have a PF in place.**

#### **5.1.6. Quality Standard 6:**

*The VAWP has a designated person who is responsible for coordinating its core activities and contributing to the work of the National VAW Network.*

- **63% said they meet the QS.**
- **17% said they partly meet the QS**
- **20% of Partnerships said they do not meet the QS**

#### **5.1.7. Quality Standard 7:**

*The VAWP has undertaken a self-assessment of its partnership in the last 3 years using the VAW Partnership Self-Assessment Checklist and developed an improvement plan in response to the strengths and areas for improvement identified by its members.*

- **57% indicated that they meet the QS**
- **13% of Partnerships indicated that they partly meet the QS**
- **30% said they do not meet the QS**

#### **5.1.8. Quality Standard 8:**

*The VAWP has clear strategic links with other relevant thematic partnerships/ groups within the CPP who are working towards shared outcomes. These may include Public Protection Committees, Health and Social Care IJBs, Community Safety Partnerships, Community Justice Partnerships, Alcohol and Drug Partnerships and Equality Groups.*

- **60% said they meet the QS**
- **37% said they partly meet the QS**
- **3% of Partnerships indicated they do not meet the QS**

## **5.2. Examples of Good Practice**

- **Dumfries and Galloway (Strategic Links)**

There are clear strategic links with the Public Protection Committee (or sub groups) and the other thematic groups in place and where there are gaps these are being developed e.g. Equality Groups. There are close links recognised between VAWG and Community Justice. There was a successful joint conference held in March 2019. The Community Justice Partnership Manager and the Development Officer for VAWG are both members of the CJP and VAWG Group (the CJP Manger is Vice Chair of this).

- **Fife (Strategic Plan and link to Public Health)**

Fife VAWP has an agreed strategic plan with clear outcomes. This will be redrafted following a Fife VAWP development day and will link more closely to Equally Safe 4 priorities. Fife VAWP Links to the Plan4Fife (LOIP) through the Thriving Places theme, this is being further developed to make sure that themes of vulnerability (public health) and reducing offending are strengthened.

- **Orkney (Strategic Plan and planned Self-Assessment)**

The Partnership has developed new Strategic Plan which focuses on the elements that were weaker in the Performance Framework for 18-19. A Self-assessment still requires to be undertaken.

- **Stirling (Varied and committed membership)**

As well as statutory partners and Council services, members include third sector partners who work directly with and have a role in supporting vulnerable women and families who experience all forms of gender based violence. Membership or activities continue to grow to extend the Partnership's reach to areas where there are recognised gaps in provision. Attendance has been regular. There is a consistently strong contribution at a management level from local third sector partners.

## **Next Steps/ Recommendations**

- Several partnerships identified similar next steps for meeting the QS
  - Several Partnerships noted the need for stronger strategic links with other Partnerships such as other equality groups, Community Justice Partnerships,



Community Safety Partnerships, alcohol and drug partnerships, health and social care IJBs.

- Alcohol and Drugs Partnerships were a recognised gap in many areas.
- Lack of Coordinator or capacity issues where the post is shared with other responsibilities was identified as a challenge in many areas. Furthermore, representation from relevant stakeholders was noted as being hindered by capacity in many areas.
- Many partnerships noted their developing future plans to develop performance frameworks, strategy, improvement plans, undergo self-assessments; and working to ensure VAWG is made a priority in LOIPs.

## PART 2: EQUALLY SAFE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – KEY LEARNING

### 6. Key Findings

Although there were some improvements made to reporting methods, such as addressing differences in age reporting and minimising the data requested, similar drawbacks to this data should be considered:

- Much of the feedback for many of the indicators were that the data was not collected, not received, or not collected in the categories the indicators required (eg., the three age groups, by offence, by specialist service, etc.)
- Data was often received from only a handful of services in many areas, so is not representative.

#### **Input Indicator 1:** Funding invested in preventing and eradicating VAWG at a local level

- Key findings: The majority of Partnerships were able to report at least a limited breakdown of their funding, with some Partnerships able to provide more detail than others. However, there were a number of gaps in the data with services often not submitting financial data so often totals are not representative of actual totals.
- Barriers to providing information: Many Partnerships' data returns did not include all services' financial data in terms of funding reporting that this had been requested but not returned by services/agencies.

#### **Activity Indicator 1:** No of referrals to specialist VAWG support services

- Key findings: This year an 'Age not recorded' category was added to address the challenge faced by many last year where age breakdowns were not provided or were recorded differently across services. Partnerships were generally able to report on the source of referrals but a few Partnerships noted that service users often experience multiple forms of violence and abuse so it can be difficult to distinguish reason for referral.
- Barriers to providing information: Many Partnerships continued to report that due to the limitations of databases in breaking down information, it was difficult for services to provide information about referrals, including reasons for referral/nature of abuse, repeat referrals, referral source and age of women referred.

#### **Activity Indicator 2:** No of referrals to specialist perpetrator interventions

#### **Activity Indicator 3:** % of referrals who successfully complete specialist perpetrator interventions

- Key findings for 2&3: Whilst there has been improvement from last year, 17% of Partnerships do not have any form of court-mandated programmes for perpetrators and 63% do not have any form of non-court mandated programmes, so many were unable to report on this type of interventions.
- Barriers to providing information for 2&3: Similarly to last year, it remains difficult for Partnerships to report provide completion data as the programmes (such as Calendonian) do not complete in the same year.

**Outcome Indicator 1:** % of women and children who report feeling safer as a result of the specialist support they have received

**Outcome Indicator 2:** % of women and children who report having increased levels of wellbeing as a result of the specialist support they have received

- Key findings for 1&2: There continued to be several difficulties in providing this data. Many Partnerships were unable to report limited data on feelings of safety and wellbeing and had difficulties particularly in terms of the age breakdowns required by the PF and in terms of breakdowns for specialist support received. Those who were able to report, even partial data, generally reported positive trends in increased wellbeing and safety.
- Barriers to providing information for 1&2: Many Partnerships were unable to obtain data from all services. Many Partnerships also reported that, for a number of services, their exit surveys do not collect the information required by the performance framework, or many people leave services without outcomes being measured.