

Domestic Abuse

Putting Promises into Policy

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Historical position in Dundee

- Very high rates of domestic abuse and sexual crimes alongside many complexities such as substance use/deprivation
- Significant capacity v demand issues for specialist services
- Over reliance on third sector specialist agencies and lack of capacity to upskill non-specialist services
- Challenges meeting the needs of women with multiple and complex issues



Background



The Gendered Services Group



Gendered Services Project



welcoming
women

we'll support your
unique needs

- Embedding Gendered Approaches in service delivery in Dundee
- Driven by the voices of Women



Gendered Services Project

Range of supports



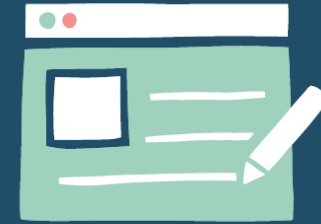
Gendered
Approach
Training



Self
Assessment
Tool



Action
Planning



Digital
Resource

[link](#)



Gendered Services Project



welcoming
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Training delivered to 350 participants and
23 organisations.

26 women with lived experience have influenced the
work we are delivering.

- 5 films created and 3 podcasts produced
- Digital learning resource developed
- Safe space cards and pictures created
- Gendered approach animation produced
- Logo designed
- Self Assessment form and process developed



Women's Hub

Support provided by:

- WRASAC
- Dundee Women's Aid
- We Are With You
- Hillcrest Futures
- Tayside Council on Alcohol
- DDARS
- ASPEN
- CJS Women's Team
- Gendered Services Project
- NHS Adult Protection Team
- DCC Housing Options
- Brooksbanks
- Aberlour Recovery House



CHANGING ROOMS!

Dundee Women's Hub

**A women only creative group
Decorate Dundee Women's Hub**

Create moodboards, art work and upcycle furniture
Coffee and cake will be provided!

Friday - 11am to 1pm

If you would like to take part please get in touch
Jenna - 07821 665 143
dundeewomenshub@wrasac.org.uk



Why is a women's experience of homelessness different?



**Gender based
violence**



**Mixed sex
accommodation**

**Invisible
homelessness**



Definition

Domestic abuse (as gender-based abuse), can be perpetrated by partners or ex-partners and can include:

- Physical abuse (assault and physical attack involving a range of behaviour)
- Sexual abuse (acts which degrade and humiliate women and are perpetrated against their will, including rape)
- Mental and emotional abuse (such as threats, verbal abuse, racial abuse, withholding money and other types of controlling behaviour such as isolation from family or friends)



Local Context

	20/21	22/23
Number of homeless applications with reported reason for presentation as, "dispute within the household violent or abusive"	202	209
Number of applicants who were women	164 or 81%	175 or 84%
% of applications that included children	51%	42%



Policy Development

"Make a Stand" pledge

Working group with knowledge and expertise developed a draft policy

Consultation on the draft to get feedback and suggestions

Policy approval granted at committee

Launch of the Policy



Our Policy

Good practice guidance – joint publication from ALACHO, CIH Scotland, SFHA, Shelter Scotland and Scottish Women’s Aid supported by COSLA

Key highlights from the policy include;

- Prevention of homelessness approach for victim-survivors
- An effective response to perpetrators of domestic abuse
- An awareness of the needs of victims-survivors and delivery of a person-centred support approach.
- True partnership - developed and implemented with relevant organisations and partners- including Dundee Violence against Women Partnership and people with lived experience of Domestic Abuse.
- Training



Lessons learned

- Management transfers are effective but can take considerable time
- Safe houses and flipping
- Honeygreen – gender specific supervised accommodation



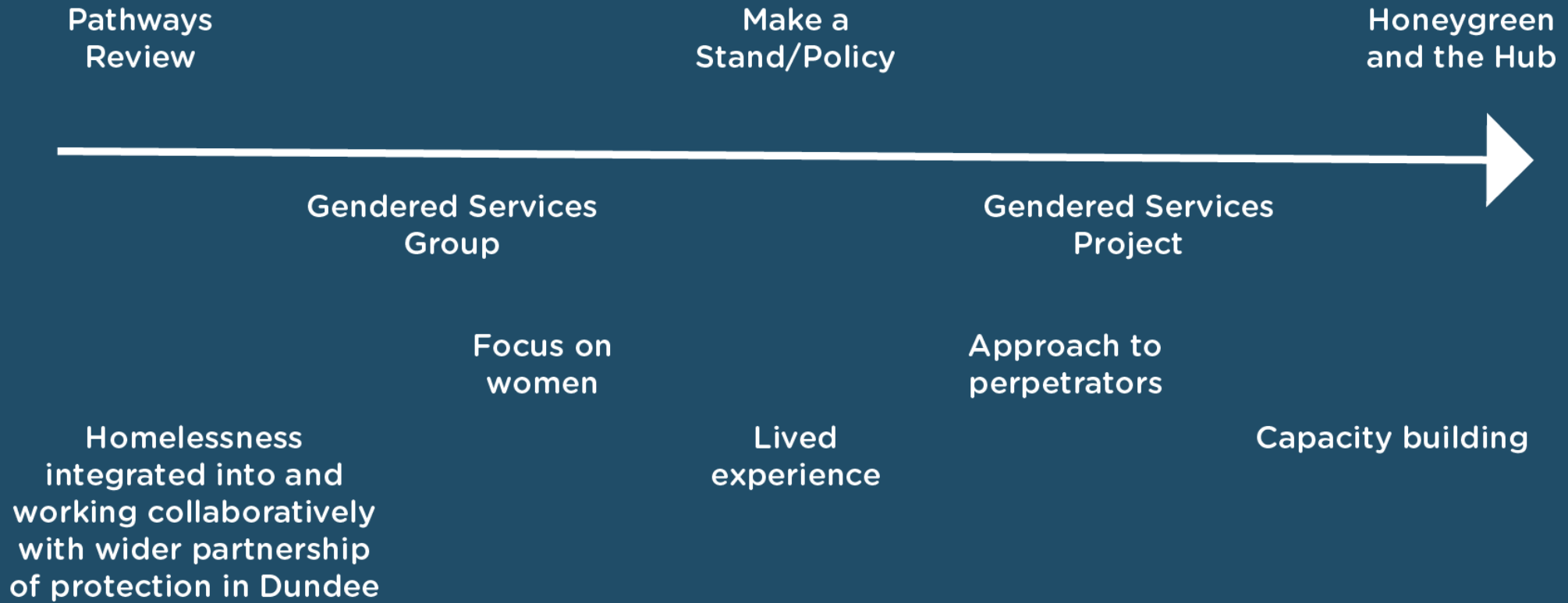
Testimonial

On behalf of the Violence Against Women Partnership Dundee,

"The development of this policy has been hugely welcomed by the VAWP in Dundee. It has been evident throughout the process that the motivation behind this work has been a genuine desire to improve services for victims of domestic abuse and their children. This has been demonstrated in the time and care taken to ensure every necessary step has been considered to create a robust and meaningful policy but also culture change across the housing service. The involvement of people with lived experience and expert partners is testimony to this as is the passion and commitment shown by leaders in the development of both the policy and the training roll out which has been undertaken. We have used the learning from this and applied this to other areas of work (trauma informed practice) and departments as we feel this is a gold standard example of culture change and service development".



Timeline for consideration



No more excuses: tackling damp and mould head on.

Speaker:
Eileen McCallum

Working Title:
**Turn up the heating, open the
windows and wash it down with
bleach.**

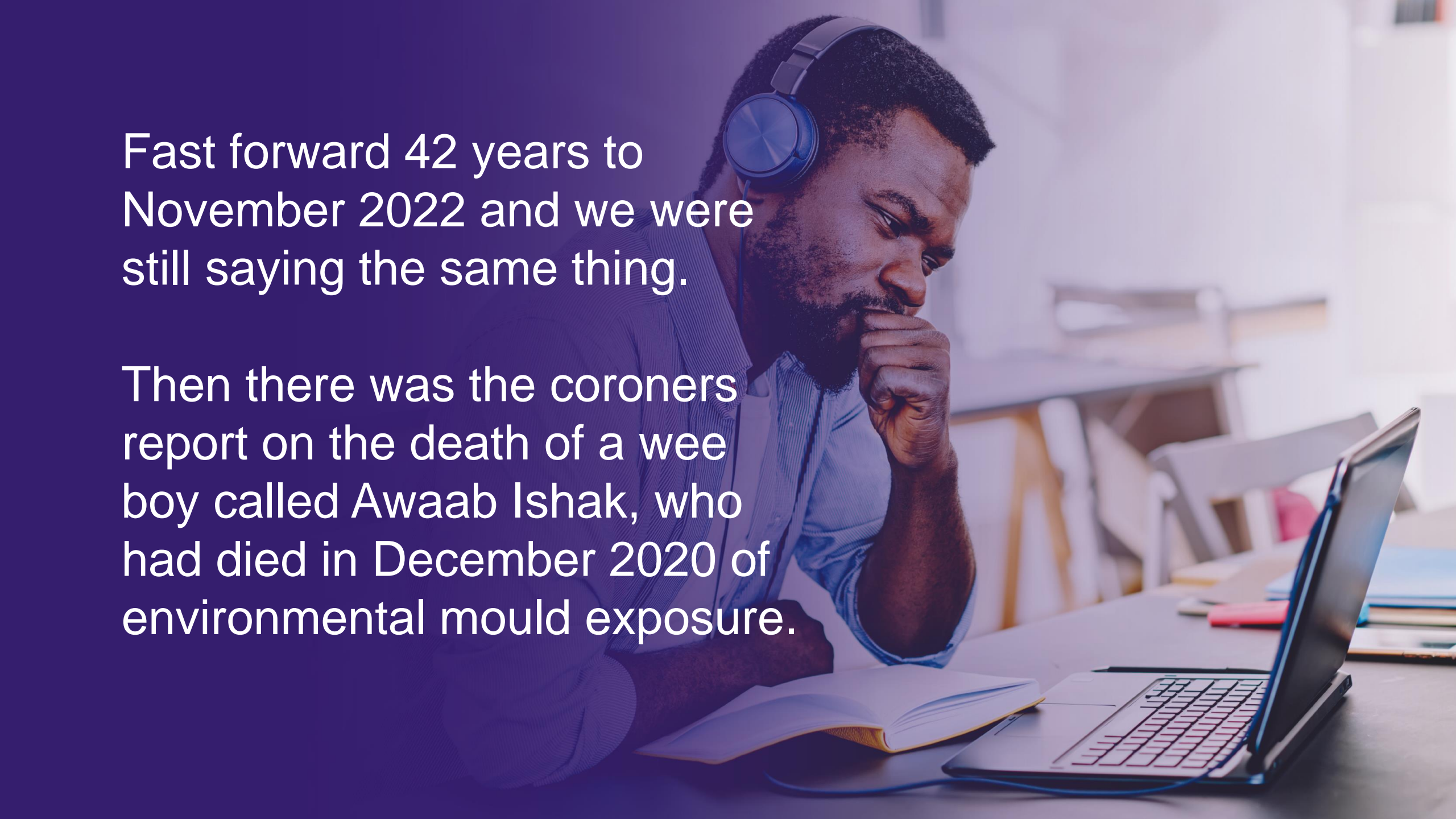
Historical Context



Spring 1980.

Housing Officer in Govan.

Was told by Property Maintenance Officers: “Condensation isn’t dampness, it’s a lifestyle issue. Tell tenants to turn up the heating, open the windows and wash it down with bleach”

A man with a beard and short dark hair is wearing large blue headphones. He is sitting at a desk, looking down at an open book with a thoughtful expression, his hand resting on his chin. A laptop is open to his right. The background shows a blurred office or study environment with other desks and chairs. The entire image has a semi-transparent blue overlay.

Fast forward 42 years to November 2022 and we were still saying the same thing.

Then there was the coroners report on the death of a wee boy called Awaab Ishak, who had died in December 2020 of environmental mould exposure.

Things have changed.

It's no longer acceptable to completely blame the tenant.

We've been looking at improving heating, ventilation and mould removal.

15 months have passed.

So, what is working and what is not?

3 groups:

Heating

Ventilation

Mould removal

Results from the workshop: What is working? Heating and Insulation:

Better technology in electric storage heaters.

District air source heating.

Raising the profile.

Training for staff.

Internal wall insulation.

New windows and doors/triple glazing.

Ability to challenge that it's water penetration rather than condensation.

What is not working: Heating and Insulation.

Lack of education.

Restriction to electric only.

No homes suitable for larger families.

Funding.

Staff resources.

Tenant's not knowing how to work heating systems.

What is working: Ventilation.

Upgraded fans with humidistat controls.

Use of environmental sensors.

Training of staff.

Dehumidifiers.

Karcher window vac.

PIV systems.

What is not working: Ventilation.

Continually telling people to open windows.

Overcrowding.

Tenant able to turn off fans.

Sealing air vents.

Excessive insulation with no ventilation in lofts.

What is working: Mould removal.

Sanondaf misting treatment.

Proprietary mould cleaner eg, Dettol or Vanish

Using specialists for larger areas.

Giving a good level of advice.

Fuel vouchers.

Specialist advice.

What is not working: Mould removal.

Bleach!

Tenant not co-operating.

Blaming the tenant.

Not sorting the problem first.

There was a suggestion that it would be good to have a focus group to discuss any advances on new approaches.

Possibility that TIS may consider hosting and co-ordinating this?

Thank you to all of the delegates for your participation and enthusiasm for the topic.

Also thanks to the CIH for hosting and the SEC for providing media services.

Eileen McCallum, McCallum Training