

ASSIST

www.saferglasgow.com

WHAT IS ASSIST ?

ASSIST, established in 2004, is a Specialist Independent Domestic Abuse Advocacy and Support Service focussed on reducing the risk to and improving the safety of victims of domestic abuse.

ASSIST's aims are to ensure that all victims of domestic abuse, women, children and men, are safe, informed and supported throughout their involvement with the criminal justice system.

ASSIST provides both an individual and institutional advocacy service, thereby ensuring that all victims of domestic abuse benefit from the service whether or not they are an ASSIST client. Partnership working and the creation of a consistent, coordinated community response is at the heart of the ethos of ASSIST. SafeLives Leading Lights accreditation was awarded in 2012.

ASSIST provides a service across most of the West Command of Police Scotland and is linked to all Sheriff Courts including the Specialist Domestic Abuse Courts at Glasgow and Ayr. Support is provided to male victims only at Edinburgh Domestic Abuse Court.

ASSIST stands for –

- **Advocacy**
An independent voice for victims, including children and young people. Help when other agencies are involved or to pass on information.
- **Support**
After an incident has been reported to the Police and throughout the court process
- **Safety**
Continuous risk assessment and safety planning
- **Information**
About the court process, civil protection, domestic abuse issues, housing and other support services
- **Services Together**
A coordinated, strategic and operational community response

ASSIST operates on a three tier basis covering crisis support and information, support and advocacy throughout the court process, and short term post court support to facilitate the victim's access to other services. The ASSIST team's early intervention and proactive working practices ensures that victims receive a high quality service tailored to their individual needs and circumstances that remains focussed on their risk and safety. .

Among ASSIST's unique contributions are –

- The ability to contact victims quickly, normally while the perpetrator is in custody, allowing for early risk assessment, safety planning and risk management,
- The regular flow of information to the Procurator Fiscal (PF), including victims' views with regards to special bail conditions and safety options,
- A more focussed service for those clients at high risk of further harm including young victims and children and young people
- Providing independent advocacy for clients at Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) in 5 local authority areas - Glasgow, Inverclyde, South Lanarkshire, North Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire.

ASSIST is at the heart of dynamic multi-agency partnerships including Police Scotland, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), Victim Information and Advice (VIA), Women's Aid, Social Work Services, Education, Health, Victim Support Scotland (VSS), Children 1st and many other agencies. These multi-agency relationships are characterised by enhanced information sharing that permits improved risk assessment and safety planning. ASSIST's coordination role ensures that partner agencies working with victims of domestic abuse can provide the most efficient and appropriate service possible, and places the victim at the centre of the process.

WHERE ARE ASSIST STAFF LOCATED ?

ASSIST staff are Level Two Police vetted and colocated with Police Scotland in Glasgow, Paisley, Dumbarton, East Kilbride and Kilmarnock.

WHAT ASSIST DO

- ASSIST receive referrals from Police Scotland, proactively contact clients within 24 hours wherever possible, carry out a risk assessment using the CAADA-DASH Risk Indicator Checklist and compile a Individualised Safety and Support Plan. At this point, consents for information sharing, including the passing of information to the court via the PF is undertaken.
- ASSIST monitors the perpetrator's progress through court, from first appearance through to completion of the court process, provides updates to the victim in conjunction with VIA and amends the victim's safety plan accordingly.
- Where victims are considered to be at high risk of further harm, score 14 or more on the RIC and/or there are serious concerns for her/his safety and the safety of any children, ASSIST enact enhanced multi agency contact, wherever possible via a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). This facility is also available if there have been 3 Police call outs in 6 months or on professional judgement.
- ASSIST has adopted the National Intelligence Model (NIM) and refers serious or serial perpetrators to Police Scotland's Domestic Abuse Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordinating (MATAAC) meeting. All perpetrators, where ASSIST clients score 18 or more on the RIC are considered for referral to the MATAAC. This facility is also available to those scoring under 18 on professional judgement.
- ASSIST automatically makes a referral to Police Scotland's Domestic Abuse Task Force if the RIC (Risk Indicator Checklist) score is 20 (from a possible 24) or above.

HOW TO CONTACT ASSIST: Tel: 0141 276 7710

Email: assist@glasgow.gov.uk