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## **EQUALLY SAFE QUALITY STANDARDS AND PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK**

We are writing to you as co-chairs of the Joint Strategic Board overseeing the implementation of Equally Safe, Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls, to advise you of the publication of [Equally Safe Quality Standards and Performance Framework](#) and to seek your assistance in ensuring that this is implemented locally.

Violence against women and girls, in any form, has no place in our vision for a safe, strong, successful Scotland. It damages health and wellbeing, limits freedom and potential, and is a violation of the most fundamental human rights. No single partner alone has the resource, skills or reach to tackle this issue. For that reason, the Scottish Government and COSLA have previously published [guidance](#) outlining our expectation that all local authority areas will have a local Violence Against Women (VAW) Partnership or equivalent in place, as a key component of that collective response to preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls.

The Quality Standards and Performance Framework is a resource to support VAW Partnerships to demonstrate the progress being made to implement Equally Safe at a local level and identify any areas for improvement. It has been developed by the Scottish Government, COSLA and the Improvement Service, in close collaboration with the National VAW Network and other stakeholders. 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 VAW Partnerships 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.

As noted in the resource, we recognise that some VAW Partnerships may not initially have mechanisms in place to gather all of the data required. Therefore, an aim of the resource in the short-term is to help local authorities to identify gaps and work with the Improvement Service to address these.

Whilst each local partnership will have its own specific challenges and priorities, the data collected through these reporting processes will be invaluable helping to ensure that Equally Safe delivers real change for women and children in Scotland, , and should be used as an opportunity to reflect on where any improvements can be made to the arrangements in place locally and nationally. It is only through this kind of partnership working that we will successfully achieve the vision and aims of *Equally Safe*.



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