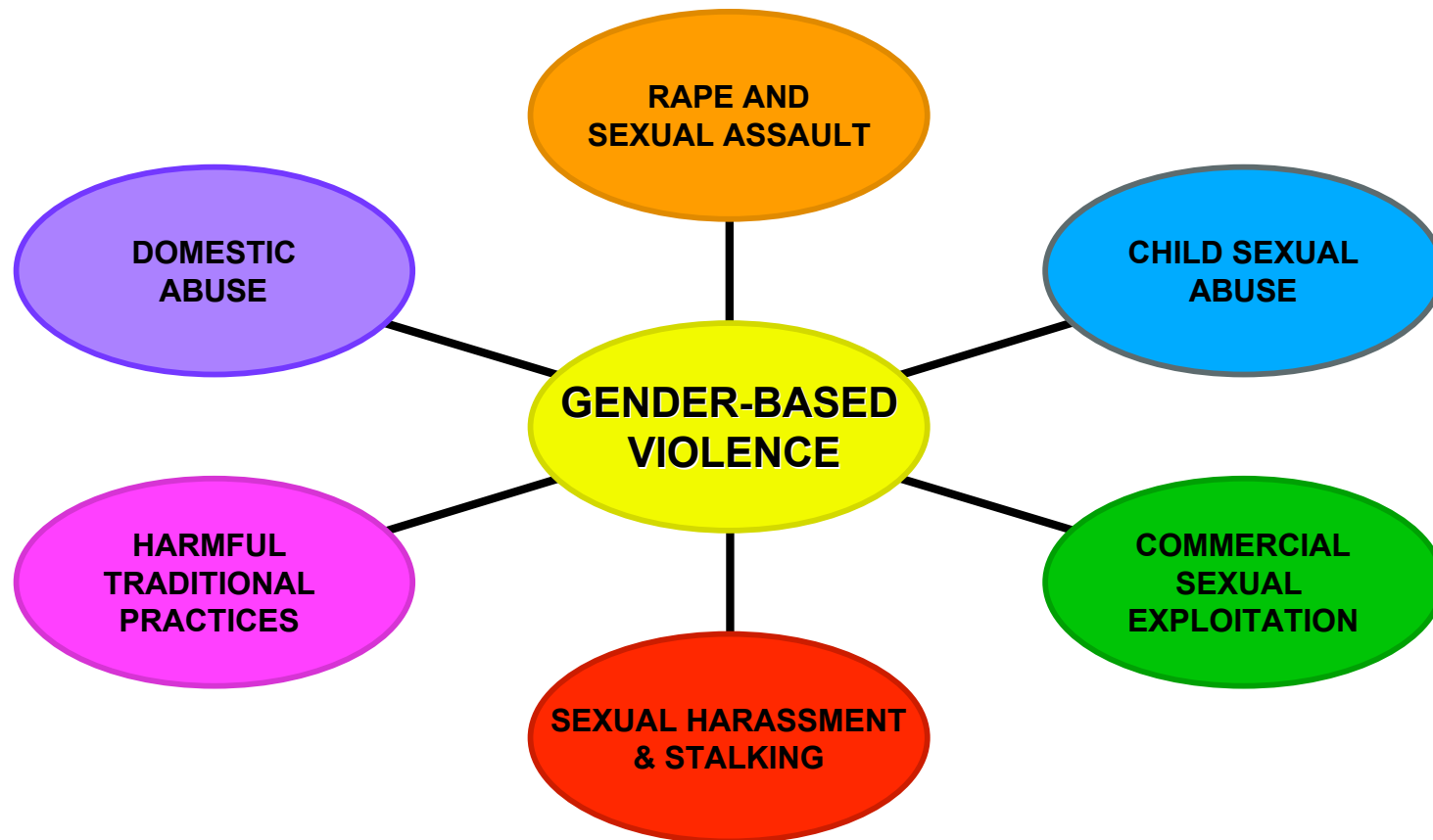


# **National Gender-Based Violence Programme 2008-2011**

Healthcare Strategy and Planning Directorate  
Scottish Government

# What is gender-based violence?

“Violence that is directed against a woman *because* she is a woman, or violence that affects women *disproportionately*. It includes acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty.” (United Nations)



# Why is it an issue for the NHS?

- Abuse is endemic in society – cuts across boundaries of class, ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion.
- Profound & damaging physical, emotional and psychological consequences.
- Significant predictor of poor health & strong risk factor for poor health outcomes & compromised functioning.
- Costs to the NHS are enormous; in England & Wales health care cost of *domestic abuse* alone estimated at £1.2billion per year.
- NHS is uniquely placed to identify and respond to gender-based violence.

# National context for addressing gender-based violence

- *National Strategic Framework on Violence Against Women* (previously Domestic Abuse Strategy)
- *National Training Strategy on Domestic Abuse* (now violence against women)
- *National Strategic Approach for Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse.*
- *The National Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan for Children and Young People* developed under the auspices of *Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)*

# National context for NHS Scotland

- Legislative obligation: Public Sector Duty for Gender (Equality Act 2006)
- Addressing inequalities: *Better Health, Better Care*
- *Equally Well*, the report issued by the Ministerial Task Force on Health Inequalities

# Gender-Based Violence Programme in NHS Scotland

Two key drivers & funding streams for the work:

1. CEL on Gender-Based Violence – to be issued in September 2008.
2. National Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan for Children & Young People 2008-11:

**Priority Area 1 - 'Improve the National Health Service (NHS) identification of, and response to, the needs of women and children experiencing domestic abuse'.**

# CEL on Gender-Based Violence

## Key features:

- **Staged, incremental approach over 3 years.**
- **Targeted on key priority settings i.e. mental health, addictions, maternity, sexual & reproductive health, A&E, community health services. Also includes linkage with homelessness & child protection.**
- **Tangible & measurable improvements in planning and service provision in identification and management of abuse.**
- **Building on previous good practice locally and nationally.**
- **Annual reporting on progress to SGHD and GIRFEC.**

# CEL on gender-based violence

## 4 KEY DELIVERABLES:

- Implementation of Routine Enquiry of abuse within priority settings
- Dissemination of revised guidance on abuse for staff.
- Production of an employee policy on gender-based violence.
- Multi-agency collaboration.

# What is needed from health boards?

- **Executive leadership & infrastructure to effect change.**
- **A 3-year action plan with specific goals and timescales across each of the 4 key deliverables. Staged implementation of routine enquiry i.e.:**
  - **Year 1:** Focus primarily on planning & preparation; including assessment and audit of services and staff training and development needs.
  - **Year 2:** Introduction, or strengthening of routine enquiry in maternity, addictions and mental health services.
  - **Year 3:** Routine enquiry introduced, or strengthened, in A&E, community health and sexual & reproductive health.
- **An annual report, aligned to a board's Gender Equality Scheme, reflecting year on year progress (based on agreed local targets & national minimum standards).**

# Support available to boards

- **National team** comprising : Programme Manager, 3x Regional Advisors (North, East & West), Communications Manager, 0.5wte Information/Performance Manager, Research Manager, Admin officer.
- **National guidance** – suite of resources and tools to be produced on gender-based violence & on routine enquiry.
- **Training support** – regional advisor to negotiate with local training consortia & Health Board.
- **Funding** to support dissemination of information & provision of events to raise staff awareness.
- **Scottish Health Network on Gender-Based Violence** to be developed to provide a forum for sharing good practice, disseminating research & information and obtaining support & guidance.

# Reporting and accountability

- Equality and Human Rights Strategy Group, SGHD.
- Steering Group on National Domestic Abuse Delivery Group.
- Independent evaluation commissioned & managed by Analytical Services, SG.