

PRESS RELEASE

To: news editors

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Local Women and Children To Receive Improved Support

Sacro, Scotland's leading community safety charity, is extending the support services it offers in the Falkirk, Clackmannanshire and Stirling areas to the women of abusive partners and their children.

The service that Sacro runs for women, sits alongside the organisation's successful Domestic Abuse Group Work programmes. The Group Work programmes aim to help men change their abusive behaviour, while the Women's Services are designed to provide support and guidance for the partners of these men and their children. The service is voluntary and confidential and can be conducted face to face, in groups or by letter or telephone.

The services are run in partnership with the local Criminal Justice Service and the Scottish Executive. The expansion has included the appointment of a new Children's Worker who will work closely with the Women's Services Worker.

Simon McLean, Sacro Service Manager in Fife, Forth Valley and Tayside, said,

"The new Children's Worker post will bring much needed support to this service. 750,000 children each year witness domestic abuse. Around half of those will also be suffering direct abuse, resulting in a range of behavioural and emotional problems. Sacro is committed to continuing to provide the highest quality, most effective support in the community and this expansion will enable us to continue to do this".

Sarco's Group Work Programmes in the Falkirk, Clackmannanshire and Stirling areas involve fifty men each year, working with them in groups of eight. The Women's Services in the same area supports thirty women annually. Research from the Howard League for Penal Reform shows that for the majority of non-dangerous offences, community sentences are far more likely to reduce the seriousness and frequency of re-offending. They reduce re-offending by 14%. For those jailed, more than two thirds will re-offend within two years. Community sentences help a person take responsibility for their actions and put something back into the community.

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