

Joint Statement from the Professional Development Award in Domestic Abuse Advocacy Steering Group

There have been a couple of questions raised about the cost of the training and the Steering group would like reassure potential learners that we have kept the cost of the course as low as possible and that we have been committed to finding ways in which we can generate income to allow us to further reduce the cost to learners.

As you may be aware the Scottish Government funded a partnership between ASSIST, SafeLives and SWA to develop and deliver a training course and qualification (Professional Development Award in Domestic Abuse Advocacy). The nine courses were funded to be delivered between January 2013 and October 2015.

The courses were fully funded by the Scottish Government; therefore, the partnership was able to deliver the training **free of charge** at that point.

In 2015 the partnership was unsuccessful in securing additional funds from the Scottish Government, which left the partnership with two options:

1. Not to deliver the course
2. Deliver the course as cheaply as possible

The partnership decided to try option 2, particularly due to the high demand for the courses. In 2016 and 2017 one course per year has been delivered at the reduced rate of £1,500.

While we appreciate that £1,500 is a significant amount of money this covers 12 days of high quality, accredited training at - £125 per day- this includes, expert trainers and approved assessors, , specialist guest speakers, manuals and materials, venues, catering and the SQA verification process. There are no hidden costs - all fees go directly towards meeting these costs. The current fee represents exceptional value for money and we are confident it is lower than similar training at that level.

The partnership has spent time exploring a range of options to try and further reduce the cost of the course and unfortunately at this point in time there are no feasible alternative sources of funding. Demand for the course remains high since we moved to a fee-paying model and we are satisfied that we have been able to maintain the high standards of delivery despite paring the costs down as low as possible.

We will continue to provide one course per year alternating between Edinburgh and Glasgow and the cost will be £1,500 per participant. Plus £58 for accreditation which goes directly to SQA.

If you have any additional questions regarding the cost of the course please contact lydia.okroj@womensaid.scot

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