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South Wales
Police and Crime Commissioner

National
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Service



Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2018 – 2023

Action Plan Progress Report - 2018/19

VISION: People who live, work, study in and visit Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan have the opportunity to live positive, independent lives without being affected by violence and abuse.

AIMS:



PREPARE

Improve strategic planning and commissioning of VAWDASV services through a more coordinated partnership approach across the region



PURSUE

Address perpetrators of VAWDASV by improving intelligence sharing across services and the use of legal powers to disrupt and convict



PREVENT

Proactively address negative attitudes and behaviours that have the potential to result in VAWDASV, recognising this as 'everyone's business'



PROTECT

Improve the multi-agency response and support to all victims of VAWDASV and their children, regardless of risk level or needs



SUPPORT

Ensure that innovative, flexible and evidence-based services are available to meet the needs of victims experiencing forms of VAWDASV

This document is also available in Welsh

It's In our hands




It's In Our Hands - Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2018-2023

Introduction

This progress report on the action plan for 2018/19 outlines the first year of the implementation of the *Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy (VAWDASV) 2018-2023*.

The action plan was developed by all partners involved in the development of the Strategy and the same partnership approach is taken to ensuring the action plan activities are delivered.

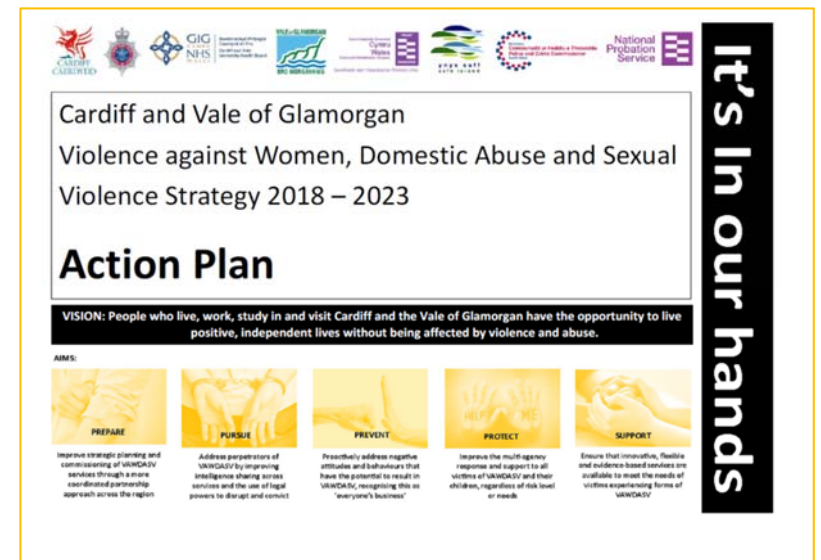
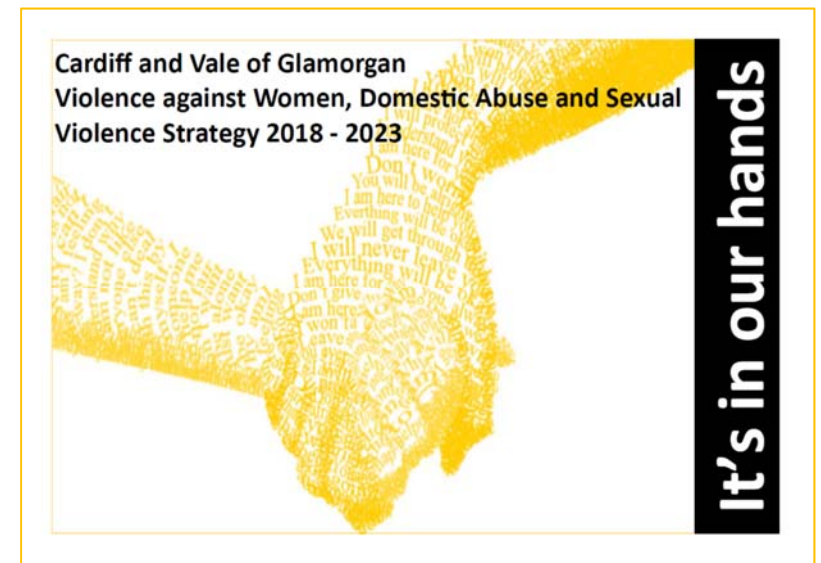
This progress report uses the following RAG ratings throughout:

-  - Indicates poor or no progress, or the activity is no longer relevant
-  - Indicates some progress, or the activity requires a change
-  - Indicates good progress being made or the activity has been completed



All activities identified to be completed within the 2018/19 financial year under each of the 5 chapter headings of **Prepare, Pursue, Prevent, Protect** and **Support** have been discussed, along with key activities that are proposed to be addressed during 2019/20.

Where necessary new actions have been identified and changes to existing actions have been noted.

Document produced May 2019



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PREPARE			
Section	We Will	By	Progress
Needs Assessment	Continually improve data collection methods to better inform ongoing needs assessment	Annually and Ongoing	
Governance	Implement and continually review governance arrangements including membership, to ensure they remain fit for purpose	Ongoing	

Data collection across the region has been enhanced over the last year with a dashboard of headline data produced every quarter and shared with regional partners. Capturing data on needs is an ongoing process and a comprehensive revised **Needs Assessment** exercise will be undertaken in 2019/20 to inform the development of the regional Commissioning Strategy. Activity and outcomes from cases across all civil and criminal courts remains a data gap, but it is hoped this can be rectified during 2019/20.

The regional **Governance** structure is now in place, comprising the following groups and meeting frequencies:




Regional VAWDASV Steering Group (Quarterly)	Domestic Homicide Review Panels (local) (As necessary)
Regional VAWDASV Commissioning Board (Monthly)	VAWDASV Executives (local) (Quarterly)
Ask & Act, Education and Training Group (Quarterly)	MARAC Steering Groups (local) (Quarterly)
Sexual Violence Strategic Group (Quarterly)	Cardiff and Vale Sex Work Steering Group (Quarterly)
White Ribbon Steering Group (Bi-Monthly)	Professional Interest Forum (Biannually)
Cardiff and Vale VAWDASV Universities and Colleges Group (Quarterly)	Specialist Domestic Violence Court Steering Group (Quarterly)

Work is underway to engage survivors in strategic planning; SEEdS (Survivors Empowering and Educating Services) representatives have been asked to participate in a number of these sub-groups. An update on the regional VAWDASV Strategy Action Plan is reported to the Regional Safeguarding Board every quarter and formal links are made with the local Community Safety Partnership structures in the region to share information, issues and updates.

FUTURE ACTIVITY		
Survivor Engagement	Actively seek engagement and input from victims and survivors that represent all crime types and protected characteristics	September 2019
Wider Collaboration	Actively assist with embedding a whole systems approach across the region	March 2020
Introduction	Work towards developing relevant joint regional strategies and policies where possible	March 2023

Other **Survivor Engagement** is being explored to capture discrete feedback from across the range of protected characteristics and crime types, including survivors who have experienced rape and sexual assault, sex workers and those who have experienced Female Genital Mutilation.

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PURSUE			
Section	We Will	By	Progress
<i>Restorative Justice</i>	Continually review the guidance and approach to the use of restorative practice for victims of VAWDASV	Ongoing	
<i>Safe Use of Technology</i>	Deliver local campaigns to highlight safe use of technology	Ongoing	
<i>Encouraging Victims to Report</i>	Encourage and support more victims to engage with law enforcement to explore criminal and civil remedies	Ongoing	

Restorative Justice practices can be useful as an early intervention tool to prevent potential escalation. However, Police guidance remains in place that restorative justice is not an appropriate solution to cases of domestic abuse or assault and should not be used as a resolution. However, in cases where there is no intimate partner relationship, or history of such, and offences do not include violence, stalking, harassment or sexual offences, restorative justice may be considered if certain criteria are met. Partners across the region have been asked to participate in a study which aims to explore how various organisations come to form official stances on the appropriateness of using Restorative Justice processes in cases of domestic violence.










The promotion of the *Safe Use of Technology* requires a multi-agency approach to ensure that key messages, hints, tips and practical safeguarding strategies can be easily disseminated to children, young people and adults alike. This work will need a specialist Police lead and will be explored during 2019/20.

Encouraging Victims to Report remains a key objective for the Police who want to ensure that victims have confidence to report abuses and the knowledge that they will be listened to. In Cardiff, the Police hold regular, informal surgeries in the RISE-Cardiff One Stop Shop to show that they work closely with specialist support services. Resource issues have prevented regular joint visits with RISE-Cardiff staff to victims identified as high risk; this issue is currently being considered by senior management, including the ability to permanently base an Officer at the One Stop Shop.

FUTURE ACTIVITY		
<i>Integrated Offender Management</i>	Trial and evaluate the MATAAC Intervention for perpetrators of domestic abuse	September 2019
	Evaluate the impact of Drive including impact on victims and children	March 2020
<i>Working with Perpetrators</i>	Improve monitoring and reporting of perpetrator programmes / interventions	March 2020
	Consider early intervention options for those concerned about their behaviour	March 2020
	Explore options for delivering a range of community perpetrator interventions	March 2020
<i>Criminal Justice Response</i>	Increase the number of positive outcomes for victims	March 2023
	Enhance the monitoring of the outcomes of cases appearing before Magistrates and Crown courts	March 2021

The MATAAC approach to managing perpetrators is being assessed as part of the regional approach to *Integrated Offender Management* through the delivery of the Drive intervention that aims to support perpetrators to change their behaviour, either through direct support or disruption techniques.

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PREVENT			
Section	We Will	By	Progress
Sexual Violence	Provide a male IDSVA resource shared across all partners in the region	April 2019	
	Work with the South Wales Police & Crime Commissioner to gain a greater understanding of sexual harassment	March 2019	
National Training Framework (NTF)	Liaise with the Judicial College to ensure Magistrates are trained in VAWDASV awareness and sentencing guidelines	October 2018	
Sex Workers	Review the effectiveness of the Ty Tarian scheme to inform future service delivery	March 2019	
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)	Develop close working arrangements between the Early Help Front Door services and specialist VAWDASV services	March 2019	
Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS)	Remain committed to mainstreaming the IRIS model across all GP surgeries in the region	March 2019	
Sexual Violence	Raise awareness of consent at all opportunities	Ongoing	
Stalking	Improve awareness of stalking and promote the practical steps to reporting	Ongoing	
Formal Reviews	Implement any Welsh Government policy changes arising from its review of DHR processes	TBC	

The region is fortunate to have a Health-led Sexual Assault Referral Centre that supports women, men and children who have experienced any form of **Sexual Violence** (sexual assault, rape or sexual abuse). The service has a team of female Independent Sexual Violence Advocates but currently no male Advocates to offer a choice to victims. The delivery of a male ISVA is being explored as part of the recommissioning of a specialist service for male victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence. With regards to sexual harassment, South Wales Police have circulated a survey via social media. The initial results of the survey are currently being analysed, with early indications showing that areas where sexual harassment was most prevalent for respondents included within the workplace and on the street. The findings are due to be published soon. The issue of consent is raised at all public and staff events and stalls delivered any of the partners across the region. Leaflets are available and links to the online media and other resources is promoted. **Dates to be amended.**

Although the criminal justice system is not required to undertake relevant elements of the Welsh Government's **National Training Framework (NTF)**, a mapping exercise is underway to review national guidelines and local training for all court staff (criminal and civil). This will inform training needs going forward and the development of the regional training forum to deliver Groups 2 and 3 of the National Training Framework. It is hoped that the materials developed by a National Safeguarding Network Task Group for Group 2 Ask and Act training can be agreed by Welsh Government for use outside of the NHS; if so, it can be rolled out immediately across relevant authorities. **Date to be amended**

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The Ty Tarian supported housing scheme was established as a pilot using Supporting People Innovation funding to support **Sex Workers** who have complex health and social care needs. The scheme ceased in March 2019 and evaluations have identified areas for learning and future recommendations. Work is now underway with a range of key stakeholders to review the needs of all women with complex health and social care issues. It is hoped that pathways into and out of support can be developed, including the types of accommodation best suited to their needs and that a multi-agency response can be delivered.

In the region, the need to tackle **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)** remains a high priority. Specifically in Cardiff, a new approach to family help and support has been agreed, based on 3 new services: a *Family Gateway* service to respond to all referrals and enquiries and offer information and advice, a closely-linked *Family Help* service to respond promptly to families who need some short-term support (Family Gateway and Family Help will sit alongside Flying Start and Cardiff Parenting Service to form a comprehensive *Early Help Service*). Finally, a *Family Support* service, managed by Childrens Services which is able to work with families with more complex or severe problems. The Early Help suite of support will be phased in over 2019 and to support this work, families experiencing VAWDASV will be directed to the RISE-Cardiff One Stop Shop from April 2019, with specialist Children and Young People workers providing skilled support to children and young people who have experienced or witnessed domestic abuse, in addition to supporting adult victims. This work will also link into the All Wales Police response to ACE's – Early Action Together.

The rollout of the **Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS)** approach across all 64 GP surgeries in the region is almost complete with the North and East Cardiff Clusters due to be completed by the end of July 2019. Evaluation of the rollout in the region has indicated that the effectiveness of IRIS increases year on year with IRIS trained GP's being 22 times more likely to ask patients about domestic violence and abuse than a non-IRIS trained GP. Funding was secured by the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board until March 2020 to ensure ongoing support for GP surgeries and a fast-track response from specialist services. The RISE-Cardiff service has received further funding from Bristol University to continue the rollout of the approach to deliver IRIS+ in Cardiff which will support male victims of domestic abuse, children affected by domestic abuse and any identified perpetrators. This will initially take place in Rumney and Llanrumney who have not yet had IRIS training. **Date to be amended**

The issue of **Stalking** has been given recent prominence in the region – Dr. Jane Monckton-Smith, Lecturer in Criminology at the University of Gloucestershire presented her findings from a review of DHRs on how stalking behaviour could be identified earlier, to specialist frontline practitioners at the Workforce Development Conference held in March 2019. This was extremely well-received and has prompted the regional partners to want to develop a coordinated response to stalking, looking at improved assessment tools for early identification and ways to highlight the issue to the public. A working group will take this issue forward during 2019/20.







The Welsh Government review of the approach to Domestic Homicide Reviews in Wales ceased in March 2018. The report on the findings has not been published due to it not meeting strict rules for empirical research, but the report has been passed to the Children and Communities team within Welsh Government to consider how DHRs might align with other **Formal Reviews** such as Child and Adult Practice Review processes. However, the Welsh Government's VAWDASV Team has recently indicated that it will circulate the report to aid discussion from a VAWDASV perspective – this is still awaited. **Date to be included once information received from Welsh Government**

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FUTURE ACTIVITY		
Educational Settings	Continue to promote and monitor education-based activities across the region to include 'hard to reach' children	December 2020
	Give support to all higher and further education establishments to have a consistent and visible approach to tackling VAWDASV and in managing disclosures	December 2020
National Training Framework (NTF)	Implement the regional training plan to ensure all staff are trained in accordance with the National Training Framework	March 2022
Early Intervention	Prioritise funding for early intervention services that prevent all forms of VAWDASV	March 2021
	Implement the Ask Me Ambassador pilot in Cardiff and share the learning	March 2020
Honour Based Violence / Forced Marriage	Improve understanding of how forced marriage affects individuals with protected characteristics	September 2020
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	Increase schools understanding of FGM and how to respond	March 2022
Night Time Economy	Assist with implementing the actions from the 'Delivering a Safe and Welcoming Night Time Economy' strategy	March 2022
Sex Workers	Raise awareness across the region of the issues faced by sex workers	March 2022
Trafficking and Modern Slavery	Widen the reach of the Human Trafficking awareness module through the National Training Framework	March 2022
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)	Support Public Health Wales to move from a position of understanding the ACE research to understanding what a positive and effective response looks like	March 2021
Formal Reviews	Ensure that the learning from all formal service reviews including DHRs is reflected in service delivery and is shared widely	June 2020
White Ribbon Campaign	Implement the White Ribbon Action Plan across the region	March 2020
	Continue to advocate for a White Ribbon Wales	December 2019

Both local authorities successfully reapplied for **White Ribbon** status in July 2018 and developed an action plan to outline the ongoing activity in the region to encourage men to take a stand against violence towards women and girls. The action plan is developed and monitored by a Steering Group, chaired by the representative White Ribbon Champion drawn from the Councillors in each local authority. Discussions have been held with both Violence against Women, Gender-based Violence, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence National Advisors and the Vulnerable Persons and Victims Lead from within the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner's office regarding support for the concept of a 'White Ribbon Wales'. This is needed to reflect the different strategic direction in the country and also other considerations such as the Welsh language for publicity materials. The concept has also been discussed with Chief Executive of White Ribbon UK and she has confirmed that they are currently reviewing their entire service delivery and regional set-ups.

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PROTECT			
Section	We Will	By	Progress
<i>Clare's Law / Sarah's Law Disclosures</i>	Further promote Disclosure Schemes at all available opportunities	Ongoing	
<i>Specialist Courts</i>	Work with campaigners to strengthen victims voices across all courts	Ongoing	
<i>Managing VAWDASV PPNs</i>	Work with partners to ensure continuous improvement of the MASH	Annually	
	Closely monitor the specialist service response to PPNs	Annually	
<i>Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)</i>	Improve the quality of MARAC referrals across the region	Annually	
<i>Housing Related Support</i>	Continually monitor the use of crisis/emergency accommodation to ensure provision for those who need it most	Annually	

At all public and staff events and stalls, the ability to apply for **Clare's Law / Sarah's Law Disclosures** is promoted, especially with the introduction of the Home Office/South Wales Police Clare's Law leaflet. South Wales Police has been asked to develop a similar leaflet for Sarah's Law. To improve services to potential victims, all applications for Clare's Law disclosures are considered at the Domestic Abuse Daily Discussions multi-agency meetings held at the MASH.

With regard to **Specialist Courts**, funding was secured during 2018/19 from the Police and Crime Commissioner to deliver IDVA support to victims attending family court, to replicate the provision already in existence for the criminal courts. However, the response of some family court judges to this has been quite negative and the court process is often reinforcing victim trauma and not acting in the best interest of the child. During 2019/20 partners will work with survivors to highlight these issues, hopefully as part of the UK Government's review of how family courts protect children and parents in cases of domestic abuse and other serious offences. This recently announced 3-month review will be undertaken by a panel of experts with a public call for evidence.

The Cardiff MASH/MARAC process is constantly evolving to respond to demand and partner pressures, with the structures overseeing the MASH at both operational and strategic levels being refreshed and re-established in response. With regards to **Managing VAWDASV PPNs**, this is closely monitored through the governance structures, where currently different practices are in operation across the region. In Cardiff the PPNs that identify children and young people who have witnessed or experienced domestic abuse will be addressed by the RISE-Cardiff service.

Referrals to the separate **Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)** processes across the region are closely monitored and improvements promoted through feedback and training. Discussions have begun to consider aligning the separate MARAC routes (domestic abuse, human trafficking and sex workers) into one Vulnerabilities & Exploitation Pathway. This will be taken forward during 2019/20. **Change activity to: Establish and implement the Vulnerabilities and Exploitation Pathway by March 2021**

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The availability and take-up of **Housing Related Support** across the region will be ascertained through the revised needs assessment processes. Findings will be considered as part of the development of the regional commissioning strategy. The Welsh Government have commissioned the Wales Centre for Public Policy to undertake a review of refuge provision for victims of domestic violence in Wales and partners across the region will contribute as requested.

FUTURE ACTIVITY		
Notices and Orders	Improve the use of Notices and Orders across the region	March 2020
Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)	Review the findings of the research into the future of MARAC and consider any impact on existing processes	June 2019
Housing Related Support	Assess the impact of welfare reform changes and the Renting Homes Act on specialist accommodation for victims	March 2020
Specialist Courts	Better support victims through the criminal and civil justice processes	March 2021
Workplace Policies	Develop and adopt revised VAWDASV workplace policies and encourage all partners to do the same	June 2019
	Adopt the requirement for contractors to develop workplace policies through commissioning and procurement arrangements	December 2019
	Ensure contractors are aware of the issues and understand referral pathways	December 2019
Target Hardening	Review the availability of target hardening options and develop a regional approach	June 2019

A number of regional partners are still to refresh their **Workplace Policies** this year (Cardiff & Vale UHB, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service and Wales Ambulance Services Trust). All partners are to promote the adoption of workplace policies through commissioning and procurement arrangements and support will be provided to any organisations that requires such assistance.

The availability and promotion of **Target Hardening** measures across the region is currently being considered, with each statutory organisation currently undertaking a review of its own approach to such safety measures, including referral arrangements, decision-making processes and funding. These approaches will be reviewed and discussed before the development of any potential joint delivery pathway. **Date to be amended**

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SUPPORT			
Section	We Will	By	Progress
Male Victims	Commission a specialist male victim service with wider regional partners	March 2019	
Sex Workers	Review the findings of the 'Beyond the Gaze' research	March 2019	
Research	Actively participate in a range of meaningful research projects to broaden understanding and improve services	Ongoing	
Gypsy and Traveller Communities	Raise awareness of available support services to the Gypsy and Traveller communities	Ongoing	
LGBTQ+ Victims	Ensure services are responsive to LGBTQ+ victims	Ongoing	

The development of a specialist service for **Male Victims** of domestic abuse and sexual violence has been enhanced with the interest shown by all local authorities across South Wales and Gwent in potentially participating in the commissioning and procurement process. This interest has caused some delay in obtaining relevant needs data, and approval through local governance processes is currently ongoing. A new specialist service however will be delivered by April 2020. **Date to be amended**

The Beyond the Gaze study mapped the trends of 641 **Sex Workers** who use the internet for their work, with a further 62 semi-structured interviews undertaken. It also surveyed customers of sex workers using the internet, with 1,323 responses. The research asked how safety provision and health services are responding to the needs of those working in this sector, with the focus on facilitating the integration of online sex work into existing provisions. The research showed that people providing both direct and indirect sexual services via the internet may experience online harassment and threats, or non-consensual use of their data. The findings show that levels of violent crime experienced by internet sex workers are considerably lower than those reported by street sex workers. Implication for the regional Strategy include championing the specific safety and support needs of those sex working in isolation on the Internet through the development of peer networking systems which will promote active engagement, improve the reporting of crime to the Police, and promote the National Ugly Mugs for on-line sex workers to report harassment, stalking and threats.

The region remains committed to participating in **Research** and is currently involved in the delivery, monitoring and review of Drive, MATAAC and Change That Lasts with the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner's office; the review of refuge provision and sexual violence services with the Welsh Government and the Wales Centre for Public Policy; and the delivery and monitoring of IRIS and IRIS+ with GP surgeries across the region.

In-reach provision to support the **Gypsy and Traveller Communities** in the region is currently being considered by RISE-Cardiff and Atal y Fro. Working in collaboration with the Gypsy & Traveller Sites Unit across the static sites and dispersed population in the region, they will raise awareness of, and work to promote confidence in approaching, all specialist services for advice, safety measures and support.

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LGBTQ+ Victims are able to be supported through the existing specialist provision in the region, however the revised needs assessment exercise will ascertain whether there are gaps in provision for this client group. Views of LGBTQ+ organisations will also be sought during the year to inform ongoing service delivery.

FUTURE ACTIVITY		
Children and Young People	Consider extending positive male role models to children and young people experiencing other types of violence and abuse	March 2021
Family Interventions	Research and consider family intervention models for future service delivery	March 2020
People from a BME Background	Review the pilot FGM clinic's effectiveness	June 2019
LGBTQ+ Victims	Strengthen links with specialist LGBTQ+ organisations to improve services and increase reporting	September 2019
Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)	Embed the SARC 'Hub and Spoke' model for victims of sexual violence across South East Wales	December 2019
Older People	Work with the Regional Safeguarding Adults Board to develop policies and training for those working with older victims of VAWDASV	December 2019
Complex Needs / Toxic Trio	Ensure health and social care professionals consider and address how complex needs impact on adults and children	March 2022
Sex Workers	Explore new ways to identify, protect and safeguard sex workers and the communities affected	December 2019

With regards to **People from a BME Background**, the Female Genital Mutilation clinic has proved successful in its pilot year and has helped to inform the revisions to the FGM reporting pathway. A proposed FGM strategy is to be developed by the multi-agency group reviewing the FGM pathway and will be published soon.

The process to procure a revised 'Hub and Spoke' **Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)** for the wider South East Wales region is still being considered by the Executive Partnership chaired by the Chair of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board with representation from Health, Police and third sector contributing. The Hubs in Wales have been agreed to be located in Swansea, Aberystwyth and Cardiff with a Paediatric service offered in Swansea and Cardiff.

The development of policies and specific training for those working with **Older People** who are victims of VAWDASV is yet to begin. However, such issues will be covered by Groups 2 and 3 of the National Training Framework which will be delivered to all health and social care professionals in the region over the next 2 years.

A delegation of partners from across South Wales recently visited Leeds County Council to learn about their Holbeck Managed Approach to **Sex Workers**. Findings and recommendations will be presented to the Cardiff Community Safety Operational Delivery Board for further discussion and consideration.