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University Health Board



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Cymru
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Community Rehabilitation Company
Gweithredir gan / Operated by Working Links



De Cymru
Comisiynydd yr Heddlu a Throseddau
South Wales
Police and Crime Commissioner

National
Probation
Service



Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan

Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2018 – 2023

Action Plan Progress Report - 2021/22

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

It's In our hands

Introduction

This progress report on the action plan for 2021/22 outlines the fourth 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:

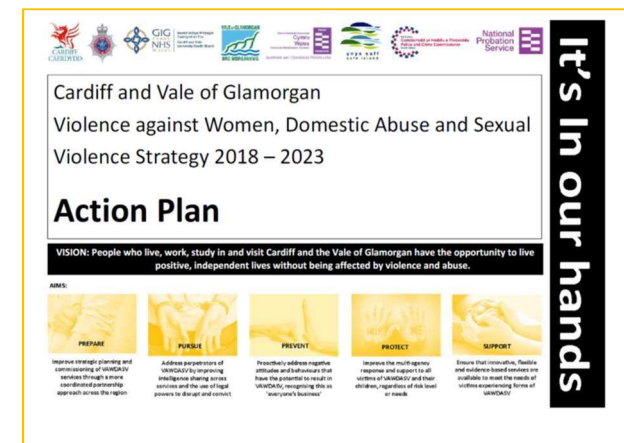
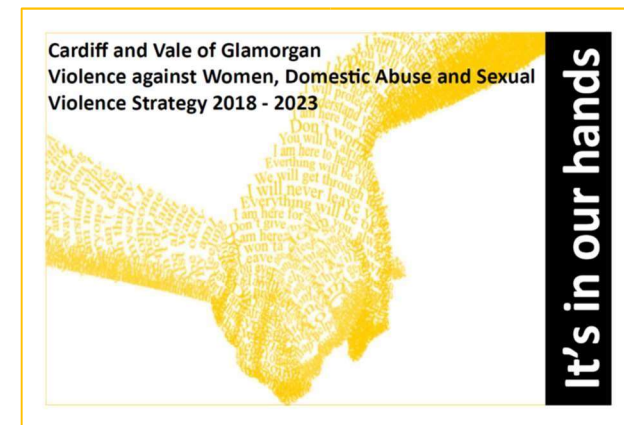




- Indicates poor or no progress, or the activity is no longer relevant
- Indicates some progress, or the activity requires a change
- Indicates good progress being made or the activity has been completed

All activities identified to be completed within the 2021/22 financial year under each of the 5 chapter headings of: Prepare, Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Support have been discussed, along with information updates from 2020/2021 actions where relevant. Key activities that are proposed to be addressed during 2022/23 are also included.

Where necessary new actions have been identified and changes to existing actions have been noted. NOTE: Due to the COVID19 pandemic, some actions have not progressed in the timeframes originally outlined. Actions that require further work will be progressed during 2022-23 where possible.

Document produced May 2022







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	

A regional needs assessment covering data for the periods 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 is ongoing. Information is being collated from more sources than previously and will continue to be used to improve local delivery at both a strategic and operational level. The data will also be used to inform our 2023-2028 Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence regional strategy.

In preparation for the revised Local Well-being Plan for Cardiff, and the revised Area Plan for Cardiff and the Vale, the Public Services Board and the Regional Partnership Board have asked for a partnership governance mapping exercise in order to understand 'as is' arrangements, responsibilities and accountabilities in Cardiff and across the region. The governance of the VAWDASV Executive group forms part of this wider review. During 2022, the Cardiff and Vale VAWDASV Executive group was established with 2 meetings taking place bringing together key partners from across the region.

FUTURE ACTIVITY		
Introduction	Work towards developing relevant joint strategies and policies where possible	March 2023

PURSUE			
Section	We Will	By	Progress
Safe Use of Technology	Deliver local campaigns to highlight safe use of technology	Ongoing	
Working with Perpetrators	Explore options for delivering a range of community perpetrator interventions	Ongoing	
Encouraging Victims to Report	Encourage and support more victims to engage with law enforcement to explore criminal and civil remedies	Ongoing	
Criminal Justice Response	Enhance the monitoring of the outcomes of cases appearing before Magistrates and Crown Courts	March 2022 was March 2021)	

Safe use of technology is explored during the Group 2 National Training Framework with attendees encouraged to download the BrightSky app. Live Fear Free campaigns have been shared via social media with attention given to highlighting both the webchat and email contact opportunities alongside the main freephone telephone number. Work will continue during 2022-23 with a focus on raising awareness of the role of technology in stalking behaviour.










Safer Merthyr Tydfil are now managing the contracts for our community perpetrator provision across the region – namely CLEAR, 'Driving Change' and DRIVE. DRIVE is now embedded across the region and the 'Driving Change' programme commenced in September 2021 with the group work element commencing in March 2022. Work has also been undertaken to increase practitioner referrals into the awareness raising CLEAR intervention that has yielded positive results. The involvement of our commissioned specialist providers RISE and Atal y Fro remain central to safe delivery. Work has already started to align referral pathways for all 3 community interventions to enable a seamless 'step-up and step-down' opportunity for participants, in accordance with risk. This work will be further developed during 2022-23

The Victims Code of Practice compliance framework is within its final quarter of the pilot and is progressing well. A data dashboard is being developed to support an analysis of compliance and inform victims experiences. A year-end report on the feedback of the pilot, has been presented to both the South Wales Criminal Justice and Integrated Offender Management Board, as well as the Victims and Witnesses Sub-Group.

Work to increase the number of victims utilising HMTCS Remote Site in the Vale of Glamorgan has seen an increased take up (due to the commitment of criminal justice partners). Safe Link facilities are now established and operationally active within the Vale of Glamorgan. There have been delays in establishing a remote evidencing site for women in Cardiff due to IT issues, but this should be resolved within Q1 of 2022/23. A remote evidencing site for male victims in Cardiff is also close to being agreed and finalised.

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Case outcomes continued to be monitored across the region via the Specialist Domestic Abuse Court Operational Group although more work is needed to ensure that outcomes of cases heard at Crown Court are monitored.

FUTURE ACTIVITY		
Criminal Justice Response	Increase the number of positive outcomes for victims	March 2023

PREVENT			
Section	We Will	By	Progress
Formal Reviews	Ensure that the learning from all formal service reviews including DHR's is reflected in service delivery and is shared widely	June 2020 (now ongoing)	
	Implement any Welsh Government policy changes arising from its review of DHR processes	TBC (now ongoing)	
Sexual Violence	Raise awareness of consent at all opportunities	Ongoing	
Stalking	Improve awareness of stalking and promote the practical steps to reporting	Ongoing	
National Training Framework	Implement the regional training plan to ensure all staff are trained in accordance with the National Training Framework	March 2022	
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	

The region continues to participate in the Welsh Government's Single Unified Safeguarding Review process, and partners will participate in the Welsh Government Consultation process that is due to commence in June 2022. During 2021-22, two Domestic Homicide Reports have been signed off by the Home Office, one of which has been published and is available on the Public Services Board Website. One report has not been published as per Home Office agreement. During this period, a further three Domestic Homicide Reports have been sent to the Home Office for comment. As per an action from a Domestic Homicide Review, social workers across Cardiff have been trained to administer the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment Risk Identification Checklist (DASH RiC). To date over 200 staff working across social care and housing have received this training that also includes an overview of the local MARAC process. This training will be incorporated into the regional National Training Framework Group 3 'Workplace Champion' core training during 2022-23.

Due to the pandemic, opportunities to deliver specific campaigns around sexual violence and consent have remained limited to social media campaigns. The national 'Call out only' campaign that included materials around sexual violence and harassment was widely circulated by key partners.

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Two online briefing sessions aimed at practitioners working with families across the region where stalking and coercive control maybe present were organised by Cardiff Council to take place during 2021/22 however, due to the covid pandemic these sessions were postponed. The Domestic Homicide Timeline sessions, delivered by Professor Jane Monckton Smith will now take place during May 2022.

The National Training Framework Groups 1, 2 and 6 have continued to be delivered across 'relevant authorities' as per the legislative requirement. Groups 1 and 2 continue to be delivered online and in October 2021 56 managers and senior leads from across the region attended a Group 6 online workshop co-delivered by Welsh Government and Welsh Women's Aid. Due to the Covid pandemic the roll out of Group 3 was further postponed but work has been undertaken to prepare materials in time for face-to-face multi-agency training to commence training in June 2022.

Representative from Cardiff Council Children's Services met with the FGM Lead for Bristol and key documents have been shared but this work was suspended due to COVID. This action will be progressed during 2022 via the Regional Safeguarding Board.









During 2022, the Domestic Abuse Coordinator began to attend the multi-agency Night-Time Economy monthly meetings in Cardiff. Partners across Cardiff have actively engaged in the Purple Flag application process and collaborative Safer Streets bids, developed by regional partners, were submitted to the Home Office.

Safer Wales StreetLife continues to provide daytime support and evening outreach for women exploited by prostitution in Cardiff. Engagement has remained relatively stable during this reporting period. Some innovative work was undertaken to encourage women exploited by prostitution in Cardiff to be vaccinated against COVID.

Cardiff Council already has a Modern-Day Slavery e-learning module in situ for staff although this will be reviewed during 2022/23 with Welsh Government Modern Day Slavery lead. The VAWDASV Manager in the Vale of Glamorgan continues to attend the All Wales Modern Slavery operational group and the regional Modern Slavery group. New Local Government Association (LGA) guidance on Modern Slavery has been developed specifically for council officers leading and working in homelessness and housing services and this will be available in April 2022.

FUTURE ACTIVITY

There are no planned future activities, but actions identified during 2021/22 that require further action will be continued during 2022/23.

PROTECT			
Section	We Will	By	Progress
Clare's Law / Sarah's Law Disclosures	Further promote Disclosure Schemes at all available opportunities	Ongoing	
Specialist Courts	Work with campaigners to strengthen victims' voices across all courts	Ongoing	
Managing VAWDASV Public Protection Notices (PPN's)	Work with partners to ensure continuous improvement of the MASH	Annually	
	Closely monitor the specialist service response to PPNs	Annually	
Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)	Improve the quality of MARAC referrals across the region	Annually	
Housing Related Support	Continually monitor the use of crisis/emergency accommodation to ensure provision for those who need it most	Annually	
Target Hardening	Review the availability of target hardening options and develop a regional approach	March 2022	
Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)	Undertake a strategic review of all of the MARACs operating in the region and consider streamlining where feasible.	March 2022	

Clare's Law continues to be discussed as part of the Group 2 National Training Framework and has also been incorporated into the Group 3 training materials. A specific session about Clare's Law was delivered by South Wales Police as part of our 2021 White Ribbon activities. This session was well attended by professionals working within a number of organisations from across the region.









As mentioned earlier in this report, work has continued with Regional Advisors across Wales and HMCTS to increase remote evidencing facilities that can be accessed by victims required to give evidence at Magistrates and Crown Courts.

Safe Lives have been commissioned to undertake an independent review of MARAC across the region. This work was delayed due to Covid, but the scope of the review has been agreed with the work due to commence in April 2022. This action will be reviewed during 2022/23.

A review of Target Hardening has commenced during this reporting period. Both Cardiff Council and Vale of Glamorgan Council participated in the scoping study developed by University of Huddersfield, Police Crime Prevention Initiatives, the crime prevention delivery arm of the

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National Police Chief's Council that sought to establish when and how physical security solutions are used in cases of domestic abuse.
Council data has been collated and at the end of this data reporting period was being analysed. This work will continue during 2022/23.

FUTURE ACTIVITY		
Housing Related Support	Assess the impact of welfare reform changes and the Renting Homes Act on specialist accommodation for victims	March 2023

SUPPORT			
Section	We Will	By	Progress
Male Victims	Commission a specialist male victim service with wider regional partners	March 2021 *	
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	
Complex Needs / Toxic Trio	Ensure health and social care professionals consider and address how complex needs impact on adults and children	March 2022	
LGBTQ+ Victims	Strengthen links with specialist LGBTQ+ organisations to improve services and increase reporting	March 2022	
Sex Workers	Explore new ways to identify, protect and safeguard sex workers and the communities affected	March 2022	
Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)	Embed the SARC 'Hub and Spoke' model for victims of sexual violence across South-East Wales	March 2022	

A male victim's service is due to launch in June 2022. As with the service for female victims, the proposed new service utilises a variety of funding streams and existing delivery partners to pilot a more holistic and robust service pathway for male victims of domestic and/or sexual violence and abuse. The proposed pilot recommends a partnership approach between the Dyn project and the Pobl Group to continue to offer their respective specialist support but in a more collaborative way. Dyn will continue to offer their expertise with managing referrals and for undertaking comprehensive needs and risk assessments. Pobl will deliver the support element both in accommodation and in the community, assisting with access into other support services as necessary.

Ynys Saff Sexual Assault Referral Centre are due to provide a single adult 'Hub' service for adults within the South-East Wales region. The purpose of a SARC Hub is to provide immediate care to the client including a forensic medical exam and assessment of acute health needs including sexual health. SARC 'Spokes' provide ongoing ISVA support through the criminal justice process. Cardiff, Risca and Merthyr will provide Spoke services. Both hubs and spokes involve health, police and third sector working in partnership to support victims and survivors. In addition, to working with adult Ynys Saff continues to operate as a paediatric hub for South-East Wales.

Despite much work taking place during this period, the COVID pandemic has further delayed many actions relating to intersectionality. This work will be progressed during 2022/23

FUTURE ACTIVITY

There are no planned future activities but actions identified during 2021/22 that require further action will be continued during 2022/23.