



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Violence against women, domestic abuse
and sexual violence:

**Progress report for the period
1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.**

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg / This document is also available in Welsh

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Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence: Progress report for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

Under section 12 of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 ('the Act'), the Welsh Ministers must, in respect of each financial year, publish a report which addresses the following:

- ✓ progress made towards achieving the objectives in the national strategy on violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (2016-2021);
- ✓ progress made towards achieving the purpose of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 in Wales (by reference to the national indicators)
- ✓ Predictions of likely future trends and any other analytical data (if published during the period of 12 months beginning with the date of a general election)

This report covers the period between April 2018 and March 2019. As this report is not being published within 12 months of the last Assembly elections it does not include predictions of likely trends for 2019-2020.

To note

The Act requires that progress made towards achieving the purpose of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 in Wales be reported through reference to the National Indicators.

In 2018, we worked with the National Advisers and internal and external stakeholders to develop a set of Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) National Indicators, which will be measures of progress against the purposes of the Act.

Consultation on the National Indicators closed on 29 March 2019. We anticipate publication of the National Indicators incorporating the feedback and suggestions gathered through the consultation exercise in June 2019.

As the National Indicators are not yet in place, progress has been measured against the objectives of the National Strategy on Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (2016 – 2021).

The Act also requires that this report provides an explanation for any revisions to the strategy. There have been none.

Objective 1: Increase awareness and challenge attitudes of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence across the Welsh population.

We are continuing to raise awareness and challenge attitudes in relation to violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. This has involved campaigns and communications which have continued to be strongly influenced by survivors of abuse and has been taken forward in partnership with the expert stakeholders.

Ongoing work to develop a National Survivor Engagement Framework is informed by a consultation on options which ended in May 2018. We are now taking forward a pilot project which will increase our understanding of how best to work with different groups of survivors to enable their participation in a national framework. This work has included the delivery of three workshops to survivors, stakeholders and Welsh Government officials in order to understand how survivors of abuse might be able to better engage with Welsh Government policy making and beyond. It will also seek to engage with those survivors we have been unable to reach through previous engagement activities and consultation, including survivors of sexual violence, male survivors, older survivors, survivors aged 18-24, BAME survivors, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller survivors, LGBTQ+ survivors, refugee and asylum seekers and disabled survivors. This work will be completed by Spring 2020.

Key achievements

In April 2018, the Welsh Government launched 'Don't be a Bystander,' a campaign that aims to show that a positive intervention can have a powerful impact on someone who is experiencing, or who has experienced violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence. The campaign included a film where actors voiced the words of survivors who had experienced violence or abuse.

The 'Don't be a Bystander' campaign film was accessed 46,000 times on Twitter and Facebook and there were 24,528 sessions on the Live Fear Free website during the campaign period. Calls to the Live Fear Free helpline from "concerned others" doubled during the campaign period.

A summary of responses on the options paper for a national survivor engagement framework was published in September 2018. This set out the next steps including engagement with a more diverse range of survivors.

Community Communications activities were designed to broaden the reach of our campaigns. Activity included a conference for Universities across Wales on Don't be a Bystander; a Facebook live event targeted at male survivors of sexual abuse, work with children and young people across Wales (see Spotlight Objective 2) and awareness raising activity at Llandaff Cathedral's Light a Candle event.

In December 2018, the Welsh Government published the National Communications Framework which outlined the long term approach of the Welsh Government for the delivery of national campaigns and broader communication on violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV). This was developed in consultation with stakeholders to ensure a more coherent, long-term approach to engagement and communication. The framework aimed to raise public awareness and change social norms, values, beliefs, attitudes, behaviours and practices in relation to all forms of VAWDASV.

A Facebook Live expert panel event took place in December 2018. It took place during the 16 Days of Activism and in support of White Ribbon, with questions invited from stakeholders and the public. The event was viewed more than 1,400 times with a total reach of 3,072 people.

In January 2019, 'This is not Love: This is Control' was launched by the Deputy Minister and Chief Whip, Jane Hutt, AM.

Planning for the next two phases of the Control campaign took place in March with workshops for specialist providers in sexual violence and those working with children and young people.

Spotlight National Communications Campaign This is not Love: This is Control

In partnership with the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Communications group and survivors, we developed our latest communications campaigns focused on raising awareness of Coercive Control. The campaign launched on television and digital channels in January 2019.

The campaign highlights the insidious, cumulative nature of coercive control and its subtlety and encourages victims/survivors to recognise that the coercive, controlling behaviour they are experiencing is as wrong and abusive.

The campaign films have been viewed more than 120,000 times on Facebook, Twitter and You Tube so far. The campaign also attracted significant new followers and users to the Live Fear Free website, attracted lively online debate and feedback. Those viewing the campaign were encouraged to join the conversation using #thisiscontrol.

The launch event in January 2019 was attended by over 50 stakeholders and survivors. Speakers included Luke Hart, whose mother and sister were killed by their father, and heard from other survivors speak about their experiences of coercive control.

Feedback

This advert is amazing and highlights all the things people need to be aware of, controlling people can make you feel worthless and everyone is worth more than that.

Good to see @Welsh Government @LiveFearFree ads running on @SkySports news

Luke and Ryan Hart @CoCoAwareness continue to be brilliant pioneers in raising awareness of #coercivecontrol. As victims theirs are the voices we need to listen to in order to stop this abuse.

Brave and devastating personal accounts, by @cocoawareness and other survivors, of the effects of coercive control brings the importance of the new #ThisIsControl campaign into sharp focus.

Next steps

Additional new campaign work is launching in 2019-2020 with another three phases focused on control and diverse groups; control and rape, sexual violence and sexual abuse; and control within the experiences of young people. Survivors will continue to be engaged in the development of these campaigns.

Work on a sustainable survivor engagement framework will continue in 2019. A pilot survivor panel (or panels) is due to be convened in September 2019.

The National Communications Framework will be refreshed in late 2019 to include information on upcoming campaigns.

Objective 2: Increased awareness in children and young people of the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships and that abusive behaviour is always wrong.

Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence can have a huge impact on children and young people. It can affect their wellbeing, their educational attainment, family and peer relationships, and their ability to enjoy healthy, happy, respectful relationships now and in the future. Raising awareness amongst children and young people of equality, respect, and consent is crucial if we are to end Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.

Objective 2 places a strong emphasis on education and raising awareness among children and young people. The implementation of relationship and sexuality education contributes to achieving this objective. We want to ensure all children and young people have access to developmentally appropriate, high quality learning that responds to their needs and experiences.

The Welsh Government's "This is Me" campaign also continues to resonate with children and young people as a useful tool in exploring gender stereotypes and norms.

We continue to provide funding for Hafan Cymru's Spectrum project which is working to combat issues related to Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in primary and secondary schools across all geographical areas of Wales. This promotes the importance of healthy relationships and raises awareness of domestic abuse, sexual violence and violence against women. Spectrum also delivers training for school staff and governors about understanding the impact of domestic abuse on a child and raises awareness by looking at a whole school approach to tackling domestic abuse.

Key achievements

2,529 sessions were delivered through Hafan Cymru's Spectrum programme during 2018-2019. A total of 31,761 beneficiaries have been supported throughout the 2018-2019 financial year.

We have updated the Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) guidance following the review and recommendations of the RSE Expert Group which were agreed by the Cabinet Secretary for Education in May 2018.

The updated guidance for RSE in the current curriculum in Wales was issued for consultation in February 2019. It includes a range of topics; such as healthy relationships and Violence against Woman Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. The guidance does not pre-empt the new curriculum, so focuses on approach rather than on curriculum, encouraging schools to design provision, as part of a whole school approach that meets the needs of all learners. This flexibility will allow professionals the autonomy to consider issues such as VAWDASV, including Female Genital Mutilation, Forced Marriage and Honour based violence. The guidance has also been written to align with the ethos of the new curriculum and will support schools to start moving towards designing their own curriculum, based on the needs of their learners.

The Curriculum & Assessment White Paper was published on 28 January 2019 for an eight week public consultation and closed on 25 March 2019. The White Paper – ‘Our national mission: a transformational curriculum’ provided stakeholders the opportunity to give their views on matters such as parental right to withdraw from RSE and RE. Likewise, to meet the needs of their learners.

Spotlight: Community Communications Activity Raising awareness children and young people: This is Me

In order to further the reach of our national communications campaigns, Cardiff University began work in October 2018 exploring the messages of the This Is Me campaign with children and young people. This is Me aimed to raise awareness of, and challenge gender stereotyping as a cause and a consequence of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. The outcome of Cardiff University’s work was a series of engagement events with over 270 children and young people at workshops and conferences; the development of a “What if #thisisme?” case study and in March 2019, publication of the Primary Agenda resource which includes This is Me campaign materials and activity.
<http://agenda.wales/>

Feedback from children and young people included:

I learnt that boys can do things that girls can and girls can do things that boys can. I now know that I can do girl things without being judged

It was really good the way you show your gender equality work through art because when I first found out about gender stereotypes I misjudged people but now realise that we can be who we want to be

This is the time for us to use our voices and stand up to Stereotyping

#thisisme #iloveit

Next steps

As part of its campaign work focusing on the theme of control during 2019-2020, Welsh Government will be developing a national campaign on control and the experience of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence for young people. This is being developed with specialist services and will be tested with young people.

Sex and Relationships Education will be renamed as Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE). This will be made a statutory part of the new curriculum that will be rolled out on a phased basis from September 2022 for all learners from the age of 3-16 and updated guidance will be produced for the current curriculum.

The draft Curriculum for Wales 2022 will be published on 30th April for feedback. There will be an extensive period of engagement during the feedback phase which closes on 19 July in order to refine the draft in preparation for a national roll out from September 2022.

Work is taking place with HEFCW to strengthen the approach to enhancing safeguarding practices and resilience, supporting staff and student initiatives that tackle violence against women, harassment and other adverse factors affecting mental health. This work will include the development of a sector specific Good Practice Guide.

Objective 3: To increase focus on holding perpetrators to account, and to provide opportunities to change their behaviour based around victim safety.

This objective recognises that we cannot effectively tackle violence against women, domestic abuse or sexual violence effectively without working with perpetrators to address and change their behaviour. This work is being taken forward by a small team headed by a forensic psychologist seconded from Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service in Wales.

Key achievements

A network for VAWDASV perpetrator services in Wales was established early 2018 which sees regular practice sharing events take place in both North Wales and South Wales on a quarterly basis. The events are intended to provide a learning environment where the sector can share experience and evidence based practice.

The Welsh Government has worked in partnership with Cardiff Metropolitan University to undertake a rapid evidence assessment of what works with domestic abuse perpetrators. This was published in December 2018.

The Welsh Government has worked in partnership with key stakeholders to develop VAWDASV Perpetrator Service Standards. These were launched in December 2018. The Standards provide minimum requirements for all perpetrator services in Wales.

Welsh Government commissioned the development of draft good practice guidance for public services working with perpetrators. The guidance will provide public services in Wales with the necessary knowledge to enable them to support work with

VAWDASV perpetrators. The draft guidance was opened up to comments via an online survey process late last year, the subsequent feedback has been collated and is being used to finalise the guidance, with an intention to publish the finalised documents in June 2019.

The framework to support positive change for those at risk of offending in Wales' 2018-2023 was launched in April 2018. The Welsh Government leads the VAWDASV work stream of the framework .The Framework Strategic group was established in 2018 and at the meeting held in March 2019, members participated in a problem-solving workshop where issues in the commissioning process were identified.

Funding has been allocated in collaboration with the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner's Office to a family-focused intervention and to local authorities supporting scoping, research and existing service funding and development of early intervention/ preventative approaches.

A grant was allocated to Swansea University to support stalking and harassment research and training in collaboration with Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships (KESS II) fund, part of the European Social Fund.

The Welsh Government has worked with regional VAWDASV boards to ensure that safe and effective work with perpetrators is reflected in their strategies.

A review of the DRIVE Project in Merthyr, which works with high risk and serial perpetrators, was conducted in early January and a report published. Recommendations concerning practice, risk assessment and risk management are to be implemented across all DRIVE teams nationally. Support offered to DRIVE in Cardiff and work on risk assessments and referral processes continues.

Masters students have been placed across a number of third sector service providers initiating research projects into funded perpetrator services.

Spotlight on perpetrator policy. Launch of standards

A launch event for the Welsh Government's VAWDASV Perpetrator Service Standards was held in Cardiff in December 2018.

This was attended by over 80 representatives from statutory and non-statutory organisations involved in the commissioning, evaluation and/or delivery of VAWDASV perpetrator services in Wales.

The Standards support the national VAWDASV strategy objective to have 'an increased focus on holding perpetrators to account and provide opportunities to change their behaviour based around victim safety' and emphasise the importance of safe and effective, evidence-based practice with VAWDASV perpetrators.

The Standards are intended to be used by both **commissioners** and **services** when making decisions regarding the development, delivery, evaluation and commissioning (or decommissioning) of VAWDASV perpetrator services in Wales.

They provide the minimum requirements for all perpetrator services (including but not limited to individual and group-based programmes) that aim to address the attitudes/thinking/feelings/behaviours underlying VAWDASV perpetration.

The standards were developed in partnership with relevant stakeholders including Relate Cymru; Respect, Welsh Women's Aid, Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service, Calan DVS and Atal y Fro.

Speakers at the launch included Rachael Eagles CEO of Calan DVS, the South Wales based domestic violence charity, Yasmin Khan, National Adviser, Julie James AM, Leader of the House and Chief Whip and Dr Cerys Miles, Head of Perpetrator Policy, Welsh Government.

Feedback

@wg_loh just launched the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Perpetrator Service Standards. Important work to break the cycle and make Wales the safest place in Europe.

Next Steps

Consultation on a guidance document for public services coming into contact with VAWDASV perpetrators closed in February 2019. This will be finalised and shared by June 2019. This will support services in identifying and signposting perpetrators to specialist services at the earliest opportunity.

Task and finish group activity is scheduled for summer 2019 where the focus will be building understanding and capability into the commissioning sector through a series of workshops across the regions in line with the Welsh Government VAWDASV Commissioning Guidance.

Objective 4: Make early intervention and prevention a priority

Intervening early is vital to identifying and reducing harm caused by violence or abuse. Welsh Government's innovative approach to early intervention has seen continued roll out of "Ask and Act" a policy and training programme which up skills key public service workers to undertake targeted enquiry to identify abuse.

Identifying violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence at the earliest opportunity and providing an appropriate response to minimise impact and harm is critical in achieving the early intervention and prevention objective of the national strategy. For the long-term health and welfare of our nation, we must continue to intervene early to reduce and prevent the incidence of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

We aim to achieve national roll out of Ask and Act by 2021.

Key achievements

A new contract was awarded in December 2018 to Welsh Women's Aid to deliver Ask and Act training, which includes the requirement to revise the training in light of feedback received. The contract includes the development and delivery of two distinct "train the trainer" courses and two training packages which are provided to the trained trainers for local roll-out.

A steering group comprising specialist services, early adopters and survivor representatives has been established to monitor roll out of the programme, to address any issues faced by the regions at the earliest opportunity and make necessary changes. This group has met twice since award of the new contract, in December 2018 and February 2019.

Ask and Act continues to be delivered to the five early adopter/pilot sites and planning meetings have taken place for training to commence in 2019 priority areas, Mid and West Wales and North Wales for April.

Over 1,500 have been trained to Ask and Act this year (groups 2 and 3) This means that over 3,300 workers have been trained so far.

Welsh Government jointly chairs the leadership group on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage with Bawso and the Crown Prosecution Service. This group met in November 2018 and agreed a national logo on FGM to be promoted at awareness raising events and to be used in signposting to services. This group also supported Wales's first specialist Women's Wellbeing clinic which launched May 2018.

A learning event in partnership with the Home Office was held in March 2019.

Spotlight Learning Event Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders March 2019

Welsh Government worked in partnership with the Home Office to deliver a national awareness raising and training event which helped to identify and understand honour based violence. It highlighted ways in which early intervention and prevention can assist in preventing harm in relation to female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation Orders are civil injunctions that offer a legal means to protect and safeguard both victims of, and potential victims of these harmful practices. The process to obtain an order is very simple, and their effects can have a significant positive impact on the life of the person to be protected. These protection orders should be considered in safeguarding plans wherever appropriate.

The training event was aimed at specialists, practitioners, teachers and communities. It incorporated basic awareness training, along with practical discussion on protection orders and how they can be used along with case studies to work through. Local support organisations were invited to network amongst professionals (to ensure a holistic approach was considered). 144 people attended the event

Feedback:

This was a really informative training day which was well presented. I especially appreciated the personal experiences shared by two inspirational women – They are doing a fantastic job in raising awareness through their own personal journeys.

I found all of the event very useful. Thanks as this will definitely help me in my role going forward and hopefully contribute to making change.

...an open and accessible event available to so many professionals and the fundamental message of the day – that all of us have the potential to make changes, be responsible and aware.

Next steps

Draft guidance on 'Ask and Act' training was published in November 2017. Statutory guidance will follow by the end of 2019-20.

Objective 5: Relevant professionals are trained to provide effective, timely and appropriate responses to victims and survivors.

One of the key mechanisms for delivering the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 is the National Training Framework (NTF) Statutory guidance, published under section 15 of the Act and section 60 of the Government of Wales Act 2006; the first of its kind in the UK. The Framework offers proportionate training to strengthen the response provided across Wales to those experiencing domestic abuse or sexual violence and sets out ambitious and clear expectations for training standards, outcomes and content on violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

For the first time in Wales, as a result of the Framework, relevant authorities are ensuring that *all* staff are trained to recognise violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Key achievements

Over 158,500 professionals in Wales have accessed training through the National Training Framework to date. This is an increase of over 23,000 for this report period

In May 2018, the first annual reports required by the National Training Framework on violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence were submitted to Welsh Government. Individualised feedback to all Relevant Authorities was provided in October 2018.

As part of the National Training Framework's Group 6 Strengthening Leadership series, three films were published on the Live Fear free website and to YouTube on engaging with survivors; the links between safeguarding and VAWDASV and survivor voices. The films have received a total of 445 views to date.

Welsh Government awarded a contract in October 2018 to a consortium of Safelives and Hafan Cymru to deliver training for specialist providers, frontline staff and their managers. 24 learners completed the Independent Domestic Violence Adviser course and a further 24 service managers in 2018-19.

Threshold Domestic Abuse Services LIMITLESS Project is a £1.5 million a European funded project offering tailored support to its service users, whether they are or have experienced domestic abuse. One of the three elements of the programme is the volunteer qualification for those who are taking up volunteer positions in the specialist VAWDASV sector. These volunteers will include survivors of abuse. Welsh Government has provided advice and support to this element and the pilot for the volunteer qualification will begin in September 2019.

Welsh Government contracted with Welsh Women's Aid to deliver a National Public Sector Leadership Conference in March 2019 building on the work of the Strengthening Leadership Series and resources for Group 6 of the National Training Framework.

Spotlight on Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence is Everyone's Business: National Public Sector Leadership Conference

Seventy Public Sector Leaders from across Wales came together in March 2019 to consider how their organisations could ensure responding to violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence was part of their core business, and central to all that they do. Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence is everyone's business. #Everyonesbusiness This built on the work of the Strengthening Leadership Series and resources for Group 6 (Public Sector Leaders) of the National Training Framework.

The conference set out leadership responsibilities under the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015. It made the case for creating a whole workforce approach to early identification and response, and to embedding violence against women prevention across every organisation's core business. Leaders and senior officers shared examples of how creating a culture change in our public services could be achieved, so that violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence was no longer tolerated in Wales.

Delegates heard from a range of experts and sector leaders including Nazir Afzal National Adviser on Gender Based Violence to the Welsh Government; Sophie Howe, Future Generations Commissioner and Jane Hutt AM Deputy Minister and Chief Whip. Survivors of violence and abuse from the Welsh Women's Aid SEEdS project also shared their personal experiences of engaging with the public sector, and identifying how this impacted on them and their situation.

Delegates were asked to identify 3 key areas/priorities from the conference that they

could take back to their workplace and would be asked to feedback progress on these areas in 2019/20.

Feedback

Really informative event some moving and inspirational presentations around reducing domestic abuse in Wales.

Fantastic conference today. Excellent and moving speeches.

Here at the conference for senior public sector leaders hearing the courageous stories of survivors and why VAWDASV is everyone's business.

Next steps

During 2019-2020, we will refresh the e-learning and make it available on the Hwb digital learning platform to improve accessibility to those working in education.

Objective 6: Provide victims with equal access to appropriately resourced, high quality, needs led, strength based, gender responsive services across Wales.

Providing support for those affected by violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence can be complex due to different experiences and needs. The guidance for the commissioning of VAWDASV services in Wales will support our commitment to ensuring that no matter where a victim lives, there is a consistent, needs-based, and high quality public and specialist service available to support victims and survivors of VAWDASV in Wales.

The guidance recognises that in order to achieve joined-up provision, adopting a collaborative approach is imperative. It is therefore intended to assist the commissioning of any other related services by commissioners from relevant authorities, Welsh and UK Government departments and the criminal justice system working to achieve the purposes of the Act.

Regional partnerships have continued to develop their infrastructure in readiness for regional commissioning of VAWDASV services.

To support the development of the collaborative regional commissioning and to meet the requirements of the statutory commissioning guidance in 2019, funding was provided to the regional partnerships. This facilitated work to support young people in relation to perpetrator engagement, perpetrator support, and support to implement an integrated service pathway and further local needs analysis.

The VAWDASV revenue grant of £5m funds local authorities and third sector specialist organisations to support delivery against the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015. The grant also supports strategic coordination of services at a local level; training and preventative work, including healthy relationship education in schools.

We have continued to fund the all Wales VAWDASV helpline, Live Fear Free, which offers confidential, quality information and support to all survivors and victims of gender-based violence, domestic abuse, and sexual violence. This encompasses groups subjected to, or at risk of, all forms of violence covered by the VAWDASV Act, including honour-based violence, female genital mutilation and forced marriage. The service includes crisis intervention as well as general advice and information.

Key achievements

Local Authorities and Health Boards published their local strategies on tackling VAWDASV in May 2018 following publication of Welsh Government guidance.

£1,268,810 was awarded through the VAWDASV Capital Grant Programme in 2018-2019. The main purpose of this Programme was to acquire or maintain/upgrade fixed assets such as buildings and equipment for those organisations working within the VAWDASV sector. The grant has supported projects such as the purchase of buildings; target hardening equipment; building improvements such as disabled people's access; distinct waiting areas to separate victims and perpetrators; general repairs and refurbishments and the purchase of iPads for support workers to reach victims in rural areas.

Specialist Sexual Violence Services across Wales have reported an increase in demand for their services and subsequent increase in waiting times in accessing counselling or support. £154,940 of funding to support waiting lists was allocated to specialist services in November 2018. Over 2,000 beneficiaries were supported to access sexual violence services through this funding across Wales. The funding also enabled the delivery of workshops to support people on waiting lists, delivery of group sessions, training for counsellors, clinical supervision for the counsellors and the purchase of therapeutic resources.

Two separate reviews on refuge provision and sexual violence services were commissioned from the Wales Centre for Public Policy this year. The reviews will take lessons from international practice and contextualise it for Wales.

The Sustainable Funding Group was re-formed in September 2018 and will take forward the production of a Sustainable Funding Framework and will assist and advise on the implementation of the Statutory Guidance for the commissioning of VAWDASV services in Wales.

In September 2018, the summary of responses to the consultation on draft guidance for regional commissioning of Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence services in Wales was published. The guidance was laid in the Assembly in February 2019

During 2018-19, the Live Fear Free helpline received 31,981 contacts via incoming calls, contacts by email, by webchat or texts.

An evaluability assessment of the Live Fear free helpline was also undertaken to inform the design of the tender specification for the next contract.

Spotlight on the sustainable funding group

A Task and Finish group of stakeholders to develop a model for sustainable funding for the provision of specialist VAWDASV services was established in 2017. This group helped develop the guidance for commissioning of VAWDASV services which is a key tool in achieving sustainable funding.

In 2018, the group was refreshed with Yasmin Khan, one of our National Advisers, as Chair. Members have reached an agreed understanding and definition of what is meant by “specialist funding” and have worked to develop sustainable funding principles, which will apply to the VAWDASV grant funding in 2019-20.

Work is taking place with the group, and across Welsh Government, to continue to develop a model for sustainable funding for the provision of specialist VAWDASV services to underpin the delivery of the Strategy.

Next Steps

The guidance for Commissioning of VAWDASV Services will come into force in May 2019. This guidance aims to promote high quality collaborative commissioning that delivers more consistent and effective services to prevent Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence and protect and support victims across Wales.

Different regions are at different points on the path to full regionalisation. We expect good progress during the coming financial year. We will allow a flexible approach during the initial year but will monitor the situation to ensure the momentum is maintained.

The Wales Centre for Public Policy reviews will include workshops for stakeholders and survivors and will inform the Welsh Government’s approach to domestic abuse provision policy. It will also help to inform the development of the next VAWDASV strategy.

Duties under the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act

In July 2018, under Section 3 of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015, the National Strategy on Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Cross Government Delivery Framework 2018 – 2022 was laid in the National Assembly for Wales. This sets out the actions we will undertake to deliver the objectives outlined in the National Strategy.

The National Advisers' First Annual Report (2018) *Translating a National Framework into Sustainable Solutions* was laid in the National Assembly for Wales in September 2018 under Section 22 of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.

In December 2018, the National Advisers' Annual Plan 2019-2020 was laid in the National Assembly for Wales in September 2018 under Section 22 of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.

In December 2018 under Section 11 of the Act, the Draft VAWDASV National Indicators were issued for consultation following a series of stakeholder workshops to identify the relevant indicators and data sources. Officials will be reviewing the responses and formulating a Welsh Government response and will publish a final set of National Indicators in the summer.

The National Indicators will inform and influence national, regional and local strategic policy and service delivery decisions in accordance with the purpose of the Act and will be based upon the three pillars of prevention, protection and support.

Statutory Guidance for the Commissioning of Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Services in Wales was laid in February 2019, under Section 15 of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015,

Research, resources and data with impacts for violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence policy making in Wales.

The following research was used to inform the development of the pilot of the National Survivor Engagement Framework in 2018-2019

Harries, E.; Hodgson, L. and Noble, J. (2014) *Creating your Theory of Change – NPC's Practical Guide*. London: New Philanthropy Capital

Hills, D., 2010. *Logic mapping: hints and tips for better transport evaluations*, London: The Tavistock Institute.

Kellogg Foundation, 2004. *Logic Model Development Guide*, Michigan: Kellogg Foundation.

NEF Consulting (2018) Theory of Change. Available at: <https://www.nefconsulting.com/our-services/evaluation-impact-assessment/prove-and-improve-toolkits/theory-of-change/> [Accessed: 18 November 2018]

Participation Cymru (2011) National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales. Available at: <https://participation.cymru/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/PC-National-Principles-Poster3.pdf> [Accessed: 18 November 2018]

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) How to Build a Theory of Change. Available at: <https://knowhow.ncvo.org.uk/how-to/how-to-build-a-theory-of-change#> [Accessed: 18 November 2018]

Welsh Government, 2016. *National Strategy on Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence - 2016-2021*, Cardiff: Welsh Government.

Young Cymru (2016) Children and Young People's National Participation Standards. Available at: <http://www.youngwales.wales/index.php/young-wales-cafe/news/215-participation-standards> [Accessed: 18 November 2018]

The following resources were used to inform the communications and campaigns work in 2018-2019

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/controlling-or-coercive-behaviour-intimate-or-family-relationship>

Where is the line? (Coercive control) <http://livefearfree.gov.wales/campaigns/where-is-the-line?lang=en>

Does it still haunt you? (sexual violence) <http://livefearfree.gov.wales/campaigns/does-it-still-haunt-you?lang=en>

Respect - Give it (healthy relationships and students) <http://livefearfree.gov.wales/campaigns/respect-give-it?lang=en>

Disrespect NoBody campaign <https://www.disrespectnobody.co.uk/>

This is Abuse campaign <https://www.campaignlive.co.uk/article/home-office-this-abuse-campaign-appeal-teens-hollyoaks-characters/1223928>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ThisIsAbuse>

Survivor film on coercive control:

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