

Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Bill

Summary of changes at Stage 2

Bill update

February 2015

Introduction

This document sets out the key changes made to the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Bill (“the Bill”) during Stage 2 proceedings. Note that a key amendment (82) at Stage 2 changed the short title of the Bill which was formerly the Gender-based Violence, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Bill at introduction.

Background

Please note that section numbers refer to the Bill as introduced, except where a new section has been added.

Violence against women and girls

Amendment 1 (Leighton Andrews) added a **new** section 2 which makes specific reference to violence against women and girls. The new section 2 requires those exercising relevant functions under the Bill to have regard (along with all other relevant matters) to the need to remove or minimise any factors which increase the risk of violence against women and girls or exacerbate the impact of such violence on victims.

New section 2 also sets out the meaning of “violence against women and girls”.

Consulting on a national strategy

Amendment 2 (Leighton Andrews) amends the original section 2 of the Bill. Section 2 places a duty on Welsh Ministers to publish a national strategy setting out how they will work towards achieving the

purpose of the Bill. The effect of this amendment is to require the Welsh Ministers to consult before publishing their first national strategy, or revising their national strategy.

Consulting on a local strategy

Amendment 3 (Leighton Andrews) amends section 5 of the Bill. Section 5 places a duty on local authorities and Local Health Boards to jointly publish a local strategy to contribute to the pursuit of the purpose of the Bill.

The effect of this amendment is to require a local authority and Local Health Board to consult prior to publishing their first local strategy or revising their local strategy.

Statutory guidance to relevant authorities

Amendments 5, 6 and 7 (Leighton Andrews) amend section 12 of the Bill. Section 12 provides Welsh Ministers with a power to issue guidance on how relevant authorities should exercise their functions with a view to contributing to the pursuit of the purpose of the Act.

The purpose of amendments 5, 6 and 7 is to include specific references to: changing attitudes, commissioning services and workplace policies respectively, as examples of the matters upon which the Welsh Ministers may issue such guidance.

Ministerial adviser

Amendment 8 (Leighton Andrews) amends section 17 of the Bill. Section 17 requires Welsh Ministers to appoint a Ministerial Adviser.

The effect of the amendment is to remove reference to gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence from the title of the Ministerial Adviser.

Education information

Amendment 81 (Leighton Andrews) inserts a **new** section 9 *Information about educational provision to promote the purpose of this Act*. New section 9 would amend sections 29, 408 and 569 of the *Education Act 1996* to allow Welsh Ministers to place a duty on local authorities to report on how they are addressing gender-based violence, domestic abuse



and sexual violence within their education institutions, including through sex education.

Short title

Amendment 82 (Leighton Andrews) amends section 23 of the Bill and replaces 'Gender-based Violence' with 'Violence Against Women'.

The effect of this amendment is to amend the short title of the Bill.

Next steps

An amended version of the Bill has been prepared by clerks in the Policy and Legislation Committee Service and a revised Explanatory Memorandum has been laid by the Welsh Government and published by the Table Office.

Stage 3 began on 23 January 2015 (the day after Stage 2 proceedings were completed). Stage 3 proceedings in Plenary will take place on 3 March 2015.

Further Information

For further information on the Bill please contact the lead responsible clerk, Sarah Beasley (Sarah.Beasley@assembly.wales)

