



The Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee
Jenny Rathbone MS

19 October 2023

Dear Jenny,

Thank you for your letter of 25 September, following my oral evidence session to your inquiry on 18 September, seeking further information on several matters. I hope this response is helpful.

The public health approach to preventing gender-based violence

National indicators

As far as the work on National Indicators is concerned we are currently asking the workstreams to consider how the proposals they develop for joint action on VAWDASV might be measured and therefore be reflected in a revised set of National Indicators. This can be taken into account alongside the work done on those already published.

Following a series of workshops with stakeholders, a set of National Indicators was laid before the National Assembly for Wales on 24 June 2019:

[Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence: national indicators for Wales | GOV.WALES.](#)

[These are therefore the extant set of indicators. Prior to the Covid pandemic,](#) the intention had been to develop the data sets further with stakeholders. This work was not intended to add to the indicator set but to make their collection, collation and publication support and inform the development of the new national strategy.

Unfortunately, resources were diverted because of Covid, which meant that the planned further work was begun but not completed. Since then, the VAWDASV National Strategy 2022-2026 has been developed, co-productively, and published. The revised strategy commits to reviewing the National Indicators to ensure they reflect the current VAWDASV National Strategy and will be used to measure progress against the aims and objectives of the Strategy.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

As I indicated to Committee, I think it is important that these revisions fully reflect the direction set by the workstreams, and by the VAWDASV Blueprint overall, so I would not want to put the review of the indicators ahead of the policy development. However, the Committee has raised important issues about the ability to scrutinise our progress. With that in mind I think a more transparent publication of data against the extant indicators should be included in our next Annual Report and I am happy to commit to do so for 2023/2024. Ahead of that, we will be taking early steps to make the workstreams more transparent and to provide progress updates. This will include publishing summary minutes of blueprint meetings on the Welsh Government website and a newsletter for stakeholders.

Blueprint workstream plans

The Blueprint has captured the full range of public sector and specialist services in delivering our strategy to tackling violence against women and girls, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

The National Partnership Board is jointly chaired by me, as the Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip, and Dafydd Llywelyn, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys. Membership includes Police representatives as well as members from specialist agencies such as New Pathways, Welsh Women's Aid and Safer Wales; Statutory bodies such as the Crown Prosecution service and HM prison and Probation Service; Other interests such as the Wales Refugee Council, the TUC and Public Health Wales as well as Children's, Older People and Domestic Abuse Commissioners.

Within the Blueprint approach, the 6 workstreams are now finalising and implementing their delivery plans. I am attaching (Annex A) a table which sets out the agreed actions and current updates. Much of this information will also be included in the annual blueprint update report I intend to publish before the end of this month.

Perpetrator Programmes

Detailed information on the Tackling Perpetration workstream is included in Annex A. This group is working to develop a much stronger position in preventing VAWDASV, in line with the approach of our National Strategy. I recognise and understand the challenges in provision of voluntary perpetrator programmes that you have noted across Wales. Though this workstream we are seeking to map all the relevant services in Wales, including their referral partnerships and funding streams.

This will encompass services and interventions from communities to custody; voluntary and statutory intervention that support risk reduction; education and awareness raising. Through this work, we will continue to build an evidence base of service provision, what works and how to best prioritise funding to support behaviour change. We work closely with our regions to develop grant awards, based on their declared needs and local strategies. Alongside our revenue grant funding, we also make available capital, through a regional bidding process supported by my officials.

It is important to recognise our inconsistent starting point, in terms of geographic coverage and the range of services provided, and the budgetary limitations in trying to improve our ability to tackle perpetration and prevent VAWDASV. The National Strategy was developed to specifically improve the focus on prevention whilst safeguarding existing support for survivors. Investing in early intervention and prevention activities in our communities, will require a significant evidence base to inform our commissioning strategy and budget planning for the future. There are things we are doing in this area, such as, our work with each Police force in Wales in making funding available for the implementation of [CARA](#), a community based early intervention for those first-time offenders, however I am keen to be able to do more.

In the Domestic Abuse Commissioners [Patchwork of Provision](#) report (2022) – covering England & Wales, 51% of survivors commented that they wanted “Help for the person who was abusing me to change their behaviour”. Disappointingly only 7% of these respondents were able to find such help. This is clearly an unmet need in not only proving opportunities for change and risk reduction but also for meeting the safety needs of victims and survivors.

Impact Assessment

The National Strategy had an Integrated Impact Assessment as part of its development. This demonstrated the huge cost of VAWDSV to individuals and society. The effectiveness of our strategy will be tested at various levels. This will include; project level monitoring and evaluation; the impact assessment required of workstreams for each of the policy recommendations they make to the Partnership Board and the review of the Strategy as a whole that will take place as part of the statutory duty to review which falls to each new administration.

Understanding and evaluating the impact of the ‘public health approach’ will be contributed to greatly by the creation of the ‘Central Repository of Knowledge’ which is being established as a commitment of the National Strategy. The Central Repository will bring together the knowledge management and research capacity of the whole partnership to ensure we have a ‘single version of the truth’.

Whilst at the strategic level we will monitor progress against the extant (and revised) set of National Indicators.

Equality Data

The Equality, Poverty and Children’s Evidence and Support Division is providing analytical support for VAWDASV policy development, monitoring and evaluation. This includes exploring plans for an evidence repository, support for the Blueprint and meeting wider evidence needs. For example, identifying global best practice for tackling street and workplace harassment; and reviewing support pathways for disabled victims of VAWDASV. Both the VAWDASV Policy and the Evidence and Support teams are seeking to increase the focus on VAWDASV evidence needs, with a view to embedding them in the evidence plan for 2024-25.

As per my evidence to Committee, we are very conscious of the intersectional impact of VAWDASV, as well as the disproportionate impact on disabled people, older people, ethnic minorities and migrant women, among other groups. As part of the blueprint, each workstream will intrinsically take this into consideration to fully understand the needs of all people who can be affected by VAWDASV. This makes it all the more important that the work is underpinned throughout by robust equality data and evidence.

SafeLives have published a number of [spotlights](#) regarding intersecting issues relating to VAWDASV. We will continue to ensure that our actions are directed by an understanding of the equality impact of VAWDASV.

Ask and Act

‘Ask and Act’ is a national programme and is fully operational across all regions of Wales. At the end of March 2023, 37,737 workers had been trained to Ask and Act. An Evaluation of the ‘effectiveness of Ask and Act’ was undertaken and a full report was published January 2022. Participants taking part in the research included Ask and Act trainers, learners, regional co-ordinators and colleagues from Welsh Women’s Aid and Welsh Government No further formal evaluation of this type is planned at present.

The evaluation found that Ask and Act is seen by those who participated in the evaluation as an important and valuable programme which is having an impact across Wales for those participating, both individually and at an organisational/sector level.

The report includes fifteen recommendations, relating to delivery and rollout, course content and training materials, and evaluation. Officials have already begun to implement a number of changes to delivery and policy with engagement with key stakeholders.

A three-year contract was awarded to Welsh Women's Aid in November 2022 to continue and support the delivery of the Ask and Act Training Programme.

Further development of the Ask and Act programme will be addressed through the Blueprint workstreams to ensure the programme remains fit for purpose. The next meeting of the Whole-Systems Approach workstream will discuss the question of behaviour change amongst professionals with a view to ensuring we have the right tools in place.

Migrant Women Report Recommendation 13

Recommendation 13 of the Committee's inquiry into gender-based violence and the needs of migrant women was accepted in principle, albeit with the caveat that the Welsh Government cannot independently set out a data firewall given the non-devolved agencies that this referred to, including the Police and the UK Government's visa's and immigration processes. My officials are currently working on a progress update against all the recommendations, including recommendation 13. However, I am happy to offer an interim update on this specific recommendation here.

Whilst the Welsh Government has been clear that we cannot ourselves establish a firewall within Policing and other reserved agencies, the VAWDASV Blueprint provides Welsh Government the opportunity to work with both devolved and non-devolved partners in a joined-up way. In our response to the inquiry, we have committed to further understanding the issues and barriers pertaining to data sharing, in order to make real change to increase victim and survivor self-assurance to seek vital, in many cases, lifesaving, support. We will do this work through the Sustainable Whole-System Approach workstream, in partnership with non-devolved agencies, seeking voluntary changes to practise.

Funding

The Welsh Government funds regional partnerships as well as directly funding specialist services to provide invaluable and lifesaving support to all victims of VAWDASV, this includes early intervention, preventative and educational support, perpetrator intervention programmes, Independent Domestic Violence Advocates for high-risk victims as well as therapeutic recovery interventions for the ongoing support of those impacted by VAWDASV.

A list of organisations in receipt of revenue or capital VAWDASV funding from the Welsh Government is at Annex B.

Bystander programme

There is a 3-year funding contract, worth £230,000 in place to develop and deliver a Pan-Wales Bystander pilot intervention training initiative that will be delivered to citizens of Wales. This initiative will include offering training to promote a prosocial and informed bystander intervention programme to the public that will run alongside our VAWDASV Communication campaigns. This is with the intention of creating genuine and lasting changes in societal attitudes towards VAWDASV.

The National Bystander Intervention Initiative contract has been awarded to Kindling Transformative Interventions in consortium with PLAN and beyond equality. Kindling is a University of Exeter spinout company co-directed by Dr Rachel Fenton and Dr Nathan Eisenstadt and will be responsible for programme development of this pilot.

The pilot will run until March 2026. Their delivery model envisages up to 400 people per year receiving training – approximately 1200 in total. The programme is currently in the design stage and delivery of training is expected to be rolled out from early 2024. A full evaluation will take place which will provide recommendations at completion.

We know there's a demand for this type of training. A [Time to Talk Public Health population survey](#) was recently published which focussed on the 'Witnessing Violence'. The headline figure from the survey is that 61% of respondents would be 'Likely'(38%) or 'Very Likely'(23%) to take up the offer of bystander training were it available.

The Violence Prevention Unit have also recently published a report on Preventing Sexual Violence In The Night Time Economy: Encouraging Men To Be Active Bystanders. This report is an evaluation of Phase Two of the [#SafeToSay](#) campaign.

Serious Violence Duty

As you requested, I am attaching a letter I sent to the Minister for Policing, Chris Philp MP on 22 November 2022, regarding the Serious Violence Duty. (Annex C)

The Welsh Government is supportive of the policy approach of the Serious Violence Duty (SVD) that services work together to prevent and reduce serious violence. This builds on the existing approach to collaboration on community safety which is already in place in Wales. We have worked with Home Office and Welsh partners on the [Statutory guidance](#), which includes a Wales-specific chapter to capture the distinct Welsh legislative and policy background as well as the partnership agreements in place across Wales.

Officials from the UK and Welsh Government continue to work together on implementation of the SVD, including through the National Oversight Group (chaired by the Home Office). This group monitors compliance with the Duty, drives cross-sector delivery and tracks programme delivery. Officials in Welsh Government's Community Safety Division are ensuring that the Welsh context is being considered through the work of the Oversight Group, and that relevant issues are raised with Welsh stakeholders.

Specified authorities in Wales are also being supported with implementation by:

- The Violence Prevention Unit who have produced a strategic needs assessment guidance for Wales; a multi-agency violence data hub on violence; and a youth violence prevention strategic framework;
- The Wales Safer Communities Network; and
- Crest, a supplier commissioned by the Home Office, which is providing tailored support in implementing the Duty.

Welsh Government Resource

To understand our resourcing commitment to VAWDASV policy, it is important to see the matter in the round and to understand the structure and support offered to the blueprint itself and the National Partnership as well as to all our wider VAWDASV work, as it is increasingly brought under the umbrella of the blueprint.

The Welsh Government has committed staff funded through Delegated Running Costs and through programme funding to the blueprint and I am shortly to publish a blueprint overview (Annex D) which sets out the collective contribution to making the blueprint work. As the overview demonstrates, a significant part of the blueprint team is based within and employed by South Wales Police, a crucial demonstration of our commitment to partnership

working. Blueprint staff, whether in Welsh Government or SWP, are working closely together to deliver the aim of the National Strategy and the blueprint.

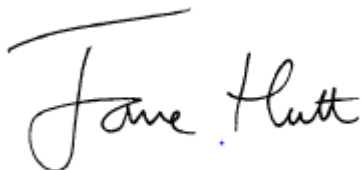
In addition, there are over 40 organisations engaged in the work of the VAWDASV Blueprint including devolved and non-devolved public sector bodies, Health Services, Specialist Sector, Wales TUC, WLGA to name a few.

Organisational Culture

As you suggest it is vital that Welsh Government is an exemplar. As an organisation, we have a zero-tolerance policy for discrimination and violence of any kind. Our dedicated 'Domestic Abuse, Violence Against Women, and Sexual Violence' policy sets out our role as an employer in supporting staff who may be experiencing domestic abuse and violence, including safeguarding individuals in the workplace and our commitment to taking action against perpetrators. Our Employee Assistance Programme provides professional, independent advice and support, including free counselling services, for anyone impacted by domestic abuse or violence. Our online learning hub hosts an e-learning resource aimed at helping staff recognise the signs of violence and abuse, in addition to the impact it can have on individuals, family and colleagues.

The Welsh Government is White Ribbon accredited and our Permanent Secretary, Andrew Goodall, and Chief Operating Officer, Tim Moss, are proud White Ribbon Ambassadors, leading an enthusiastic and committed group of ambassadors and champions in raising awareness across the organisation and exemplifying the campaign's messages. Alongside this, we have a thriving women's network and community of allies, who support and challenge the organisation to ensure gender equality is embedded in our culture, policies and processes.

I hope this information will be helpful to the Committee in your inquiry. This is important work and I look forward to receiving the Committee's contribution to our progress in the form of your report and its' recommendations.



Jane Hutt AS/MS
Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a'r Prif Chwip
Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip

	High-Level Action	Update
High Level Action Ref.	Gender-Based Harassment in All Public Spaces	
1	<p>Consolidate and enhance the evidence base on the prevention of, and response to, public sexual harassment and other forms of gender-based harassment in public spaces, and the safety of women and girls in public spaces, to understand prevalence, causes and effective interventions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A literature review was completed by Welsh Government’s VAWDASV Policy Team • A rapid review of existing evidence being undertaken by Public Health Wales • Research on the manosphere, its impact and considerations, is being undertaken by South Wales Crime Commissioner’s Office • The Violence Prevention Unit have shared their recent report ‘Collecting Behavioural Insights for Sexual Harassment Prevention’ within the Blueprint. This research was undertaken to better understand the facilitators and barriers for men intervening when they witness sexual harassment or problematic sexual behaviour, and focuses on men aged 18-54 who live or socialise in South Wales. • Cowshed Media have agreed to share information on the evidence base for Welsh Government’s SOUND campaign’s concept and approach, what was learned from the campaign’s focus groups and survey, and future information sharing from campaign surveys and evaluations • Plan UK is funding test and learn projects with organisations who deliver interventions/activities with boys and young men that may help in reducing VAWDASV. Plan UK has commissioned the Violence Prevention Unit to conduct a literature review on What Works to Engage Men and Boys in Violence Prevention. This study also includes a mapping survey conducted in Wales, and focus groups with the test and learn projects.

2	Develop a preventative, whole-system approach to tackle public sexual harassment and other forms of gender-based harassment in public spaces, to increase safety and feelings of safety for women and girls.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New connections established with key stakeholders, such as Transport for Wales and Welsh Government Sports Policy, in order to identify and respond to new opportunities to co-ordinate and develop actions across Wales• Ongoing discussions with the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales to provide updated guidance for Welsh Universities, which will support the creation of safe and supportive learning environments and ensure institutions take effective measures to prevent and respond to gender-based harassment in public spaces and other forms of VAWDASV

3	To identify, develop and implement effective interventions that enable everyone in society to challenge misogynistic attitudes, beliefs and behaviours, in order to change the culture of misogyny and harassment that feeds abuse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A connection has been established with Kindling Interventions take learning from their bystander intervention programme and establish a connection to learn from their future evaluation of the National Bystander Intervention Initiative. • Learning will be taken from Plan UK’s evaluation of test and learn projects (with organisations who deliver interventions/activities to boys and young men that may help in reducing VAWDASV) • Initial mapping of other initiatives and related interventions that have been identified through 'what we know works' as showing promise has begun and will be developed
4	To review and make recommendations for an equitable approach on the use of interventions and initiatives across all agencies and communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Wales Police are leading on an action across all four Police Forces in Wales to explore the best use of analysis down to lower layer super output geographical areas to recognise patterns in recorded crime, incidents and other problematic behaviour in relation to gender-based harassment in all public spaces
Workplace Harassment		
1	Establish and maintain a robust evidence base, including capturing lived experiences of workplace harassment, so that we better understand the scale of workplace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Government’s VAWDASV Policy Team is completing a rapid review of existing sources to better understand the prevalence, causes and impact of gender-based harassment in the workplace • A task and finish group will be formed with the purpose of establishing the next steps for research-based delivery actions

	harassment and the actions which help prevent it	
2	Develop a whole system approach to support the effective prevention and response to workplace harassment towards women and girls, and so tackle workplace harassment in all workplaces across Wales.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pilot practise sharing event was held to capture the interest of leaders in Wales, raise awareness of VAWDASV and workplace harassment and share best practise. This event was held virtually and attended by senior leaders from the public sector in Wales. • The Minister for Social Justice, Jane Hutt, MS, has advocated for the amendment Equality Act 2010 to include provision in relation to the protection of workers and the duties of employers via the Worker Protection Bill
3	Use and enhance existing tools and levers to raise awareness, promote excellent practice and support active change to eliminate workplace harassment towards women and girls, and to improve workplace responses to all forms of violence against women and girls, domestic violence and sexual abuse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A task and finish group will be formed with the purpose of establishing the next steps for promoting best practice, tools, resources across all sectors in Wales • Initial discussions have taken place with Beyond Equality, a charity organisation which specialises in working with men and boys, including within the workplace, around gender equality and healthy masculinities in order to create positive cultural change and prevent VAWDASV. Early discussions have already resulted in stakeholders exploring the possibility of running workshops through Beyond Equality
4	Provide challenge and support for all	This action will be taken forward once the workstream is in a position to make recommendations

	<p>organisations across Wales to go beyond their legal and other mandatory duties and to adopt exemplar standards of behaviour in the workplace.</p>	
<h2>Tackling Perpetration</h2>		
1	<p>Consolidate and enhance existing evidence bases and needs analyses on perpetration of Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in Wales.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The workstream has expanded its membership to include academic representation and specialist sector providers to support with the development of an evidence base. • Progress has been made in producing an all-Wales perpetrator intervention map to gather information on statutory and third sector interventions. The workstream is finalising the template for the mapping exercise and determining which software to use to launch the survey, with a view to going live with it in the Autumn. This is a substantial piece of work that has taken much of the workstream’s attention and resources. • The workstream is in the planning stages for developing an all-Wales perpetration data dashboard, which will initially focus on gathering and displaying criminal justice data.
2	<p>Develop a Wales-wide whole system approach for tackling perpetration of Violence Against Women, Domestic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A paper has been developed which provides an overview of relevant legislation, policy, and guidance for VAWDASV and perpetration. • Cross-governmental connections have been made between the VAWDASV and Communications teams to explore opportunities for analysing and utilising the findings for the SOUND campaign targeted at men and boys. There are plans to collaborate with Public Health Wales on this work as well.

	Abuse and Sexual Violence that encompasses early intervention and prevention through to the criminal justice response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The workstream is working with Sustainable Whole System Approach workstream to include questions about responses to perpetration in the consultation they are developing.
3	Establish clarity on the responsibilities to prevent and tackle perpetration of Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence of all relevant authorities under the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act and other non-devolved public services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The workstream’s policy leads and project delivery manager have met to begin scoping work for this action.
4	Strengthen accountability mechanisms to ensure public services are meeting their responsibilities to tackle and prevent perpetration of Violence Against	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The workstream recognises that there are fundamental interdependencies with the Whole System Approach workstream and will undertake work on this when both workstreams are in a position to collaborate.

	Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.	
Sustainable Whole System Approach		
1	Review existing practice to understand the current landscape for the implementation of existing guidance and delivery against statutory responsibilities under the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act (2015).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A consultation session was held with Regional Advisers to seek their views on the challenges and barriers to implementing the VAWDASV Act as well as current successes. • A broader national consultation framework is in development with a view to launching in the autumn. The consultation will take a mixed approach by using surveys and targeted engagement sessions with key stakeholder groups. This is a substantial piece of work and has been the workstream’s central priority. • Workstream membership has expanded to ensure there is a rounded view and understanding of the current landscape for the implementation of existing guidance and delivery against the VAWDASV Act. The workstream has developed a positive working relationship with the Ministry of Justice and is exploring further opportunities for collaboration on its programme of work.
2	Review and refresh existing guidance for developing needs assessments as well as prioritising, planning, designing, and monitoring services to develop a whole system approach to sustainable commissioning.	A paper has been drafted which provides a comprehensive overview and summary of key legislation, policy, and guidance for a whole system approach to VAWDASV.

3	Review existing procurement and grant guidance for Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence and other related disciplines to ensure equity, innovation and quality in the delivery of services and provision across Wales.	Will be progressed once the national consultation has been completed
4	Develop guidance to ensure regional partnership structures for Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence are coherent and that the relationship between local planning, service delivery and commissioning is explicit.	Will be progressed once the national consultation has been completed.
5	Develop a National Framework of Standards which will provide guidance on the requirements for good service delivery,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The workstream has agreed that a collective definition of the National Framework of Standards requires development. The National Framework of Standards will be informed, in part, by responses from the consultation and the five other VAWDASV Blueprint workstreams.

	set out minimum service levels, and articulate clear expectations for commissioning partners to commit to these Standards.	
Children and Young People’s Needs		
1	Consolidate, enhance, and identify gaps in existing evidence bases and needs analyses on the children and young people impacted by domestic abuse and sexual violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Women’s Aid have been commissioned to undertake two pieces of that will inform on the future scope and direction of the workstream. This work includes a rapid review of existing evidence, and mapping on the available services in Wales. The following piece of work will involve the inclusion of the voice of children and young people within the workstream. • Data has been gathered on Operation Encompass across the four Force areas. We will use this data to understand the experiences and support offered to children and young people through the process, and we will consider the challenges surrounding Operation Encompass. The outcomes of this action will support a Wales-wide whole-systems approach.
2	Establish clarity on the responsibilities of all relevant authorities under the Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act and other non-devolved public services to identify, respond to, and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-governmental links have been established with both Education and Safeguarding. • Interdependencies between the Peer-on-Peer Sexual Harassment Plan are in process of being established. • Individual actions have been allocated as appropriate to Welsh Government colleagues and the workstream is aiming to engage with the relevant Health colleagues.

	reduce domestic abuse and sexual violence experienced by children and young people.	
3	Develop a Wales-wide whole system approach to meet the needs of children and young people impacted by domestic abuse and sexual violence, encompassing maternity and early years through to adulthood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work has begun on understanding the process and impact of Operation Encompass across Wales by using referral data. This will be extended to identify training and upskilling opportunities for education providers. Information and lessons learned will feed into the Sustainable Whole Systems Approach workstream.
4	Strengthen accountability mechanisms to ensure public services are meeting the needs of children and young people impacted by domestic abuse and sexual violence including services, responses, auditing, inspection, and grant monitoring.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input on local landscape, good practice and issues has been contributed by the Regional Advisors. • VAWDASV Educational Toolkit is to be updated.

Older People's Needs		
1	Consolidate and enhance existing evidence bases and identify the gaps to improve knowledge and understanding of the abuse of older people and the services that are available to them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members have started to look at the existing mechanisms within their organisations to include the voice of older people to shape and direct our work. • Existing pieces of research and work have been highlighted by members to identify gaps in knowledge.
2	Develop a Wales-wide whole-systems approach which ensures clarity and cohesion between Safeguarding and Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-governmental links have been established with Safeguarding and VAWDASV Team, in addition to co-chair Philip Mulraney. • The workstream has linked with the Welsh Government National Action Plan on the abuse of older people. • Contribution and collaboration with the VAWDASV Regional Advisors regarding local landscape and issues. • Comprehensive mapping of both National and Regional Boards in Wales relating to older people has been completed with a view to ensure interdependencies are clearly highlighted
3	Improve the availability and suitability of trauma-informed services for older people, adequately recognising their	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive mapping work of services available to older people is in progress. This includes information on survivor and perpetrator services across Wales, and whether the service is specific to VAWDASV and older people. Next steps for this work have been established including engagement with mapped services and service users. • Cross-governmental link established with the National Training Framework.

	<p>diverse needs, both for survivors and those who are perpetrating abuse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workstream has highlighted that review of Ask & Act may be beneficial to assess whether the training materials are relevant to older people. • Monitoring return data for each Police and Crime Commissioner in Wales has been gathered relating to the demographics of service users within commissioned services. The data will be used to identify gaps and trends within the commissioned services.
<p>4</p>	<p>Prioritise and influence specific awareness raising campaigns to improve the recognition, knowledge and understanding of the abuse of older people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative options have been established with Safer Communities Wales for communications. • Interdependency established with Objective 2 of the Welsh Government National Action Plan on the abuse of older people, building upon the existing campaign of “Home shouldn’t be a place of fear”.

Annex C - Organisations receiving VAWDASV funding directly from the Welsh Government in 2023-24.

Revenue

- BAWSO
- New Pathways - SV
- Safer Wales - Project Dyn
- Hafan Cymru
- Welsh Women's Aid
- Cyfannol - SV
- RASASC - SV
- Stepping Stones - SV
- North Wales - DASU
- North Wales - Adferiad
- Western Bay - Calan DVS
- Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales Cardiff & Vale University Health Board - FGM Services Safer Wales - Streetlife

Capital

- Vale of Glamorgan Local Authority
- Bridgend County Borough Council
- Heddlu Dyfed Powys Police
- Safer Merthyr Tydfil
- Newport City Council
- Gwent IDVA Service
- Gwent Police Force
- North Wales Police
- Flintshire County Council
- Montgomeryshire Family Crisis Centre
- The Nelson Trust
- Cardiff Women's Aid Ltd
- Phoenix Domestic Abuse Services
- Cyfannol Women's Aid Ltd
- Hafan Cymru (Stori)
- Domestic Abuse Safety Unit
- North Wales RASASC North Wales
- Grŵp Cynefin
- Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
- Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
- Dyfed-Powys Police
- Calan DVS
- Threshold DAS Limited
- City and County of Cardiff Council
- South Wales Police
- Bawso
- Carmarthen Domestic Abuse Services Limited
- Llamau Ltd
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- G4S
- Swansea CBC
- WWA

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol
Minister for Social Justice



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA/JH-/3406/22

Rt Hon Chris Philp MP
Minister for Crime and Policing

16 November 2022

Dear Minister,

Please accept my congratulations on your recent appointment as Minister for Crime and Policing and I look forward to working with you.

Thank you for providing an overview of the main provisions in the draft 'Prevention and Reduction of Serious Violence (Strategies Etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2022' and the opportunity to comment on the proposals. This is in accordance with section 6(10) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and section 22(3) of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, which specifies that Welsh Ministers should be consulted on secondary legislation relating to the Serious Violence Duty (SVD).

Welsh Government are supportive of the policy approach of the SVD and the intention that services will work together to prevent and reduce serious violence. In the Legislative Consent debate in the Senedd on the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill on 18 January 2022, in line with Welsh Government advice, the Senedd gave consent to the SVD clauses.

I am happy to confirm that I am supportive of the substantive provisions in the regulations, I appreciate the regulations are not yet finalised. I welcome the assurance you have given that Home Office officials will continue to engage with my officials in the iterative process of finalising the regulations. I understand that any changes made will primarily be to resolve any technical or drafting issues in the regulations prior to introduction, rather than making any substantive policy changes.

I would like there to be a parallel provision included in the regulations for a SVD strategy to be submitted to Welsh Ministers alongside the Secretary of State, where a strategy is for a local government area in Wales. Welsh Government would want to have sight of strategies published in Wales and it would avoid the need for the Home Office to take the additional

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Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

step of sharing them with us. I understand that your officials are already working on implementing this change, which is very welcome.

You will be issuing statutory guidance on delivery of the Duty. My officials are liaising with Home Office officials to ensure the guidance properly reflects the different legislative and partnership structures in Wales. We would appreciate a further opportunity to ensure the Welsh context is reflected in the document as a whole prior to the expected publication date of 12 December 2022.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line above the first name.

Jane Hutt AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol
Minister for Social Justice



VAWDASV BLUEPRINT

The joint approach to implementing the
Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse,
Sexual Violence Strategy 2022- 2026.

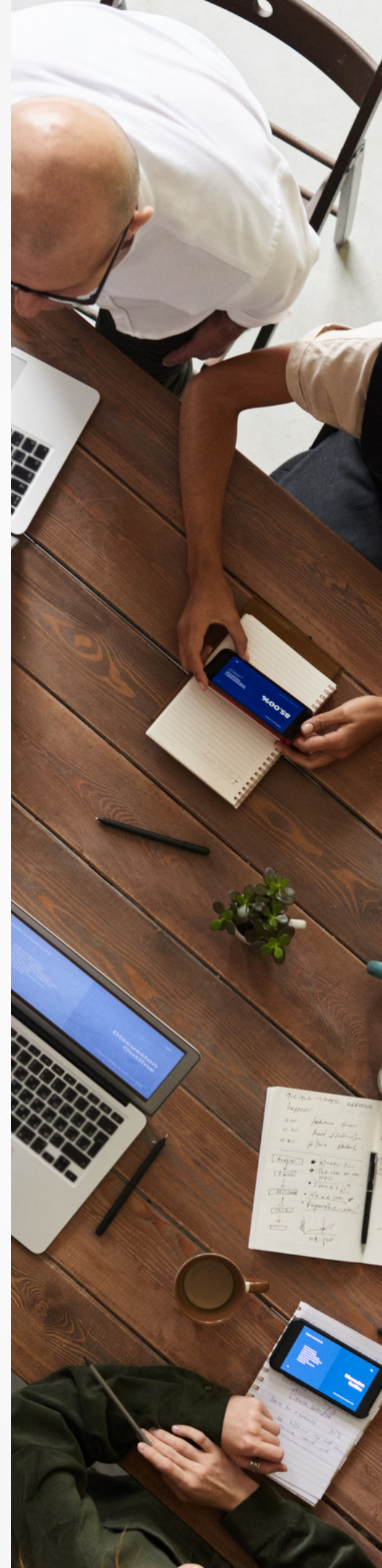
THE BLUEPRINT APPROACH

To advance the activities to support the VAWDASV Act (2015) Act Wales following the 5 year post implementation of progress review, it was agreed to adopt a pan Wales Blueprint approach to deliver against priorities.

Welsh Government and Policing in Wales have driven forward the development of the Blueprint approach to implement the VAWDASV National Strategy 2022- 2026. establishing shared governance arrangements, through which to shape policy and practice.

The pooling of resources and identification of funding to support the establishment of a VAWDASV Blueprint Programme Delivery Team demonstrates joint leadership and commitment to the importance of the work.

Shared governance arrangements have been established to maintain a keen oversight of its work and governance is overseen via VAWDASV National Partnership Board, the Programme Board and its workstreams.



THE PROGRAMME DELIVERY

TEAM

A Blueprint Delivery Team is now in place, to support pan Wales, multi-agency delivery against shared priorities. This team is headed up by a Programme Implementation Manager and supported by Policing in Wales Policing Lead for VAWG and Race, and VAWG Senior Policy Officer on behalf of Police and Crime Commissioners across Wales.

Allocation of resources to the programme and project delivery disciplines are essential to support the successful delivery of the Blueprint, which involves a large scale and complex area of work.

The Delivery Team will work alongside the Welsh Government VAWDASV Policy Team, Perpetration Policy Team and cross government departments as appropriate; Working with Strategic Leads from Policing in Wales to support the Workstream Co-chairs, drawn from leadership and partnership organisations/ activities, in the delivery of the workplans.





The Workstream Co-chairs will provide strategic direction, and with support from the Delivery Managers, develop consistent implementation.

Progress will be reported up to the joint Senior Responsible Officers who chair the National Programme Board and following this to co-chairs of the National Partnership Board, sitting at the top of the Blueprint governance structure.

The Blueprint structure will ensure implementation of the Strategy maintains momentum and we continue to learn as we progress.

The workstream members and Delivery Team will support the pan-Wales delivery of activities against the Blueprint Delivery Plan.

The Delivery Team will consolidate progress and report on agreed actions and outcomes whilst ensuring progress continues to be made against the objectives set out in Welsh Government's VAWDASV Strategy 2022 -26.

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD

CO-CHAIRS



Jane Hutt MS

Minister for Social Justice
and Chief Whip



Dafydd Llewelyn

Police and Crime
Commissioner for Dyfed-
Powys

NATIONAL PROGRAMME BOARD

CO-CHAIRS



Emma Wools

Deputy Police and Crime
Commissioner
South Wales



Paul Dear

Deputy Director
Cohesive Communities
Welsh Government

**Blueprint Programme
Implementation Manager**

Welsh Government

Senior Policy Adviser

South Wales Police & Crime
Commissioner

**Strategic Lead for
VAWDASV & Race**

Gwent Police
on behalf of Policing in Wales

**3 x Project Delivery
Manager**

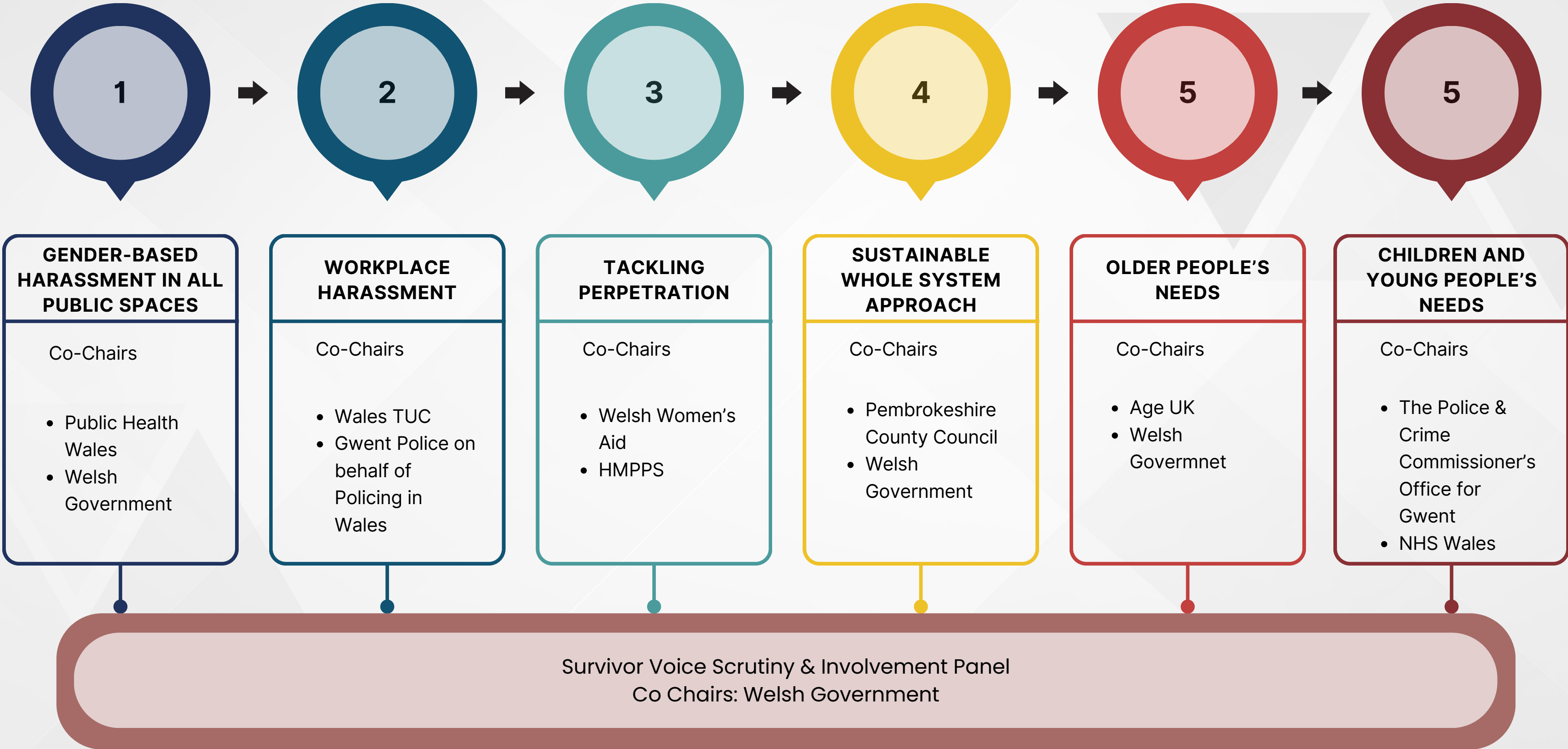
South Wales Police & Crime
Commissioner on behalf of
Policing in Wales

**Policy & Project
Support Officer**

South Wales Police & Crime
Commissioner on behalf of
Policing in Wales

VAWDASV BLUEPRINT DELIVERY TEAM

VAWDASV BLUEPRINT WORKSTREAMS



WORKSTREAM

CO-CHAIRS & MEMBERS

Workstream co-chair's are responsible for driving forward their workstream whilst delivering against their workstream's delivery plan, providing vision, leadership and strategic direction.

They support the Blueprint Senior Responsible Officers with programme assurance through workstream development, monitoring and identifying resolutions to issues.

The co-chairs are supported in delivering against the objectives of the VAWDASV National Strategy (Wales) 2022-2026 by its workstream members, who contribute expertise, time and resource towards the delivery of workstream plans.

Workstream members are leaders in their field representing a wide range of organisations and sectors to provide a multi-layer, pan Wales approach.

THE SURVIVOR VOICE SCRUTINY AND INVOLVEMENT PANEL

The Survivor Voice, Scrutiny and Involvement Panel is made up of 8 survivors of VAWDASV as experts by experience. We aim for the panel to be inclusive of all experiences of VAWDASV and to represent communities across Wales.

The purpose of the Survivor Voice Scrutiny and Involvement Panel is to support the effective implementation of the VAWDASV Strategy 2022–26 and Blueprint Programme, both of which take an evidence-based and research led approach to responding to VAWDASV. As a fundamental part of our evidence based approach, it is essential for us to hear, and include the voices of survivors at all levels; doing so will support us to effectively tackle VAWDASV.

The Survivor Voice Scrutiny and Involvement Panel will ensure that all advice referred up to the National Partnership Board has a survivor perspective, and that survivors' voices will be heard at every level of the governance structure for the delivery of the VAWDASV strategy.

Survivors will be given the opportunity to comment on, advise and challenge policies and decision making within the strategy and associated workstreams. This therefore ensures that lived experience and expertise is reflected in strategic decision making.

WHAT DOES COLLABORATION LOOK LIKE?

VAWDASV Blueprint Team

Programme Implementation
Manager
South Wales Police & Crime
Commissioner Senior Policy Adviser
Policing Strategic Lead for
VAWDASV & Race
Project Delivery Manager x3
Project & Policy Support Officer

Stakeholders

Policing in Wales - HMPPS -
Public Health Wales - HMCTS Wales
WLGA - Welsh Women's Aid -
Wales TUC - BAWSO - NHS Wales -
South Wales Fire & Rescue - CPS -
Wales Ambulance Service- Plan UK-
Safer Wales - Age Cymru - HEFCW -
New Pathways - Our Streets Now-
Rights of Women- Time's Up UK -
CIPD - Federation of Small Business -
Older People's Commissioner for
Wales - Children's Commissioner for
Wales - Ministry of Justice -
Domestic Abuse Commissioner for
England & Wales - Chwarae Teg -
ACAS- Equality & Human Rights
Commission - Threshold DAS LTD -
Dewis Choice - Cardiff University -
Relate - Stepping Stones - NSPCC
Local Authorities - Dewic Choice -
Hourglass - Thrive - Survivor's

Welsh Government

VAWDASV and Perpetration Policy
Department Leads
National Independent VAWDASV Advisers
VAWDASV & Perpetration Senior
Policy Managers
VAWDASV Policy Managers
All Welsh Government Departments/
Senior Policy Managers.

VAWDASV BLUEPRINT GOVERNANCE

Survivor Voice Scrutiny and Involvement Panel
 Pan Wales consistent and inclusive pathway that enables those with lived experiences to shape policy direction and scrutinise implementation Blueprint Delivery. VAWDASV experiences and from pre-established survivor engagement groups

National VAWDASV Partnership Board
 Co-Chairs
 Jane Hutt MS, Minister for Social Justice & Chief Whip and PCC Dafydd Llywelyn on behalf of Policing in Wales.
 Meet quarterly – providing oversight, ensuring accountability and direction. Joint SROs & Chairs (Paul Dear and Emma Wools) to report on Programme Board via written highlight report to National Partnership Board.
Membership:
 Joint SROs, DA Commissioner, NGO’s, Policing, HMPPS, PCCs, HMCTS, WG Officials, CPS, Blueprint Lead, Health, National Advisor, PHW

Co-Chairs to report progress to: Cross Cabinet and Policing Partnership Board for Wales. (Frequency to be determined)

VAWDASV Blueprint Programme Board
 Joint SROs (Paul Dear and Emma Wools) to report via written highlight report on a quarterly basis to National Partnership Board.
 Meet quarterly – Pan Wales, work will be guided by the Blueprint via agreed workstreams that will take forward key actions. Workstream Leads to report via written highlight reports to VAWDASV Blueprint Programme Board.
Membership:
 Pan Wales, cross sector representation, including Welsh Government, Health, Education, Police, PCCs, HMPPS and Non-Government Specialist Organisations, reflecting those bodies who have key duties in tackling VAWDASV

Workstream 1
 Gender-based Harassment in all Public Spaces

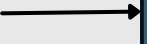
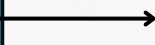
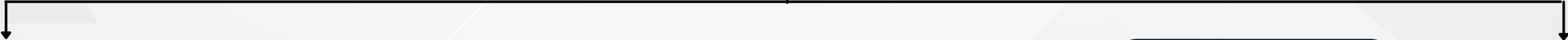
Workstream 2
 Workplace Harassment

Workstream 3
 Tackling Perpetration

Workstream 4
 Sustainable Whole-System Approach

Workstream 5
 Older People’s Needs

Workstream 6
 Children and Young People’s Needs



5

National Partnership Board Meetings

6

National Programme Board Meetings

43

Workstream Meetings

4

Survivor Voice Scrutiny & Involvement Panel Meetings

155

Members across the VAWDASV Blueprint

VAWDASV BLUEPRINT INSIGHTS

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The High Level Blueprint Implementation Plan was published in March 2023. This Plan describes the purpose of each of the workstreams and sets out their high level actions, which will contribute to the National Objectives of the VAWDASV Strategy 2022 to 2026.

To view the high level plan visit the link below:

<https://www.gov.wales/violence-against-women-domestic-abuse-and-sexual-violence-blueprint-high-level-action-plan.html>

A progress update will be published Autumn 2023.



HOW TO STAY IN TOUCH?

To receive the VAWDASV Blueprint newsletter and regular updates subscribe via the link below:

LINK

To receive VAWDASV Blueprint updates subscribe via the link below:





THANK YOU

Authored September 2023