

Jane Hutt MS

Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip

25 September 2023

Dear Jane

The public health approach to preventing gender-based violence

Thank you for giving evidence as part of our inquiry into the public health approach to gender-based violence. Following our session, we would be grateful if you could provide additional detail in relation to the following:

- National indicators: you noted that work is underway to revise the national indicators, and in particular that you have asked each of the blueprint work streams to consider how they would evaluate their proposals against the national indicators as they currently stand. Please could you confirm the timescales for this work. Could you provide examples of any national indicators you have agreed so far.
- Work streams: please could you provide further details about the blueprint work streams, including their workplans and intended outcomes.
- Perpetrator programmes: as noted during the session, we would welcome specific information on work carried out under the Tackling Perpetration work stream; in particular, the provision of perpetrator programmes across Wales. I would be grateful if you could include details about the referral pathways and access to them, and how they are funded and monitored.
- Impact assessments of existing Welsh Government-supported programmes that are designed to prevent gender-based violence (GBV): please could you provide details of what impact assessments have taken place, or are planned to take place, of these programmes.
- Welsh Government Equality Data Unit: please could you confirm whether the unit is undertaking any specific gathering of data on preventing GBV; if so, what and when it will be published.
- Ask and Act – additional evaluation: please could you provide details around what is planned in terms of ongoing or additional evaluation relating to the implementation of



the Ask and Act scheme, including any evidence it is changing behaviour. Could you confirm who the scheme currently applies to, what plans you have to extend the scheme to other bodies and who you envisage including.

- Migrant women report, recommendation 13: the Welsh Government accepted recommendation 13 of our report Gender-based violence: the needs of migrant women, which called for a firewall to be established to restrict the sharing of data between agencies. Please could you provide an update on this work.
- Funding: you noted that your revenue funding has been focused on meeting the needs of specialist services like BAWSO and Welsh Women's Aid. Please could you provide further information about other organisations in receipt of funding from the Welsh Government related to tackling gender based violence.
- Bystander programme: please could you provide further detail on this programme, including the proposed timeline for its rollout and any costs involved.
- Serious violence duty: please could you share your correspondence with the UK Policing Minister on plans to implement the duty in Wales.
- Welsh Government resource: as you have noted that VAWDASV is a priority for the Welsh Government, could you provide detail of the staffing resource and capacity allocated to it within the Welsh Government.
- Measuring impact: could you confirm how the Welsh Government is measuring the impact of intervening early to prevent GBV.
- Organisational culture: it is important that the Welsh Government as an organisation should reflect and be accountable for its own organisational culture to send a consistent message that GBV is taken seriously. How confident are you that the Welsh Government is leading by example?

As we are now at the end of our evidence gathering, we would be grateful to receive a response by 9 October if possible.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Rathbone MS
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee