

**SKILLS, SAFETY, & ENGAGEMENT STATEMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM: 11**

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**Cardiff University Taxi Study**

The Council has been working with Cardiff University to undertake research into the functioning of the taxi industry in Cardiff. This is a complex subject and next month a number of graduate students will be undertaking research projects examining:

- The challenges people face to secure safe egress from the City centre after a night out in Cardiff. Interviews will take place with different user groups along with taxi drivers to get a balanced view on the issues. There will be an assessment of the schemes aimed at assisting people to leave the night-time economy safely –includes volunteer safety bus and Student Safety Walk Scheme
- The extent of the problem of refusal of short fares and overcharging
- The work of taxi marshals and the functioning of taxi ranks to get a better understanding of the taxi service throughout the night
- The complaints received by the Council's Licensing Team to obtain an understanding of the type of complaints, locations hotspots etc.
- How complaints are actually made and received by the Council and how the complaints procedure could be improved

The findings will be collated into a report for the Council to consider and use as a means to improve the functioning of the taxi industry in the City.

**White Ribbon Campaign**

**Background of gaining White Ribbon Status**

On 9 September 2014, the City of Cardiff Council was awarded White Ribbon Town status. This prestigious award, that I was honoured to accept on behalf of Cardiff, acknowledges the significant commitment and work undertaken by staff working within the Council and within our partner agencies to end violence against women.

Achieving the award demonstrates our commitment, not only as a local authority, but as a city, to make it clear that domestic abuse and all other forms of violence against women and girls will not be tolerated in the Welsh capital.

### **Some Statistics**

Statistics continue to make worrying reading. This year to date in the UK, 105 women have been killed by men. That equates to one woman losing their life every 3 days in the UK. 12 of these tragic deaths have occurred in Wales.

Over 20% of the Domestic Homicide Victims in Wales have been aged 60+.

We know that over 70% of children currently registered on the Child Protection Register have domestic abuse identified as a risk factor.

Sadly we know that these figures, as worrying as they are, represent the tip of the iceberg.

### **Involvement of Men in Ending Violence Against Women**

Recently the Welsh Government launched their National Strategy to address Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence across Wales. This Strategy outlines six objectives that the Welsh Ministers expect to achieve by November 2021.

Specifically under Objective 1: “to increase awareness and challenge attitudes of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence across the Welsh Population”, Welsh Government have identified the need to positively engage men and boys in challenging all forms of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Receiving the White Ribbon City award formalises our city’s commitment to involve men in prevention activities. We know that the majority of men do not engage in violence against women. We know that most men don’t condone it and don’t support it.

### **Cardiff White Ribbon Campaign – Key Successes**

Since receiving our White Ribbon City status in 2014 our campaign has grown steadily and I am pleased to tell you that some of our campaign activities have received national and international support and recognition.

The founder of White Ribbon UK, Chris Green has spoken of the progressiveness of Cardiff and has stated that Cardiff is continuing to ‘lead the way’ in Wales. Our White Ribbon Flower Bed, planted by our Parks and Garden team is a regular feature in Cardiff and photographs of the flower bed have been shared internationally. Indeed, the idea has been adopted by many different organisations and Local Authorities.

The City of Cardiff Council are also proud to have partnered with Cadwyn last month to support the ‘Walk a Mile in Her Shoes’ event that saw many men (including myself) walking in high heel shoes around Cardiff City Centre to raise awareness of men’s involvement in addressing violence against women and girls.

It was a fun event, but with a very serious message and the event gained significant attention. Pictures were shared across social media and 'Made in Cardiff' also filmed the event. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the men who took part. The event will be running again next year and I hope more of my male colleagues will take on the challenge and join us in this annual event.

This week also sees a repeat of our Cardiff Bus ticket campaign that features the Live Fear Free Helpline, a free bilingual service for all victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence and concerned friends and family. Our campaign ran successfully during August and runs again this week to coincide with White Ribbon Day. If you use Cardiff Bus you may have seen the adverts on the back of the tickets and the information on the screens.

### **Final Comments**

As the Domestic Abuse Champion for Cardiff and as a White Ribbon Ambassador, I would encourage all of you to sign the White Ribbon pledge if you haven't already done so, and wear a ribbon to publicly demonstrate your support to the campaign. Ask all of your colleagues to do the same.

We are due to reapply for our White Ribbon City status in the New Year and we would welcome your ideas, on how we can continue to progress our Cardiff White Ribbon Campaign.

**Councillor Dan De'Ath**  
**Cabinet Member for Skills, Safety & Engagement**  
**23 November 2016**