
**CARDIFF AND VALE OF GLAMORGAN VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN,
DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE STRATEGY 2018-2023**

Purpose of Report

1. This report provides the Committee with background information to enable Members to carry out pre-decision scrutiny of the draft proposals for “**Cardiff And Vale Of Glamorgan Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse And Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Strategy 2018-2023**” prior to its consideration by the Cabinet at its meeting on the 14 June 2018.
2. A copy of the draft Cabinet Report is attached at **Appendix A**, which in turn contains the Strategy document at **Appendix 1** and EIA at **Appendix 2**.

Background

3. The Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act (Wales) 2015 laid out a requirement for local authorities and health boards to jointly prepare regional strategies to tackle this issue.
4. Welsh Government has also required a move to regional working on VAWDASV in terms of a national approach towards regional funding and commissioning. Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan have agreed to operate as a region for this purpose due to a shared health board footprint, natural travel to work patterns, service access migrations for residents across the area, and the pre-existence of

a number of regional services and policies. This includes Cardiff Council acting as the regional 'banker' for managing Welsh Government funding for specialist services.

5. Cardiff Council has recently commissioned a comprehensive specialist service for female victims and their children to deliver a One Stop Shop for all contact and referrals, a range of accommodation-based support and community-based support services. Cardiff Council is also working with the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend Councils to explore a similarly specialist service for male victims.

Issues

6. The regional VAWDASV strategy recognises that anyone (women, men, children and young people) can experience and be affected by VAWDASV. It addresses violence and abuse directed towards women, men, girls and boys and violence and abuse perpetrated by men and women. It acknowledges that it can happen in any relationship regardless of sex, age, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, disability, religion or belief, income, geography or lifestyle. However it is acknowledged that women and girls are disproportionately affected by domestic abuse, rape and sexual violence, sexual exploitation (including through the sex industry), modern day slavery, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, child sexual exploitation and abuse, stalking and sexual harassment.
7. The Strategy attached at **Appendix 1** sets out in detail the following:
 - **Overview** - Definition (*pages 5-6*); Framework (*page 7*); Vision and Aims (*page 7*); Regional Partners (*Page 7*)
 - **Legislative & Strategic Context** – World; UK; Wales; Cardiff & Vale of Glamorgan Region (*Page 8*)
 - Links with other **Legislation and Policies** (*Pages 8-11*)
 - **Scope** (*Page 11*)

Page 8 of the Strategy sets out an overarching **Vision**, which is:

People who live, work and visit Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan have the opportunity to live positive, independent lives without being affected by violence and abuse.

The Strategy document then sets out in detail 5 high level **Aims**, as follows:

- ***Aim 1 – Prepare***
- ***Aim 2 – Pursue***
- ***Aim 3 – Prevent***
- ***Aim 4 – Protect***
- ***Aim 5 – Support***

8. Contained within the Strategy document at ***Appendix 1***, under each of the above Aims are details of how they will be developed and implemented. In addition, the Strategy contains a raft of ***“We Will” Commitments***. A detailed action plan is being developed with partners to take forward all the commitments set out in the Strategy.
9. For Members’ consideration, set out below is a summary of information (as set out at ***Appendix 1***) under each of the aims. If Members require further information on any of the “We Will” commitments, they are requested to refer to the appropriate page numbers listed against each commitment.

AIM 1 – PREPARE (pages 14-20 at Appendix 1)

Overarching Message - Improve strategic planning and commissioning of VAWDASV services through a more coordinated partnership approach across the region.

Sub-headings/Details - Regional Overview; Needs Assessment; Regional Working; Governance; Available Specialist Services; Wider Collaboration; Survivor Engagement; Equality & Diversity

“We Will” Commitments

- Continually improve data collection methods to better inform ongoing needs assessment (*page 15*)
- Implement and continually review governance arrangements including membership, to ensure they remain fit for purpose (*page 16*)
- Actively assist with embedding a whole systems approach across the region (*page 18*)
- Actively seek engagement and input from victims and survivors that represent all crime types and protected characteristics (*page 19*)

AIM 2 – PURSUE (*pages 22-28 at Appendix 1*)

Overarching Message - Address perpetrators of VAWDASV by improving intelligence sharing across services and the use of legal powers to disrupt and convict.

Sub-headings/Details - Criminal Justice Response; Integrated Offender Management; Working with Perpetrators; Restorative Justice; Safe use of Technology; Encouraging Victims to Report

“We Will” Commitments

- Increase the number of positive outcomes for victims (*page 23*)
- Enhance the monitoring of the outcomes of cases appearing before Magistrates and Crown courts (*page 23*)
- Trial and evaluate the MATAC Intervention for perpetrators of domestic abuse (*page 25*)
- Improve monitoring and reporting of perpetrator programmes/interventions (*page 27*)

- Consider early intervention options for those concerned about their behaviour *(page 27)*
Explore options for delivering a range of community perpetrator interventions *(page 27)*
- Continually review the guidance and approach to the use of restorative practice for victims of VAWDASV *(page 27)*
- Deliver local campaigns to highlight safe use of technology *(page 28)*
- Encourage and assist more victims to seek criminal sanctions and civil remedies *(page 28)*

AIM 3 – PREVENT *(pages 30-49 at Appendix 1)*

Overarching Message - Pro-actively address negative attitudes and behaviours that have the potential to result in VAWDASV, recognising this as everyone's business.

Sub-Headings/Details - Educational Settings; National Training Framework; Early Intervention; Sexual Violence; Stalking; Honour Based Violence/ Forced Marriage; Female Genital Mutilation; Health Based IDVA; Night Time Economy; Sex Workers; Trafficking and Modern Slavery; Adverse Child Experiences; IRIS; Formal Reviews; White Ribbon Campaign

"We Will" Commitments

- Continue to promote and monitor education-based activities across the region to include 'hard to reach' children *(page 30)*
- Give support to all higher and further education establishments to have a consistent and visible approach to tackling VAWDASV and in managing disclosures *(page 33)*
- Liaise with the Judicial College to ensure Magistrates are trained in VAWDASV awareness and sentencing guidelines *(page 35)*
- Implement the regional training plan to ensure all staff are trained in accordance with the National Training Framework *(page 35)*

- Prioritise funding for early intervention services that prevent all forms of VAWDASV (*page 38*)
- Implement the Ask Me Ambassador pilot in Cardiff and share the learning (*page 38*)
- Provide a male ISVA at the SARC (*page 39*)
- Work with the South Wales Police & Crime Commissioner to gain a greater understanding of sexual harassment (*page 39*)
- Raise awareness of consent at all opportunities (*page 39*)
- Improve awareness of stalking and promote the practical steps to reporting (*page 40*)
- Improve understanding of how forced marriage affects individuals with protected characteristics (*page 41*)
- Increase FGM referrals from schools (*page 41*)
- Assist with implementing the actions from the 'Delivering a Safe and Welcoming Night Time Economy' strategy (*page 43*)
- Raise awareness across the region of the issues faced by sex workers (*page 43*)
- Review the effectiveness of the Ty Tarian scheme to inform future service delivery (*page 43*)
- Widen the reach of the Human Trafficking awareness module through the National Training Framework (*page 44*)
- Support Public Health Wales to move from a position of understanding the ACE research to understanding what a positive and effective response looks like (*page 45*)
- Develop close working arrangements between the Early Help Front Door services and specialist VAWDASV services (*page 46*)
- Remain committed to mainstreaming the IRIS model across all GP surgeries in the region (*page 46*)
- Ensure that the learning from all formal service reviews including DHRs is reflected in service delivery and is shared widely (*page 48*)
- Implement any Welsh Government policy changes arising from its review of DHR processes (*page 48*)
- Implement the White Ribbon Action Plan across the region (*page 49*)

- Continue to advocate for a White Ribbon Wales (*page 49*)

AIM 4 – PROTECT (*pages 51-59 at Appendix 1*)

Overarching Message - Improve the multi-agency response and support to all victims and their children regardless of risk level and needs.

Sub-Headings/ Details - Clare’s Law/ Sarah’s Law Disclosures; Notices and Orders; Safeguarding; Cardiff Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub; Managing VAWDASV PPNs; Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC); Housing-Related Support; Specialist Courts; Workplace Policies; Target Hardening

“We Will” Commitments

- Further promote Disclosure Schemes at all available opportunities (*page 51*)
- Improve the use of Notices and Orders across the region (*page 52*)
- Work with partners to ensure continuous improvement of the MASH (*page 53*)
- Closely monitor the specialist service response to PPNs (*page 53*)
- Improve the quality of MARAC referrals across the region (*page 55*)
- Review the findings of the research into the future of MARAC and consider any impact on existing processes (*page 55*)
- Continually monitor the use of crisis/ emergency accommodation to ensure provision for those who need it most (*page 56*)
- Assess the impact of welfare reform changes and the Renting Homes Act on specialist accommodation for victims (*page 56*)
- Better support victims through the criminal and civil justice processes (*page 57*)
- Work with campaigners to strengthen victims voices across all courts (*page 57*)
- Develop and adopt revised VAWDASV workplace policies and encourage **all** partners to do the same (*page 59*)
- Adopt the requirement for contractors to develop workplace policies through commissioning and procurement arrangements (*page 59*)

- Ensure contractors are aware of the issues and understand referral pathways (page 59)
- Review the availability of target hardening options and develop a regional approach (page 59)

AIM 5 – SUPPORT (pages 61-68 at Appendix 1)

Overarching Message - Ensure that innovative, flexible and evidence-based services are available to meet the needs of victims experiencing any form of VAWDASV.

Sub-Headings/ Details - Research; Independent Advocates; Children & Young People; Family Interventions; People from a BME Background; Gypsy & Traveller Communities; Male Victims; LGBTQ+ Victims; Sexual Assault Referral Centre; Older People; Complex Needs/Toxic Trio; Sex Workers; Adults at Risk

“We Will” Commitments

- Actively participate in a range of meaningful research projects to broaden understanding and improve services (page 61)
- Consider extending positive male role models to children and young people experiencing other types of violence and abuse (page 63)
- Research and consider family intervention models for future service delivery (page 63)
- Review the pilot FGM clinic’s effectiveness (page 64)
- Raise awareness of available support services to the Gypsy and Traveller communities (page 64)
- Commission a specialist male victim service with wider regional partners (page 65)
- Strengthen links with specialist LGBTQ+ organisations to improve services and increase reporting (page 65)
- Ensure services are responsive to LGBTQ+ victims (page 65)
- Embed the new Hub SARC model for victims of sexual violence across South East Wales (page 66)

- Work with the Regional Safeguarding Adults Board to develop policies and training for those working with older victims of VAWDASV (*page 66*)
- Ensure health and social care professionals consider and address how complex needs impact on adults and children (*page 67*)
- Explore new ways to identify, protect and safeguard sex workers and the communities affected (*page 68*)
- Review the findings of the 'Beyond the Gaze' research (*page 68*)

10. A communications plan is also under development to ensure that key messages to the public and professionals are timely and consistent across the region. All partners are committed to disseminating messages and targeted awareness raising campaigns via a variety of means to establish the greatest reach and awareness.

11. As a result of the new regional approach to this issue, the governance arrangements are being amended to reflect both the distinct local issues but also the wider responsibility for joint working where this is feasible. The issue of VAWDASV will continue to report into the Public Service Board via the Community Safety Partnership reporting arrangements that are also currently being revised.

12. The purpose of the report is to approve the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2018-2023 as set out at **Appendix 1**.

Way Forward

13. At this meeting, Councillor Susan Elsmore (Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health & Wellbeing) will be invited to make a statement. Sarah McGill (Corporate Director, People and Communities) will be in attendance to provide Members with a presentation on the proposals and answer Members' questions.

14. Pre-decision scrutiny aims to inform the Cabinet's decisions by making evidence based recommendations. Scrutiny Members are advised to:

- i) look at the information provided in the report to Cabinet to see if this is sufficient to enable the Cabinet to make an informed decision;
- ii) check the financial implications section of the Cabinet report to be aware of the advice given;
- iii) check the legal implications section of the Cabinet report to be aware of the advice given;
- iv) check the recommendations to Cabinet to see if these are appropriate.

15. Members will then be able to decide what comments, observations or recommendations they wish to pass on to the Cabinet for their consideration prior to making their decisions on the 14 June 2018.

Legal Implications

16. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

17. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

- i. consider the information set out in **Appendix A** to this report;
- ii. consider the information provided in the presentation to this meeting;
- iii. decide whether it wishes to relay any comments or observations to the Cabinet at its meeting on the 14 June 2018; and decide the way forward with regard to any further scrutiny of this issue.

DAVINA FIORE

Director of Governance and Legal Services

31 May 2018