

Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan

Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2018 – 2023

Action Plan Progress Report - 2020/21

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

AIMS:



PREPARE

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



PURSUE

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



PREVENT

Proactively address negative attitudes and behaviours that have the potential to result in VAWDASV, recognising this as 'everyone's business'



PROTECT

Improve the multi-agency response and support to all victims of VAWDASV and their children, regardless of risk level or needs



SUPPORT

Ensure that innovative, flexible and evidence-based services are available to meet the needs of victims experiencing forms of VAWDASV

Introduction

This progress report on the action plan for 2020/21 outlines the third year of the implementation of the **Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy (VAWDASV) 2018-2023**.

The action plan was developed by all partners involved in the development of the Strategy and the same partnership approach is taken to ensuring the action plan activities are delivered.



- Indicates poor or no progress, or the activity is no longer relevant



- Indicates some progress, or the activity requires a change



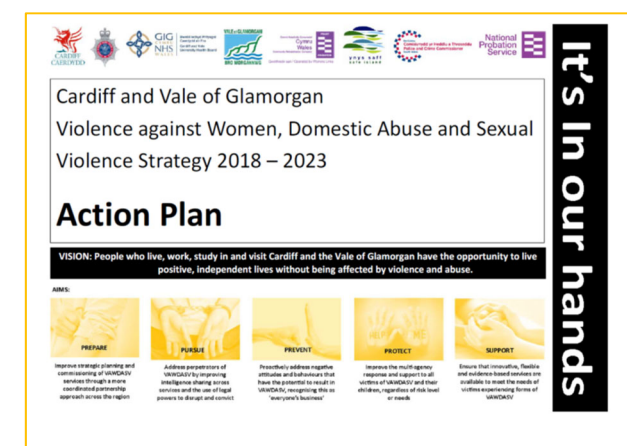
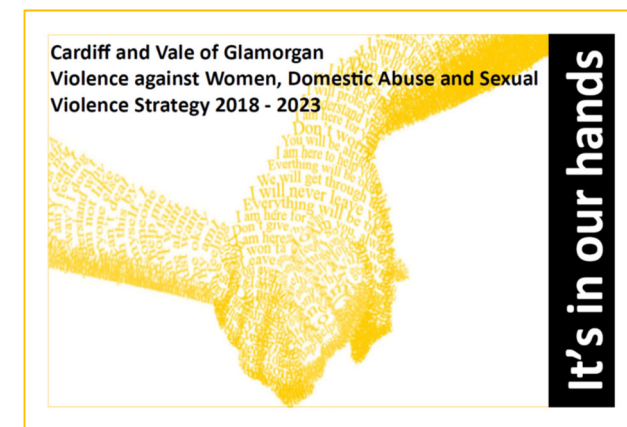
- Indicates good progress being made or the activity has been completed

All activities identified to be completed within the 2020/21 financial year under each of the 5 chapter headings of **Prepare, Pursue, Prevent, Protect** and **Support** have been discussed, along with information updates from 2019/20 actions where relevant. Key activities that are proposed to be addressed during 2021/22 are also included.

Where necessary new actions have been identified and changes to existing actions have been noted.

NOTE: Due to the COVID19 pandemic, some actions have not progressed in the timeframes originally outlined. Actions that require further work will be progressed during 2021-22 where possible.

Document produced June 2021



PREPARE			
Section	We Will	By	Progress
Survivor Engagement	Actively seek engagement and input from victims and survivors that represent all crime types and protected characteristics	Ongoing	16
Wider Collaboration	Actively assist with embedding a whole systems approach across the region	Ongoing	16
Needs Assessment	Continually improve data collection methods to better inform ongoing needs assessment	Annually and Ongoing	16
Governance	Implement and continually review governance arrangements including membership, to ensure they remain fit for purpose	Ongoing	16






Survivor Engagement - Cardiff Council have continued to develop the working relationship with SEEdS, Survivors Empowering and Educating Services group. During August 2020, members of the SEEds group provided 2 briefing sessions to Cardiff Council Human Resources department and provided case studies for future awareness work. In addition Welsh Women's Aid provided 2 survivor led sessions as part of our online regional White Ribbon Campaign. Sessions raised awareness of the 'Ask Me' Ambassador project and the Welsh Government VAWDASV online awareness raising module available free of charge to anyone living and/or working in Wales.

Wider Collaboration – the South Wales Police & Crime Commissioner has funded a number of services seeking to embed a whole systems approach, working closely with Welsh Women's Aid and other specialist providers across South Wales. Partners in the region continue to assist and funding has been set aside to support roll-out of the Change That Lasts interventions into the Vale of Glamorgan during 21/22.

Needs Assessment - A regional needs assessment covering data for the two-year period 2019-20 and 2020-21 will be undertaken early 2021/22. This will involve local Universities and Colleges for the first time.

Governance - Due to the COVID pandemic a number of groups have not run. The Governance Structure is being reviewed during 2021-22 to reflect a regional approach to VAWDASV where possible.

FUTURE ACTIVITY		
Introduction	Work towards developing relevant joint strategies and policies where possible	March 2023

PURSUE			
Section	We Will	By	Progress
Restorative Justice	Continually review the guidance and approach to the use of restorative practice for victims of VAWDASV	Ongoing	
Safe Use of Technology	Deliver local campaigns to highlight safe use of technology	Ongoing	
Working with Perpetrators	Explore options for delivering a range of community perpetrator interventions	Ongoing	
Encouraging Victims to Report	Encourage and support more victims to engage with law enforcement to explore criminal and civil remedies	Ongoing	
Criminal Justice Response	Enhance the monitoring of the outcomes of cases appearing before Magistrates and Crown Courts	March 2021	

We continue to follow the guidance issued by the Office of the Police Crime Commissioners guidance and **Restorative Justice** is not considered suitable for victims of VAWDASV.











Safe use of Technology – All of the victims support online applications have been collated by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and a series of campaigns have been prepared to raise awareness of some of the tools and support applications/initiatives available. These campaigns will be shared across the region during 2021-22.

Criminal Justice Response - The Victims Code of Practice compliance framework has been developed through the collaborative work of criminal justice partners. This work has been led by the South Wales Police & Crime Commissioner's Vulnerabilities and Victims Team. The South Wales Police & Crime Commissioner has a statutory duty to coordinate and report to the Ministry of Justice on compliance relating to the Victims Code. Additional work is being undertaken locally through HM Courts and Tribunal Services Witness Group. This work, alongside the regional specialist support offered, will go some way to **Encouraging Victims to Report**. This work will be progressed during 2021-22. Work is ongoing with HM Courts and Tribunal Services to ensure improved data capture through the use of the new remote evidencing sites.

The region continues to innovate in **Working with Perpetrators**, offering a range of interventions from early intervention through to high risk/high harm. The DRIVE programme designed for high risk/high harm perpetrators has continued in Cardiff and was rolled out across the Vale of Glamorgan in September 2020. The CLEAR intervention has continued in Cardiff, designed for men who have identified their behaviour towards their partner has become unhealthy/abusive. This intervention is currently being delivered as part of the 'Change that Lasts' programme

and through the continuation of South Wales Police & Crime Commissioner funding and regional funding allocation, CLEAR has now been rolled out across South Wales. Both programmes have continued to accept referrals and are currently being delivered online. In addition, funding has been allocated to pilot a domestic violence perpetrator programme for men to 'step up' from CLEAR and to 'step down' from DRIVE. 'Driving Change' is a bespoke intervention that has been designed by, and will be delivered by, Safer Merthyr Tydfil. All interventions have strong links with our specialist VAWDASV services with all victims/survivors being offered IDVA support.

FUTURE ACTIVITY		
<i>Criminal Justice Response</i>	Increase the number of positive outcomes for victims	March 2023

PREVENT			
Section	We Will	By	Progress
Formal Reviews	Ensure that the learning from all formal service reviews including DHR's is reflected in service delivery and is shared widely	June 2020	
	Implement any Welsh Government policy changes arising from its review of DHR processes	TBC	
Sexual Violence	Raise awareness of consent at all opportunities	Ongoing	
Stalking	Improve awareness of stalking and promote the practical steps to reporting	Ongoing	
Educational Settings	Continue to promote and monitor education-based activities across the region to include 'hard to reach' children	December 2020	
	Give support to all high and further education establishments to have a consistent and visible approach to tackling VAWDASV and in managing disclosures	December 2020	
Sexual Violence	Provide a Male IDSVA resource shared across all partners in the region	April 2020	
Honour Based Violence / Forced Marriage	Improve understanding of how forced marriage affects individuals with protected characteristics	September 2020	
Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS)	Remain committed to mainstreaming the IRIS model across all GP surgeries in the region	March 2021	
Early Intervention	Prioritise funding for early intervention services that prevent all forms of VAWDASV	March 2020	
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's)	Support Public Health Wales to move from a position of understanding the ACE research to understanding what a positive and effective response would be	March 2021	

Formal Reviews – The region continues to participate in the Welsh Government's Single Unified Safeguarding Review process, attending a number of groups to ensure that this work can be embedded across Wales. In Cardiff, a Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR) is being piloted for a recent domestic homicide / mental health homicide to further pilot and inform the new approach being proposed.

Due to the pandemic, opportunities to deliver specific campaigns around **sexual violence and consent** has been limited to social media campaigns. This area of work will be addressed during 2021-22.

Stalking - As part of the regional annual online White Ribbon activities, Professor Jane Monkton Smith provided an overview of her research into this behaviour that led to the development of the Domestic Homicide Timeline. This online event was well attended and this work will be developed during 2021-22.

Educational Settings - The Welsh Government funded Spectrum programme delivered by Hafan Cymru continues to be monitored, although due to school closures very few sessions have been delivered. Cardiff Women's Aid are piloting a 'Whole School Approach' in schools located within the Llanrumney school cluster. Although the pilot began later due to school closures; the involvement of schools has been positive. The Vale of Glamorgan are in the infancy stages of developing a 'Whole School Approach' with discussions being held to develop how that might look and how it will feed into the recommissioning of a specialist domestic abuse service.

The regional University Steering Group was re-established in January 2021 and has now been expanded to include local colleges. The Group is looking at the development of a set of 'guiding principles' in respect of VAWDASV that can be adopted by all establishments. The Group has been involved in the development of a collaborative poster campaign led by Cardiff Women's Aid that focuses on 3 main areas –supporting a friend, healthy relationships and signposting. These will be displayed across University buildings including accommodations by September 2021.

Ynys Saff, the regional Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) has employed a male ISVA who works across the region with men, women and children who have experienced **sexual violence**. The region is still exploring the potential to deliver a male ISVA outreach provision to widen the awareness and reach of sexual abuse advice and support to male victims.

Honour Based Violence/Forced Marriage - In October 2020, a number of key partners attended the online Honour Based Violence Roadshow delivered by Karma Nirvana. In addition, the National Training Framework Group 2 training that rolled out in November 2020, provides opportunities for attendees to consider how honour based violence / forced marriage may present and what risk factors are associated with honour based behaviours. Work in this area will be developed as part of the National Training Framework Group 3 roll out planned to commence in October 2021.









Referral to Improve Safety – Health funding for both BAWSO and Cardiff Women's Aid continues across the region. Iris+ is also being rolled out; this involves identifying and working with perpetrators and children affected by abuse.

It's In Our Hands - Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2018-2023

The Change that Lasts project that is funded by South Wales Police & Crime Commissioner is an example of successful **early intervention**. Regional funding has been allocated to ensure the continuation of Change that Lasts with roll out across South Wales including across the Vale of Glamorgan during 2021-22.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) - This work is now being taken forward by South Wales Police – Violence Prevention Unit.

FUTURE ACTIVITY		
National Training Framework	Implement the regional training plan to ensure all staff are trained in accordance with the National Training Framework	March 2022
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	Increase schools understanding of FGM and how to respond	March 2022
Night Time Economy	Assist with implementing the actions from the 'Delivering a Safe and Welcoming Night Time Economy' strategy	March 2022
Sex Workers	Raise awareness across the region of the issues faced by sex workers	March 2022
Trafficking and Modern Slavery	Widen the reach of the Human Trafficking awareness module through the National Training Framework	March 2022

PROTECT			
Section	We Will	By	Progress
Clare's Law / Sarah's Law Disclosures	Further promote Disclosure Schemes at all available opportunities	Ongoing	
Specialist Courts	Work with campaigners to strengthen victims voices across all courts	Ongoing	
Managing VAWDASV Public Protection Notices (PPN's)	Work with partners to ensure continuous improvement of the MASH	Annually	
	Closely monitor the specialist service response to PPNs	Annually	
Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)	Improve the quality of MARAC referrals across the region	Annually	
Housing Related Support	Continually monitor the use of crisis/emergency accommodation to ensure provision for those who need it most	Annually	
Specialist Courts	Better support victims through the criminal and civil justice processes	March 2021	
Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)	Establish and implement the Vulnerabilities and Exploitation Pathway	March 2021	

An online briefing about **Clare's Law** was delivered by South Wales Police as part of the regional annual White Ribbon Activities and the event was well attended by staff from across statutory and third sector organisations. Clare's Law is also discussed as part of the Group 2 National Training Framework. A **Sarah's Law** leaflet developed by South Wales Police will form part of the work that will take place around this legislation during 2021-22. In addition, some specific campaigns promoting Clare's and Sarah's law were delivered across the Vale of Glamorgan.

Specialist Courts - Online Specialist Domestic Violence Court meetings have continued where possible. Through work with the South Wales Police & Crime Commissioner, courts lists are now released earlier to specialist services to ensure victims can be supported more effectively. In order to address the backlog of cases during the pandemic, Welsh Government funding was utilised to employ an additional court IDVA to ensure support was available to victims. The backlog was successfully address within 3 months. In Cardiff, a dedicated IDVA now supports clients at the SDVC as well as family court.

Work has continued with Regional Advisors across Wales and HM Courts and Tribunal Services to increase remote evidencing facilities that can be accessed by victims required to give evidence at Magistrates and Crown Courts. This work will be progressed during 2021-22.






Managing VAWDASV Public Protection Notices (PPN's) In Cardiff, due to the pandemic, PPN's have been monitored on a daily basis via the specialist VAWDASV service – RISE. PPN's have included male victims, female victims, children and young people. This has been working well with cases being discussed via Daily Discussions as well as during fortnightly DV MARAC's. The DAARC service in the Vale of Glamorgan has continued to receive standard and medium risk PPNs throughout the year. During this year the Vale of Glamorgan have introduced twice weekly multi-agency discussions. This approach replicates the established daily discussions model in Cardiff.

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference - In Cardiff, refresher training for MARAC representatives took place during 2020. Quality assurance is monitored via the quarterly MARAC Steering Group and through feedback from Safe Lives' data monitoring. Work has also been undertaken to scope the possibility of the MARAC Steering Group becoming a regional group. This will be reviewed as part of the Governance Structure review due to take place during 2021/22. In the Vale of Glamorgan, refresher training has been organised for steering group members to attend during 2021-22.

The Vulnerabilities and Exploitation pathway development has been overtaken by the publication of the Regional Exploitation Strategy developed by the Regional Safeguarding Board and in the early stages of implementation. Since the merger of the Police into the once Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Basic Command Unit, this provides an opportunity to review the range of MARACs currently operational in the regional.

Housing Related Support - Refuge provision was increased as a direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic and moves into longer-term accommodation have continued during the pandemic. In Cardiff, a working protocol has been implemented between the Council's statutory homelessness service and the specialist VAWDASV service.

FUTURE ACTIVITY		
Housing Related Support	Assess the impact of welfare reform changes and the Renting Homes Act on specialist accommodation for victims	March 2023
Target Hardening	Review the availability of target hardening options and develop a regional approach	March 2022
NEW: Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)	<i>Undertake a strategic review of all of the MARACs operating in the region and consider streamlining where feasible.</i>	<i>March 2022</i>

SUPPORT			
Section	We Will	By	Progress
Male Victims	Commission a specialist male victim service with wider regional partners	March 2021	
Children and Young People	Consider extending positive male role models to children and young people experiencing other type of violence and abuse	March 2021	
Research	Actively participate in a range of meaningful research projects to broaden understanding and improve services	Ongoing	
Gypsy and Traveller Communities	Raise awareness of available support services to the Gypsy and Traveller communities	Ongoing	
LGBTQ+ Victims	Ensure services are responsive to LGBTQ+ victims	Ongoing	

Male Victims – Following extended activity in 2019/20 to engage a number of regional partners in an attempt to commission a regional service, commissioning is now going forward with the Vale of Glamorgan and it is anticipated that a newly commissioned service will be in place by July 2021. In addition, capital funding provided by the Welsh Government enabled the increase of dispersed units for men who are unable to access the existing refuge.

In Cardiff's specialist service RISE, a new male IDVA was appointed in October 2020. The IDVA provides a frontline service to **children and young people** (aged 11-25) who have experienced domestic and sexual violence/abuse. This service is delivered to those identified as high risk within a multi-agency framework consisting of the local authority Children's Services, the MARAC and local partnership responses to domestic abuse. The service provided consists of short to medium term crisis intervention identified by the use of individualised safety and support plans.

Engagement in local and national **research** has continued with key partners participating in a number of reviews, namely the Welsh Government's review of the National Training Framework and the review of the Change that Lasts initiative. Information from the DRIVE perpetrator intervention continues to inform the wider national DRIVE project and information from the IRIS project continues to feed into the national IRIS programme managed by the University of Bristol. In Cardiff, Cardiff Women's Aid sought the views of female students studying at Cardiff University about their safety and these findings have been used to steer poster campaigns and evidence the need for practical changes and policy review within universities and colleges especially. RISE are also piloting the 'Whole School Approach' in the Llanrumney school cluster area and the findings from this pilot will be used to inform future work.

Gypsy and Traveller Communities - Initial discussions took place between the RISE specialist service and Gypsy Traveller support officers in early 2020 but work has not been progressed due to the COVID pandemic. **Amend date to March 2022**

In Cardiff work has been undertaken by RISE to communicate that the service is available to women in same sex relationships. As part of the National Training Framework, an information pack has been produced for staff attendees which provides the details of services available locally and nationally for **LGBTQ+ victims**.

FUTURE ACTIVITY		
Complex Needs / Toxic Trio	Ensure health and social care professionals consider and address how complex needs impact on adults and children	March 2022
LGBTQ+ Victims	Strengthen links with specialist LGBTQ+ organisations to improve services and increase reporting	March 2022
Sex Workers	Explore new ways to identify, protect and safeguard sex workers and the communities affected	March 2022
Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)	Embed the SARC 'Hub and Spoke' model for victims of sexual violence across South East Wales	March 2022