



Y CABINET

DYDD MERCHER, 12 CHWEFROR 2020

**YN SYTH AR ÔL CYFARFOD PWYLLGOR CRAFFU POLISIÄAU AC
ADNODDAU'R CABINET**

**SIAMBR Y CYNGOR – CANOLFAN DDINESIG CASTELL-NEDD PORT
TALBOT**

Rhan 1

1. Penodi Cadeirydd
2. Datganiadau o fudd
3. Blaenraglen Waith 2019/20 (*Tudalennau 3 - 4*)
4. Dirprwyo yn y Llys - Strategaeth Buddsoddiadau ar gyfer Cronfeydd Cleientiaid (*Tudalennau 5 - 22*)
5. Dirprwyo yn y Llys - Polisi Gwaredu Asedau Cleientiaid Ymadawedig (*Tudalennau 23 - 44*)
6. Ardrethi Annomestig – Rhyddhad Ardrethi'r Stryd Fawr a Manwerthu Cymru 2020/21 (*Tudalennau 45 - 56*)
7. Ymateb ar y cyd i Ddeddf Trais yn erbyn Menywod, Cam-drin Domestig a Thrais Rhywiol (Cymru) 2015 (*Tudalennau 57 - 134*)

8. Eitemau brys
Unrhyw eitemau brys (boed yn gyhoeddus neu wedi'u heithrio) yn ôl disgresiwn y Cadeirydd yn unol ag Adran 100b (4)(B) o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972.
9. Mynediad i gyfarfodydd
Penderfynu gwahardd y cyhoedd ar gyfer yr eitem ganlynol yn unol â Rheoliad 4 (3) a (5) o Offeryn Statudol 2001 Rhif 2290 a'r paragraffau eithriedig perthnasol yn Rhan 4 Atodlen 12A o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972.

Rhan 2

10. System Rheoli Achosion Cyfreithiol (*Tudalennau 135 - 148*)
11. System AD a Chyflogres Newydd (*Tudalennau 149 - 162*)

S.Phillips
Prif Weithredwr

Canolfan Ddinesig
Port Talbot

Dydd Iau, 6 Chwefror 2020

Aelodau'r Y Cabinet:

Y Cynghorwyr R.G.Jones, C.Clement-Williams, D.Jones,
E.V.Latham, A.R.Lockyer, P.A.Rees, P.D.Richards, A.Wingrave a/ac
L.Jones

2019/20 FORWARD WORK PLAN

CABINET

Tudalen 3

Meeting Date	Agenda Items	Type (Decision/ Monitoring Or Information)	Rotation (Topical, Annual, Bi-Annual, Quarterly, Monthly)	Contact Officer/ Head of Service
19 Feb 2020	Members Com Fund (if needed)			P.Hinder
	Draft Advertising and Sponsorship Policy			K.Jones
	Mayor's Cadets			K.Jones

Meeting Date	Agenda Items	Type (Decision/ Monitoring Or Information)	Rotation (Topical, Annual, Bi-Annual, Quarterly, Monthly)	Contact Officer/ Head of Service
5 March 2020	Budget			H.Jenkins

Eitem yr Agenda 3

Cabinet – Forward Work Programme

Meeting Date	Agenda Items	Type (Decision/ Monitoring Or Information)	Rotation (Topical, Annual, Bi-Annual, Quarterly, Monthly)	Contact Officer/ Head of Service
1 April 2020	Q3 PI's			K.Jones
	Talking NPT – Communications and Community Relations Strategy 2018- 2020 – Progress Report	Monitor	Topical	K.Jones (SG/CF)
	Member's Community Fund (final)	Decision (Immediate Implementation)		P.Hinder

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Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

12 February 2020

Report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services – H.Jenkins

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Court Deputy – Investment Strategy for Client Funds

Purpose of the Report:

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the introduction of a Court Deputy Investment Strategy for Client Funds, and to seek authority to undertake a procurement exercise to appoint a Financial Advisor to provide investment advice for clients with capital of more than £50k, in accordance with the strategy.

Executive Summary:

2. The Court Deputy Service receive referrals from Social Services to provide support for persons lacking capacity to deal with their property and financial affairs, where there are no family or friends willing or able to act on their behalf.
3. An application is made to the Court of Protection, for an order appointing the Council as Deputy.

4. The Deputy is required to comply with standards laid out by the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG), and is subject to regular inspection by the OPG.
5. The Mental Capacity Act (2005) also places a duty on the Deputy, to ensure that all client affairs are managed according to client needs and in their best interest.
6. The Deputy must therefore ensure that client funds are able to meet their needs for the duration of the order, and seek to maximise the return on investments.
7. The investment strategy has been developed to document the operational framework within which Court Deputy officers administer investments on behalf of clients, to ensure compliance with the Court Order and OPG standards,

Background:

8. The Court Deputy Service receive referrals from Social Services to provide support for persons lacking capacity to deal with their property and financial affairs, where there are no family or friends willing or able to act on their behalf.
9. The Court Deputy Manager reviews the referral to determine if it is appropriate to apply to become Deputy and/or Appointee for the client.

An application to become Appointee is usually made where the client has little capital and their financial affairs are relatively straight forward. The application is made to the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to receive all welfare benefits on behalf of the client, in order to arrange payment of routine bills, and day to day living expenses (current Appointee caseload is approx. 80 clients). Authority under this arrangement is limited administration of benefit income. It does not cover management of other income or property which may relate to the client.

An application to become Deputy with responsibility for all financial and property matters, is made if the property and financial affairs of the client are more complex (current Deputy caseload approx. 160 clients).

The proposed investment strategy therefore only applies to Deputy Clients.

10. An application for the Head of Finance to be appointed as Deputy for the client is made to the Court of Protection.

Responsibility for providing the day to day service is delegated to the Court Deputy Team which consists of 9.31 fte staff.

11. The Deputy is required to comply with standards laid out by the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG), and is subject to regular inspection by the OPG.
 - Standard 1a (5) requires that the Deputy seek independent financial advice, where appropriate, to maximise the return on the client's savings, investments and any other assets.
 - Standard 1(b) states that a review of savings and investments portfolios is carried out at least once a year, and expert and independent advice is sought where necessary.
 - Standard 4(9) requires that the deputy and all members of staff delegated with deputyship responsibilities (case officer) have access to appropriate advice and expertise on investments, savings and property.
12. The Mental Capacity Act (2005) places a duty on the Deputy to ensure that all client affairs are managed according to client needs and in their best interest. The Deputy must therefore ensure that client funds are able to meet their needs for the duration of the order, and seek to maximise the return on investments.
13. It is proposed that an investment strategy is introduced to provide a clear operational framework in which staff delegated

with deputyship responsibilities manage client investments in accordance with OPG standards.

14. To date the preparation of a financial plan for each client has been carried out by the Court Deputy case officer, and any surplus funds invested in “Funds in Court” (FIC). FIC is the office of the Supreme Court of Victoria that administers funds paid into Court for and on behalf of people under a disability (beneficiaries). FIC is a self-funded, not-for-profit division of the Court committed to providing the best quality service to all beneficiaries, in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.
15. Historically the rate of interest provided on the FIC was competitive, but in recent years has become less so, and therefore it has become necessary to seek alternative investment options in order to maximise returns for clients.
16. The investment strategy is proposed to provide an operational framework within which Court Deputy officers administer investments on behalf of clients.
17. There has also been an increase in the number of clients with significant assets and investment portfolios, which require more expert knowledge of financial markets and long term financial planning of a complex portfolio of funds, which is outside the scope, function and roles of the Court Deputy Case officers.
18. There are currently approximately 20 clients each with capital of more than £50k – with a total value of approximately £2.5m.
19. Approval is therefore also sought to undertake a procurement exercise to appoint an Independent Financial Advisor (IFA) to provide investment advice for clients with capital of more than £50k, in accordance with the strategy.
20. The benefits of utilising an IFA are as follows:-
 - Ensure compliance with requirements of duties under the Court order

- Ensure compliance with requirement of OPG Deputy standards
- Provide professional and comprehensive external Independent Financial Advice service to eligible clients
- Preserve limited resources within the team to deal with other Deputy functions.

21. A copy of the proposed Investment Strategy is included in Appendix 1.

Financial Impacts:

22. The cost of the Independent Financial Advisor will be funded from client funds, any interest on investments will be paid direct to client, and so there are no financial implications for the Council.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

23. A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, a copy of which is included at Appendix 2. The first stage assessment has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required for the reasons set out in Appendix 2

Valleys Communities Impacts:

24. No implications

Workforce Impacts:

25. Utilising a financial advisor for those clients with more than £50k capital will provide additional capacity to support the client and enable staff to undertake other Court Deputy duties.

Legal Impacts:

26. Implementation of the policy will ensure compliance with the duties outlined in the Court Order, the Mental Capacity Act (2005) and the Office of the Public Guardian standards.

Risk Management Impacts:

27. Implementation of the policy will minimise the risk of failing to comply with the relevant statutes and standards.

Consultation:

28. There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations:

29. It is recommended that Members
- a) approve the strategy included at Appendix 1 of this Report in respect of Court Deputy Investment Strategy for Client Funds
 - b) approve the proposal to undertake a procurement exercise to appoint financial advisors to provide investment advice for clients with capital of more than £50k, in accordance with the strategy

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

30. To provide a framework for the investment of Court Deputy client funds, to ensure compliance with relevant standards and statutes.

Implementation of Decision:

31. The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period

Appendices:

32. Appendix 1 – Court Deputy - Investment Strategy for Client Funds

Appendix 2 – First Stage Integrated Impact Assessment

List of Background Papers:

33. Mental Capacity Act (2005) re best interest decisions
OPG Deputy Standards

Officer Contact:

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Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

Court Deputy – Investment Strategy for Client Funds

1. Strategy Aim

The aim of the strategy is to provide an operational framework within which the staff delegated with deputyship responsibilities, manage client affairs in accordance with OPG standards and statutory requirements.

2. Background

The Court Deputy section are a service of last resort and provide support for persons lacking capacity to deal with their property and financial affairs.

Referrals are received from Social Services and an application is made to the Court of Protection for an order appointing the Council as Deputy.

The Deputy is required to comply with standards laid out by the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG), and is subject to regular inspection by OPG.

- Standard 1a (5) requires that the Deputy seek independent financial advice, where appropriate, to maximise the return on the client's savings, investments and any other assets.
-
- Standard 1(b) states that a review of savings and investments portfolios is carried out at least once a year, and expert and independent advice is sought where necessary.
-
- Standard 4(9) requires that the deputy and all members of staff delegated with deputyship responsibilities (case

officer) have access to appropriate advice and expertise on investments, savings and property.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 places a duty on Deputies to ensure that all client affairs are managed according to each client's needs, and in their best interest (see appendix 1a). There is a requirement for the Deputy to ensure that each client's funds are able to meet their needs for the duration of the Order, and that any capital investments are receiving the best possible return on investment.

3. Financial review

Upon being appointed as Deputy the nominated case officer will undertake a financial review to

- Record all sources of income, and ensure the service user is claiming all eligible benefits
- Assess the client's financial requirements for a 12 month period, taking into account historic costs and future requirements
- Assign a sum to cover unexpected expenditure
- Compare requirements against income, to identify any surplus to be treated as capital
- Check that the Court Order allows the investment of service user funds, or if necessary make an application for the order to be amended accordingly.
- Develop an investment strategy for the client

4. Developing an Investment strategy

a. Client with capital of less than £50k

-
- The Court Deputy case officer will:-
 - Consider different account types / tax efficient savings e.g. ISA, fixed term, savings accounts
 - Use comparison sites to identify alternative investment opportunities to maximise interest, and minimise costs.

- Document the review process and the options considered to provide an audit trail of all decisions taken

In developing the investment strategy for each client the court deputy case officer will take into account the:-

- Investment aims of the client
- Social, environmental and ethical views of the client
- Security of the assets, achieved via diversification in risk of investments
- Liquidity requirements - achieved via diversification in duration of investments
- Yield – the best rates available having satisfied the above requirements
- Investment duration - based on life expectancy, future care funding requirements
- Flexibility of the strategy – consider any penalties from changing or withdrawing from the strategy
- Extent to which beneficiaries are considered, and if consultation with service user family / friends is required.

The Court Deputy Manager or Assistant Manager will review the proposed investment strategy, and consider best interest, before it is agreed and implemented for each client.

b. Client with capital of more than £50k capital

These cases require the expert knowledge of the financial markets and long term financial planning. It requires professional systems and advice on investment options, which is outside the expertise of the Court Deputy case officers, and so an Independent Financial Advisor will be appointed.

A procurement tender process, in accordance with corporate contract procedures, will be undertaken to identify a suitable IFA who:-

- is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority
- is independent and can give whole of market advice i.e. are not “restricted” advisers.

- will outline all fees and charges e.g. hourly rate, commission based
- has been a financial advisor for more than 3 years
- will hold appropriate qualifications - the IFA requires that all advisors pass level 4 – diploma
- has an annual statement of professional standing (SPS) issued by an FCA accredited body.

The Independent Financial Advisor appointed will:-

- provide a comprehensive review of clients current savings/investments
- provide a comprehensive assessment of financial investment options, relevant to client circumstances/wishes
- prepare a report outlining the work undertaken, and reasons for selecting the recommended investments, and detailing all costs and charges associated with the recommendations
- provide an annual review of investments, and if appropriate recommend any changes.
- provide annual valuation and tax information to assist in the completion of tax returns

The cost of the IFA will be funded by the client.

The Court Deputy authorised officer and the designated Care manager will consider the advice provided by the IFA, and consider best interest before authorising, and implementing an investment strategy for each client.

5. Annual review

An annual review of investments will be undertaken for each client and where necessary, the investment strategy will be updated to ensure that returns on savings, investments and assets are being maximised, and to reflect any change in circumstances that have arisen.

Appendix 1a - Best interest

The following statutory checklist is included in section 4 of the Mental Capacity Act (2005)

(1) In determining for the purposes of this Act what is in a person's best interests, the person making the determination must not make it merely on the basis of:-

- (a) the person's age or appearance, or
- (b) a condition of his, or an aspect of his behaviour, which might lead others to make unjustified assumptions about what might be in his best interests.

(2) The person making the determination must consider all the relevant circumstances and, in particular, take the following steps. .

(3) they must consider:-

- (a) whether it is likely that the person will at some time have capacity in relation to the matter in question, and
- (b) if it appears likely that he will, when that is likely to be. .

(4) they must, so far as reasonably practicable, permit and encourage the person to participate, or to improve his ability to participate, as fully as possible in any act done for him and any decision affecting him.

(5) Where the determination relates to life-sustaining treatment they must not, in considering whether the treatment is in the best interests of the person concerned, be motivated by a desire to bring about his death.

(6) they must consider, so far as is reasonably ascertainable:-

- (a) the person's past and present wishes and feelings (and, in particular, any relevant written statement made by him when he had capacity),
- (b) the beliefs and values that would be likely to influence his decision if he had capacity, and

- (c) the other factors that he would be likely to consider if he were able to do so.
- (7) they must take into account, if it is practicable and appropriate to consult them, the views of:-
- (a) anyone named by the person as someone to be consulted on the matter in question or on matters of that kind,
 - (b) anyone engaged in caring for the person or interested in his welfare,
 - (c) any donee of a lasting power of attorney granted by the person, and
 - (d) any deputy appointed for the person by the court,
- as to what would be in the person's best interests and, in particular, as to the matters mentioned in subsection (6).
- (8) The duties imposed by subsections (1) to (7) also apply in relation to the exercise of any powers which
- (a) are exercisable under a lasting power of attorney, or
 - (b) are exercisable by a person under this Act where he reasonably believes that another person lacks capacity.
- (9) In the case of an act done, or a decision made, by a person other than the court, there is sufficient compliance with this section if (having complied with the requirements of subsections (1) to (7)) they reasonably believes that what he does or decides is in the best interests of the person concerned.
- (10) "Life-sustaining treatment" means treatment which in the view of a person providing health care for the person concerned is necessary to sustain life.
- (11) "Relevant circumstances" are those
- (a) of which the person making the determination is aware, and
 - (b) which it would be reasonable to regard as relevant.



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

Impact Assessment - First Stage

1. Details of the initiative

Initiative description and summary: Court Deputy - Investment Strategy for Client Funds

The Council's Court Deputy Service is appointed to look after the financial affairs and /or property of individual people who do not have the capacity to manage their own affairs. This strategy provides the ability to manage individual client savings in accordance with the Office of the Public Guardian standards to maximise returns.

Service Area: Court Deputy

Directorate: Finance & Corporate Services

2. Does the initiative affect:

	Yes	No
Service users	y	
Staff	y	
Wider community		n
Internal administrative process only		n

3. Does the initiative impact on people because of their:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't Know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)/How might it impact?
Age		n				
Disability	y					Clients receive a service because they lack capacity to manage their property and financial affairs
Gender Reassignment		n				
Marriage/Civil Partnership		n				
Pregnancy/Maternity		n				
Race		n				
Religion/Belief		n				
Sex		n				
Sexual orientation		n				

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4. Does the initiative impact on:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence used) / How might it impact?
People's opportunities to use the Welsh language		n				
Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English		n				

5. Does the initiative impact on biodiversity:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity		n				
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.		n				

6. Does the initiative embrace the sustainable development principle (5 ways of working):

	Yes	No	Details
Long term - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people	y		The strategy will ensure compliance with relevant statutes and standards and efficiently manage client finances in both the short and longer term
Integration - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives	y		Efficient management of client funds will impact on their well-being.
Involvement - how people have been involved in developing the initiative		n	
Collaboration - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions		n	
Prevention - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse		n	

7. Declaration - based on above assessment (tick as appropriate):

A full impact assessment (second stage) is not required	y
Reasons for this conclusion	
The approval of this policy will enable Court Deputy Officers to manage the financial affairs of clients in line with best practice.	

A full impact assessment (second stage) is required	n
Reasons for this conclusion	

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	Name	Position	Date
Completed by	SE Gorman	Chief Accountant	27/01/20
Signed off by	DH Jones	Head of Finance	3/02/20



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

12 February 2020

Report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services – H.Jenkins

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Court Deputy – Policy for the Disposal of Assets of Deceased Clients

Purpose of the Report:

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the introduction of a policy for the disposal of assets of deceased Court Deputy clients

Executive Summary:

2. The Court Deputy Service provides support for persons lacking capacity to deal with their property and financial affairs, where there are no family or friends willing or able to act on their behalf.

The Court Deputy team make an application to become either an Appointee – whereby they receive client benefit income directly from the Department of Work & Pensions (DWP) and arrange payment of routine bills and day to day expenses, and/or Deputy – whereby they are given responsibility by the Court of Protection for all of the client's financial and/or property affairs.

The Court Deputy team open individual bank accounts which they administer on behalf of each client, in order to undertake these duties.

3. The Court Deputy Service also undertakes to discharge the duty of the Local Authority under section 58 of the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 to take reasonable steps to prevent, or mitigate against, the loss or damage to moveable property of a person when
 - their care and support involves the provision of accommodation
 - they are admitted to hospital,
4. In the course of undertaking these duties it is sometimes necessary for Court Deputy officers to remove and store items for safekeeping.
5. Responsibility for the above functions ceases upon the death of the client, and any assets or funds held in bank accounts, are returned to be the estate of the deceased client.

In the majority of cases, where it is possible to identify the person who is dealing with the estate, this can be routinely dealt with, but it can be more difficult if the client has not left a will and there are no known relatives.

6. The Court Deputy service is currently holding assets and bank accounts on behalf of approximately 20 deceased clients, dating back to 2001, for whom it has not been possible to either identify anyone to deal with the estate, or if the identified person will not engage.
7. The proposed policy outlines the procedure to be undertaken when seeking to identify someone to deal with the estate of the deceased client, and where this is not possible, the procedure for disposal of assets.

Background:

8. The Court Deputy team are currently holding a range of miscellaneous personal effects including jewellery and watches of relatively low value for approximately 10 clients for whom it has not been possible to identify anyone to deal with their estate, and to arrange collection of the items.
9. Also, prior to 2015 accounts for Court Deputy clients were administered via the Coop bank, who required authority from the beneficiaries of the deceased's estate to close the account.

For a limited number of cases it has not been possible to identify anyone to deal with the estate and as a consequence these accounts have remained open for many years.

10. Bank accounts for Court Deputy clients are currently arranged through Santander who provide banking services for the Council, and who permit the council to close the accounts following the death of the client
11. During 2019 the Coop bank changed their position in respect of these accounts, and agreed to transfer the funds relating to 9 clients (£39k) to the Council's bank account.
12. The copy of the proposed policy is included in Appendix 1 and outlines the procedures for identifying someone to deal with the estate of deceased clients, and where this is not possible, for the disposal of the assets/funds.
13. The key aspects of which are outlined below
 - (a) Upon the death of a client officers will seek to identify if the client made a will, and to identify a person to deal with the estate.
 - (b) Where a person has been identified to deal with the estate, we will issue a written notice period of 6 months for collection of the assets.
 - (c) Any asset not collected after the 6 month notice period will vest with the Authority

- (d) If there is no will, there are no known blood relatives, and if the net value of the estate is more than £500, the assets will pass to the Treasury Solicitor (BVD).
- (e) If there is no will, and there are blood relatives, but after 5 years no one has agreed to deal with the estate, the asset will vest with the Council.
- (f) If the asset vests with the Council, we will dispose of it in an appropriate manner.
- (g) The Council charge a fee of £300 for winding up the estate of deceased clients
- (h) Any additional proceeds from disposal of assets after funeral costs and paying for the winding up fee will be separately recorded as income against the Court Deputy budget.
- (i) Should the client have any debts owed to the Authority, where there is a will, a claim will be made against the estate for the sums owed to the Council.

Where there is no will, a probate search will be undertaken to identify who is dealing with the estate and a court claim made to recover the debt against the beneficiaries of the estate, by the service that raised the invoice.

Following a successful court claim, the debt will be settled using any funds held in the individual bank account held on behalf of the client.

If no one can be identified to deal with the estate the debt will be written off, in line with current Council practices.

Financial Impacts:

14. The Council has a duty to finalise the administration of former client service user accounts. The approval of this policy will enable the Council to carry out that work. Any surplus funds

from client bank accounts and/or from any disposal proceeds recovered will be utilised to fund funeral costs and winding up fee. Any surplus will be transferred to the Council's bank account and separately recorded as income for the Court Deputy service, to offset costs incurred in administering the policy.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

15. A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, a copy of which is included at Appendix 2. The first stage assessment has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required for the reasons set out in Appendix 2

Valleys Communities Impacts:

16. No implications

Workforce Impacts:

17. No implications

Legal Impacts:

18. Implementation of the policy will ensure the Council fulfils its duty to transfer any assets held to the estate of the deceased client, and formalise procedures for the disposal of assets.

Risk Management Impacts:

19. Implementation of the policy will minimise the risk of claims being made against the authority, by potential beneficiaries of the estate of deceased clients.

Consultation:

20. There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Recommendation:

21. It is recommended that Members approve the policy included at Appendix 1 of this Report in respect of Disposal of Assets of Deceased Clients Policy.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

22. To formalise an operational framework for the disposal of assets, of deceased Court Deputy clients.

Implementation of Decision:

23. The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period

Appendices:

24. Appendix 1 –Policy for the Disposal of Assets of Deceased Court Deputy Clients

Appendix 2 – First Stage Integrated Impact Assessment

List of Background Papers:

25. Mental Capacity Act (2005) re best interest decisions OPG Deputy Standards

Officer Contact:

26. Mr Hywel Jenkins – Director of Finance & Corporate Services
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Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

Policy for the Disposal of Assets of Deceased Court Deputy Clients

The policy outlines the process for managing the transfer of any assets held on behalf of deceased Court Deputy Clients, to their estate.

1. Establish if there is a will

If we are unable to confirm from family and friends if the client has written a will Court Deputy officers will

- check if there is a certificate of deposit – this will apply if the will is kept by the Principal Registry of the Family Division
- check if a will has been registered with the National Will Register – the Law Society’s endorsed provider

2. Identify a suitable person to deal with the estate

The Council will take reasonable steps to identify a person to deal with the estate.

- a) If the client leaves a will, we will contact the person holding the will, and/or liaise with the executor.
- b) If, to the Council’s knowledge, the client died intestate:
 - If the client is known to have blood relatives, reasonable enquiries will be taken to locate an appropriate person to deal with the estate via
 - Care management staff
 - Social services client records
 - Staff at the residential home,
 - Carers if receiving support in the community

- Friends and family
- Council tax department
- Probate register
- Probate genealogist (heir hunters)

If the above processes are unsuccessful, we will deem that we have taken all reasonable steps to identify a suitable person to deal with the estate, and formerly record the date on which the decision is taken.

- if there are no blood relatives and the net value of the estate is more than £500, the assets will be referred to the Treasury solicitor (BVD – Bona Vacantia Dept).
- if there are no blood relatives and the net value of the estate is less than £500, the assets will vest with the Council.

Legal advice will be sought in the event of accessing any of the above information, to ensure Data Protection obligations are met.

3. Personal effects

a. Valuation of property

We will document the process used to value the property, which will be dependent on the nature of the items held.

We will obtain 3 separate valuations for single items estimated to be worth more than £500 each.

b. Disposal of property

We will immediately dispose of any items of a perishable nature, and those which would cause the Council unreasonable expense or inconvenience.

If we are able to identify someone to deal with the estate we will:

- issue a written notice period to collect the property within 6 months. Upon collection of the items the person will be asked to provide proof of ID and sign a written disclaimer/indemnity (see Appendix a) absolving the Council of any further responsibility for the assets.
- If the identified person refuses to collect the property, they will be asked to provide proof of ID and sign a written disclaimer/indemnity (see Appendix b) confirming that they do not wish to collect the assets, and the assets will vest with the Council.
- If the property is not collected 6 months after the notice was issued, the property will vest with the Council.

If we are unable to identify anyone to deal with the estate,

- If there are no known blood relatives, and the net value of the estate is more than £500, the asset will be referred to the Treasury solicitor (BVD).
- If there are known blood relatives and the value of the property is more than £500, but after 5 years no one has agreed to deal with the estate, the property will vest with the Council.
- If the value of the property is less than £500, it will vest with the Council.

The above process is illustrated in a flow chart in Appendix 1c

If the property vests with the Council, we will arrange for any items to be sold

4. Bank accounts

During provision of the Court Deputy service, individual bank accounts are opened for each client, with the Council banker, for use in administering day to day banking on behalf of the client. Upon the death of the client the account is closed and funds transferred to the estate of the deceased client.

Where a person has been identified to deal with the estate of a deceased client we will issue a letter confirming the balance held on the bank account (and other relevant financial information) and confirm if we require proof of probate, where the balance held is more than the capital threshold limit set by the DWP, (i.e. £16k as at January 2020), in order for funds to be released.

Where it has not been possible to identify anyone to deal with the estate:

- If there are no blood relatives, and the net value of the estate is more than £500, the funds will be referred to the Treasury solicitor (BVD). If the net value of the estate is less than £500 the account will be closed and the balance transferred to the Council
- If there are blood relatives, but after 5 years no one has agreed to deal with the estate, the relatives will be notified that the account will be closed, and the balance transferred to the Council

5. Debts owed to NPTCBC

Where there is a will, a claim for the outstanding debt will be made against the estate of the deceased client, by the service that raised the invoice.

Where there is no known will, a probate search will be undertaken to identify who is dealing with the estate and a court claim will be made to recover the sums owed against the beneficiaries of the estate, by the service that raised the invoice.

Following a successful court claim, the debt will be settled using any funds held in the NPT bank account held on behalf of the client. Any balance remaining in the bank account will be treated as outlined in paragraph 4 above.

If it is not possible to identify anyone to deal with the estate the debt will be written off.

6. Charging

Upon death, the first call on the estate is for funeral costs, and the Council charge a fee of £300 for winding up the estate of deceased clients, from any balance remaining. If the Council pays for external services to identify beneficiaries of the estate that are in excess of the £300 winding up fee these will also be claimed against the estate of the deceased client.

Any surplus proceeds from the disposal of assets, after funeral costs and winding up fee, will be separately recorded as income within the Court Deputy Service budget, and used to offset the costs of valuation and disposal of assets, and any other costs incurred in administering the process. Records will be kept to evidence such costs.



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

THIS INDEMNITY AGREEMENT is made the day of
2020

BETWEEN:-

1.

of
(‘the Indemnifying Party’)

2. NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL of the
Civic Centre Port Talbot SA13 1PJ (‘the Council’)

WHEREAS:-

a) The Indemnifying Party acknowledges receipt from the Council of the monies and chattels listed on the attached Schedule being the whole of the property (‘the Diseased Client’s Property’) being held by or under the control of the Council’s Head of Finance in his capacity as the duly appointed Court Deputy of the late
(‘the client’)

b) The Indemnifying Party confirms that he/she has/will arrange(d) the funeral of the Diseased Client and has/will fully discharge the costs of same.

c) In delivering the Diseased Client’s Property to the Indemnifying Party the Council wishes to be indemnified as more fully set out in this Indemnity Agreement.

In consideration of the above and the covenants contained herein the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged the parties to this Agreement hereby agree as follows:-

1. The Indemnifying Party agrees to indemnify the Council, its employees, officers, servants or agents, from and against, any and all, claims liability, loss, expenses, suits, damages, judgements, demands and costs (including reasonable legal fees and expenses) of whatsoever nature arising directly or indirectly out of:-

- (i) the delivery by the Council to the Indemnifying Party of the Diseased Client’s Property; and
- (ii) the arrangements made relating to the funeral of the late Diseased Client.

2. The Indemnifying Party shall defend and settle at his/her sole expense all suits or proceedings arising out of the foregoing.

3. The obligations of the Indemnifying Party under this Indemnity Agreement shall last in perpetuity.

4. Any failure or delay by the Council to exercise any right power or privilege hereunder or to insist upon observance or performance by the Indemnifying Party of the provisions of the Indemnity Agreement shall not operate or be construed as a waiver thereof.

IN WITNESS whereof the parties to this Agreement have hereunto set their respective hands on the day and date appearing at the head of this Agreement

SIGNED: _____
The Indemnifying Party

Print Name: _____

WITNESS Signature _____

Print Name _____

Address _____

SIGNED: _____
Authorised Signatory on behalf of the Council

PRINT NAME: _____



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

THIS AGREEMENT is made the _____ day of _____ 2020
BETWEEN:-

1. ('the Representative')

Of

2. NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL of the
Civic Centre Port Talbot SA13 1PJ ('the Council')

WHEREAS:-

a) The Representative confirms that it does not want to collect from the Council, the monies and chattels listed on the attached Schedule, being the whole of the property ('the Diseased Client's Property') held by, or under the control of, the Council's Head of Finance, in his capacity as the duly appointed Court Deputy of the late ('the Client')

IN WITNESS whereof the parties to this Agreement have hereunto set their respective hands on the day and date appearing at the head of this Agreement

SIGNED: _____
The Representative

Print name: _____

WITNESS Signature _____

Print name: _____

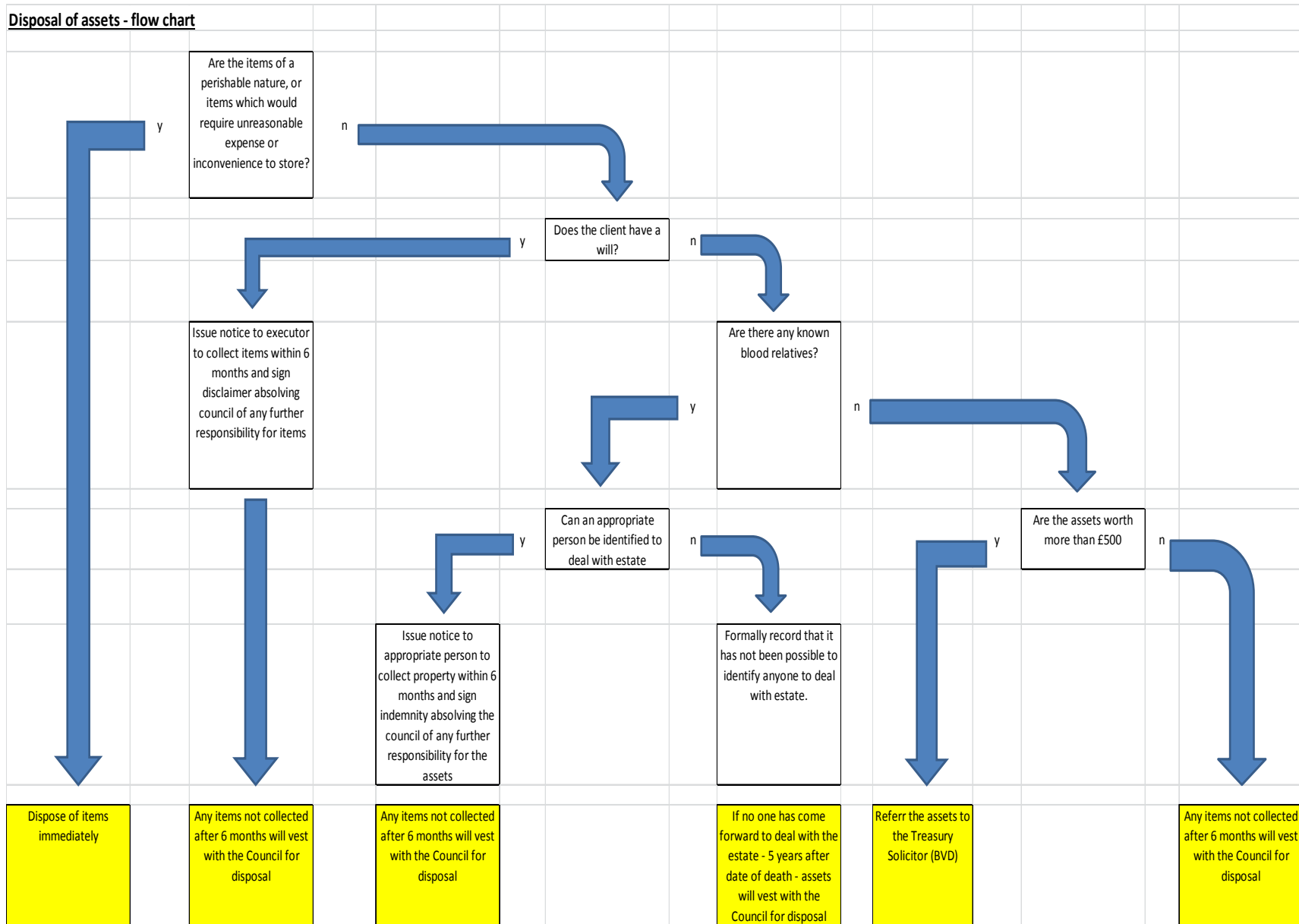
Address _____

SIGNED: _____
Authorised Signatory on behalf of the Council

PRINT NAME: _____

Disposal of Assets - Flow chart

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Impact Assessment - First Stage

1. Details of the initiative

<p>Initiative description and summary: Court Deputy – Policy for the Disposal of Assets of Deceased Clients. The Court Deputy Service responsibility to manage the financial and property of clients ends when they die. The aim of this policy is to enable the Council to appropriately manage the affairs of deceased clients.</p>
<p>Service Area: Court Deputy</p>
<p>Directorate: Finance & Corporate Services</p>

2. Does the initiative affect:

	Yes	No
Service users	y	
Staff	y	
Wider community		n
Internal administrative process only		n

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3. Does the initiative impact on people because of their:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't Know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)/How might it impact?
Age		n				
Disability	y					Clients receive a service because they lack capacity to manage their property and financial affairs
Gender Reassignment		n				
Marriage/Civil Partnership		n				
Pregnancy/Maternity		n				
Race		n				
Religion/Belief		n				
Sex		n				
Sexual orientation		n				

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4. Does the initiative impact on:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence used) / How might it impact?
People's opportunities to use the Welsh language		n				
Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English		n				

5. Does the initiative impact on biodiversity:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity		n				
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.		n				

6. Does the initiative embrace the sustainable development principle (5 ways of working):

	Yes	No	Details
Long term - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people	y		The strategy will ensure compliance with relevant statutes and standards and efficiently manage client finances in both the short and longer term
Integration - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives	y		The policy will ensure that assets re transferred to the rightful beneficiaries of the clients estate.
Involvement - how people have been involved in developing the initiative		n	
Collaboration - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions		n	
Prevention - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse		n	

7. Declaration - based on above assessment (tick as appropriate):

A full impact assessment (second stage) is not required	y
Reasons for this conclusion	

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A full impact assessment (second stage) is required	
Reasons for this conclusion	

	Name	Position	Date
Completed by	SE Gorman	Chief Accountant	27/01/20
Signed off by	DH Jones	Head of Service/Director	3/02/20

Mae'r dudalen hon yn fwiadol wag



Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Cabinet

12 February 2020

Report of the Head of Finance – H.Jones

Matter for Decision:

Non-domestic Rates - High Street and Retail Rates Relief Wales 2020/21

Wards Affected: All

Purpose of report

1. To outline and adopt a new discretionary rates relief scheme known as High Street and Retail Rates Relief Wales 2020/21.

Background

2. The Welsh Government will provide grant funding to the 22 Unitary Authorities to continue the High Street and Retail Rates Relief Scheme to eligible rate payers for 2020/21.

The enhanced scheme aims to provide support for eligible retail businesses by offering up to £2,500 discount on the non-domestic rates bill per property, to retailers occupying premises with a rateable value of £50,000 or less in the financial year 2020/21, subject to State Aids limits.

Each Authority must adopt the scheme and decide in each individual case when to grant relief under Section 47 of The Local Government Finance Act 1988. Business Rates relief provided in this scheme is then reimbursed via a grant to each Local Authority.

Qualifying Criteria

3. Properties that will benefit from this relief will be occupied high street and retail properties such as shops, restaurants, cafes and drinking establishments with a rateable value of £50,000 or less on or after the 1st April 2020.

It is intended for the purpose of this scheme, properties such as “shops, restaurants, cafes and drinking establishments” will mean:-

Hereditaments that are being used for the sale of goods to visiting members of the public

- Shops (such as florists, bakers, butchers, grocers, greengrocers, jewellers, stationers, off-licences, newsagents, hardware stores, supermarkets etc)
- Opticians
- Pharmacies
- Post Offices
- Furnishing shops or display rooms (such as carpet shops, double glazing, garage doors)
- Car or caravan showrooms
- Second hand car lots
- Markets
- Petrol Stations
- Garden centres
- Art Galleries (where art is for sale/hire)

Hereditaments that are being used for the provision of the following services to visiting members of the public

- Hair and beauty services
- Shoe repair / key cutting
- Travel agents
- Ticket offices (e.g. for theatre)
- Dry cleaners
- Launderettes

- PC, TV or domestic appliance repair
- Funeral directors
- Photo processing
- DVD/Video rentals
- Tool hire
- Car hire
- Cinemas
- Estate / letting agents

Hereditaments that are being used for the sale of food and/or drink to visiting members of the public

- Restaurants
- Drive through or drive-in restaurants
- Takeaways
- Sandwich shops
- Cafes
- Coffee shops
- Pubs
- Wine Bars

To qualify for the relief a hereditament listed above should be wholly or mainly used as a shop, restaurant, café or drinking establishment. This is a test on use rather than occupation. Therefore, hereditaments which are occupied but not wholly or mainly used for the qualifying purpose will not qualify for the relief.

The list set out above is not intended to be exhaustive as it would be impossible to list all the many and varied retail uses that exist. There will also be mixed uses. However, it is intended to be a guide for local authorities as to the type of uses that Welsh Government considers for this purpose to be high street and retail.

In compliance with Welsh Government guidance, the Council will deem that the types of uses below (or those similar in use) are not considered to be High Street and Retail Rates Relief for the purpose of this relief and will not be eligible for the relief.

Hereditaments that are not considered to be eligible for High Street and Retail Rates Relief

- Financial Services (banks, pawn brokers, building societies, cash points, ATMs, payday lenders, betting shops, bureaux de change)
- Medical Services (vets, dentists, doctors, osteopaths, chiropractors)
- Professional Services (solicitors, accountants, insurance agents, financial advisers, tutors)
- Post office sorting office
- Tourism accommodation (B&Bs, hotel accommodation, caravan parks)
- Sports clubs
- Children play centres
- Day nurseries
- Outdoor activity centres
- Gyms
- Kennels / Catteries
- Show homes/marketing suites
- Employment agencies

If a hereditament is not reasonably accessible to visiting members of the public, it will not be eligible for relief under the scheme.

Eligibility for the relief and the relief itself will be assessed and calculated on a daily basis. If there is a change in occupier part way through the year, after relief has been awarded, the new occupier will qualify for the relief on a pro-rata basis based on the remaining days of occupation using the following formula.

Amount of relief to be granted = $A \times (B/C)$

Where:

A is the funding amount of £2,500

B is the number of days in the financial year that the hereditament is eligible for relief; and

C is the number of days in the financial year

When calculating the relief, if the net liability before High Street and Retail Rates Relief is £2,500 or less, the maximum amount of this relief will be no more than the value of the net rate liability.

Rate payers that occupy more than one property will be entitled to High Street and Retail Rates relief for each of their eligible properties, subject to State Aid de minimis limits.

Financial Impact

4. Welsh Government have set aside a fully funded specific grant of £24.2m for this scheme.

Integrated Impact Assessment

5. A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

This is shown at Appendix 1 and should be considered by members before deciding on approving this policy. Members will note that the scheme for business rates relief in 2020-21 is being made available by the Welsh Government to all High Street Businesses in Wales that meet the published criteria. The approval of the scheme will provide equality of financial assistance and treatment to relevant businesses in Neath Port Talbot and across Wales.

Valleys Community Impacts

6. Positive impact for business rates payers who fit the criteria for the relief and subsequent reduction in rates bill.

Workforce impacts

7. There will be additional staff resource time required to review and award the relief on the accounts. This work will be absorbed within the Non Domestic Rates (NDR) Team.

Legal impact

8. There is a potential State Aid consideration in relation to this relief but that will only apply to an undertaking that receive aid over 200,000 euros in a 3 year period (current plus two previous financial years). As such the Welsh Government has prepared some sample paragraphs to be included in a letter to ratepayers about High Street Rates Relief. This information will be forwarded to all multi establishment ratepayers for them to claim this relief. This being relief provided in line with De Minimis State Aid Rules.

Risk management

9. There are potential state aid risks in relation to awarding this relief but this will be mitigated by requesting larger rate payers to claim the relief.

Consultation

10. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendation

11. It is recommended that Members accept the grant funding and adopt the High Street and Retail Rates Relief Scheme for 2020/21.

Reason for proposed decision

12. To enable the Business Rates Team to administer the High Street and Retail Rates Relief Scheme 2020/21.

Implementation of decision

13. The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices

14. Appendix 1 – Integrated Impact Assessment

List of background papers

15. Local Government Finance Act 1988.
Welsh Government Non Domestic High Street and Retail Rates Relief Scheme 2020-21.

Officer contact

16. Ms Ann Hinder - Principal Council Tax Officer
Tel. No. 01639 76309
E-mail: a.hinder@npt.gov.uk

Mr Huw Jones – Head of Finance
Tel. No. 01639 763575
E-mail: h.jones@npt.gov.uk

Impact Assessment - First Stage**1. Details of the initiative**

Initiative description and summary: To grant High Street Rates Relief for 2020-21
To provide financial support to help High Street businesses with their Business Rates in line with the Welsh Government Scheme.

Service Area: Revenues

Directorate: Finance and Corporate Services

2. Does the initiative affect:

	Yes	No
Service users		√
Staff		√
Wider community	√	
Internal administrative process only		√

3. Does the initiative impact on people because of their:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't Know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)/How might it impact?
Age						N/A
Disability						N/A
Gender Reassignment						N/A
Marriage/Civil Partnership						N/A
Pregnancy/Maternity						N/A
Race						N/A
Religion/Belief						N/A
Sex						N/A
Sexual orientation						N/A

4. Does the initiative impact on:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence used) / How might it impact?
People's opportunities to use the Welsh language		√				
Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English		√				

5. Does the initiative impact on biodiversity:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity		√				
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.		√				

6. Does the initiative embrace the sustainable development principle (5 ways of working):

	Yes	No	Details
Long term - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people	√		It provides opportunity for businesses to be more financially viable.
Integration - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives	√		It impacts positively on the viability of businesses

Involvement - how people have been involved in developing the initiative			N/A – Welsh Government proposal
Collaboration - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions			N/A – Welsh Government proposal
Prevention - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse			N/A – Welsh Government proposal

7. Declaration - based on above assessment (tick as appropriate):

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A full impact assessment (second stage) is not required	x
Reasons for this conclusion	
A full impact assessment is not required as this relates to implementing the Welsh Government scheme to assist High Street businesses with their business rates for 2020/21.	

A full impact assessment (second stage) is required	
Reasons for this conclusion	

	Name	Position	Date
Completed by	Ann Hinder	Principal Council Tax Officer	28.01.20
Signed off by	Huw Jones	Head of Finance	28.01.20

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

12 February 2020

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Digital Officer K. Jones

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Joint response to the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015

Purpose of Report

To seek authority to consult on the draft revised 'Healthy Relationships for Stronger Communities Strategy' - the council and health board joint response to the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.

Executive Summary

The Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 was introduced to improve arrangements for the prevention of gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence; improve arrangements for the protection of victims of such abuse and violence; and required the appointment of a National Adviser on gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence;

The Act placed a new general duty on local authorities to have regard (along with all other relevant matters) to the need to remove or minimise any factors which increases the risk of violence against women and girls or, exacerbate the impact of such violence on victims;

The Act also placed a duty on local authorities and health boards to produce and publish a local strategy for the local authority area and then to take reasonable steps to achieve the objectives set out in the local strategy.

In 2017, Neath Port Talbot's first 'Healthy Relationships for Stronger Communities' strategy was prepared. This was a 3 years strategy, overseen by the VAWDASV Leadership group. Significant progress has been made across all areas of VAWDASV related support and services. A draft revised strategy has been prepared for 2020-2023.

The objectives within this revised strategy mirror those in the original strategy, but the actions within them are new, to be delivered on over the next 3 years.

Attached, at Appendix 1 is the revised Strategy which has been developed and approved by a strengthened multi-agency partnership, chaired by Councillor Leanne Jones.

Background

The Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 aims to improve arrangements for the prevention of gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence; improve arrangements for the protection of victims of such abuse and violence; improve support for people affected by such abuse and violence; and requires the appointment of a National Adviser on gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

The Act created a number of new responsibilities for local authorities in Wales including a duty to prepare and public a strategy for the local authority's area, jointly with the relevant health board.

In order to meet the requirements of the Act, the former Domestic Abuse Strategy Group (DASG) was disbanded and replaced by a new multi-agency Leadership Group. There has been sustained senior commitment to the Group over the last three years and significant progress has been made on all aspects of the strategy. This commitment has continued with the development of the revised strategy for 2020-2023.

As with the original strategy, this revised Strategy follows the structure of the Welsh Government's National Strategy for Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, enabling the local partnership to demonstrate its contribution to delivering the national policy objectives established by the Welsh Government. It includes all of the areas of activity that are set out in various statutory guidance documents, but most importantly, it identifies the strengths and challenges for this area

and sets out a series of achievable actions to help us to achieve our long term vision:

“To prevent and eradicate violence against women, domestic abuse sexual violence by promoting equality, safety, respect and independence to enable everyone to live from abuse and the attitudes that perpetuate it.”

Key Objectives

There are seven objectives set out in the Strategy:

1. Communications & Engagement

To Increase awareness and challenge attitudes towards violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence

2. Children & Young People

To Increase awareness in children and young people of the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships and that abusive behaviour is always wrong

3. Perpetrators

Increased focus on holding perpetrators to account and provide opportunities to change their behaviour based on victim safety

4. Early Intervention & Prevention

Make early intervention and prevention a priority

5. Training

Relevant professionals are trained to provide effective, timely and appropriate response to victims

6. Accessible Services

Provide victims with equal access to appropriately resourced, high quality, needs led, strength based, gender responsive services across Neath Port Talbot

7. Courts & Criminal Justice

Increased focus on improving the recognition of and responses to violence against, women, domestic abuse and sexual violence in all criminal justice proceedings

Consultation

A wide range of stakeholders were consulted during the development of the Strategy. It is proposed that a further 4 week consultation and engagement exercise be undertaken to ensure that Strategy has wide support.

The form of consultation will include an on-line survey, face to face consultation with survivors, and distribution of the draft Strategy through various partnership networks, including the Supporting People Regional Commissioning Group, Area Planning Board, Community Safety Partnership and the Public Services Board.

Financial Impact

There are no new identified recurring revenue resources identified to support the new duties and responsibilities summarised in this report. Consequently, any proposed changes will require a refocusing of existing resource or acquisition of new funding streams.

Integrated Impact Assessment

The Equality Act 2010 requires public bodies to “pay due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share it.”

The subject of this report is legislation that is aimed at gender-based violence and consequently the impact should be positive as far as the protected characteristic of gender is concerned. Local research also identifies children as being affected by domestic abuse and consequently the impact of the legislation is likely to be positive for the protected characteristic of age.

An Integrated Impact Assessment is being developed and will be updated following the consultation and will be available when the final strategy is presented to Cabinet Board for approval.

Workforce Impact

The Act & Strategy has resulted in a new workplace Domestic Abuse Policy and the recent introduction of Safe Leave, for staff who are affected by any form of VAWDASV.

The Act continues to impact on commissioning activities that fall within the scope of the Act, which in turn may have particular workforce

implications e.g. the requirement to deliver training that meets the requirements set out in the National Training Framework. Other workforce impacts identified will be reported to Members when progress reports are made.

Legal Impact

The preparation and publication of a strategy will ensure the Council discharges its statutory duty as required within the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.

Crime and Disorder Impact

The Council has a legal duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to carry out all its various functions with “due regard to the need to prevent Crime and Disorder in its area”.

The strategy will assist the Council in discharging its duty to prevent gender-based crime and disorder in its area.

Risk Management

There is a risk of non-compliance with the duties introduced by the Act if sufficient resources are not provided to local authorities to cover the costs of the associated activities. This risk has been mitigated by ensuring proposed actions within the Strategy can be delivered within existing resource, albeit there is a continued need to refocus how those resources are best used, and work closely with partners to explore the potential to draw in additional funding.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 1) The Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Digital Officer is authorised to commence a four week public consultation exercise on the draft Strategy attached at Appendix 1, and the outcome of that consultation be reported back to the Cabinet in March 2020.

Reason for Proposed Decision

To provide the formal authority to the relevant officer to take the actions necessary to secure compliance by the Council with the duties under section 5 (1) of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015

Implementation of Decision

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices

1. Draft Neath Port Talbot Healthy Relationships for Stronger Communities Strategy (2020-2023); implementing the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015

List of Background Papers

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015

Officer Contact

Mrs Karen Jones, Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Digital Officer Tel: 01639 763283 or e-mail k.jones3@npt.gov.uk

Ms Elinor Wellington, Corporate Policy Officer for Domestic Abuse
Tel: 01639 889161 or email e.wellington@npt.gov.uk

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NPT Healthy Relationships for Stronger Communities 2020-2023

Implementing the Violence Against women,
Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015

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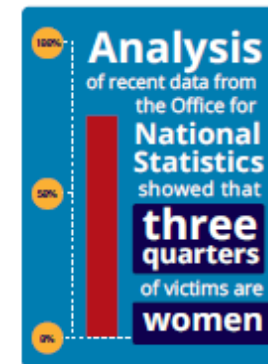
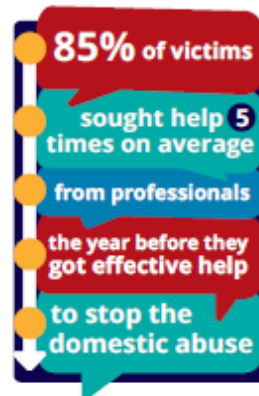
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DRAFT

1. Introduction

The human and emotional costs of Violence in domestic and public spheres cannot be underestimated.



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This is Neath Port Talbot County Borough Councils second 'Healthy Relationships for Stronger Communities' strategy, implementing the Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015. The first strategy was

published in 2017. Since this time, various changes have been made and this progress is highlighted throughout this revised strategy.

As with our original strategy, this is an overarching plan which outlines the priority areas and strategic direction around healthy relationships and the implementation of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 within Neath Port Talbot. It has been developed with the involvement of partner agencies and survivors. It aims to tackle all forms of violence in relationships, responding to the growing number of referrals being received by specialist providers; reducing harm and improving the lives of those affected.

This agenda is **'everyone's business'** and is a cross-cutting theme that requires all areas of public policy to address violence in domestic and public spheres, to shape and improve the delivery of services for those affected and to meet the requirements outlined in the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015. This Act places a statutory duty on the Local Authority and Swansea Bay University Health Board to jointly prepare and publish strategies to meet local needs and to prevent all forms of Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV).

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC) and Swansea Bay University Health Board has worked with a wide range of partner agencies to develop this strategy and will continue to work with partner agencies to provide services to all victims of crime and to bring all offenders to justice. We have also worked closely with Swansea City Council, to establish areas of work which are best delivered on a regional basis and these will be highlighted throughout the strategy.

The term "Violence Against Women" which is used nationally and in this strategy refers to the range of crime types which are **predominantly, but not exclusively**, experienced by women and girls. Such gender-based violence includes domestic abuse, rape and sexual violence, stalking, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, crimes committed in the name of 'honour', trafficking, sexual exploitation, including commercially through the sex industry, and sexual harassment in the workplace and public.

Having a co-ordinated approach to addressing these issues does not mean this neglects abuse directed towards **men and boys** or other groups and individuals who experience these forms of violence, or neglects to deal with violence perpetrated by women, where this occurs.

Those with the power to transform the cultures that perpetuate violence must work together. This strategy encourages partners to further work together to achieve positive outcomes for all victims of VAWDASV.

2. Our Vision, Aims & Key Principles

*“To prevent and eradicate gender based violence by promoting: equality; safety; respect; and, independence to enable **everyone** to live free from abuse and the attitudes that perpetuate it.”*

Having a co-ordinated community response ensures that all relevant organisations effectively respond to these issues, both within their own agencies and in collaboration with other partners, to prevent harm, reduce risk and increase immediate and long-term safety for people living in Neath Port Talbot.

This agenda affects all services including children and adult services, housing, the police, health, probation, civil and criminal courts, voluntary and community organisations. We maintain that it is everyone’s responsibility to address all forms of VAWDASV by identifying and supporting survivors and their children and holding perpetrators accountable, whilst offering opportunities to change their behaviour.

Our response to these issues highlights the diversity and needs of people affected and the most significant priority is to keep survivors at the centre of our work.

We recognise that violence and abuse affects people regardless of their age, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, class and marital status.

Violence in relationships may have a range of consequences including homelessness, mental health, problematic substance misuse, child protection issues, physical injury and offending behaviour.

Tudalen67

Aims & Key Principles

In line with the requirements of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, our aims and key principles within this strategy have been developed to meet the following 5 ways of working which will help us to work together better, avoid repeating any past mistakes and tackle some of the long term challenges we are facing

Tudalen 68

Long Term

- To ensure there is a strong focus on education and work with young people with the aim of eradicating violence and abuse over the long term
- To work with communities and employers to bring about a cultural shift in attitudes towards violence and abuse so that it is no longer tolerated or considered acceptable
- To provide services that offer best value for money

Involvement

- To ensure our service delivery is person centred
- To ensure the voices of people affected by violence and abuse are heard and that more opportunity is created to develop services that are evidence based and include survivor involvement

Early Intervention & Prevention

- To refocus funding and remodel services so that victims and perpetrators can access help and support at the earliest possible time and to prevent cases reaching a point of crisis

Collaboration

- Continue to build and develop a confident, strong partnership
- To develop regional and national collaborative approaches where this is more effective than a local response
- To develop a collaborative commissioning model for all VAWDASV services in the NPT area

Integration

- To adopt a holistic approach so that the wellbeing of people affected by violence and abuse is considered in service responses
- To ensure this work is recognised as everyone's business

3. Achievements

Since the development of the first 'Healthy Relationships for Stronger Communities Strategy' in 2017, significant progress has been made. This chapter highlights some of the key areas of progress made against each of the 7 objectives of our original strategy. This revised strategy will further build on these achievements, working towards preventing VAWDASV and better supporting those who are affected.

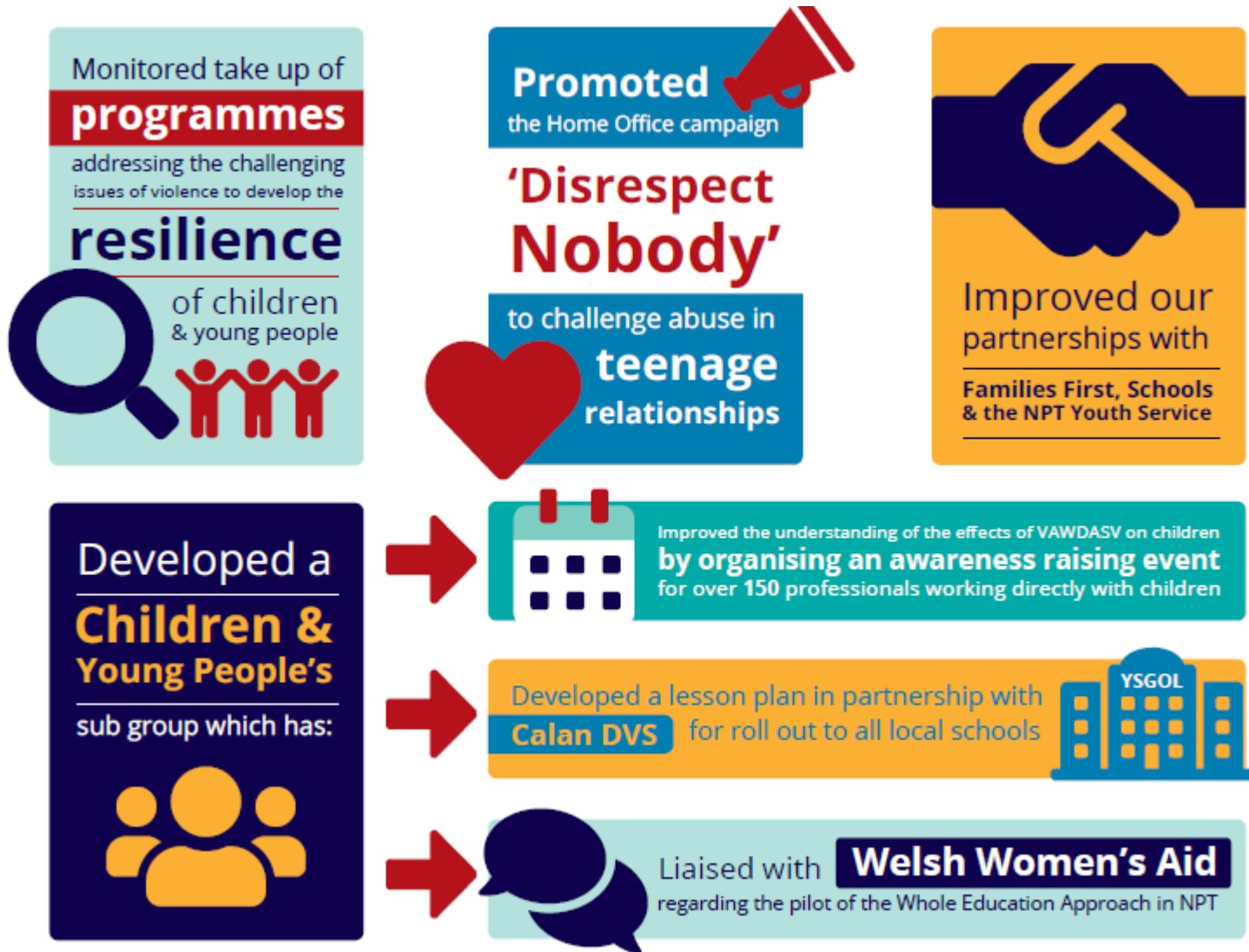
What have we achieved?

Objective 1 – Communications & Engagement



Objective 2 – Children & Young People

Tudalen 70



Objective 3 – Working With Perpetrators



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Objective 4 – Early Intervention & Prevention



Objective 5 – Training and Development

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Developed & implemented a


Training Programme

in compliance with the National Framework


Developed



referral



pathways



to enable an effective response to any disclosure of VAWDASV

Embedded the **White Ribbon** video into all training



70%

of NPT staff trained to

Level 1 of the National Training Framework

Delivered training to:


-  **Local Councillors**
-  **NPT Older Persons Council**
-  **30 Local Magistrates**
-  **CVS Volunteers**

Swansea Bay Uni Health Board undertook the

'Ask & Act'

pilot to increase the number of people identified by

Health workers



Objective 6 – Accessible Services

Tudalen 73



Objective 7 – Courts & Criminal Justice

Tudalen 74




Began to routinely
capture
court outcomes
and survivor feedback
to help shape
services going forward



Developed
links with local
**Magistrates
& Youth Justice**
service
partners
to raise
awareness of
VAWDASV



Encouraged use of the
remote
evidence
facility



at the OSS for
vulnerable victims
& witnesses in VAWDASV



Improved
links with the local
**Specialist
Domestic
Violence Court
& Steering Group**

4. Context

In England and Wales, the largest element of VAWDASV cost is the physical and emotional harm suffered by the victims themselves (£47 billion). The next highest cost is for lost output relating to time taken off work and reduced productivity afterwards (£14 billion)¹. Taking the costs of sexual violence and other forms of abuse into account would significantly increase this amount.

Welsh Context

Over the last few years in Wales, significant progress has been made in improving services for those who experience Violence within their relationships, particularly since the enactment of the **Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act** in 2015.

Section 5 (1) of the Act places a duty on Local Authorities and Local Health Boards to jointly prepare and publish a Local Strategy which aims to end and ensure consistent consideration of preventative, protective and supportive mechanisms in the delivery of services.

This strategy has a key role to play in ensuring that Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and Swansea Bay University Health Board are meeting the requirements of the Act.

Following the introduction of the VAWDASV Act, Welsh Government introduced the **National Strategy on Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (2016-2021)**. This sets out a renewed commitment to tackling VAWDASV, building on progress to date and prioritises delivery in the areas of **prevention, protection and support**.

A suite of statutory guidance has also been issued under the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act, which sets out how relevant authorities should exercise their functions in relation to implementation. This includes;

- a whole education approach,
- National Training Framework, including 'Ask and Act',
- multi-agency working
- commissioning
- working with and responding to perpetrators

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-economic-and-social-costs-of-domestic-abuse>

The National Training Framework has been established by Welsh Government to ensure an unfailing standard of public service in order to create a consistent standard of care for those who experience Violence.

This National Training Framework has two main functions:

- Consistent, proportionately disseminated training for relevant authorities to fundamentally improve the understanding of the general workforce and, therefore the response to those who experience violence.
- Alignment of existing specialist training to further professionalise the specialist sector, to improve consistency of specialist subject training provision nationally and to set core requirements of specialist service provision.

“Ask and Act” is one of the most significant practice changes, facilitated through the National Training Framework.

The ‘Ask and Act’ policy framework is a process of targeted enquiry to be practiced across the Public Service to identify people affected by VAWDASV. These two policies are integrated, in that local delivery of the National Training Framework also delivers key aspects of “Ask and Act”. Statutory Guidance is expected in 2020.

The aims of the national “Ask and Act” framework are to:

- Increase identification of those experiencing Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence ;
- Offer referrals and interventions for those identified, which provide specialist support based on the risk and needs of the client;
- Begin to create a culture across the Public Service where addressing Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence is an accepted area of business and where disclosure is expected, supported, accepted and facilitated;
- Improve the response to those who experience Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence with other complex needs such as substance misuse and mental health; and to pro-actively engage with those who are vulnerable and hidden, at the earliest opportunity, rather than only reactively engaging with those who are in crisis or at imminent risk of serious harm.

There are various other pieces of legislation, guidance and research that we must have regard to in this strategy and during its implementation. These are outlined below;

Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

The requirement to undertake a local needs assessment in relation to the duties in the Act aligns with Section 14 of the **Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014** (SSWBA), which also requires a ‘population needs assessment’ to inform the development of local strategies. The first population assessment has been published. When a local authority and Local Health Board

is exercising functions in relation to children under SSWBA, they must also have regard to Part 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

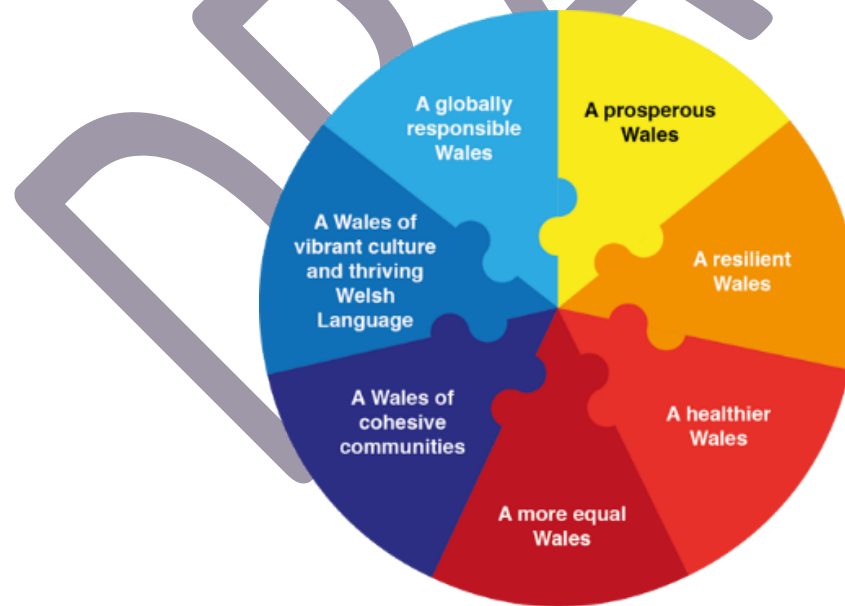
Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-being of Future Generations Act requires public bodies in Wales to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other, and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.

The Act is unique to Wales attracting interest from countries across the world as it offers a huge opportunity to make a long-lasting, positive change to current and future generations.

To make sure we are all working towards the same purpose, the Act puts in place seven well-being goals. The Act makes it clear that public bodies must work to achieve all of the goals.

The 7 wellbeing goals are;



Neath Port Talbot Healthy Relationships For Stronger Communities Strategy

The work of the local VAWDASV partnership will contribute to Neath Port Talbot meeting the 7 wellbeing goals, in particular 'A healthier Wales' and 'A Wales of Cohesive Communities'.

The Act also sets out five ways of working needed for Public Bodies to achieve the seven well-being goals;



The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act also requires a Public Services Board to be set up in each local authority area in Wales.

The NPT Public Service Board identified key objectives to improve the well-being of the people who live in the Neath Port Talbot area;

Objective 1: Support children in their early years, especially children at risk of adverse childhood experiences

Objective 2: Create safe, confident and resilient communities, focusing on vulnerable people

Objective 3: Put more life into our later years - Ageing Well

The work to tackle VAWDASV in NPT contributes to achieving these objectives, specifically Objectives 1 and 2.

Housing (Wales) Act 2014

The ***Housing (Wales) Act 2014*** enshrines in legislation the role of the local authority in preventing and alleviating homelessness, this will change the way that services are delivered to survivors of violence who flee their home seeking a safe place to live. The Welsh Government guidance which supports the practical delivery of the legislation advises local authorities and their partners, as follows:

“Local authorities should be led by the wishes and feelings of the victim of domestic abuse when determining accommodation arrangements. The first option, where appropriate, should be for the perpetrator to be removed from the property to enable the victim to remain in their home. The Local Authority must also consider improving the security of the applicant’s home to enable them to continue living there safely. Alternatively, the Local Authority must assist the victim in sourcing alternative accommodation, whether on a permanent or temporary basis”²

This reinforces the need for local authorities need to work in partnership to ensure that prevention of homelessness is at the forefront of thinking. This will require an alternative approach to the provision of temporary, crisis accommodation and support.

Adverse Childhood Experiences

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) is now a widely recognised term which stems from research conducted by the leading **National Public Health Institute of the United States**.

² Welsh Government 2016. Code of Guidance for local authorities on the allocation of housing and homelessness.

The research shows a correlation between childhood trauma and adult health outcomes. The research found children's developing brains and central nervous systems are so profoundly affected by ACE's that they are the root cause of many chronic diseases, most mental illness and most violence. The 10 ACE's measured in the research are:

1. Physical abuse
2. Sexual abuse
3. Verbal abuse
4. Physical neglect
5. Emotional neglect
6. A family member who is depressed or diagnosed with other mental health issues
7. A family member who is addicted to alcohol or another substance
8. A family member who is in prison
9. Witnessing Domestic Abuse
10. Losing a parent to separation, divorce or death

Many other types of trauma may also have an impact such as natural disasters and community violence.

The **Wales Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study**³ suggests that a significant number of adults in Wales have experienced one or more forms of ACE.

Evidence suggests that experiencing 4 or more types of adverse childhood experiences leads to a person being 14 times more likely to be a victim of violence. It also provides evidence that preventing ACE's can significantly reduce the possibility of violence victimisation by 57%, and can further reduce the likelihood of violent perpetration by 60%. Ultimately the provision of effective support and early intervention for those impacted by ACE's will have a longer term impact on the reduced demand and costs to health and social services. The Home Office strategy suggests ACE initial enquiry should be actioned within health care settings.

NICE Domestic Abuse Guidance and Quality Standards

In 2014, the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) issued "*Domestic violence and abuse: how health services, social care and the organisations they work with can respond effectively*". The Welsh Government has an agreement in place with the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) covering the Institute's guidelines which highlights; Domestic Abuse is a complex issue that needs sensitive handling by a range of health and social care professionals. The cost, in both human and economic terms, is so

³ Public Health Wales (2015) Wales Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study, PHW

significant that even marginally effective interventions are cost effective. NICE issued further Domestic Abuse Quality Standards for healthcare providers in February 2016. These standards are aimed at everyone working in health and social care whose work brings them into contact with people who experience or perpetrate Domestic Abuse. Recommendations include key issues of importance for regions to have regard to when delivering local Domestic Abuse strategies.⁴

National Review of Refuge Provision

In 2018, the First Minister announced a review of refuge provision across Wales. The review, led by the Wales Centre for Public Policy, will examine some of best international examples of services and support, and engage with people who have experience of refuge and sexual abuse services, to develop a made-in-Wales model that provides a world-leading standard of support to victims of sexual violence.

Housing First

An updated Housing First model in Wales is imminent, which could influence changes to legislation.

Housing First approaches are based on the concept that a homeless individual or household's first and primary need is to obtain stable housing, and that other issues that may affect the household can and should be addressed once housing is obtained.

South Wales Police and Crime Commissioners' Tackling Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2019 – 2024

The strategy sets out four key priority areas for action:

- 1) Enhanced Collaboration: We will work together to deliver a whole system approach to preventing violence against women and girls in all its forms
- 2) Prevention and Early Intervention: With partners we will focus on the long-term impact of decisions and work to keep people safe, healthy and well
- 3) Safeguarding: We will build on existing safeguarding arrangements, seeking ways to protect all victims, wherever they may be
- 4) Perpetrators: We will increase our focus on the behaviour of the perpetrator (in parallel with supporting victims and survivors of violence and abuse) to better hold perpetrators to account for the consequences of their actions and offer opportunities to change their behaviour through a range of interventions

Their action plan adopts the widely-recognised “Four P’s” framework of Prepare, Prevent, Protect, and Pursue and aligns each of these against the priority areas below.

⁴ The full suite of recommendations can be found at <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/PH50/chapter/1-Recommendations>

Prepare: ensuring the best possible governance, collaboration and commissioning of evidence-based models and innovation, understand available resource and effectively targeting it, involving those affected to ensure the best outcomes

Prevent: intervening at the earliest opportunity to prevent violence & abuse from occurring or getting worse

Protect: safeguarding victims and potential victims from harm and providing pathways to services

Pursue: placing an active focus on the behaviour of perpetrators and consequences of that behaviour, alongside supporting victims

New Safeguarding Procedures

Wales has become the first part of the UK to introduce a single set of safeguarding guidelines for children and adults at risk when the new Wales Safeguarding Procedures launch, online and via an app, launched on 11 November 2019.

The Wales Safeguarding Procedures will standardise practice across Wales and between agencies and sectors.

The procedures will set out the essential roles and responsibilities for anyone working with children or adults who are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm. In doing so they will replace the current All Wales Child Protection Procedures as well as various local safeguarding procedures for adults and other central guidance previously issued by Welsh Government.

Wales Audit Office

On behalf of the Auditor General for Wales, the Welsh Audit Office have examined how the new duties and responsibilities of the VAWDASV Act are being rolled out and delivered. Their report was published in November 2019 and concludes that victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence are often let down by an inconsistent, complex and fragmented system.

The report sets out a series of key recommendations that are intended to help bodies who support and have responsibility to assist victims and survivors.⁵

UK and EU

Welsh Government has framed its legislation and guidance on Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence alongside the UK and EU legislation;

- Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (2016-2020)
- European Union (EU) Directive on Victims' Rights⁶

⁵ Welsh Audit Office - Progress in implementing the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act

⁶ A person should be considered to be a victim regardless of whether an offender is identified, apprehended, prosecuted or convicted and regardless of the familial relationship between them. For a summary of European Commission priorities for victims of crime see http://ec.europa.eu/justice/criminal/victims/rights/index_en.htm . The full text of the Directive (2012/29/EU) is available at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32012L0029>

- The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women, and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention)
- Welfare Reform

The Spotlight Initiative

The European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN) are embarking on a new, global, multi-year initiative focused on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls called the Spotlight Initiative.

The Initiative is so named as it brings focused attention to this issue, moving it into the spotlight and placing it at the centre of efforts to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Spotlight Initiative will respond to all forms of Violence Against Women and Girls, with a particular focus on domestic and family violence, sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices, femicide, trafficking in human beings and sexual and economic exploitation. In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Initiative will fully integrate the principle of 'leaving no one behind'.

Brexit

When the outcome of Brexit is known, it is possible that we may need to review any areas of the strategy that may be impacted i.e. funding arrangements, definitions etc.

5. Resources and Service Mapping

There are a range of services in Neath Port Talbot to address VAWDASV. More detailed information can be found in Appendix 2.

Accommodation
3 Refuges with 19 spaces

- 'Move-On' Accommodation**
5 self contained flats
- Temporary Accommodation**
14 units of housing
- Housing Options**
148 DA presentations in 17/18

Support

- Floating Support** 31 units
- Freedom Programme**
- National Helpline** 937 landline calls from NPT

One Stop Shops in Neath and PT

- Drop in service
- Solicitor
- Counselling
- Victim Focus
- Remote Evidence Facility used by 80 victims (16-19)

High Risk

- MARAC 18/19**
506 cases discussed
555 children in households
34% repeat cases
- IDVA 18/19**
402 referrals

Social Services
 SPOC then signposting to:

- EIP with Families First
- Statutory Services
- Information & Advice
- 10471 contacts in 18-19
- 1598 referrals in 18-19
- FAST, IFSS & HH Service

Families First

- Team Around the Family
- Children & Families Team
- Domestic Abuse Service
- Flying Start

Children & Young People Education

- Spectrum
- All Wales Schools Liaison Programme
- Crucial Crew - 1600 Year 6 pupils
- Relationship & Sexuality Education lessons
- NPT Youth Service - (16-25 yr olds)
- Higher Education - Fresher's Week

Targeted Specialist Services

- Sexual Assault Referral Centre**
- Black Association of Women Step Out**
4 referrals in 18-19
- Calan DVS**
→ Inspiring Families
→ Compass Project (for male victims)
- Thrive Women's Aid**
Video Interactive Guidance Project
LIFE Project
EDGE Project
Crisis Intervention
Support for Children & Young People
→ STAR Programme
→ Young Persons Recovery Toolkit

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Resources to Address VAWDASV in NPT

The funding of services in NPT is complex. The follow funding underpins the delivery of services to survivors of VAWDASV;

Supporting	Supporting People	£255,384	33 units of floating support
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Neath Port Talbot Healthy Relationships For Stronger Communities Strategy

People	Programme Grant	£407,255	38 units of refuge and move on accommodation
Community Safety	WG funding	£84,550	Contributes to funding of the IDVA service
	Police & Crime Commissioner	£80,071.50	Contributes to funding of the IDVA service
	Crime Prevention Panel and ad hoc WG funding	£5,000	Target hardening - Security items for victims of VAWDASV
Families First	Welsh Government-Families First	£98,174	Early Intervention Prevention Services (Provided by Thrive Women's Aid) see page 19
NPTCBC	Core Funding		VAWDASV Support including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training Delivery and Roll Out • Policy Officer • MARAC Coordinator

In addition, the majority of the rental income to fund refuge accommodation and move on accommodation is funded from Housing Benefit payments⁷.

Each of the three specialist providers are charities and access funding from a range of other sources;

Recipient	Funding Provider	Amount	Purpose
Calan DVS	Awaiting	Awaiting	Awaiting
Thrive WA	Moondance	£20,000	Video Interaction Guidance
Thrive WA	Henry Smith	£112,359	Children and Young People Service
Thrive WA	Lloyds	£48,198	Crisis Intervention
Thrive WA	Children In Need	£19,742	Children and Young People Trips and Activities
Thrive WA	Comic Relief	£119,903	The EDGE Project
Thrive WA	The National Lottery Community Fund	£101,644	LIFE
Hafan Cymru	Welsh Government	Awaiting	Spectrum Project

Resources and Service Mapping Conclusion

⁷ This is not shown in the figure quoted above

Over the past 3 years, the picture has changed across NPT. This is not only due to work undertaken as part of the strategy, but due to changes in funding arrangements. Grant funded programmes are often funded on a short term basis, which makes long term sustainability difficult to achieve.

We recognise that there is a range of good quality services available in Neath Port Talbot. However, we are still in a position where some of these services need modernisation and work is still underway to achieve this.

- There is a continued need to further develop Early Intervention and Prevention and Community Based Services to prevent and reduce the number of victims requiring crisis services.
- More focus is needed on supporting victims to remain in their own homes.
- We acknowledge that there remains to be a limited insight into male victims and marginal groups and we need to explore this in more detail over the coming years.
- The focus of the work over the past 3 years has been largely based on Domestic Abuse and we need to ensure there is an increased focus on sexual violence prevention and support.
- We recognize there is a need to commission services differently, for those victims with complex needs, such as mental health and substance misuse.
- Unfortunately, there remains a paucity of support available to perpetrators, which requires further consideration and will be explored further on in this strategy
- We must ensure survivors are involved in every area of VAWDASV policy and local work.

Over the past three years there is far better coverage and focus on VAWDASV within Education and Youth settings, particularly as the approach is now more coordinated, with the amalgamation of the VAWDASV Children and Young Peoples Sub Group and local Relationship and Sexuality Education Group.

In terms of criminal justice outcomes, there is scope for further improvement and the three Domestic Homicide Reviews that have taken place in this area emphasise the importance of effective offender management, especially when perpetrators have been shown to demonstrate a pattern of escalating violence. This is also explored further on in the strategy.

6. Consultation and Engagement

During 2019, a regional review of VAWDASV services was undertaken. As part of this process, a range of means were put in place to allow partners and survivors to contribute. This has provided a rounded view of what works well, where there are gaps in provision and opportunities for improvement to be formed.

A workshop was held with members of the VAWDASV Leadership Group as an opportunity to discuss current working arrangements and priorities.

The information obtained from these exercises has been used to inform this strategy, in particular the actions we need to take in order to meet our objectives. The key themes are outlined below;

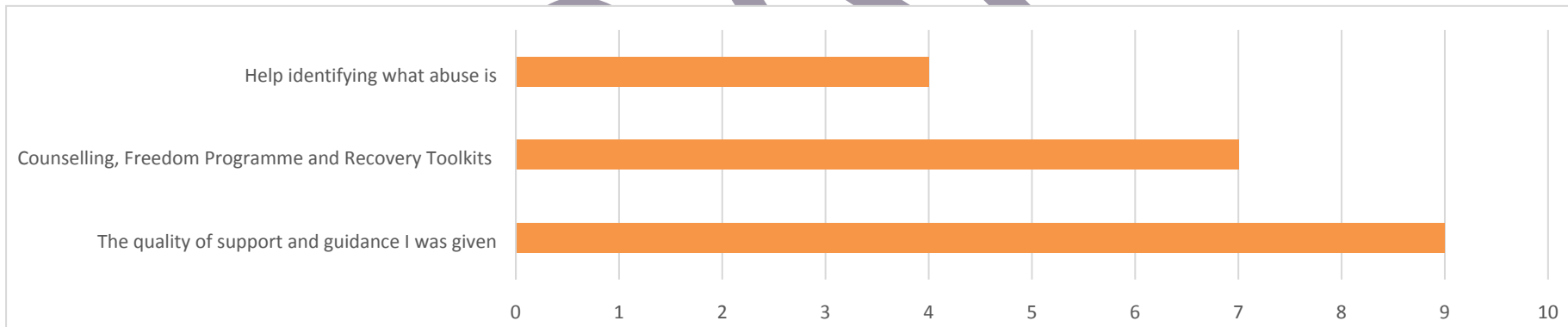
Priority Themes from Survivors – 1:1 Interviews / Group sessions	
	More education in schools and in the community about recognising abuse and unhealthy relationships.
	Independent units within a refuge with the option of a shared living space for people to meet
	Ensuring ongoing support for people after they leave refuge, even if the support is low level (e.g. a drop in facility or social activity)
	More support at weekends
	Increased volunteering opportunities to develop skill and confidence
	More awareness raising of males experiencing domestic abuse
	Organised social activities for male victims to reduce the isolation and poor mental health experienced by survivors, which could help people with their recovery.
	Lower cost housing options for people when leaving refuge
	Access to English lessons and interpreters is essential for BME survivors
	Further practical help when transitioning from refuge to independent housing, and more help with securing furniture and whitegoods
	Support for pregnant and new mothers and babies in refuge
	Waiting lists for Sexual Violence related support are too long
	Generic counselling for victims of sexual violence is not helpful- specialist counselling is needed
	Lack of confidence in the court process – Victims sometimes feel like they themselves are on trial
	Peer support for Sexual Violence survivors and group activities
Priority themes from Specialist Services, Commissioners and Partner agencies;	
	Funding for the full range of needs-led evidence-based services

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Build opportunities for improved communication, collaboration and integration (between agencies and between agencies and public)
Sustainable/longer term commissioning
Training/upskilling staff; improving service standards
Increased flexibility (either of funding or of ability to flex services)
Invest in coproduction of services with survivors at the centre
Fund sexual violence services
Make sure the commissioning process meets local needs
Fund more early intervention and prevention and CYP services
Improve mental health access and provision

We produced an open access survey for survivors. 47 responses were received. We asked;

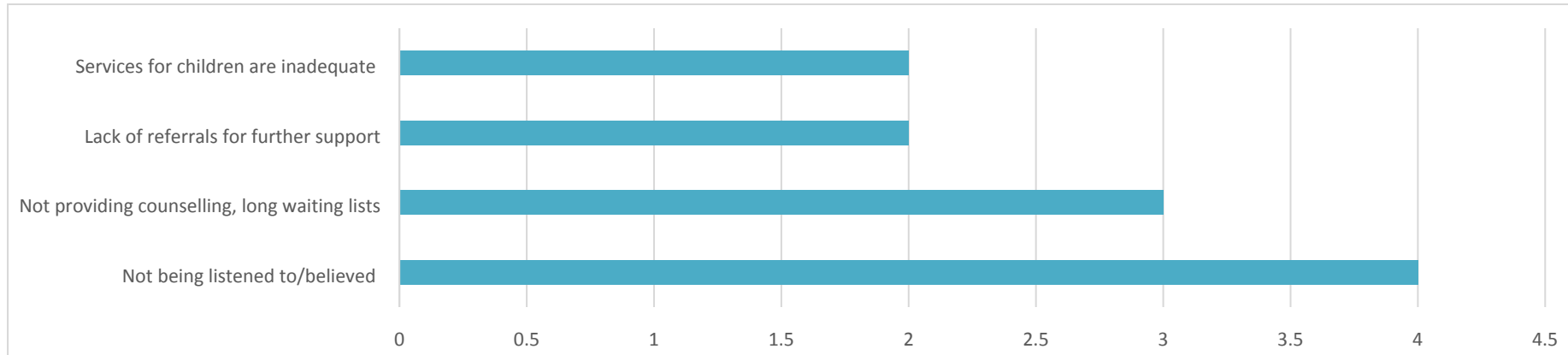
What are the good things about support and what worked well?



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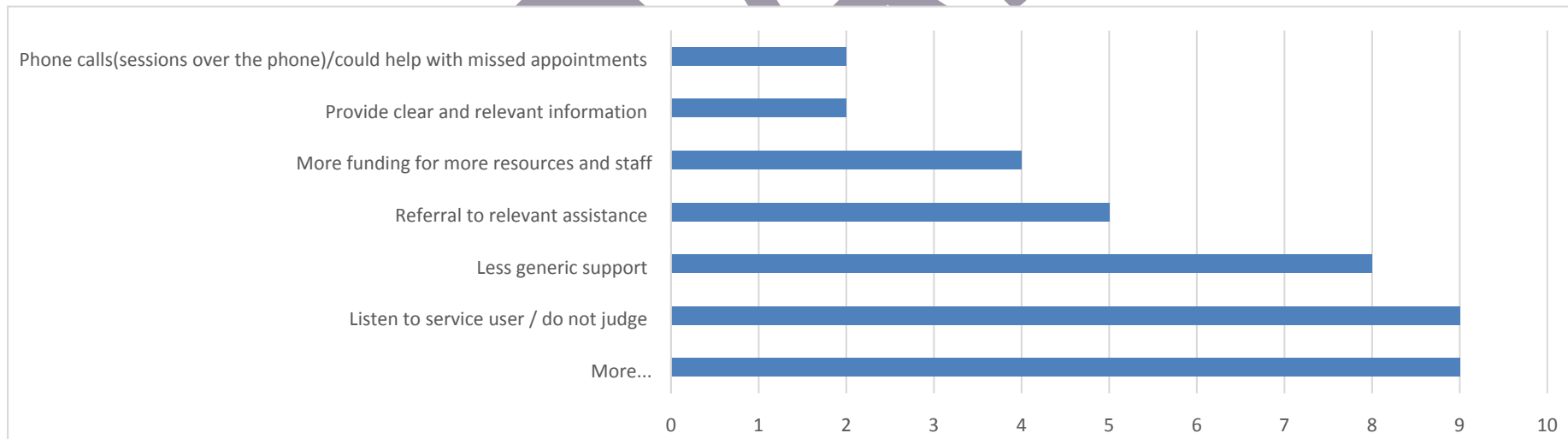
Where support didn't work well and why?

Neath Port Talbot Healthy Relationships For Stronger Communities Strategy



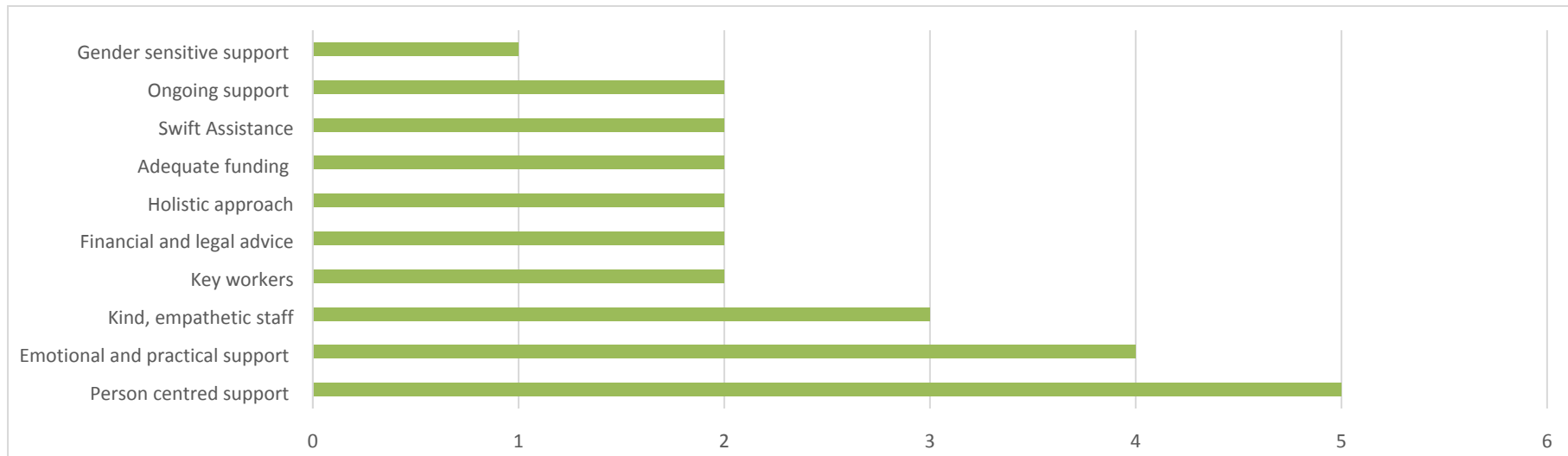
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The 3 most important things service providers should do to make sure they meet people's needs:

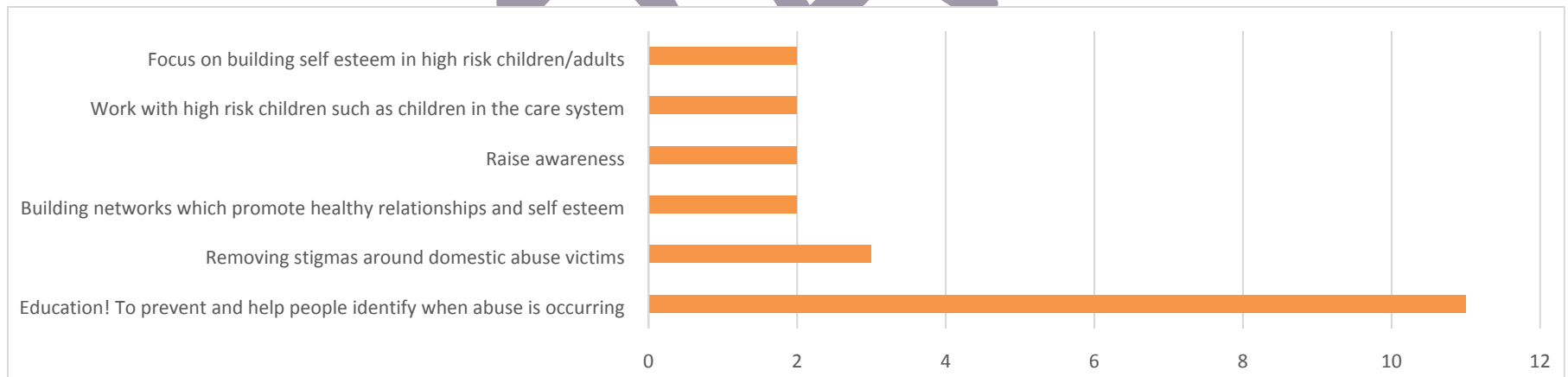


What would an 'excellent service' look like?

Neath Port Talbot Healthy Relationships For Stronger Communities Strategy



What kind of help and support would assist in preventing and reducing VAWDASV?



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22 survivors said they had children who had witnessed or been affected by domestic abuse, and 7 of these said their children had accessed services in relation to their experiences.

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Please tell us what you thought was good about the service your child/children received?	Is there anything that could have been done differently/improved on?
The doctor listens to her and did all he could when she had a few epilepsy seizures in one day	No
Nothing	Not to look like a doctor's surgery and waiting room
My child has received support from CAMHS and school. This is still ongoing	No
My son did the STAR course. The best part was that he could do it 1 to 1. He really didn't want to go in a group. His worker went to his school and did the course with him there. He got a lot out of it.	No
Helped them come to terms with what's happened and understand they not to blame and be more open about it	Pursue a bit more: found that 1 to 1 was given up on quickly because child said they were ok but some problems were still there
Support within the school..., constant check-ups, someone always there to talk to.	Not for my child. They received so much help, they're like the old child again!
It was done through play, so my children had fun and wanted to engage	The 3 rd sector provider was absolutely outstanding in supporting my kids through the aftermath of leaving a relationship and relocating via the local refuge.

7. Overarching Framework & Strategic Objectives

The purpose of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 is to;

- improve arrangements for the **prevention** of VAWDASV;
- improve arrangements for the **protection** of victims of VAWDASV and;
- to improve **support** for people affected by VAWDASV.

Prevention

We are committed to preventing violence in relationships from happening, by challenging the attitude and behaviours which foster it and intervening early, where possible, to prevent its recurrence.

The prevention of violence is central to agendas on public health; reducing crime and the harm caused by serious violent crime; safeguarding children and adults with support needs; promoting education, learning and skills development; and promoting equality.

Prevention involves education to change attitudes and perceptions (to reduce the incidence of a problem among a population before it occurs) and can be targeted, at broad population groups, such as school-age children or members of a particular community.

Protection

We are committed to ensuring those who experience any form of violence are appropriately protected, eliminating the risk of further harm to victims and their children.

We want **anyone** experiencing these issues to be aware of the support that is available locally and we want to be confident that all professionals within our area are equipped with the knowledge to effectively respond to any disclosures.

Support

We are committed to providing high-quality support for survivors and their families, ensuring services meet their needs and prioritise their safety, to enable them to achieve independence and freedom from abuse.

It is vital that survivors receive the right support, at the right time, to enable them to take action that is right for them.

Strategic Objectives

The strategic objectives for 2020-2023 will mirror those in our original strategy. Our chosen objectives are derived from the Welsh Government National VAWDASV Strategy. Having similar Objectives within Neath Port Talbot enables us to demonstrate how we will support the Welsh Government in achieving its policy objectives regarding Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. However, it is important to note that Objective 7 does not form part of the Welsh Government National Strategy as this is focused on Criminal Justice. Welsh Government do not have devolved responsibility for this area, it remains the responsibility of the UK Government. In order to ensure a holistic response to VAWDASV in NPT we want to reflect the contribution that CJS partners are making locally, and how we will work to improve these arrangements.

The remainder of this chapter will provide a breakdown of each objective and the actions that we will work towards over the next three years. There are actions that can be delivered locally and others that lend themselves to a regional approach.

The actions are designed to be manageable and achievable, ensuring we are able to make a difference to local victims and their families. All actions require a continued, strong, partnership approach for maximum effectiveness and positive outcomes.

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Objective 1

Increase the reports of Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in Neath Port Talbot, through awareness raising and challenging attitudes

Current Position

Over the past three years, a substantial amount of work has gone into the development of the VAWDASV Communications & Engagement Group. Formerly the Prevention, Education & Awareness Raising Group (PEAR), the group has now been refocused by the VAWDASV Leadership Group to provide a more co-ordinated and strategic approach to its work.

The group now has a strong, clear Terms of Reference with membership from relevant partner agencies. The group also has a Communications Plan and calendar of key events.

The group continue to be responsible for;

- the development and implementation of a programme of awareness raising of all VAWDASV services
- raising awareness of the impact of VAWDASV on victims
- organising, promoting and undertaking prevention campaigns and initiatives

The group now deliver universal awareness campaigns, to raise awareness and increase peoples understanding about VAWDASV, including the help and support that is available locally, regionally and nationally.

Going forward, there is a need for a survivor / survivors voice on the group to help shape future awareness raising campaigns, taking into account any situations where they sought help but faced adversity and felt misunderstood or not listened to. This will help us to understand where we need to focus our efforts in terms of awareness raising, not only for members of the community but also for the services and / or organisations they approached for help who were unable to provide appropriate support or advice.

There will always be a need to raise awareness within our communities and to promote the help and support that is available. Communities need to recognise all forms of VAWDASV and the harm it causes, be supportive of survivors and be able to provide information about the help that is available. This is critical since much support to victims comes from these sources, not from service providers. A positive and knowledgeable response from the immediate network surrounding victims and their children is critical to increasing the likelihood of early intervention.

For 2020-2023, on a regional basis, we will;

1. Combine the Communications and Engagement Group with the sister arrangements in Swansea, and ensure the membership of the group is extended to include;
 - a. a local survivor(s), to help shape future awareness raising campaigns and initiatives
 - b. Area Planning Board representative
 - c. Swansea Bay University Health Board representative
2. Raise awareness of the following initiatives to further encourage victims to come forward and access appropriate help and support;
 - a. Clare's Law – Clare's Law, also known as the Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme, allows people to find out if their partner has an abusive or violent past. It is named after Clare Wood, who was killed by her former partner in 2009.
 - b. Bright Sky – Bright Sky is a free to download, discreet mobile app providing support and information for anyone who may be in an abusive relationship or those concerned about someone they know
 - c. Ask Angela – Ask Angela is a sexual violence prevention campaign which aims to help individuals feel safe when they are on a night out. An individual can get help by asking a member of staff for Angela at the bar if they are feeling uncomfortable on a date, or in a potentially dangerous situation.
3. Actively promote the Respect Helpline for victims and perpetrators during local engagement events
4. Continue to amplify Welsh Government campaigns regarding VAWDASV, to ensure we play our part in strengthening the messages and making them recognisable across all areas of Wales.
5. Consider alternative approaches to engage with the following groups, encouraging more people to come forward if they are experiencing VAWDASV;
 - a. Young women
 - b. Older victims
 - c. Disabled victims
 - d. Male victims

6. Develop, launch and evaluate a local Sexual Violence Prevention campaign, using local data to ensure messages are targeted at those who may be at most risk within our communities
7. Develop a calendar of national and local events and activities for every year

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Objective 2

Increase awareness in children and young people of the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships and that abusive behaviour is always wrong.

An overview of available research into the effectiveness of interventions around domestic abuse⁸ found that the majority of preventative approaches involved targeting young people and adults through community or school based activities. This would include, for example, work in schools and communities with children and young people, between the ages of 5-25 years on healthy relationships.

Adopting a whole education approach to VAWDASV is a key element to increasing awareness, providing support and creating opportunities for children and young people to understand the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships. A whole education approach that includes preventative education through all parts of school and college life, involving the community, has been identified as significant in being able to teach preventative education.

Welsh Women's Aid and the Welsh Government have published a good practice guide on a Whole Education Approach to ensure that schools and educational bodies are equipped and considered in their response to VAWDASV and the prevention, protection and support of their pupils and staff.

Under the Welsh Government Whole Education Approach Guidance, there are 9 Key Principles.

1. Children and young people learn about violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.
2. Staff learn about violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.
3. Parents, care-givers and family learn about violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.
4. Monitoring and evaluation systems are in place to measure impact of this work.
5. Measures are in place to support people who experience forms of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.
6. Active participation of children and young people, staff and parents/care-givers to prevent violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.
7. Taking action to prevent violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence in the wider community.
8. Working in partnership with relevant local experts.

⁸ NICE (2013) Review of Interventions to Identify, Prevent, Reduce and Respond to Domestic Violence prepared by the British Columbia Centre of Excellence for Women's Health.

9. Embedding a comprehensive prevention programme

Neath Port Talbot CBC are proud to have been approached by Welsh Women's Aid to pilot the Whole School Approach, via the Relationship & Sexuality Education Group who are responsible for the coordination and delivery of all RSE that takes place in local schools. This group is made up of representatives from NPT Youth Service, Public Health Wales, School Nursing, specialist providers, South Wales Police and others.

Current Position

Within NPT the following initiatives are delivered to children and young people;

- Spectrum
- All Wales School Liaison Core Programme
- Higher Education Awareness Raising Events
- Crucial Crew
- 'It's Your World' Wellbeing Workshops
- Relationship and Sexuality Education, including age appropriate Healthy Relationship Lessons

For 2020-2023, on a local basis we will;

1. Work with Welsh Women's Aid and the Education Directorate to participate in the Whole School Approach pilot in 4 schools across the borough
2. In partnership with the Relationship & Sexuality Education Group, ensure the Healthy Relationship lesson is rolled out to all schools across Neath Port Talbot, ensuring take up is monitored and increased over the next 3 years.
3. Using existing initiatives (such as Crucial Crew, It's Your World Wellbeing Workshops, the Healthy Relationship Lesson, Spectrum programme and the Whole School Approach) to ensure all children are aware of services or points of contact with whom they can share any concerns they may have about their own relationships or their friends, family or others in the community.

For 2020-2023, on a regional basis we will;

4. Raise awareness of the Welsh Government VAWADSV campaign targeted at CYP, to strengthen the messages and ensure they become recognisable to as many young people as possible

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Objective 3

Increased focus on holding perpetrators to account and provide opportunities to change their behaviour based around victim safety.

We are committed to taking action to reduce the risk to victims, ensuring that perpetrators are provided with opportunities for change in a way that maximises safety.

Perpetrator Interventions and Programmes

Research shows that when perpetrators are prepared to find help they most frequently access GPs, and are also likely to be in contact with Relate, social services, Samaritans, alcohol or drugs services, hospitals, solicitors, welfare services at work, and use websites to access help.⁹

This research also indicates that where perpetrators went to their GP, they attempted to position themselves as depressed or in need of psychological or psychiatric care, without a focus on, or acknowledgement of, their unacceptable behaviour. Alcohol, drugs, depression and 'jealousy' rather than violence were often presented as the problems requiring 'treatment'.

Male perpetrators are also more likely to seek help at some kind of 'crisis' moment, usually when the partner gives them an ultimatum or actually leaves, or where there are child contact issues. However, this is also when they are likely to be especially dangerous and/or homicidal, and safety for the women and children concerned therefore has to be a priority for any agency intervening with the men at this time.

Reducing a perpetrator's substance use may reduce levels of physical injury but has not been shown to reduce the actual occurrence of domestic violence (i.e. non-physical abuse such as psychological and sexual violence).

Couples-counselling or other therapy is also not appropriate if domestic violence is currently being perpetrated in the relationship. There can be significant dangers of colluding with abuse by reinforcing that the perpetration of abuse stems from communication problems between couples or lack of anger management. For similar reasons, restorative justice is not appropriate in cases of intimate partner domestic abuse.

⁹ Hester, M. and Westmarland, N. (2006) *Service Provision for Perpetrators of Domestic Violence*, University of Bristol; HM Government (2010) *'Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls'*, Home Office

The case for commissioning and delivering community-based perpetrator programmes has been set out by Respect¹⁰ and the largest UK research into programme effectiveness was published recently.¹¹

Accredited programmes typically have linked safety and/or support services for partners and ex-partners of programme participants and have a minimum time period required for the best possible chance of effective and sustained behaviour change.

Perpetrator programmes are far more than a behaviour change programme. As well as their services for victims (and sometimes children), they also provide a point of reference for advice for other organisations on perpetrators, and write reports for family court proceedings, children's services, CAFCASS (Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service), criminal courts, and child protection conferences. This represents a substantial contribution to informed decision making by a wide range of agencies that are intervening in domestic abuse.

Current Position

Inspiring Families

Calan DVS provide the Inspiring Families Programme which is an innovative intervention and assessment programme that can help strengthen and stabilise families. It is a structured 10 week programme for families that are affected by domestic abuse and provides professionals with a robust framework to assess the parents' behaviour, coercive control, disguised compliance, the level of current risk and the likelihood of future risk. Inspiring Families also identifies the potential for change and reduction of risk within the family, or indeed, whether the risk is too high or the potential for change too low to make working with the family a viable option.

The intervention has been designed to be an accessible tool that will provide professionals with the evidence they need to make an assessment of the family and to identify the need and level of intervention required moving forward.

¹⁰ The Respect document, published in 2010 – 'Domestic Violence Perpetrators: Working with the cause of the problem – is available at http://www.respect.uk.net/data/files/lobbying/lobbying_tool_with_refs_30.11.10.pdf

¹¹ <https://www.dur.ac.uk/resources/criva/ProjectMirabalexecutivesummary.pdf>

The programme also supports professionals to make intelligent based decisions on what is the right intervention, for that family or individual members of that family at the right time and in the right order.

Mandatory Programmes via Probation

For those perpetrators who receive a criminal conviction or are sentenced to a term of imprisonment for Domestic Abuse related offences, they can sometimes be required to participate in a Perpetrator Programme.

However, there are many perpetrators who would like to access programmes on a voluntary basis, to help change their behavior and prevent the violence from escalating. There is a paucity of support available of this nature.

For 2020-2023, on a regional basis we will;

1. We will work in partnership with Swansea CC to explore funding opportunities and appropriate implementation plans for the regional commissioning of the Equilibrium Programme
2. Ensure we have a suitable referral pathway, to encourage referrals, use and attendance of the programme
3. Consider what measures we can take to improve the identification of perpetrators and engage them in programmes that tackle their behaviour and hold them to account
4. Work with Housing Options to monitor the number of perpetrator evictions under the Renting Homes Wales Act, which states *'perpetrators of domestic abuse can be targeted for eviction to help prevent those experiencing domestic abuse from becoming homeless; supporting the aims of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 to provide preventive, protective and supportive mechanisms in the delivery of services'*¹²
5. Continue dialogue with Welsh Government to establish who is responsible and accountable for this area of work

¹² <http://www.cih.org/resources/PDF/Wales%20Policy/Renting%20Homes%20factsheet%20-%20English%20Final.pdf>

Objective 4

Make early intervention and prevention a priority – To reduce the number of repeat victims and reduce the number of high risk cases

Preventing violence and intervening at the earliest possible stage to prevent its occurrence is the fundamental building block to an effective strategy. The need to minimise reactive interventions once a crisis has occurred is pivotal to the ambition to end violence.

We know that adults in Wales who were physically or sexually abused as children or brought up in households where there was VAWDASV, alcohol or drug abuse are more likely to adopt health-harming and anti-social behaviours in adult life. Research is identifying the long-term harm that can result from chronic stress on individuals during childhood. Such stress may arise from the abuse and neglect of children, but also from growing up in households where children are routinely exposed to issues such as VAWDASV, or individuals with alcohol and other substance use problems. It is critical therefore, for the long term health and welfare of our nation that we intervene early to reduce and prevent the incidence of violence, reducing the harm to victims and their children.

Early Identification in Health & Social Care Settings

There is evidence to show that early identification in healthcare and social care settings, leading to referral routes to specialist services, improves disclosures and referrals to support amongst survivors. In GP settings for example where indicators trigger targeted enquiry about domestic abuse, this leads to improved discussion and disclosure. There is moderate evidence that universal screening for domestic abuse in pregnancy, when supported by staff training and support, improves practices, disclosure and documentation of domestic abuse.

The IRIS programme of intervention (Identification and Referral to Improve Safety) is an evaluated service model that can be effectively jointly commissioned by health providers, to enable specialist domestic abuse support workers (advocate/educators) to be co-located in GP and other healthcare settings. These workers, located in and managed by a specialist domestic abuse service, ensure health professionals are skilled in early identification, which enables an immediate response for survivors that links them into a specialist service.

The Homicide Timeline – Dr Jane Monckton Smith

Research published and carried out by Dr Jane Monckton Smith looked at 372 cases of intimate partner homicide through interviews with bereaved families and public protection professionals. Through her study, Dr Jane Monckton Smith, Senior Lecturer in Criminology at the University of Gloucestershire, found an emerging pattern that could be broken down into eight separate stages.

A recent UN study into homicide found fifty thousand women across the world were killed by their partners in 2017. The Homicide Timeline is already being used to help form domestic abuse strategies and policy, as well as supporting police and agencies as they make risk assessments in cases of coercive control, domestic violence and stalking. Contrary to a long held belief by police, practitioners and the public, violence is no longer considered the biggest predictor of homicide. Dr Jane Monckton Smith's research found similarities in many cases in the early stages of a relationship, which may allow professionals more opportunities to intervene and save lives. The research highlights the shift in emphasis that is needed to focus motivation behind actions rather than the actions themselves. The model was designed to help practitioners and professionals engaged in risk assessments to feel confident about the decisions they are making, especially in crisis situations.¹³

'A Cry for Health'

The findings of SafeLives' research, which provides evidence from over 4,000 victims supported in hospital and community settings, show that we are missing opportunities to identify victims of domestic abuse – particularly the most vulnerable – and that locating a team of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA's) within a hospital is a key way to address this.

SafeLives is calling for hospital-based IDVAs to be integrated as part of a whole-system approach to support which include community based specialist domestic abuse services, mental health and health services. The charity believes that this provides a way of reaching the 4 out of 5 victims who never contact the police as well as providing an opportunity to save money through earlier identification.¹⁴

Current Position

A high proportion of funding in NPT continues to be focused on medium / high risk victims. More focus is needed on prevention and early intervention to avoid violence escalating and victims needing the high risk services or crisis interventions.

¹³ <https://www.glos.ac.uk/news/pages/the-homicide-timeline.aspx>

¹⁴ <http://www.safelives.org.uk/node/935>

For 2020-2023, on a local basis we will;

1. Work with Supporting People, Area Planning Board, Community Safety and Families First commissioners to refocus funding in line with a new service model
2. In considering the findings of the Dr. Jane Monckton Smith research; work with providers to seek out further funding opportunities to support the expansion of early intervention and prevention initiatives
3. Continue to work with South Wales Police on the Early Action Together programme, incorporating ACE'S into their work and integrating services into the Social Services front door
4. Conduct research to identify unidentified need – working with local services to better understand the needs of male victims, LGBT victims, BAME victims, disabled and older people, identifying any gaps in current provision

For 2020-2023, on a regional basis we will;

1. Work with the Health Board to implement, monitor and evaluate the roll out of IRIS across the region
2. Work with the Health Board to consider establishing a hospital based IDVA provision
3. Work with Welsh Women's Aid to deliver on their Change That Lasts Model

Objective 5

Relevant professionals are trained to provide effective, timely and appropriate responses to victims and survivors

Current Position

A National Training Framework Sub Group has been developed involving representatives from Training & Development, Community Safety and Swansea Bay University Health Board. The group is responsible for the development of the training plan for roll out across the authority – identifying those who require varying levels of the training and how this will be rolled out, whilst learning from the experiences of the Swansea Bay University Health Board pilot and sharing best practice.

With the roll out of the National Training Framework it will undoubtedly increase referrals into local services and we need to be clear of a referral pathway for all professionals to follow. The VAWDASV Leadership Group will have an important role to play in how we overcome any issues that may arise as a result of this.

For 2020-2023, on a local basis we will;

1. Work with local service providers to ensure they receive appropriate training on complex needs
2. Ensure all agencies in the local VAWDASV partnership give a commitment to training plans within their own organisation over the next 3 years.
3. When delivering VAWDASV training, give consideration to the recommendations of local Domestic Homicide Reviews, to ensure everyone feels confident to signpost victims to appropriate support services or VAWDASV champions
4. Raise awareness, through our training roll out, of the newly developed 'Safe Leave' policy for NPT staff who are affected by VAWDASV

For 2020-2023, on a regional basis we will;

1. Continue roll out of Group 1 training to all NPT staff and commence roll out of 'Ask & Act' Group 2 Training across Neath Port Talbot and Swansea
2. Work with Welsh Women's Aid to deliver Group 6 of the National Training Framework to all local members and senior leaders

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Objective 6

Provide all victims with equal access to appropriately resourced, high quality, needs led, strength based, gender responsive services across Neath Port Talbot

Current Position

Current services within NPT are detailed in Chapter 5 of this strategy. A high proportion of funding supports high risk victims and whilst services are county borough wide, access points are principally in the two main towns of Neath and Port Talbot

As outlined earlier in the strategy, we have 3 specialist DA providers in the area, offering refuge accommodation, move on accommodation, floating support, advocacy and advice. The One Stop Shops in Neath and Port Talbot offer a walk in service, operated by the local providers.

The Council's Housing Options Service, also based in Neath, and offers a walk in service for anyone in housing difficulty, including those experiencing Domestic Abuse.

For 2020-2023, on a local basis we will;

1. Embed and incorporate the VAWDASV Commissioning Guidance into our practice so that those who commission services can ensure activity is better informed, more joined up and value for money, ensuring that specialist services in NPT meet victims' needs
2. Further develop links with local specialist providers who meet the needs of people affected by other forms of violence such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
3. Work with Supporting People to complete the commissioning exercise to implement a new service model for Accommodation and Support.
4. Further develop links with local housing providers and Housing Options to ensure victims in need of alternative housing are appropriately supported

5. Conduct a further review of high risk arrangements to ensure the changes identified are embedded and having a positive impact
6. Work with Social Services to review the response to Adults at Risk, specifically in respect of domestic violence and abuse.

For 2020-2023, on a regional basis we will;

7. Work with Swansea CC to consider the demand for regionally developing the SWAN project

(The SWAN Project, delivered by Swansea Women's Aid, supports women who are sex working. They provide practical and emotional support and aim to improve the safety and wellbeing of women accessing the service)

Objective 7

Increase focus on improving the recognition of, and responses to VAWDASV in all Criminal Justice proceedings

An integral element of this strategy is justice and protection for survivors and their families according to their needs, within a criminal and civil justice framework and also within a wider social context.

Prosecution

It is well documented that many victims do not report VAWDASV related crimes to the police¹⁵ and, that a significant proportion of those who do, later withdraw their complaints¹⁶.

There needs to be greater confidence in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) in order to increase reporting and as a result, increase victims' access to safety, support and justice and reduce the risk of re-victimisation.

A number of studies have shown that in the policing context, perceptions of fairness and decent treatment were at times more important than effectiveness and outcomes in determining satisfaction and confidence. Victims want to be treated with respect and dignity. Research also highlights that the outcomes and sentence are highly influential on victims' views of the CJS¹⁷.

The majority of perpetrators are men and boys. As most cases never come to the attention of the Criminal Justice System, there are few sanctions for their behaviour. Therefore, a drive to improve criminal justice system services, ensuring a renewed focus on prosecuting and convicting perpetrators is essential to driving victim and wider public confidence.

Family Courts

For specialist service providers supporting victim the Family Court process has long been a cause for concern. Whilst improvements have been made in the criminal courts, there is an increasing need for the Family Courts to follow in their footsteps. Domestic Abuse is an issue in 70% of cases in the family courts across England and Wales. Providers have expressed concerns of victims having to participate in mediation with the perpetrator, needing to represent themselves at Court and sometimes being cross examined by the perpetrator during the process.

¹⁵ Statistical bulletin: Crime in England and Wales, Year Ending December 2012, Office for National Statistics

¹⁶ CEDAW Thematic Shadow Report on Violence Against Women in the UK, Sen and Kelly (2007)

¹⁷ Victims' views of court and sentencing (October 2011). Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses in England and Wales

For 2020-2023, on a regional basis we will;

1. Work in partnership with South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner to further improve outcomes; to reduce the number of repeat victims; and to identify how we can intervene effectively much earlier
2. Working in partnership with the Police and Courts, identify what needs to change to better support victims, including victimless prosecutions and how evidence is gathered.
3. Increase awareness with local solicitors and legal reps of the importance of recognising all forms of VAWDASV and providing appropriate responses in family court situations

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8. Leadership & Governance

The strategic direction and oversight of the Healthy Relationships for Stronger Communities Strategy is held by the VAWDASV Leadership Group, which is accountable to the Safer Neath Port Talbot Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

The Public Services Board will provide challenge and support to the Community Safety Partnership in progressing this Strategy.

The Leadership Group will continue to establish annual priorities drawn from this Strategy that will be progressed through clearly agreed actions plans. A delivery plan will be developed to highlight which aspects of the work will be delivered locally and regionally and to allow the Leadership Group to easily monitor progress

The measures listed in this strategy will be regularly reported to the Leadership Group by the designated leads for each objective.

The diagram on page 52 illustrates the revised governance structure around this strategy for 2020-2023.

For 2020-2023 the Leadership Group will;

- Publish an annual report to highlight progress made on all areas of this strategy
- Hold a regional annual event to discuss progress made and agree the priority area's for the following year
- Extend the partnership to ensure there is further involvement from Adult Social Services, BAWSO, YJEIS

Neath Port Talbot Healthy Relationships For Stronger Communities Strategy



Sub Groups:-

Communications & Engagement Group	Raise awareness of VAWDASV and local partnership work Delivering on Objective 1 within the Healthy Relationship for Stronger Communities Strategy	Sian Morris
Relationship & Sexuality Education Group	Overseeing the continuous improvement of the RSE Lesson packs, ensuring age appropriate RSE lessons are delivered across all schools in NPT Delivering on Objective 2 within the Healthy Relationship for Stronger Communities Strategy	Corinne Fry
National Training Framework (inc Ask & Act) Group	To implement the National Training Framework, Ask & Act Model and identify / arrange other relevant training Delivering on Objective 5 within the Healthy Relationship for Stronger Communities Strategy	Rachel Dixon

**Sub Groups to feed in to Quarterly Leadership Group meetings via a Highlight Report – Agenda Items to be scheduled.*

Time Limited Task & Finish Groups:-

As Required by VAWDASV Leadership Group	Time limited Task & Finish Groups can be established by the VAWDASV Leadership Group, for any emerging issues that would not otherwise be appropriate for the Sub Groups to address or take forward
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Membership of the VAWDASV Leadership Group

- NPTCBC
 - Community Safety
 - Children's Services
 - Commissioning
 - Adult Safeguarding
 - Substance Misuse
 - Education
 - Training and Development
- Swansea Bay University Health Board
- South Wales Police
- Thrive Women's Aid
- Calan DVS
- Hafan Cymru
- BAWSO
- Tai Tarian
- Police & Crime Commissioner
- Probation
- Welsh Women's Aid
- Welsh Ambulance Service
- Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- New Pathways

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9. Measures

In order to demonstrate the progress made on each of the 7 objectives within this strategy, a set of key performance indicators will be developed.

Progress reports will be discussed at the VAWDASV Leadership Group meetings and integrated into every Annual Report.

How will we know we are making a difference?

Survivor Feedback

As outlined earlier on in this strategy, survivor engagement and feedback is vital to shaping future services and understanding whether the work we do and the services we offer are meeting the needs of our communities.

Objective 1 - Communications & Engagement

- The number of Clare's Law requests made within Neath Port Talbot and the number of those where VAWDASV related concerns were raised
- The social media reach of all VAWDASV campaigns promoted by the Communications & Engagement Group
- The number of people reporting VAWDASV and/or accessing specialist support services
- The number of calls made to the Respect Helpline from the Neath Port Talbot area and their outcomes

Objective 2 – Children and Young People

- The number of children in Neath Port Talbot schools who have received a Healthy Relationship lesson and the % of those children who retained some the key information from that lesson 6 months later

Objective 3 – Perpetrators

- Once developed, the number of referrals made to the local Perpetrator Programme, including the % of those referred who have successfully engaged with the programme

Objective 4 – Early Intervention and Prevention

- Of the referrals into SPOC, the number of these that were VAWDASV related and the % referred for statutory services or early intervention. What were the outcomes?

- The number of referrals into services from those who are affected by any form of VAWDASV, but who identify as LGBT, are older, disabled, a male victim, or a member of the BAME community.

Objective 5 – Training

- The number of staff who have been trained to the appropriate level of the National Training Framework, depending on their individual roles.
- The number of staff within partner organisations who have completed VAWDASV related training.

Objective 6 – Accessible Services

- Survivor Feedback
- Number of presentations to Housing Options as a result of VAWDASV and their outcomes
- Referrals to specialist providers, programmes offered, and outcomes
- % of cases known to Adult Services where VAWDASV is a concern

Objective 7 – Criminal Justice Proceedings

- Usage of the remote evidence facility at the One Stop Shop
- The number of high risk victims supported by the IDVA service; the % of those who engage with support and the % who are repeat victims
- The number of victims supported through a court process and the % of those that have a positive outcome

Appendix 1 - Glossary

ACE's	Adverse Childhood Experiences
APB	Area Planning Board
BAME	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic
BAWSO	Black Association of Women Step Out
C&E	Communications & Engagement
CAFCASS	Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service
Calan DVS	Calan Domestic Violence Services
CJS	Criminal Justice System
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
CYP	Children and Young People
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review
EIP	Early Intervention & Prevention
EU	European Union
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GP	General Practitioner
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
IRIS	Identification and Referral to Improve Safety
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
NICE	National Institute of Clinical Excellence
NPT	Neath Port Talbot
NPTCBC	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
OSS	One Stop Shop
PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
PSB	Public Services Board
RSE	Relationship & Sexuality Education
SBUHB	Swansea Bay University Health Board
SP	Supporting People
SPOC	Single Point of Contact

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SSWBA	Social Services & Wellbeing Act
SV	Sexual Violence
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
VAWDASV	Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WA	Women's Aid
WG	Welsh Government
WWA	Welsh Women's Aid
YJEIS	Youth Justice Early Intervention Service

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Appendix 2

Resources & Service Mapping

Available services have been categorised into the following;

- 1) Accommodation
- 2) Support
- 3) High Risk
- 4) Children & Young People
- 5) Targeted Specialist Services

1) Accommodation

Refuge Provision

Calan DVS and Thrive Women's Aid provide refuge services within NPT. Both refuge providers operate a 24 hour on-call system.

- Calan DVS have 2 refuges offering a total of 13 spaces. One of Calan's 13 spaces is a crisis room which has a two week maximum stay and is restricted to women from Neath Port Talbot.
- Thrive have 1 refuge offering 6 spaces. The average length of stay in the Thrive refuge is 8 weeks. Thrive also provide short term resettlement support for women moving on from the refuge.

Fixed Term Temporary Accommodation

Fixed Term accommodation is time limited. Once the support needs of the women are met they are required to move on to other non-supported accommodation.

Thrive have five self-contained flats which are described as providing "move-on accommodation" supported by staff from within their Residential Services team. Individuals can remain in these properties for up to two years. 2018-19, 8 women were supported, 3 of whom had dependent children resident with them or as part of shared custody agreements. The average length of stay during the year was 12 months.

Hafan Cymru operate three clusters of temporary accommodation providing 14 units of housing.

Homelessness

For a proportion of survivors of VAWDASV, incidents (or repeated incidents) of abuse force them to flee from their home to places of safety.

The local authority has a duty to assist victims of domestic abuse to find alternative accommodation. However, it should be noted that many victims fleeing VAWDASV do not necessarily approach the local authority for assistance and access services in many different ways.

Neath Port Talbot Housing Options Team	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number of homeless presentations	2327	2008	2102	2158
Number of homeless presentations as a result of Domestic Abuse	130	123	171	148

2) Support

Floating Support

All three of the specialist providers provide floating support services to survivors of VAWDASV, funded by the Supporting People Programme Grant.

Thrive Women's Aid are funded to provide 10 units of floating support and employ one full-time dedicated member of staff to provide this service in addition to that provided by the Senior Family Support Officer (Community and Outreach).

Calan DVS are funded to provide 20 units of floating support and employ two dedicated full time members of staff.

Hafan are funded to provide 1 unit of floating support.

Freedom Programme

All 3 specialist providers deliver The Freedom Programme which is a **12 week group programme that** examines the roles played by attitudes and beliefs on the actions of abusive men and the responses of victims and survivors. The aim is to help women to make sense of and understand what has happened to them. The Freedom Programme also describes in detail how children are affected by being exposed to this kind of abuse and very importantly how their lives are improved when the abuse is removed.

The demand for this programme is far higher than the current capacity, demonstrated by the length of waiting lists.

All 3 specialist providers also offer further interventions, which are explained in further detail later on in the Strategy.

One Stop Shop

The OSS is based in Neath and provides a drop in service which is operated by Calan DVS. The service offers advice, information and support from specialist support workers to help **anybody** affected by violent relationships. The premises offer space for meetings, training events and counselling.

Partner agencies deliver sessional work from the OSS to deliver additional targeted services to clients.

In particular:

- A remote evidence facility for Neath and Port Talbot County Court and Family Court offering witness support
- Citizens Advice, offering welfare benefit and debt advice
- Solicitor once a week
- Probation for Females
- Victim Focus
- Counselling Services

Between April 2016 and March 2019, the remote evidence facility helped over 80 victims give evidence at court.

National Helpline

During 18/19 the number of landline calls from NPT was 937. Mobile numbers cannot be traced to a certain area.

The number of direct referrals from the Helpline to NPT refuges were;

- Calan: 17
- Thrive: 7

The above figures reflect referrals that were made directly by the helpline workers. In some instances, callers may be told of space in 3 or 4 refuges and they may contact the individual refuges themselves, which isn't reflected in the above figures.

3) High Risk

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

The MARAC meet once every fortnight to discuss high risk victims of VAWDASV. Key statutory agencies, such as the Local Authority, the police and health work alongside relevant third sector agencies to form this partnership.

A MARAC Coordinator supports the MARAC process. This post is currently funded by the local authority.

MARAC	14 / 15	15 / 16	16 / 17	17/18	18/19
Cases discussed	306	370	446	464	506
Children in household	342	483	551	585	555
Repeat cases	22%	21%	23%	26%	34%

Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service

Neath Port Talbot Council have one full-time Senior IDVA, two full time IDVA's and a part time Business Support Officer, based within the Community Safety Team at Neath Police Station. The IDVA'S work with high risk VAWDASV cases. The service is funded by the Local Authority and South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner.

There is also a full time regional court IDVA funded by the Welsh Government Regional VAWDASV Grant.

IDVA Referrals	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
	265	344	461	504	402

Social Services

4) Children & Young People

Social Services

The Social Services and Well Being Act (Wales) 2014 encouraged a new focus on prevention and early intervention and provided a duty to assess the needs of a child for care and support. Following a referral Children’s services carry out a statutory assessment in accordance with the level of need.

Children’s Services

The Single Point of Contact (SPOC) is designed to respond to all contacts and enquiries that come into Children and Young People Services (CYPS) and Early Intervention and Prevention services (Families First)

At the Single Point of Contact, all contacts are “screened” by a qualified, experienced Social Work Manager who will then decide on the appropriate next steps. These include:

- Signposting to support services
- Referral to early intervention and prevention services (Families First)
- Referral to statutory support services via the Intake Team
- Information and/or Advice provided and no further action required

Data for Contacts and Referrals to SPOC over last 3 years;

Year	Total Contacts	Referrals Made
2016/17	8987	984
2017/18	8970	1079
2018/19	10471	1598

Following referral an assessment is made regarding what intervention is appropriate to meet and the needs of the child and family. The outcome of this assessment will determine whether a Care and Support plan is needed to support the child and family and prevent the requirement for a child to be looked after by the Local Authority.

Children’s Services can access support services for families from partner organisations such as Thrive and Calan DVS and in addition, can refer to the Family Action Support Team (FAST), Integrated Family Support Service (IFSS) and Hidden Harm service.

FAST services include:

- Parenting advice and support
- Safety Trust and Respect (STAR) groups for children and young people and parents
- Respect programme for young people who are violent or aggressive to parents
- Freedom Programme for women who have experienced domestic abuse
- Direct work with Children and Young people
- Positive Steps Programme
- Working Together Programme – works intensively with children and families where support is required to change behaviours and improve neglectful home conditions

IFSS provides an intensive intervention for children and families where substance misuse is the primary area of concern.

The **Hidden Harm** worker provides assessment information and brief intervention for parents who misuse substances and can fast track to the community Drug and Alcohol Team as required.

Families First

Families First is a Welsh Government programme designed to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. It places an emphasis on early intervention, prevention, and providing support for whole families, rather than individuals. The programme promotes greater multi-agency working to ensure families receive joined-up support when they need it. The intention of the programme is to provide early support for families with the aim of preventing problems escalating.

The support provided through Families First spans a wide range of needs, from early intervention support through to intensive, multi-agency interventions but should stop short of supporting families in crisis, who require statutory or specialist services.

Referrals for all Families First services are made via the Single Point of Contact (SPOC). All referrals are passed to a weekly referral panel which will help make sure that families get support from the service that best meets their needs.

Some of the Families First services include;

Team Around the Family (TAF)

TAF is for families who want to make positive changes to their family life, but need support to do this.

- TAF provides a service to families who are likely to need help from two or more agencies (e.g. Schools, health services, housing).
- TAF brings everyone together with families to identify any needs, and agrees how best to help families using strengths to meet those needs.
- TAF is a way of identifying who is best placed to offer any of the additional advice and support the family may need.

Children & Families Team

The Children and Families Team provide a range of parenting support appropriate to the need of the family. The core purpose of parenting support is about working with parents to reduce risks; strengthen parenting capacity; develop and build resilience and sustain positive change in the best interests of children.

Domestic Abuse Service

This service offers a suite of specialist interventions and programmes that are family focused and offer choice for families who have either left the perpetrator or who wish to stay together. This includes targeted and age appropriate interventions for children and young people of victims, victims and perpetrators.

While the focus is on children and young people, the service protects and supports all family members, with the goal of creating and maintaining safe and healthy households that support and nurture children and young people.

Each family is allocated a key worker who assesses the families' needs and produce an action plan based on what the family would like to achieve. The support is tailored to meet the specific needs of the family and is based on a range of interventions that are age appropriate.

There have been over 1,500 referrals to EIP panel in 2018/19. Of these, 149 individuals accessed the DA service.

Flying Start

Flying Start is a Welsh Government funded programme available in targeted areas, supporting all families with children under 4 years of age to have a Flying Start in life.

The programme has 4 core elements:

1. Health Visiting
2. Childcare
3. Speech and Language
4. Parenting

In Neath Port Talbot, the programme also provides additional support through midwifery and educational psychology services.

Spectrum

Hafan Cymru operate Spectrum which is an All Wales project delivered in primary and secondary schools across all parts of Wales, including Neath Port Talbot. Spectrum uses a 'whole school' approach to tackling all forms of VAWDASV. Lessons are delivered by trained teachers working with Personal & Social Education (PSE) teachers in support of the PSE Framework in schools to teach Children and Young People about healthy relationships, abuse and its consequences and where to seek help. Classes receive this intervention on an annual basis.

The Spectrum staff also deliver sessions to teachers and support staff, youth workers, social workers, other interested professionals, and parents.

All Wales School Liaison Core Programme

The programme educates young people about some of the dangerous issues that affect our society today. The intention of the programme is to safeguard all children and young people living in Wales by providing them with information about the dangers associated with issues such as substance use and misuse, anti-social behaviour and VAWDASV. Lesson content is delivered by trained police officers working in partnership with Personal & Social Education (PSE) teachers, in support of the PSE curriculum in schools in Wales.

Crucial Crew

Crucial Crew is an annual event for year 6 pupils organised by the Neath Port Talbot's Community Safety Team.

The event is designed to raise awareness among pupils in their final year at Primary School, of the dangers they may face in everyday life. Crucial Crew is held for two weeks every year and involves many different agencies working in partnership to raise awareness of various different issues, one of which is VAWDASV and Healthy Relationships.

This event reaches 1600 pupils every year.

NPT Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service

Young persons aged 10-18 who have committed a violent offence (which could include domestic or sexual violence) automatically engage in the STAR and RESPECT programme to aid understanding about healthy relationships. This is delivered internally by suitably trained staff. The NPT YJEIS is now a local authority multi agency service having disaggregated from the Western Bay regional service in April 2019. This means that VAWDASV are able to form closer local links with the YJEIS and provide the interventions needed to support these young people in their own localities.

Data from the Core Assessments completed with young people involved with the Youth Justice and Early Intervention Services shows that 41% had witnessed violence in the family and 39% had experienced some form of abuse themselves. Young people involved in the Youth Justice Service have a significantly higher risk of experiencing ACE's (Adverse Childhood Experiences) including Domestic Abuse, Emotional Abuse and Physical abuse. Many are victims long before becoming involved with Offending or risky behaviours.

NPT Youth Service

Neath Port Talbot Youth Service works with young people aged 11-25.

They encourage and enable young people to participate in all opportunities available to them and gain the skills needed to become happy, confident and fulfilled adults and members of their communities. Staff are trained to deliver VAWDASV and Sexual Health training to the young people accessing their services.

Relationship & Sexuality Education (RSE)

The Youth Service are responsible for the development of the Relationship and Sexuality Education packs that are delivered in all local schools. Lessons include; personal hygiene, puberty, sex education and most recently a 'Healthy Relationship' lesson has been added to the pack.

The content and delivery are overseen by the RSE Group, made up representatives from the Youth Service, Health Board, Education, Community Safety and various other partners.

Higher Education

As part of the programme of awareness raising of VAWDASV and the services available, prevention campaigns and initiatives are regularly held in local colleges and universities.

5) Targeted Specialist Services

Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)

The SARC is a specialist facility where victims of rape or sexual assault can receive immediate help and support. SARC services are provided in the Swansea area, managed by New Pathways.

New Pathways is a registered charitable company that provides a range of specialist counselling and advocacy services for women, men, children and young people who have been affected by rape or sexual abuse. They have many years of experience and are widely regarded throughout the UK as a leading organisation in this field.

BAWSO (Black Association of Women Step Out)

BAWSO is an All Wales Organisation that provides specialist services to the BAME community for those who are affected or at risk of Domestic Abuse and any other forms of violence, including: Female Genital Mutilation, Forced Marriage, Honor Based Violence, Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking.

The service provision includes; purpose built refuges that are specially adapted to meet the cultural and religious needs of service users, Information and Advice, Housing related tenancy support, Accommodation and outreach support for victims of Modern Day Slavery and Trafficking , FGM Health and a safeguarding community based project.

The Swansea project has 1 refuge and 2 safe houses with provision for 11 families. Both can accommodate either families (women and children) or single females. The project has 3 full time family support workers and one part time children and young person's worker.

At present, there is no provision for an Outreach worker in the Neath Port Talbot area but they have had the following referrals:

BAWSO Referrals for NPT	No Of Referrals
2013/14	3
2014/15	5

2015/16	4
2016/17	3
2017/18	2
2018/19	4

The specialist support providers in NPT also offer additional services;

Thrive Women's Aid

- **Video Interactive Guidance Project**

Video Interaction Guidance (VIG) is a unique intervention technique that we use to help women and their children who have been affected by domestic abuse. The method involves filming interactions between a mother and her child/children in areas that they have self-defined as wanting to improve. The footage is then edited to highlight 3 positive moments of interaction. The clips are reviewed with the client as part of a shared process where the VIG Guider can help the clients to micro-analyse the footage and empower them to move closer to their goals. VIG is a strength-based approach which helps families in need to identify the existing strengths within their relationships and then helps motivate them to build on these. VIG can help families improve how they communicate, become more aware of the principles of emotional attachment, help to increase parental sensitivity and ultimately rebuild the bonds that may have been affected by domestic abuse.

The VIG method has been clinically approved to help with infant bonding and attachment between parents and children. By focussing on the positives, and recognising what parents are doing well, it encourages those behaviours to be repeated. It engages clients actively in a process of change towards realising their own hopes for a better future in their relationships with their children.

- **LIFE (Liberty Independence Freedom and Empowerment)**

Thrive Women's Aid and NPT Mind have created a fully integrated new service provision that responds to those who have experienced domestic abuse and whose mental health has suffered as a result. The key ambition of the LIFE project is to create a sustainable, user-led, ongoing provision, that will enable often vulnerable service-users to access support beyond their period of

crisis, as and when they need it, and in a format that they want. The project brings together a range of activities that will promote

1:1 Support 3-16yrs	STAR Club 4-11 yrs Child
<p>Needs identified during initial assessment</p> <p>6/8 weeks support with a review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1:1 sessions within school/PTAWA office or community. - Therapeutic and sessions addressing Domestic Abuse, confidence, self-esteem, anger, safety and emotional issues. 	<p>8 Wk. programme</p> <p>Child or young person must not be residing with the perpetrator.</p> <p>Aims of the programme are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To improve parent/child relationship. - Help parent to understand effects of DA on their child and provide strategies to cope by enhancing parenting skills. - Help children to express and understand their feelings, and learn how to deal with them responsibly.

recovery, well-being and awareness raising, with the aim of empowering women to come together to help themselves and each other on their journey towards a positive and health future.

- **The EDGE Project (Equality Diversity enGagement and Education)**

The EDGE Project supports women who are victims of domestic abuse and further marginalised for being Roma, Gypsy and Traveler, Older or Disabled. The project seeks to increase safety and reduce the risk of harm using a multi-disciplinary approach in order to break the cycle of domestic abuse. On a one-to-one and group basis the team of two part-time Inclusion Officers support women to access the necessary local services they require and empower them to be able to replicate this process independently in the future. The project also provides education about domestic abuse, human rights, equality and diversity within the community and with professionals to raise their awareness of domestic abuse, equality and diversity by engaging with local providers and businesses to help them understand the barriers that service users may or have experienced due to their marginalization and help them to sculpt change within their organisation to address this. It provides awareness-raising sessions to individuals and teams in order to do this and encourage businesses to make 'pledges' which reflect the changes they are making.

STAR Group 7-11yrs Parent and Child	Young Person's Recovery Toolkit (7-16 years)
<p>10 Wk. programme</p> <p>Child or young person must not be residing with the perpetrator.</p> <p>Aims of the programme are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To improve parent/child relationship. - Help parent to understand effects of DA on their child and provide strategies to cope by enhancing parenting skills. - Help children to express and understand their feelings, and learn how to deal with them responsibly. 	<p>8-wk. programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Children and Young People Recovery Toolkit is a programme for any young person that has witnessed or experienced domestic abuse and are able to take part in a group. - It is unique in its approach using a combination of trauma – informed resilience focused and specific trauma focused cognitive behaviour therapy and person-centred therapeutic principles.

- **Children and Young People**

- **Crisis Intervention**

Works with women who approach Thrive Women's Aid for support during a period of crisis and whose needs require immediacy of attention e.g. Target hardening, application for refuge, court support. The support last for approximately 2 weeks in order to address immediate needs whilst liaising with other professionals and our own community and outreach team to facilitate onward referral to the most appropriate provider for longer-term support.

Calan DVS

- **Compass Project**

The Compass Programme uses a strength based approach to promote a man's resilience and wellbeing following exposure to domestic violence and abuse. Though Domestic Abuse against men is traditionally underreported, it is known that agencies are supporting increased numbers of male victims and the Compass Programme is able to meet a growing demand. The Compass

programme provides a 'safe space' for male survivors to build positive and trusting relationships in an environment where they can talk openly about their experiences.

- **Inspiring Families**

The Inspiring Families Programme is an innovative intervention and assessment programme that can help strengthen and stabilise families. It is a structured 10 week programme for families that are affected by Domestic Abuse. It provides professionals with a robust framework to assess the parents' behaviour, coercive control, disguised compliance, the level of current risk and the likelihood of future risk. The programme identifies the potential for change and reduction of risk within the family, or indeed, whether the risk is too high or the potential for change too low to make working with the family a viable option.

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