



Healthy Relationships For Stronger Communities Strategy

ANNUAL REPORT
2017-18

Introduction

- ▶ The Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Act (Wales) 2015 placed a duty on local authorities and health boards to jointly prepare a strategy for their local area in order to improve prevention, protection and support for victims.
- ▶ In March 2017, a public consultation on the draft strategy commenced. The final version was officially launched on 18th October 2017
- ▶ The Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Leadership Group has overseen the implementation of the Strategy with various sub groups commissioned to undertake certain objectives and actions
- ▶ This Annual Report highlights the 7 key objectives of the strategy, the actions within them and the achievements made so far, as well as the work still to be undertaken

Strategic Objectives of the Healthy Relationships for Stronger Communities Strategy

1. Communications & Engagement
2. Children & Young People
3. Perpetrators
4. Early Intervention & Prevention
5. Training
6. Accessible Support
7. Criminal Justice

Communications & Engagement

In the Strategy, we said we would;

1. Complete the work to broaden the role of the Communications & Engagement Group, to provide a partnership response to awareness raising activities, challenging attitudes and preconceptions surrounding Domestic Abuse
2. Develop a list of available services for adults and children within the borough and incorporate this information into the developing Information, Advice and Assistance service. (NPT Community Directory)
3. Involve local survivors in the work of the group, to ensure their views and experiences are taken into account when planning future campaigns
4. Encourage local employers to implement workplace policies on how to support members of staff who are affected by Domestic Abuse

Communications & Engagement

Progress So Far...

- ▶ A Communications Plan has been developed. This will be used to steer the Communications & Engagement Group meetings and work.
- ▶ The NPT Community Directory is live and all local VAWDASV services are listed on the directory. The logo and website are on the business cards and flyers handed out at local awareness raising events.
- ▶ The Communications & Engagement Group has established links with SEEds, the national survivor engagement work, part of Welsh Women's Aid.
- ▶ Local specialist providers are developing a feedback questionnaire, one document for use by all.
- ▶ Work is underway to establish which organisations in NPT have a workplace Domestic Abuse policy. Workshops will be arranged to promote the need to have a policy and help to write and implement appropriate policies.

Our White Ribbon Campaign for 2017 was seen by 13,425 people on Social Media

Children & Young People

In the Strategy, we said we would;

1. Ensure all schools adopt a suitable programme, adhering to the Welsh Government statutory guidance on creating a 'whole school approach' to preventing Violence
2. Ensure all school aged children have participated in a programme that addresses the sensitive and challenging issues of violence to develop the resilience of children and young people to sustain healthy relationships
3. Promote the Home Office campaign 'Disrespect Nobody' to challenge abuse in teenage relationships
4. Work in partnership with Schools, NPT Youth Service and the Youth Justice Team

Children & Young People

Progress So Far...

- ▶ The Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) Group is continuing to develop lesson packs for all schools, which now include age appropriate lessons on VAWDASV and Healthy Relationships.
- ▶ Hafan Cymru's Spectrum Project continue to roll out Healthy Relationship Lessons across NPT, but not yet in all schools across NPT.
- ▶ The Schools Liaison Officers deliver Domestic Abuse awareness sessions during PSE lessons in all schools.
- ▶ As part of the National Training Framework, all teachers and school staff will receive varying degrees of VAWDASV training as set out in the NPT Training plan.
- ▶ The Disrespect Nobody National campaign was supported at a local level. All other National campaigns will also be supported and listed in the Communications Plan
- ▶ Schools, Youth Service and Youth Justice form part of the Children and Young People Group and SRE group who oversee this aspect of the strategy.
- ▶ An awareness raising event is planned for September 2018
- ▶ A wellbeing workshop 'It's Your World' was held at Ysgol Bae Baglan, delivered to 300 Year 8 pupils

In 2016-17, Spectrum delivered a Healthy Relationship lesson to 1397 pupils in NPT

Perpetrator Programme Development

In the Strategy, we said we would;

1. Identify perpetrator programmes that can be implemented in the NPT area, that meet the needs of people who pose a low, medium or high risk
2. Develop funding and appropriate implementation plans for the chosen accredited perpetrator programme
3. Ensure we have a suitable referral pathway, to encourage referrals, use and attendance of the programme

Perpetrator Programme Development

Progress So Far...

- ▶ The Sub Group conducted research into various perpetrator programmes. There were arguments for and against accredited programmes or developing new models, based on others in operation.
- ▶ Welsh Government are now undertaking work to research programmes and identify best practice, particularly around early intervention. Dr Cerys Miles, attended the March Leadership Group to advise on progress so far and next steps.
- ▶ We will continue to liaise with Welsh Government on this work and await their guidance on how partnerships should proceed

Early Intervention & Prevention

In the Strategy, we said we would;

1. Develop an Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP) service model which will then be used as the basis for remodelling and recommissioning services
2. Work with Supporting People, Area Planning Board, Community Safety and Families First commissioners to refocus funding in line with the new service model
3. Seek out further funding opportunities to support the expansion of early intervention and prevention interventions for adults and children and young people
4. Conduct research to identify unidentified need
5. Work with local services to better understand the needs of Male Victims, LGBT victims and older people and identify any gaps in current provision

Early Intervention & Prevention

Progress So Far...

- ▶ The Accommodation Review Sub Group have been developing a new service model. This work will be completed by the end of Summer 2018 and the preferred model will then be used as the basis for commissioning Supporting People funded services going forward.
- ▶ Providers are continually seeking funding opportunities to support Early Intervention and Prevention initiatives.
- ▶ Discussions are taking place around conducting male victim focus groups - looking at gaps in services and under reporting
- ▶ We have attended the Older Persons Council to raise awareness of the strategy and our intention to carry out further research and a VAWDASV Older Persons Seminar was held during May 2018.
- ▶ There is still a need to bring more coherence to commissioning around people who experience a range of difference challenges (mental health, substance misuse, domestic abuse) There is an opportunity with flexibilities in specific grants to begin to commission services more holistically.
- ▶ There is still a need to strengthen links and work around Sexual Violence, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Black Minority Ethnic (BME) victims. BAWSO have joined the Leadership Group to help inform this area of work.

Training

In the Strategy, we said we would;

1. Develop and implement a Training programme that will secure compliance with the National Training Framework
2. Develop and publish referral pathways to enable professionals to respond effectively to any disclosures or identification of all forms of Domestic Abuse
3. Complete the 'Ask & Act' project being piloted by the ABMU Health Board and increase the number of people identified and referred by health workers, including GP surgeries and Primary Care settings.

Training

Progress So Far...

- ▶ The Training Plan has been developed and is being implemented.
- ▶ The Year 1 target of 50% roll out for Group 1 has been met, including our hard to reach services
- ▶ Local support services are promoted as part of the Group 1 training. Staff are advised on where to refer those who need support.
- ▶ The work of the Communications & Engagement Group is shared with the Training Group so they can share information on campaigns, where appropriate.
- ▶ ABMU continue to work on the Ask & Act pilot, assisting Welsh Government with finalising the Train the Trainer arrangements before roll out.
- ▶ The Training Sub Group has recently met with Welsh Government to discuss Group 2 roll out. Welsh Government will resource the Train the Trainer aspect, but this will be provided regionally with Swansea. There are no other funds available to support the roll out of the training.

3637 of our staff have received Group 1 VAWDASV Training

Accessible Support Services

In the Strategy, we said we would;

1. Work with commissioners to ensure activity is better informed, more joined up and value for money
2. Prioritise a review of accommodation support to develop a new service model which enables;
 - a) earlier intervention
 - b) more people to be supported in the community and in their own homes
 - c) Delivery of 10% savings of the current budget
3. Submit a bid to the Home Office for Transformation Funding that can extend access to specialist services from the town centres to those living in valley communities
4. Ensure housing allocations appropriately consider victims
5. Further develop links with specialist providers who can meet the needs of people affected by sexual violence and other forms of violence such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
6. Work in partnership to ensure all victims with complex needs have increased opportunities for reporting and accessing appropriate support

Accessible Support Services

Progress So Far...

- ▶ Once a new service model has been agreed, work will commence on Joint Commissioning. (see earlier slide)
- ▶ The Accommodation Review is underway but will be completed by end of Summer 2018.
- ▶ Our transformation bid was unsuccessful. The majority of the funding was awarded to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office. NPT are a learning partner on this project and regular updates are fed into the Leadership Group.
- ▶ As part of the development of the new service model, changes around Housing Allocations will be a factor, in particular dispersed housing.
- ▶ Links with the Area Planning Board have been strengthened, however there is still work to do with Mental Health services and other commissioners

148 people sought advice at the Housing Options due to Domestic Abuse during 2017-18

Criminal Justice

In the Strategy, we said we would;

1. Finalise the review of High Risk Victim support services to further improve outcomes; to reduce the number of repeat victims; and to identify how we can intervene effectively much earlier
2. Maximise the use of the remote evidence facility at the Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop
3. Further strengthen our partnership to ensure wider Criminal Justice and Youth Justice partners participate in the development and delivery of this Strategy
4. Monitor the use of protection orders for a range of violent offences to promote wider take up and better enforcement of breaches
5. 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.
6. Increase awareness with local solicitors and legal reps of the importance of recognising all forms of Domestic Abuse and providing appropriate responses in family court situations

Criminal Justice

Progress So Far...

- ▶ The High Risk Victim Review is drawing to a close. As a result the Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) service has been strengthened; we have increased the capacity of the team, introduced new policies and improved engagement with victims
- ▶ A wider review of MARAC arrangements is underway to ensure there is a more dynamic response to new and repeat referrals, more consistency in the way referrals are dealt with and a better link to service planning and commissioning activity
- ▶ The remote evidence facility is still being utilised at the One Stop Shop. There are some problems with the technology at the facility which are being addressed by the Courts Service
- ▶ There is a need to strengthen input from the Court Service and Crown Prosecution Service agencies to the VAWDASV Leadership Group. The YOT engage with the Children & Young People sub group and Sex & Relationship Education Group

IDVA service engagement rates have increased from 50% to over 80%

Overall Summary Of Progress

Significant progress has been made during the first year of the Strategy's implementation;

- ▶ Positive steps have been made with the newly formed Communications & Engagement Group, including several successful campaigns such as International Womens Day, White Ribbon Day and 'Its Your World' Wellbeing Workshop
- ▶ The Children & Young People Sub Group have conducted service mapping and highlighted recommendations for change, as well as planning an awareness raising event
- ▶ The training roll out has made excellent progress within the first year and will continue to grow as additional levels of the National Training Framework are introduced
- ▶ Our IDVA service capacity has increased. The strengthened service has seen improvements in victim engagement and team morale

Next Steps

We will as a priority:

- ▶ Continue our training roll out across the authority
- ▶ Finalise the Accommodation Review to develop a new service model, including improved accessibility for those with complex needs
- ▶ Finalise the work to strengthen MARAC arrangements and the work of the IDVA Service
- ▶ Conduct research and develop links around male victims, LGBT victims, BME victims
- ▶ Further develop links with specialist providers who can meet the needs of people affected by sexual violence and other forms of violence such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

We will also:

- ▶ Ensure the performance management arrangements that support the Strategy are strengthened
- ▶ Make progress in all areas of the strategy

The Leadership Group's most recent meeting took the form of a workshop, where we discussed what's worked well, priorities for the coming year and next steps

Useful Abbreviations

- ▶ MARAC - Multi-agency risk assessment conference
- ▶ IDVA - Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
- ▶ NPT - Neath Port Talbot
- ▶ VAWDASV - Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- ▶ FGM - Female Genital Mutilation
- ▶ YOT - Youth Offending Team



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