

VAWDASV BLUEPRINT

7-Minute Briefing Workstream Update

December 2024



THE SURVIVOR VOICE SCRUTINY & INVOLVEMENT PANEL

- The National Survivor Voice Scrutiny and Involvement Panel continues to identify gaps and barriers within the Blueprint Delivery Model through engagement. The panel members are integrated in all the 6 workstreams, this work has led to shaping the summer senior leaders conference for the Workplace Harassment Workstream and provided a survivor input on the agenda.
- Further opportunities to explore how we can embed specific learning within the Blueprint Programme continues to identify gaps for children and young people, recent meetings highlighted how the experiences of young people as victims should be included in learning from them as adults. Survivors are keen to highlight the disparity for specific groups, such as race and disability, and demonstrate why intersectionality is crucial to ensure access to services and the provision of programmes meet all needs. We continue to work with the panel members to identify improvements and identify a diverse range of experiences in membership going forward.

TACKLING PERPETRATION

- The workstream is in the process of building a perpetration interventions directory. A task and finish group has been established to oversee the development of the directory, including agreement on its functionality and criteria for interventions to be included. The directory is intended to act as a resource for professionals to use for onward referrals and will provide an overview of interventions available across Wales.
- The Welsh Government has commissioned the University of South Wales to undertake research into best practice for defining and measuring efficacy of perpetration interventions. The research will underpin the development of a Blueprint position statement on measuring efficacy for perpetration interventions.



SUSTAINABLE WHOLE SYSTEM APPROACH



- The workstream has finalised the formal report on findings from the national multi-agency survey and two seminars held earlier in the year. The report documents challenges with developing needs assessments, regional governance structures and commissioning arrangements. The report will be published following sign off from Partnership Board.
- The workstream is committed to improving the arrangements for developing needs assessments. Initial work will focus on identifying current available data, understanding challenges with data collection, and determining what additional data is required to service robust needs assessments.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S NEEDS

- With the conclusion of the child voice mapping work, the commissioned work with Welsh Women’s Aid has come to an end. The workstream is extremely appreciative of the passion and breadth of knowledge that has been brought forward by Welsh Women’s Aid and will continue to work closely with them moving forwards.
- The workstream will be presented with high-level findings and recommendations from the PhD study of Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (CAPVA) in January’s workstream meeting to enhance understanding of this area ahead of any further policy development.
- The workstream is establishing a task and finish group, commencing in January, which aims to review and consider any updates to the Educational Toolkit. This provides primary, secondary and further education providers with a range of best practice materials to use within education settings.



OLDER PEOPLE'S NEEDS



- The online consultation for the new Dementia Action Plan for Wales was released and was available between 18th November – 13th December 2024. This survey was shared within the workstream with encouragement to submit a response and share widely with further networks. A joint response was also submitted on behalf of the Older People's Needs workstream. The survey will inform on key areas of focus for the engagement process of the new plan; we will update members when possible.
- The service engagement infographic on best practice has now been amended to include quotations from older survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence; a thank you letter has been written to the individuals as a token of appreciation from the workstream. The infographic is going through translation and will then be shared with workstream members and VAWDASV professionals.
- The workstream has begun work of a review of the DASH Risk Assessment after concerns were raised by professionals on the suitability of the assessment and its ability to appropriately capture risk for older people. A task and finish group has been established, and data is being gathered regionally from MARACs to support this piece of work. The workstream aims to make a formal recommendation on an adapted risk assessment to the National Partnership Board in June 2025.

GENDER-BASED HARASSMENT IN ALL PUBLIC SPACES

- Wales Violence Prevention Unit, in partnership with Plan International UK, has published the Engaging Men and Boys in Violence Prevention Toolkit, providing a range of information for understanding, supporting, and critically assessing the role that programmes designed to specifically support men and boys can play in preventing violence.
- A systematic review on online sexual and gender-based harassment, commissioned by the workstream and undertaken by ACE Hub Wales, is in its final draft and set for publication in early 2025.
- Phase 3 of the Welsh Government SOUND campaign will launch in early 2025. The focus of the campaign will be gender-based harassment in public spaces, and the campaign brief was informed by the workstream.
- The workstream continues to explore how sport in Wales can be leveraged as a strategic tool to prevent gender-based violence & harassment, and other forms of VAWDASV, both within sports settings and in wider communities. The workstream is also exploring opportunities to work with key partners to support Welsh Universities to strengthen their approaches VAWDASV.
- The commencement of the Protection from Sex-based Harassment in Public Act 2023 has been delayed. Guidance is being finalised for police and relevant authorities by the Home Office in collaboration with Welsh Government and other partners.



WORKPLACE HARASSMENT



- The first public sector leaders conference, Tackling Workplace Sexual Harassment: Leadership & Accountability, took place in Cardiff on 18.09.2024. Organised in social partnership with the VAWDASV Blueprint, Cardiff University, Unison Cymru, and other key partners, the event successfully shared practical tools, knowledge and key messages for preventing and addressing workplace sexual harassment. Leaders were encouraged to go beyond legal compliance and adopt best practices to drive meaningful change. The conference was praised for its strong inclusion of survivor voice and the insight shared during the practical breakout sessions.
- The next conference will take place in Wrexham on the 23rd January 2025, and we will soon confirm the date for West Wales. Public sector leaders & key partners wishing to find out more about these conferences can contact vawdasvblueprint@south-wales.police.uk.
- The workstream has commissioned lived experience research to explore the lived experiences of workplace sexual harassment among Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic women in Wales. The study seeks participants who have experienced or witnessed workplace sexual harassment, regardless of whether incidents were reported. Participation will be anonymised, with individuals having full control over what and how much they share. This research is vital to improving understanding and driving meaningful change, and participation is key to its success. A call for participants now is open, if you are interested in finding out more and participating in this research please email the researcher Dr Sophia Kier-Byfield s.kierbyfield@gmail.com the by 31.01.2025. Research participants will receive a voucher as an acknowledgement for their time.
- The Worker Protection (Amendment of the Equality Act 2010) Act 2023 came into force in October 2024. The legislation aims to better protect employees from sexual harassment by shifting focus from redress to prevention. The most significant change under the Act is a new positive duty that imposes a legal obligation on employers to 'take reasonable steps' to prevent workplace sexual harassment.