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Cardiff and Vale
University Health Board



Cwmni Adsefydlu Cymunedol
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Service



Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2018 – 2023

Action Plan Progress Report - 2019/20

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

AIMS:



PREPARE

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



PURSUE

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



PREVENT

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



PROTECT

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



SUPPORT

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

This document is also available in Welsh/ Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg

It's In our hands

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

Introduction

This progress report on the action plan for 2019/20 outlines the second year of the implementation of the **Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy (VAWDASV) 2018-2023**.

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

This progress report uses the following RAG ratings throughout:



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



- Indicates some progress, or the activity requires a change

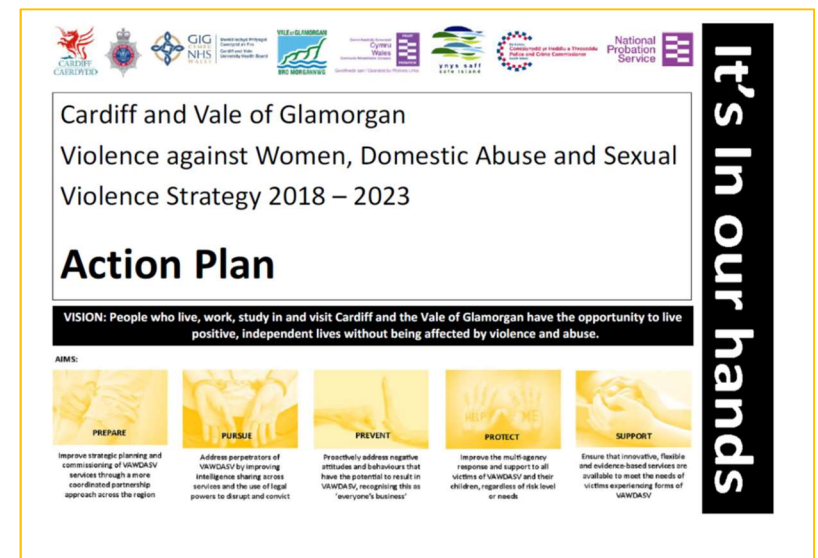
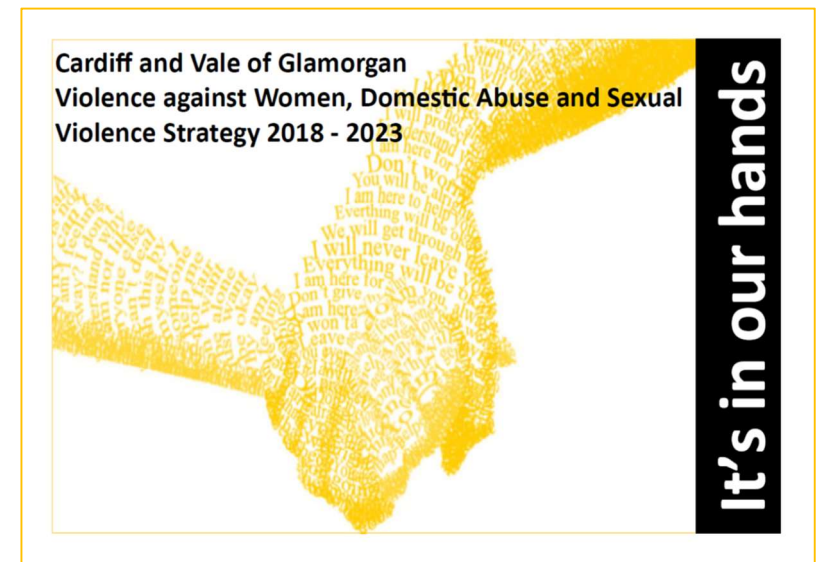


- Indicates good progress being made or the activity has been completed





All activities identified to be completed within the 2019/20 financial year under each of the 5 chapter headings of **Prepare, Pursue, Prevent, Protect** and **Support** have been discussed, along with information updates from 2018/19 actions where relevant. Key activities that are proposed to be addressed during 2020/21 are also included.

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

Document produced May 2020.



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PREPARE			
Section	We Will	By	Progress
Survivor Engagement	Actively seek engagement and input from victims and survivors that represent all crime types and protected characteristics	September 2019	
Wider Collaboration	Actively assist with embedding a whole systems approach across the region	March 2020	
Needs Assessment	Continually improve data collection methods to better inform ongoing needs assessment	Annually and Ongoing	
Governance	Implement and continually review governance arrangements including membership, to ensure they remain fit for purpose	Ongoing	

Survivor Engagement has continued to improve throughout 2019/20. The Welsh Government communications campaigns have been promoted widely across the region. Survivors also continue participate in some of the region's strategic sub-groups and speak at events to share their experiences and influence services. In particular, an effective relationship has been developed with SEEdS – 'Survivors Empowering and Educating Services' and partners have engaged with a variety of SEEdS survivors across a variety of different projects and campaigns. Work has also been undertaken to seek the views of male victims across South East Wales to inform commissioning activity for a dedicated male victims' service. In addition, discrete works continues to be undertaken by partners to capture feedback from across the range of protected characteristics and crime types, including survivors who have experienced rape and sexual assault, sex workers and those who have experienced Female Genital Mutilation.

A whole systems approach is being embedded across the region through **Wider Collaboration**. The 'Change that Lasts' collaborative pilot managed by Welsh Women's Aid places the survivor at the heart of the response, building around her needs and the strengths and resources available to her, engaging the whole community in taking a stand against domestic abuse. The 'Ask Me' Ambassador training has continued to take place this year, raising awareness and ensuring wider community activity and support. Drive, a targeted intervention for high risk perpetrators delivered by Safer Merthyr, has also become well established in Cardiff with plans to roll out across the Vale during 2020, alongside early intervention work with individuals displaying negative behaviours and attitudes being undertaken by Respect via the 'CLEAR' intervention with victims being supported by the RISE-Cardiff specialist service.

Data collection, to inform the regional **Needs Assessment**, continues to improve across the region. Improved regional headline data continues to be produced every quarter and shared with regional partners and Cardiff also produces a monthly data dashboard of activity. Capturing data remains an ongoing process and data collected will be used to inform the Regional Commissioning Strategy. Activity and outcomes from cases across all civil and criminal courts still remains a data gap, but this is an issue which is Wales-wide and the issue has been raised at a regional and national level.

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The regional **Governance** structure remains in place, comprising the following groups and meeting frequencies:

Regional VAWDASV Steering Group (Quarterly)	Domestic Homicide Review Panels (local) (As necessary)
Regional VAWDASV Commissioning Board (Monthly)	VAWDASV Executives (local) (Quarterly)
Ask & Act, Education and Training Group (Quarterly)	MARAC Steering Groups (local) (Quarterly)
Sexual Violence Strategic Group (Quarterly)	Cardiff and Vale Sex Work Steering Group (Quarterly)
White Ribbon Steering Group (Bi-Annually)	Professional Interest Forum (Annually)
Cardiff and Vale VAWDASV Universities and Colleges Group (Quarterly)	Specialist Domestic Violence Court Steering Group (Quarterly)

An update on the regional VAWDASV Strategy Action Plan is reported to the Regional Safeguarding Board every quarter and formal links continue to be made with the local Community Safety Partnership structures in the region to share information, issues and updates. While both Cardiff and the Vale Local Authority continue to hold their own VAWDASV Executive groups, a number of representatives from across the region attend both and from March 2020, the Cardiff VAWDASV Policy Lead/Regional Coordinator and the Vale Community Safety Partnership Manager will attend each other's Executive group.

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

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PURSUE			
Section	We Will	By	Progress
<i>Integrated Offender Management</i>	Trial and evaluate the MATAC Intervention for perpetrators of domestic abuse	September 2019	
	Evaluate the impact of Drive including impact on victims and children	March 2020	
<i>Working with Perpetrators</i>	Improve monitoring and reporting of perpetrator programmes / interventions	March 2020	
	Consider early intervention options for those concerned about their behaviour	March 2020	
	Explore options for delivering a range of community perpetrator interventions	March 2020	
<i>Restorative Justice</i>	Continually review the guidance and approach to the use of restorative practice for victims of VAWDASV	Ongoing	
<i>Safe Use of Technology</i>	Deliver local campaigns to highlight safe use of technology	Ongoing	
<i>Encouraging Victims to Report</i>	Encourage and support more victims to engage with law enforcement to explore criminal and civil remedies	Ongoing	

A Force-wide decision has been made to proceed with a Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordination approach (MATAC) to engage perpetrators of domestic abuse and provide support to victims as part of the regional approach to ***Integrated Offender Management***. This approach underpins the delivery of the Drive intervention, which utilises both direct support and/or disruption techniques for perpetrators while providing specialist support to victims via local services.

DRIVE has been formally evaluated by the University of Bristol and results are overwhelmingly positive: <http://driveproject.org.uk/about/research-evaluation/>. All interventions require a focus on victims and their safety. In Cardiff, support for victims has been built into the commissioned VAWDASV service criteria and this has enabled seamless support to be offered to victims and their children. Funding for DRIVE will continue during 2020-21 with a planned roll out of the intervention across the Vale during this time. The South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner continues to raise awareness of the need to fund this successful intervention going forwards.

During 2019-20, there has been much work undertaken regionally in respect of wider understanding of ***Working with Perpetrators***, underpinned by the Welsh Government Perpetrator Standards <https://gov.wales/violence-against-women-domestic-abuse-and-sexual-violence-perpetrator-service-standards> and range of Working Groups looking at this topic. Work has included the development of a presentation for Commissioners working across Wales highlighting the importance of, and need for, a suite of perpetrator interventions, and the recognition of the importance of service user engagement. With regards to commissioning programmes, work is ongoing to identify funding and a suitable approach to a range of interventions. **Amend date to March 2021.**

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Alongside Drive, a targeted intervention for high risk offenders, Cardiff has seen the development and implementation of CLEAR, an early intervention programme for those who are exhibiting concerning behaviours. CLEAR is part of the 'Change the Lasts' project and individuals can refer themselves or be referred by agencies. Both interventions are robustly monitored with headline data and case studies regularly presented at the Change that Lasts Steering group (CLEAR) and the DRIVE Governance group. However there is a growing recognition of the importance of having a suite of interventions available across the region. Multi-agency groups have been held to consider gaps in current programme delivery, the effectiveness of existing programmes and interventions and future direction. A report highlighting a range of options for community perpetrator interventions has been prepared and will be presented at each local Community Safety Board in early 2020-21 for discussion. During 2019/20, funding provided by the South Wales Police Crime Commissioner will enable the Drive programme to be available across the Vale. Work is underway to recruit an additional Drive Practitioner who will coordinate and undertake this work, working as part of a Drive South Wales team.












Restorative Justice practices can be useful as an early intervention tool to prevent potential escalation. However, Police guidance remains in place that restorative justice is not an appropriate solution to cases of domestic abuse or assault and should not be used as a resolution. However, in cases where there is no intimate partner relationship, or history of such, and offences do not include violence, stalking, harassment or sexual offences, restorative justice may be considered if certain criteria are met.

The promotion of **Safe Use of Technology** requires a multi-agency approach to ensure that key messages, hints, tips and practical safeguarding strategies can be easily disseminated to children, young people and adults alike. The DAARC and Community Safety Team in the Vale have good working relationships with schools which has aided the dissemination of key messages around safety for younger people. The Community Safety Team has an ongoing campaign around the safe use of technology for younger people including information about where to go for support and how to keep safe on digital platforms. This work requires a specialist Police lead and work will continue to be a priority during 2020/21.

Encouraging Victims to Report remains a key objective for the Police who want to ensure that victims have confidence to report abuses and the knowledge that they will be listened to. During this year, work has progressed to develop the bespoke One Stop Shop within the Cardiff Royal Infirmary site. The ability to permanently base a Police Officer at the One Stop Shop in Cardiff has again been raised during VAWDASV Executive meetings. In the Vale significant work has been carried out to improve data collection. This work has highlighted areas where referral rates for victims of domestic abuse has been particularly low. A proactive response followed with social media posts, leaflets and community engagement being more effectively targeted to ensure information was available in areas where low levels of reporting had been identified.

FUTURE ACTIVITY		
Criminal Justice Response	Increase the number of positive outcomes for victims	March 2023
	Enhance the monitoring of the outcomes of cases appearing before Magistrates and Crown courts	March 2021

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PREVENT			
Section	We Will	By	Progress
Early Intervention	Implement the Ask Me Ambassador pilot in Cardiff and share the learning	March 2020	
White Ribbon Campaign	Implement the White Ribbon Action Plan across the region	March 2020	
	Continue to advocate for a White Ribbon Wales	December 2019	
Formal Reviews	Ensure that the learning from all formal service reviews including DHRs is reflected in service delivery and is shared widely	June 2020	
	Implement any Welsh Government policy changes arising from its review of DHR processes	TBC	
Sexual Violence	Work with the South Wales Police & Crime Commissioner to gain a greater understanding of sexual harassment	March 2019	
	Raise awareness of consent at all opportunities	Ongoing	
Stalking	Improve awareness of stalking and promote the practical steps to reporting	Ongoing	
National Training Framework (NTF)	Liaise with the Judicial College to ensure Magistrates are trained in VAWDASV awareness and sentencing guidelines	October 2018	
Sex Workers	Review the effectiveness of the Ty Tarian scheme to inform future service delivery	March 2019	
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)	Develop close working arrangements between the Early Help Front Door services and specialist VAWDASV services	March 2019	

The 'Ask Me' Ambassador scheme is a core component of the 'Change that Lasts pilot' and a positive example of **Early Intervention** being delivered in Cardiff. The scheme aims to improve the community's response to survivors of abuse by training members of the community to become 'ambassadors' who are trained to identify signs of abuse and signpost to specialist services when appropriate. To date 100 Ambassadors have been trained since the project started. Current monitoring suggests that Ambassadors have shared their knowledge from the training with over 4000 community members face to face, and with over 20,000 people online. They have signposted 428 survivors to specialist support services, 162 of which were first time disclosures. Due to the fact that the monitoring relies on monthly returns from Ambassadors it is likely that the actual figure of contacts and disclosures and referrals is even higher. Updates and general learning from the scheme continue to be shared via the Change that Lasts Steering group.

Some work has taken place across the region to implement the **White Ribbon Campaign** regional action plan however this work has been unable to gain sufficient momentum due to the low numbers of White Ribbon Ambassadors who are able to pro-actively engage with events and activities. Despite this, a number of successful multi-agency activities continue to take place. Most events take place between September – December the time period surrounding the

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United Nations 'Elimination of Violence Against Women' day/White Ribbon Day (25th November) followed by 12 days of action. A calendar of multi-agency events arranged during this period was widely circulated across professional and public networks. A number of events, including the annual 'Walk a Mile in Her Shoes' in Cardiff and the 'human white ribbon' organised by Safer Vale with Oakfield Primary school gained significant positive media attention. Discussions regarding the development of a White Ribbon Wales network have continued to take place with Cardiff Council offering to host the post. A draft Job Description has been discussed with White Ribbon UK.

The Welsh Government has established a number of Task and Finish groups to undertake the work of the Single Unified Safeguarding Review Steering Group (SUSRSG), following its decision to implement the recommendations from the 2018 Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) project. The proposal is to unify all **Formal Reviews** in Wales to prevent duplication and ensure the focus is on learning and improving safeguarding. This work is due to cease at the end of 2020/21. **Amend dates to March 2021**

With regards to **Sexual Violence**, the region benefits from 'Ynys Saff' a Health led Sexual Assault Referral Centre that provides crisis support for men, women and children. Cardiff's Specialist VAWDASV service also provide support to women and children who have experienced sexual violence. Partners continue to raise awareness of consent at all opportunities, particularly via media shared on information stalls as part of the White Ribbon campaign, other multi-agency events and via social media. The prominence of the worldwide **#MeToo campaign**, served to highlight the widespread problem of sexual violence and sexual harassment. During 2019, South Wales Police circulated a survey via social media for a period of 3 months in order to gain insight in to public understanding about, and attitudes towards sexual harassment. The survey identified key areas where sexual harassment was likely to be experienced, such as the night time economy, public transport and university campuses. The small sample size also identified that women were more likely to experience sexual harassment than men. The way unwanted attention was expressed by men and women was different, with women more likely to report feelings associated with embarrassment, anxiety and feeling uncomfortable. Most men (although not all) did not report similar feelings. This work has been used to support an internal review of workplace policies and will also inform targeted communications activity.

Following on from the successful presentation around **Stalking** and risk of domestic homicide during early 2019, Jane Monckton-Smith, Lecturer in Criminology at the University of Gloucestershire, attended a regional stalking development meeting with key partners to consider how to embed the learning relating to her 'homicide timeline' research into frontline practice. South Wales Police are now leading on this via their Stalking and Harassment Working Group, with meetings taking place quarterly. Unfortunately a planned Stalking Conference organised by SWP due to take place in March 2020 had to be postponed due to the Covid19 emergency but the event will be rescheduled during 2020. RISE-Cardiff specialist service are also considering rebranding an element of their service to highlight their ability to support victims of stalking. Safer Vale ran a successful social media campaign that focused on stalking; helping to improve the understanding of what stalking is and how victims can access information, advice and support.

Although the criminal justice system is not required to undertake relevant elements of the Welsh Government's **National Training Framework** (NTF), it is imperative that Sentencers understand the complexities of VAWDASV cases, and the impact such behaviour can have on victims, including children. Training is a key component of the Wales Regional Domestic Abuse Best Practice Implementation Plan. Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service have confirmed that all Magistrates receive training before they are deployed to reside over Domestic Abuse court cases. The Plan also confirms that all Criminal Justice Staff attending

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court are trained in the use and application of 'Special Measures' which are measures that can put in place to support victims giving evidence, for example the use of screens. More work is required to understand how current training aligns with the National Training Framework, the key vehicles for the delivery of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.













The need to tackle **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)** remains a high priority across the region. Specifically in Cardiff, a new approach to family help and support has been implemented, based on 3 new services: a *Family Gateway* service to respond to all referrals and enquiries and offer information and advice, a closely-linked *Family Help* service to respond promptly to families who need some short-term support (Family Gateway and Family Help will sit alongside Flying Start and Cardiff Parenting Service to form a comprehensive *Early Help Service*). Finally, a *Family Support* service, managed by Childrens Services which is able to work with families with more complex or severe problems. The Early Help suite of support was phased in during 2019 with families experiencing VAWDASV being directed to RISE-Cardiff. Further work around ACE's will be undertaken alongside Public Health Wales during 2021. In the Vale the VAWDASV Manager, has developed close links with the new Early Action Together service which aims to provide early identification of children at risk through domestic abuse in order to reduce the prevalence and impact of ACEs. This service involves a PCSO based across the Families Achieving Change Together (FACT) team, the family advice line, community safety and the VAWDASV team to improve early identification and subsequent communication between services. Cardiff has also introduced PCSOs as part of the Early Help service.

FUTURE ACTIVITY		
Educational Settings	Continue to promote and monitor education-based activities across the region to include 'hard to reach' children	December 2020
	Give support to all higher and further education establishments to have a consistent and visible approach to tackling VAWDASV and in managing disclosures	December 2020
National Training Framework	Implement the regional training plan to ensure all staff are trained in accordance with the National Training Framework	March 2022
Early Intervention	Prioritise funding for early intervention services that prevent all forms of VAWDASV	March 2021
Sexual Violence	Provide a male IDSVA resource shared across all partners in the region	April 2020
Honour Based Violence / Forced Marriage	Improve understanding of how forced marriage affects individuals with protected characteristics	September 2020
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	Increase schools understanding of FGM and how to respond	March 2022
Night Time Economy	Assist with implementing the actions from the 'Delivering a Safe and Welcoming Night Time Economy' strategy	March 2022
Sex Workers	Raise awareness across the region of the issues faced by sex workers	March 2022
Trafficking and Modern Slavery	Widen the reach of the Human Trafficking awareness module through the National Training Framework	March 2022

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FUTURE ACTIVITY		
<i>Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS)</i>	Remain committed to mainstreaming the IRIS model across all GP surgeries in the region	March 2021 (date change previously 2019)
<i>Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)</i>	Support Public Health Wales to move from a position of understanding the ACE research to understanding what a positive and effective response looks like	March 2021

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PROTECT			
Section	We Will	By	Progress
Notices and Orders	Improve the use of Notices and Orders across the region	March 2020	
Housing Related Support	Assess the impact of welfare reform changes and the Renting Homes Act on specialist accommodation for victims	March 2020	
Workplace Policies	Develop and adopt revised VAWDASV workplace policies and encourage all partners to do the same	June 2019	
	Adopt the requirement for contractors to develop workplace policies through commissioning and procurement arrangements	December 2019	
	Ensure contractors are aware of the issues and understand referral pathways	December 2019	
Target Hardening	Review the availability of target hardening options and develop a regional approach	June 2019	
Clare's Law / Sarah's Law Disclosures	Further promote Disclosure Schemes at all available opportunities	Ongoing	
Specialist Courts	Work with campaigners to strengthen victims voices across all courts	Ongoing	
Managing VAWDASV Public Protection Notices (PPN's)	Work with partners to ensure continuous improvement of the MASH	Annually	
	Closely monitor the specialist service response to PPNs	Annually	
Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)	Improve the quality of MARAC referrals across the region	Annually	
Housing Related Support	Continually monitor the use of crisis/emergency accommodation to ensure provision for those who need it most	Annually	

Currently, with regards to the use of **Notices and Orders**, Police Officers give due to consideration to serving a Domestic Violence Prevention Notice (DVPN) on domestic abuse suspects whilst they are in police custody. The majority of these cases are dealt with by the Hub (which involves prisoner processing, suspect interview, liaison with CPS and file preparation). Work has already started to improve data collection in respect of DVPN applications and orders, with this work developing during 2020/21 to include staff training and a review of process.

The findings of a Welsh Government review commissioned by the Wales Centre for Public Policy in part looking at **Housing Related Support** provision, has yet to be published. The Renting Homes Act has not been enacted as yet. **Amend date to March 2023.**

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A short questionnaire concerning **Workplace Policies** was developed and circulated to all statutory and third sector partners working across the region in May 2019. For those organisations that work with contractors, only some had a specific requirement for contractors to develop bespoke workplace policies through commissioning and procurement arrangements. Despite this, many stated that there was an expectation that contractors would adopt and adhere to their organisation policies and follow organisational procedures.

The availability of, and access to, **Target Hardening** measures in the region has greatly improved during the last year. The Domestic Violence Community Alarm Scheme operated by Cardiff Council has been expanded to safeguard a greater number of high risk clients. Currently there are 60 alarm units that are in use across the city. Cardiff Council have liaised extensively with RISE, partner Registered Social Landlords and the Cardiff DV MARAC to ensure working arrangements are understood and adhered to by all agencies, resulting in a more efficient referral system and installation of specific target hardening measures. In the Vale, work has been undertaken to improve the information exchange between Regional Social Landlords who manage accommodation across the area and the DAARG, who manage Target Hardening requests. This has ensured an improved 'wrap around service' for victims and their families. The next step is to consider how to develop a regional approach to Target Hardening to ensure victims across the region receive a consistent, reliable service. **Amend date to March 2022.**











At all public and staff events and stalls, the ability to apply for **Clare's Law / Sarah's Law Disclosures** continues to be promoted, especially with the introduction of the Home Office Clare's Law leaflet. To improve services to potential victims, in Cardiff all applications for Clare's Law disclosures are considered at the Domestic Abuse Daily Discussion multi-agency meetings held at the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub.

In terms of **Specialist Courts**, funding was secured during 2018/19 from the Police and Crime Commissioner to deliver IDVA support to victims attending family court, replicating the provision already in existence for the criminal courts. Although this has been received positively by victims and specialist services, the response of some family court judges to this change has been fairly negative. During 2019/20 partners have continued to work with survivors to highlight these issues and a number of key partners responded in a call for evidence as part of the UK Governments 3 month review into Family Courts and the protection of children and parents in cases of domestic abuse and other serious updates. At the time of writing the Report has not been published.

The 24/7 response to **Managing VAWDASV PPNs** by the RISE-Cardiff service has proved very successful. This is closely monitored through the governance structures, regular contract monitoring and monthly data dashboards. Obviously this has been even more important since the Covid19 emergency and the rate of PPNs is monitored daily. In the Vale, PPN's are no longer shared by South Wales Police but by the Domestic Abuse Assessment and Referral Co-ordination service (DAARC). This has removed the issue of duplicate referrals into specialist services and ensured that the PPN is referred to the right service at the right time. Queries have been raised with South Wales Police regarding the current thresholds in operation for sharing PPNs with specialist services and discussions will continue into 2020/21.

FUTURE ACTIVITY		
Specialist Courts	Better support victims through the criminal and civil justice processes	March 2021
Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)	Establish and implement the Vulnerabilities and Exploitation Pathway	March 2021

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SUPPORT			
Section	We Will	By	Progress
Family Interventions	Research and consider family intervention models for future service delivery	March 2020	
People from a BME Background	Review the pilot FGM clinic's effectiveness	June 2019	
LGBTQ+ Victims	Strengthen links with specialist LGBTQ+ organisations to improve services and increase reporting	September 2019	
Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)	Embed the SARC 'Hub and Spoke' model for victims of sexual violence across South East Wales	December 2019	
Older People	Work with the Regional Safeguarding Adults Board to develop policies and training for those working with older victims of VAWDASV	December 2019	
Sex Workers	Explore new ways to identify, protect and safeguard sex workers and the communities affected	December 2019	
Male Victims	Commission a specialist male victim service with wider regional partners	March 2019	
Research	Actively participate in a range of meaningful research projects to broaden understanding and improve services	Ongoing	
Gypsy and Traveller Communities	Raise awareness of available support services to the Gypsy and Traveller communities	Ongoing	
LGBTQ+ Victims	Ensure services are responsive to LGBTQ+ victims	Ongoing	

A specific **Family Intervention** is currently being piloted by Safer Merthyr across the RCT/Merthyr region. The Family Programme has adopted an early intervention, holistic family centred approach so that services not only meet individuals' needs but contribute to the overarching whole family outcomes and enhance existing VAWDASV services including perpetrator interventions. The Welsh Institute for Health and Social Care, University of South Wales has been commissioned to undertake an external, independent evaluation and the findings will be available in June 2020. This will provide an opportunity for the Cardiff & Vale region to consider the potential benefit of a similar service being delivered.

People from a BME Background are often subject to harmful cultural practices. To tackle this, the regional Female Genital Mutilation clinic has proved successful in its pilot year and has helped to inform the revisions to the FGM reporting pathway. A review has been undertaken and presented to the Regional Safeguarding Board with funding secured until May 2020. Discussions continue in respect of future funding. Additionally the region wishes to work closer with communities directly affected by FGM and work was underway just before the Covid19 emergency to arrange some events and training for core staff. This will be revisited in 2020/21.

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LGBTQ+ Victims continue to be supported through the existing specialist provision in the region. The revised needs assessment exercise will ascertain whether there are gaps in provision for this client group. Views of LGBTQ+ organisations have yet to be sought to inform ongoing service delivery. **Amend date to March 2022.**

The process to procure a revised 'Hub and Spoke' **Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)** model for Wales has now been agreed. The plan is that Hubs will be commissioned under Phase 1 (2020/2021), ISVAs and counselling under Phase 2 and forensic medical examiners commissioned under Phase 3. However due to the Covid19 emergency, the Project Board has been put on hold until the situation eases and partner agencies are able to commit time and resources to developing the model. The Regional Paediatric service operating from the Cardiff SARC and covering South East Wales has now been in place for 12 months. The service continues to provide forensic services and support for children aged 13 and under, following an acute sexual assault. **Amend date to March 2022.**

Domestic abuse in **Older People** was an area covered during the 2019 National Safeguarding week. The Older People's Commissioner continues to offer free training in this area. The development of policies and specific training for those working with older People who are victims of VAWDASV will be covered by Groups 2 and 3 of the National Training Framework which has started to roll out across the Cardiff & Vale Health Board and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

Specialist support for **Sex Workers** in Cardiff continues to be offered by Safer Wales via the Streetlife Project. However work is still required to consider how the findings from the Beyond the Gaze study and the partners visit to the Holbeck Managed Approach project in Leeds will impact upon service delivery. Specialist VAWDASV services in the region and the Sexual Assault Referral Centre continue to be available for people working in the sex industry. **Amend date to March 2022.**

The development of a specialist service for **Male Victims** of domestic abuse and sexual violence is ongoing. Despite interest initially being shown by local authorities across South Wales and Gwent, the procurement process will now only go ahead with Cardiff leading the commissioning process on behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan. It is anticipated that the service will be commissioned during 2020, although the Covid19 emergency has delayed the ability to progress this further. **Amend date to March 2021.**

The region remains committed to participating in **Research**. To date the region has been involved in the delivery, monitoring and review of Drive, MATAc and Change That Lasts with the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner's office; the review of refuge provision and sexual violence services with the Welsh Government and the Wales Centre for Public Policy; and continues to be involved in the delivery and monitoring of IRIS and IRIS+ with GP surgeries across the region. Partners have also responded to Calls for Evidence in respect of perpetrators, victim's services and family courts.

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Earlier this year RISE and the Gypsies & Travellers Wales team met to discuss ways in which knowledge and expertise can be shared in order to develop reciprocal training for staff working in both areas of work. This will be progressed during 2020-21 with in-reach provision provided by RISE-Cardiff and Atal-y-fro to support ***Gypsy and Traveller Communities*** in the region remaining under consideration. Local authority staff working with Gypsy & Traveller communities have accessed the VAWDASV Group 1 National Training Framework e-learning module and will be required to complete further training when rolled out across the region.

FUTURE ACTIVITY		
<i>Children and Young People</i>	Consider extending positive male role models to children and young people experiencing other types of violence and abuse	March 2021
<i>Complex Needs / Toxic Trio</i>	Ensure health and social care professionals consider and address how complex needs impact on adults and children	March 2022