

Scrutiny Report



Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships

Part 1

Date: 28 February 2018

Subject Consultation on the draft Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy (VAWDASV)

Author Overview and Scrutiny Officer

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Area / Role / Subject
Sally Ann Jenkins	Head of Children and Young Peoples Services
Mary Ryan	Corporate Safeguarding Manager

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked

1. To consider the draft Violence Against Woman, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy (The Strategy).
2. Decide whether the wishes to make any recommendations to Cabinet on the draft Strategy.

2 Context

Background

- 2.1 The Strategy is required by the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 (VAWDASV) which requires the public sector in Wales to work together in a consistent and cohesive way to improve the outcomes for individuals and their families subjected to VAWDASV.
- 2.2 The Gwent Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Board has been established to carry out the Welsh Government (WG) Legislation within the five Local Authorities that make up Gwent and is made up of partners including: Newport, Monmouthshire,

Torfaen, Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent Councils, Gwent Police, and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Welsh Ambulance Service, Probation Service, Registered Social Landlords, Supporting People Regional Collaborative Committee, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Gwent Adult and Children Safeguarding Boards, VAWDASV specialist sector partners and voluntary sector organisations.

- 2.3 The VAWDASV Strategy contributes to the national strategy (National Strategy on Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence – 2016 – 2021) and will reflect the six objectives of the national strategy.
- 2.4 The main aims of the WG act are;
- Improve the public sectors response to violence against women; domestic abuse and sexual violence;
 - Give the public authorities (Councils and Health Boards) a strategic focus on the issue;
 - Ensure the consistent provision of preventative, protective and supportive services.
- 2.5 The Committee are being asked to make recommendations on the draft strategy, which will be forwarded to the Cabinet's prior to a decision on the final response from the Council on the Strategy. The recommendations will be verbally agreed at the Committee meeting, and then the final wording will be agreed with the Chairperson at a later date. These recommendations will then be sent to Cabinet at its meeting on 14 March 2018 for consideration in drafting the Councils response to the VAWDASV Strategy consultation.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 The Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 (VAWDASV) is the only document attached for information at **Appendix A**.
- 3.2 A breakdown of the Strategy, by subheading;
- Foreword
 - Introduction: Policy and Legislative Context
 - The Gwent VAWDASV Partnership Board and its Vision
 - Current Provision in the Region
 - Needs Assessment
 - Survivors as Experts
 - Engagement Findings
 - How we will act together to tackle VAWDASV: Our Strategic Priorities
 - How we will monitor our progress: Our Strategic Delivery Plan
 - Appendices
 - Appendix 1 - Understanding the Language Used (**included within in the strategy**)
 - Appendix 2 - Consultation Outputs: Survivors as Experts (**Available as additional information – circulate to Members via email**)
 - Appendix 3 – Gwent Needs Assessment (**Available as additional information – circulate to Members via email**)
 - Appendix 4 - Gwent Data - Annual Strategic Analysis (**Available as additional information – circulate to Members via email**)
 - Appendix 5 - Annual Strategic Delivery Plan (**Currently unavailable**)

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee in considering the Strategy is to:

Consider:

- The suitability of the plan in tackling VAWDASV;
- The robustness of the governance arrangements underpinning the strategy;
- How measurable and achievable the strategy is;
- Limitations of the strategy - what needs to be thought about when developing the Strategic Delivery Plan?

- Conclusions:
 - Do the Committee wish to make any Comments / Recommendations to the Cabinet;
 - What was the Committees overall conclusion on the Strategy;
 - Is the Committee satisfied that it has had all of the relevant information to base a conclusion on the Strategy.

Suggested Lines of Enquiry

4.1 In considering the Strategy, the Members might wish to consider:

Developing the Plan

- How the partners have worked together to develop the plan;
- Does it cover everything it needs to fulfil the intentions of the act?

Content and style of strategy

- Is it clear? Readable and give all the necessary information to understand the purpose and intentions of the strategy?

Implementation

- How the strategy will be resources and implemented across the partnership;
- What evidence is there that the strategy maximises the joint opportunities of working in a regional partnership?
- Is it clear how the partnership will work together to deliver the strategy?
- Is it clear how resources will be used and how the partners will work together to maximise resources available.
- References to supporting documents – can the Committee assess whether it's achievable at this stage as strategic document. What is the purpose of the strategic delivery plan? How and when will this be developed and reported on?

Monitoring

- Is it clear who / how the partners will monitor this?
- Does the LA have statutory responsibility for this? If so, how will we as an Authority monitor the implementation of this?
- Reporting arrangements – how / when will this be reported on and to who?
- Links to PSB Wellbeing plan – how will this be monitored?

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Supporting Information

For context on the national strategy - [National Strategy on Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence – 2016 – 2021](#)

6 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Well-being Objectives	Promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment	Improve skills, educational outcomes & employment opportunities	Enable people to be healthy, independent & resilient	Build cohesive & sustainable communities
Corporate Plan Commitments	Thriving City	Aspirational People		Resilient Communities
Supporting Function	Modernised Council			

The strategy aims to put in place preventative measures to address violence against women, domestic violence and sexual violence. This is in keeping with the intentions of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act in particular the sustainable development principles of prevention and collaboration.

7 Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

7.1 General questions

- How will this decision / policy / proposal impact upon future generations? What is the long term impact?
- What evidence is provided to demonstrate WFGA has been / is being considered?
- Evidence from Community Profiles / other data?

7.2 Wellbeing Goals

- How are the Wellbeing goals reflected in the policy / proposal / action?
 - *A prosperous Wales*
 - *A resilient Wales*
 - *A healthier Wales*
 - *A more equal Wales*
 - *A Wales of cohesive communities*
 - *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language*
 - *A globally responsible Wales*

7.3 Sustainable Development Principles

- Does the strategy demonstrate how as an partnership is working in accordance with the sustainable development principles from the act ??
 - **Long Term**
The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs
 - **Prevention**
How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives
 - **Integration**
Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies
 - **Collaboration**
Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives
 - **Involvement**
The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

8. Background Papers

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan](#)

Report Completed: 21February 2018