

Scrutiny Report



Performance Scrutiny Committee- Partnerships

Part 1

Date: 6 March 2019

Subject Delivering the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy (VAWDASV) in Newport.

Author Scrutiny Adviser

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

| Invitee: | Designation |
|------------------|--|
| James Harris | Strategic Director – People |
| Sally Jenkins | Head of Children and Young People Services |
| Mary Ryan | Service Manager Safeguarding |
| Robert Hartshorn | VAWDASV Chair of the Regional Partnership Board |
| Rebecca Haycock | Manager of the Gwent Regional VAWDASV Team |
| Ann Hamlet | Lead Safeguarding Officer for Health (Head of Safeguarding Services ABUHB) |

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1. Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked:

- a) To evaluate progress in delivering against the six strategic priorities in Newport.
- b) To determine whether it wishes to make any recommendations to the Partnership upon the progress of delivering the priorities in Newport to date and views for improvement
- c) To consider what future scrutiny activity to be undertaken.

2 Context

Background

- 2.1 Local Authorities and Health Authorities are required to have a joint VAWDASV Strategy in place to comply with the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 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 was established to deliver this Welsh Government (WG) Legislation across the Gwent footprint to discharge the duties within the Act for the five Gwent Local Authorities and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB).
- 2.3 Members may recall the Committee considered the draft VAWDASV Strategy at its meeting on 28 February 2018 and made recommendations, following which Cabinet approved the Gwent VAWDASV Regional strategy at its meeting on 18 April 2018.
- 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 VAWDASV Strategy contains six regional priorities that are being delivered locally and for the purposes of this report concentrate on the delivery/progression of the actions within Newport. (Appendix 1). The Committee is asked to comment upon on progression against the 6 strategic priorities and offer views for improvement and consider what future scrutiny activity should be undertaken.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1.1 The following are attached to for the Committee's consideration:

- Appendix A** - Submission of Evidence to Scrutiny - Delivering the Gwent Regional Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy (VAWDASV) in Newport;
- Appendix 1** - VAWDASV Regional Delivery Plan;
- Appendix 2** - Gwent Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) Review Action Plan;
- Appendix 3** - National Training Framework.

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

4.1 Role of the Committee

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

- Take a look back at how the Regional Partnership has performed in its delivery of the VAWDASV Strategic Priorities up to the end of Quarter 3;
- Assess and make comment on:
 - How well the Regional Partnership has delivered as a collaborative partnership on its Priorities;
 - How effectively the Regional Partners worked together to deliver the VAWDASV Priorities so far;
 - What mitigating actions have been put in place to address risks and not achieving Priorities;
 - How the public were engaged with on the VAWDASV Strategy/ Priorities and how feedback has been used.
- In drawing its conclusions, the Committee should assess:
 - What was the overall conclusion on the information contained within the reports?
 - Is the Committee satisfied that it has had all of the relevant information to base a conclusion on the delivery of the six VAWDASV Priorities in Newport at the Quarter 3 point?
 - Does the Committee wish to make any Comments to the Partnership upon the progress of delivering the priorities in Newport to date and views for improvement.
 - What future scrutiny activity should be undertaken.

4.2 Suggested Lines of Enquiry

In evaluating the delivery of the Regional Partnership VAWDASV Strategy in Newport, the Committee may wish to explore some of the following areas of focus which have been adapted from the Welsh Government Guidance on Scrutiny of the Public Services Board:

1. To what extent have actions been delivered within the timescales specified?
How much progress has been made towards delivery of the six VAWDASV Priorities? How far have the Regional Partnership's expectations been met?
2. How effectively has the Regional Partnership worked together to achieve its Priorities?
What lessons have been learned as a result of progress to date and how will they be fed back?
3. What have been the resource implications of delivering on the VAWDASV Priorities? How has working as a partnership maximised the resources available?
4. How has delivery as a partnership impacted on the delivery of the VAWDASV Priorities in line with the five ways of working from the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act?
What difference has working in partnership made to delivery?
5. What unintended consequences have arisen from delivering against the VAWDASV Priorities up to Quarter 3? What are the main factors that have impacted upon delivery?
6. How is service user experience being used to assess performance of the Partnership's delivery? What other methods are being used to evaluate effectiveness and impact of the VAWDASV Priorities?

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act

The Committee's consideration of the delivery of the Regional Partnership VAWDASV Strategy in Newport should consider how the Partnership is maximising its contribution to the five ways of working. The following are examples of the types of questions to consider:

| 5 Ways of Working | Types of Questions to consider: |
|--|---|
| <p>Long-term The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.</p> | <p>What long term trends will impact upon the delivery of the VAWDASV Priorities? How will changes in long term needs impact upon the delivery of the VAWDASV Priorities in the future?</p> |
| <p>Prevention Prevent problems occurring or getting worse.</p> | <p>What issues are facing the Partnership's service users at the moment? How is the Partnership addressing these issues to prevent a future problem?</p> |
| <p>Integration Considering how public bodies' wellbeing objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.</p> | <p>Are there any other organisations providing similar / complementary services? How does the Partnership's performance upon the delivery of the VAWDASV Priorities impact upon the services of other public bodies and their objectives?</p> |
| <p>Collaboration Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the organisation itself).</p> | <p>Who has the Partnership been working with to deliver the VAWDASV Priorities? How is the Partnership using knowledge / information / good practice of others to inform / influence delivery of the VAWDASV Priorities?</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | <p>How has the Partnership sought the views of those who are impacted by the delivery of the VAWDASV Priorities? How has the Partnership taken into account diverse communities in decision making?</p> |

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Supporting Information

5.1 The Characteristics of Effective Partnership Scrutiny set out in the Guidance for Local Authority Scrutiny Committees on the scrutiny of Public Services Boards issued by Welsh Government in August 2017 can equally be applied to the scrutiny of other Partnerships and states that:

“Research into the practice of collaborative or joint scrutiny in England and Wales identifies that arrangements are effective when they demonstrate the following characteristics:

Characteristics of effective partnership scrutiny:

- Scrutiny regards itself as a form of ‘critical friendship with positive intent’ in which scrutiny practitioners act as advocates for the success of joint working.
- Collaborative performance is evaluated from the citizen’s perspective.
- Strong efforts are made to understand the complexity of partnership arrangements and to facilitate learning about the culture and assumptions of different organizations.
- Scrutiny creates positive expectations by focussing on issues regarded as useful to the partnership or where there is consensus that ‘things need to change’.
- Scrutiny demonstrates intellectual independence and investigative rigour in all of its activities.
- Scrutiny demonstrates a positive impact by developing clear, timely, evidence-based recommendations aimed at enhancing collaborative performance.
- Scrutiny critically evaluates its own performance utilising partnership perspectives.

5.2 *A link to the full Welsh Government Guidance is included in Section 8 of this report in the Background Papers for Members’ information.*

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 | | | |

7. Background Papers

- [Welsh Government Guidance for Local Authority Scrutiny Committees on the Scrutiny of Public Services Boards](#) (Issued August 2017)
- Cabinet [Report and Minute](#) approving the Gwent Regional VAWDASV Strategy 2017-2022 on 18 April 2018
- Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships [Report and Minute](#) upon Consultation of the Draft VAWDASV Strategy on 28 February 2018
- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan 2017-22](#)

Report Completed: February 2019