

Swansea Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2023-2026



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Introduction

An estimated 2.4 million adults experience some form of domestic abuse in one year, 1.7 million of them women. On average every week 2 women are murdered by their current or former partner. Statistics also state that there are approximately 30 men murdered by a partner or former partner per year. It will affect 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men in their lifetime and has more repeat victims than any other crime (on average there will have been 35 assaults before a victim calls the police). Nearly half a million adults are sexually assaulted each year and around 85,000 women and 12,000 men are raped each year in England and Wales. In relation to 'so-called' honour-based abuse, statistics indicate that there were 2,887 offences recorded by police forces in England and Wales. In the year ending March 2022, there were 77 female genital mutilation (FGM) cases and 141 forced marriage offences reported and recorded.

Additionally, the cost to the economy is considerable. In terms of services, costs to the health services are estimated at £2.3 billion, the police, £1.3 billion and housing costs, £550 million. A Home Office report estimating the economic and social costs of domestic abuse, placed the annual cost at £66 billion suggesting that the costs of all forms of VAWDASV are considerably higher.

Swansea council and Swansea Bay University Health Board, in conjunction with the Welsh Government, recognises that Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) is a violation of human rights. It destroys lives and affects the well-being of our whole society. It is both a cause and a consequence of gender inequality and disproportionately affects women and girls, as recognised internationally by the Council of Europe (Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence) and the United Nations (Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women). Whilst it is important to acknowledge the disproportionate effect on women and girls, we recognise that abuse can also be directed towards men and boys, so our mission is to deliver a coordinated approach to prevention, protecting and supporting **all** groups and individuals affected by these forms of violence

Swansea council and Swansea Bay University Health Board has worked with a wide range of partner agencies to develop this strategy and will continue to work with partner agencies to provide services to all victims of crime and to bring all offenders to justice. We have also worked closely with Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC), to establish areas of work which are best delivered on a regional basis, and these will be highlighted throughout the strategy.

This strategy is an overarching plan which outlines the priority areas and strategic direction around healthy relationships and the implementation of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 within Swansea. We will build on our existing achievements and the progress that we have made, continuing to work across the West Glamorgan Region in areas of the strategy that will strengthen our approach to tackling VAWDASV.

In reflection of the Act, Swansea Council want to ensure this agenda is acknowledged as ‘everyone’s business’ and is a cross cutting theme that requires all areas of public policy to address the issues. Swansea Council and Swansea Bay University Health Board have worked together, via the VAWDASV Leadership Group, with our partner agencies/survivors of abuse to develop this strategy and will continue to work with partner agencies to deliver on the implementation.



Vision

“All citizens in Swansea to be safe, happy and healthy and live free from violence, exploitation, harassment and abuse, in all its forms”

This will help us achieve...

A Swansea that is a place which is more prosperous with a **skilled and well-educated** population, less characterised by the contrast and extremes of poverty across the city. We want to **improve well-being** so that communities are **safer, healthier, more cohesive and adaptable** to change so that everyone can be **supported to reach their potential**.

Our aspirations for addressing Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in Swansea are to;

- Ensure the voice of the service user is heard and listened to.
- Ensure the right support is offered in the right place at the right time.
- Prioritise early identification of need and early intervention.
- Target services working with a whole family approach to empower families to problem solve, build resilience and sustain change.
- Deliver services through collaborative approach through multi-service and multi-agency working.
- Provide services in a proactive, timely way to prevent escalation of need.
- Increase referrals from Police, Health and other services to VAWDASV specialist agencies and statutory services.

- Ensure **All** victims to have equal access to appropriate services.
- Challenge negative attitudes, educate communities to ensure they are better informed of the issues around VAWDASV.
- Ensure there is a regional and national collaborative approach to VAWDASV.
- Hold perpetrators to account and offer interventions to change their abusive behavior.
- Ensure professionals and communities are more informed around VAWDASV and confident in reporting incidents/concerns of abuse.
- Ensure the prevention of all forms of VAWDASV is prioritised.
- All professionals to ensure reports of abuse are taken seriously and the right response provided.
- Victims and survivors receive an empathic, trauma informed response.
- Listen to the concerns of women and girls to inform our approach to making spaces safer, including online spaces.
- Increase the perception of Swansea as a safe space.



Definitions

Violence Against Women (VAW)

The United Nations defines Violence against Women as:

“All acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life”.

This encompasses but is not limited to:

- a) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practises harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation.
- b) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution.
- c) Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the state, wherever it occurs.

Domestic Abuse (DA)

The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) defines Domestic Abuse as:

“Domestic abuse is any single incident, course of conduct or pattern of abusive behaviour between individuals aged 16 or over who are “personally connected” to each other as a result of being, or having been, intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality. Children who see, hear or experience the effects of the abuse and are related to either of the parties are also considered victims of domestic abuse”.

Behaviour is “abusive” if it consists of any of the following:

- Physical.

- Sexual.
- Violent or threatening behaviour.
- Controlling behaviour (an act designed to make a person subordinate and/ or dependent on the abuser).
- Coercive behaviour (an act or pattern of acts of assaults, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish or frighten the victim).
- Economic abuse.
- Psychological, Emotional or other abuse.

This includes incidences where the abusive party directs their behaviour at another person (e.g. a child). Economic abuse means any behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on someone’s ability to acquire, use or maintain money or other property, or obtain goods or services.

Key features of the act:

- Establish in law the office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner and set out the Commissioner’s functions and powers.
- Provide for a new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Domestic Abuse Protection Order.
- Prohibit perpetrators of abuse from cross-examining their victims in person in the civil and family courts in England and Wales.
- Create a statutory presumption that victims of domestic abuse are eligible for special measures in the criminal, civil and family courts.
- Extend the controlling or coercive behaviour offence to cover post-separation abuse.
- Extend the offence of disclosing private sexual photographs and films with intent to cause distress (known as the “revenge porn” offence) to cover threats to disclose such material.
- Create a new offence of non-fatal strangulation or suffocation of another person.

The Domestic Abuse Commissioner welcomed a draft **Victims Bill in 2022** which aims to centre the voices of all victims including those who have experienced or are experiencing domestic abuse and offer these survivors more support.

Sexual Violence (SV)

Sexual violence and abuse is any behaviour thought to be of a sexual nature which is unwanted and takes place without consent. Sexual violence and abuse can be physical, psychological, verbal or online. Any behaviour of a sexual nature that causes a person distress is considered sexual violence or abuse.

Sexual violence can include but is not limited to;

- Rape.
- Sexual assault.
- Child sexual abuse.
- Sexual harassment.
- Sexual exploitation.
- Ritual abuse.
- Forced to watch pornography.

Anyone can be a victim of sexual violence at any stage in their life. Although, the vast majority of sexual violence is perpetrated against women and girls, sexual violence against men and boys is a significant problem.



Context and Legislation

Welsh Context

In Wales, the cost of Domestic Abuse is estimated to be £303.5m annually: £202.6m in service costs and £100.9m to lost economic output. These figures do not include any element of human and emotional costs, which research estimates costs Wales an additional £522.9m. Taking the costs of sexual violence and other forms of abuse into account would significantly increase this amount.

Over the last few years in Wales, significant progress has been made in improving services for those who experience Violence within their relationships. This culminated in the enactment of the **Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act in 2015**. Section 5 (1) of the Act places a duty on Local Authorities and Local Health Boards to jointly prepare and publish a Local Strategy which aims to end VAWDASV and ensure consistent consideration of preventative, protective and supportive mechanisms in the delivery of services.

Following the introduction of the VAWDASV (Wales) Act, 2015, Welsh Government introduced the National Strategy on Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (2016-2021) revised (2022-2026). This sets out a renewed commitment to tackling VAWDASV, building on progress to date and prioritises delivery in the areas of **prevention, protection** and **support**. Delivery of the Strategy will be through a **Blueprint** approach which brings together devolved and non-devolved organisations.

Prevention

Protection

Support

The VAWDASV Act (2015)

Section 5 (1) of the Act places a duty on Local Authorities and Local Health Boards to jointly prepare and publish a Strategy which aims to end and ensure consistent consideration of preventative, protective and supportive mechanisms in the delivery of services.

The Blueprint

The Blueprint will create a new shared governance structure which reflects the joint ownership across devolved and non-devolved bodies and the partnership between the public, private and specialist sectors. The blueprint approach secures the multi-agency co-operation and commitment we seek. It seeks to bring together the resources controlled by partners within the blueprint and contribute to an end VAWDASV by facilitating shared understanding and common direction.

A new, co-chaired Ministerial-led National Partnership Board will have oversight of delivery of the Strategy. The National Partnership Board will provide a forum in which to broker shared decisions and commitments. The Partnership Board will sit at the top of a structure, which is served by a number of work-streams focusing on specific areas. It will also oversee the work of regional boards to ensure they deliver the all-Wales approach whilst still reflecting regional difference. Membership of the Board will reflect those bodies who have key duties in tackling VAWDASV.

Priority Work Streams - These groups may change over time as progress is made and priorities develop. However, initially these groups will address:

1. Gender-based Harassment in all Public Spaces

2. Workplace Harassment

3. Tackling Perpetration

4. Sustainable Whole System Approach

5. Older People and Needs

6. Children and Young Peoples Needs

7. Survivor voice is embedded throughout the 6 work streams

The National Training Framework (NTF)

The National Training Framework (NTF) places a duty on relevant authorities (Local Health Boards and Local Authorities) by the Act, and has two main functions:

- Consistent, proportionately disseminated training for relevant authorities to fundamentally improve the understanding of the general workforce and, therefore the response to those who experience violence.
- Alignment of existing specialist training to further professionalise the specialist sector, to improve consistency of specialist subject training provision nationally and to set core requirements of specialist service provision.

'Ask and Act' sits within the NTF and is a process of targeted enquiry to be practiced across the Public Service to identify people affected by this agenda. The purpose is to;

- Increase identification of those experiencing Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence.
- Offer referrals and interventions for those identified, which provide specialist support based on the risk and needs of the client.
- Begin to create a culture across the Public Service where addressing Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence is an accepted area of business and where disclosure is expected, supported, accepted and facilitated.

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act emphasises the importance of a coherent approach to preventative work within our communities and defines what these services are expected to achieve:

- Helping families stay together safely.
- A key focus for all services and begins with early identification of need and effective early intervention.

The fundamental principles of the Act are:

- **Voice and control** - putting the individual and their needs at the centre of their care, and giving them a voice in, and control overreaching the outcomes that help them achieve well-being.
- **Prevention and early intervention** - increasing preventative services within the community to minimise the escalation of critical need.
- **Well-being** - supporting people to achieve their own well-being and measuring the success of care and support.
- **Co-production** - encouraging individuals to become more involved in the design and delivery of services.

The Act provides a legal framework for improving the well-being of people who need care and support, and the principles will be reflected throughout this strategy.

The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act places requirements on Welsh Government along with 43 other public bodies across Wales to focus on 5 ways of working:

- **Prevention:** How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.
- **Integration:** Considering how the public body's objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, 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.
- **Long Term:** The importance of balancing short term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to meet long term needs.

The Housing (Wales) Act 2014

Enshrines in legislation the role of the local authority in preventing and alleviating homelessness. The Welsh Government guidance which supports the practical delivery of the legislation advises local authorities and their partners, as follows:

“Local authorities should be led by the wishes and feelings of the victim of domestic abuse when determining accommodation arrangements. The first option, where appropriate, should be for the perpetrator to be removed from the property to enable the victim to remain in their home. The Local Authority must also consider improving the security of the applicant’s home to enable them to continue living there safely. Alternatively, the Local Authority must assist the victim in sourcing alternative accommodation, whether on a permanent or temporary basis”.

This reinforces the need for local authorities need to work in partnership to ensure that prevention of homelessness is at the forefront of thinking.

The Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 (Amended 2021)

The Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 sets out the legislative approach to joint contracts/ tenancies: There is provision for a perpetrator of abuse to be removed from a property without affecting the tenancy of the survivor. It also makes it easier for a joint contract to be transferred to a victim of abuse if the perpetrator has already left the home and cannot be located or is willing to relinquish their part of the contract.

Community Landlords will engage directly with survivors to give housing support and advice and will engage with other agencies to help achieve the best outcomes for individuals.

[Renting Homes Act and regulations | GOV.WALES](#)

South Wales Police and Crime Commissioners' Tackling Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2019 - 2024

The strategy sets out four key priority areas for action:

- 1. Enhanced Collaboration:** We will work together to deliver a whole system approach to preventing violence against women and girls in all its forms.
- 2. Prevention and Early Intervention:** With partners we will focus on the long-term impact of decisions and work to keep people safe, healthy and well.
- 3. Safeguarding:** We will build on existing safeguarding arrangements, seeking ways to protect all victims, wherever they may be.
- 4. Perpetrators:** We will increase our focus on the behaviour of the perpetrator (in parallel with supporting victims and survivors of violence and abuse) to better hold perpetrators to account for the consequences of their actions and offer opportunities to change their behaviour through a range of interventions.

Their action plan adopts the widely recognised “**Four P’s**” framework of **Prepare, Prevent, Protect,** and **Pursue** and aligns each of these against the priority areas below.

Prepare:

ensuring the best possible governance, collaboration and commissioning of evidence-based models and innovation, understand available resource and effectively targeting it, involving those affected to ensure the best outcomes.

Prevent:

intervening at the earliest opportunity to prevent violence & abuse from occurring or getting worse.

Protect:

safeguarding victims and potential victims from harm and providing pathways to services.

Pursue:

placing an active focus on the behaviour of perpetrators and consequences of that behaviour, alongside supporting victims.

Significant Studies and Key Findings

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) has published its final report into child sexual abuse and exploitation in institutions in England and Wales.

The report draws on evidence from public hearings, the Inquiry's research programme and submissions to the 'Truth Project' from people who were sexually abused as children.

The report identifies common themes which came up during the work of the Inquiry and puts forward recommendations for reform to:

- Improve understanding of the scale of child sexual abuse.
- Prioritise the protection of children.
- Empower children and young people.
- Create a more protective environment for children.
- Improve identification and reporting of child sexual abuse.
- Improve the criminal justice response to child sexual abuse.
- Support people who were sexually abused in childhood.
- Make amends.
- Respond to evolving challenges.

[Summary of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse's \(IICSA's\) final report | NSPCC Learning](#)

Wales Audit Office

On behalf of the Auditor General for Wales, the Welsh Audit Office have examined how the new duties and responsibilities of the VAWDASV Act are being rolled out and delivered. Their report was published in November 2019 and concludes that victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence are often let down by an inconsistent, complex and fragmented system.

The report sets out a series of key recommendations that are intended to help bodies who support and have responsibility to assist victims and survivors.

[Progress in implementing the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act \(audit.wales\)](https://audit.wales)



Resources and Service Mapping

Swansea has a range of services that provide support and assistance to those affected by VAWDASV. The support can be categorised across the continuum of need as follows:

- **Prevention.**
- **Protection and Support (victim safety).**
- **Protection (perpetrator intervention).**
- **Support (recovery and reintegration).**

Prevention

Domestic Abuse Hub offers a whole family approach which aims to prevent escalation and limits referrals into statutory children's services.

Domestic Abuse Hub 2021-2022

PPNs received	2658
Provided with information, advice and assistance	2590
Not allocated to lead worker	2619
Passed to SCP for assistance	11
Passed to prevention support	24
Other Closures	20
Passed to Lead worker	4
Passed to IAA/ ISH	9
Referred directly from police to IIA & A	1996
TOTAL receiving information, advice or assistance	1655

Equilibrium: A whole family approach for perpetrators, victims and children/young people consisting of assessment, intervention (12-week course) and outcomes monitoring. Each session of the behavioural change programme includes work around driving positive change and measuring progress to evaluate outcomes. Perpetrators have to evidence a positive attitude to change to complete the course, those that do not, they are de-selected from the programme and alternatives options are explored. Equilibrium is also working with Swansea University to evaluate the long-term change and sustained change of the programme.

Equilibrium 2020-2021	
On waiting list	N/A
Failed to engage	44
Started programme but dropped out	5
Assessed as no longer suitable - Closed - Reasons: - - Open to drive - Too complex / High risk - Receiving support from probation in prison - Moved out of area	11
In service or completed programme	36
Total referrals	102

Equilibrium 2021-2022	
On waiting list	14
Failed to engage	47
Started programme but dropped out	14
Assessed as no longer suitable - Closed - Reasons: - - Open to drive - Too complex / High risk - Receiving support from probation in prison - Moved out of area.	28
In service or completed programme	80
Total referrals	183

DRIVE: Is an intensive intervention that works with high-harm and serial perpetrators to challenge abusive behaviour and prevent abuse, providing a robust multi-agency response to perpetrators whose victims' cases are referred to MARAC. Working alongside support services for survivors, sharing information about perpetrators' engagement, behaviour, and risk level to promote survivor safety.

Testimonial:

"I am confident that I would not put up with domestic abuse again and would leave straight away if I saw any signs."

"My DRIVE IDVA was really lovely. When I worried about anything she would put me at ease. She explained all the processes to me and made sure that I was kept up to date with everything."

DRIVE Project Swansea 2021-2022	
Total Number Victims Supported	48
Female Victims	45
Male Victims	3

DRIVE Project Swansea 2021-2022	
Serial Perpetrators	16

CMET: Contextual, Missing, Exploited, Trafficked.

CMET team support individuals who have experienced or are at risk of significant harm from outside the family home including Child Sexual exploitation, trafficking, child criminal exploitation, peer on peer abuse and sexually harmful behaviour. CMET team also take a Contextual approach to reducing harm outside of the family home developing safety in the places, spaces and peer networks where the harm occurs.

CMET team work on a referral basis and have over the last 12 months developed sessions for young people around consent and sexually harmful behaviour as well as tackling issues such as sexting and sexual harassment in schools. CMET team have also provided professional training in schools around the 2021 Estyn report we don't tell our teachers, supporting teachers to think about the subject of sexual harassment in school, in this training a self-assessment for schools is promoted to help them in assessing their responses to extra familial harm.

Young people placed on Child Sexual Exploitation Protocol between January 2022 and December 2022. In addition to the figures in the table below, CMET has also considered 6 young people for CSE Protocol during this period.

Type of Exploitation for Contextual Cases 2021-2022	
Child Sexual Exploitation / Other	1
Child Sexual Exploitation / Sexual Harmful Behaviour	1
Sexual Harmful Behaviour	1

Type of Exploitation for Individuals 2021-2022	
Child Sexual Exploitation	22
Child Sexual Exploitation / Frequent MISPER	1
Child Sexual Exploitation / Sexual Harmful Behaviour	1

CMET - Sexual Health and Relationships.
This data shows how many young people accessed support within 2021-2022.

CMET - Sexual Health and Relationships 2021-2022	
Males Registered	89
Females Registered	182
Distributions	301

Spectrum Project:

As part of the drive by the Welsh Government to tackle Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, the Stori's Spectrum Project is fully funded by the Welsh Government to deliver sessions on Healthy Relationships and VAWDASV topics in all secondary and primary schools in Wales, including Swansea.

All Spectrum sessions:

- Promote the importance of **healthy relationships** and raise the awareness of children, young people and adults about the issues of Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.
- Are delivered by **qualified** and experienced **teachers**, sessions can be delivered in Welsh or English and all resources are **bilingual**.
- Are **cross curricular** and are designed to promote peer discussion, using a range of techniques.
- Use material that are **thought provoking** but are not designed to be so emotive as to cause distress.
- Are designed to **promote discussion not disclosure**.

- Conclude with information for young people on where they can access **help** and **support** both inside and outside the school.
- Deliver training for school **staff/parents/guardians and governors** on:
 - Raising awareness of domestic abuse.
 - Understanding the implications of domestic abuse on a child.
 - Looking at a whole school approach to tackling Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.

Spectrum

Pupils Trained 2022	1837
Staff Trained 2022	173



Protection and Support (Victim Safety)

MARAC: meet weekly to discuss high risk victims of domestic abuse. Key statutory agencies, such as the Local Authority, the Police and health work alongside relevant third sector agencies to form this partnership.

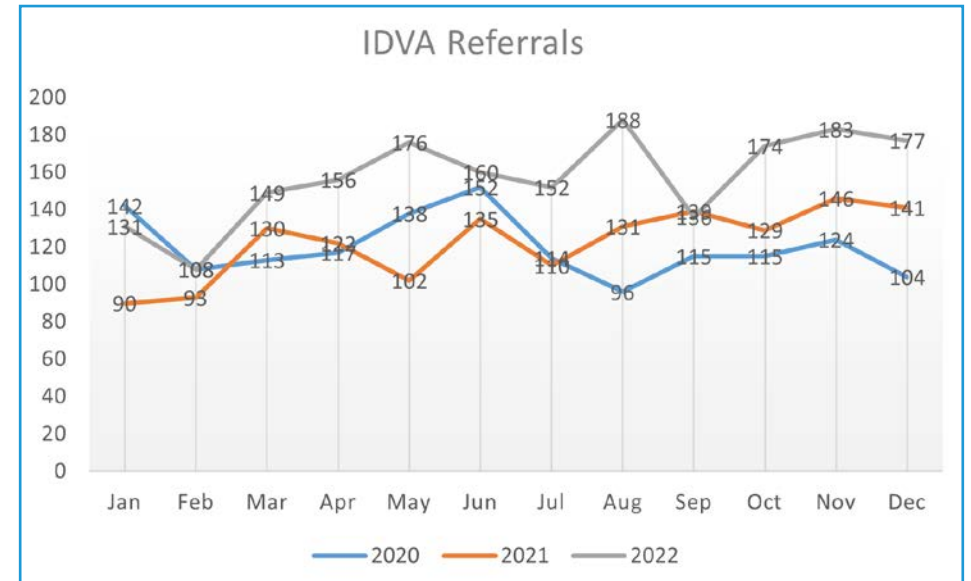
Swansea MARAC	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Number discussed	804	736	901
Repeat cases	221	208	247
Percentage of repeat referrals	27%	28%	27%
Children in the household	629	506	618

Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA): Swansea Council has 7 full time IDVAs including one regional court IDVA, one Drive IDVA and one part-time Drive IDVA working across Western Bay. The IDVAs sit within the Domestic Abuse Hub working with high-risk victims of domestic abuse. The referral pathway is through the Police and external MARAC's.

Testimonial:

“I now know who I need to contact now if I had concerns, I feel more confident picking up the phone and sharing my concerns to professionals. Before I had this support I kept everything to myself and it was very isolating, I didn’t know who to turn to but now I feel I have a good circle of support around me”.

Swansea IDVA Referrals	Female	Male	TOTAL
Number of Referrals 2020	1132	83	1215
Number of Referrals 2021	1329	133	1462
Number of Referrals 2022	1711	178	1889



SBUHB Health Based Independent Domestic Abuse advocate (IDVA): The Health IDVA is based within the Emergency Department (ED) Morriston hospital, taking referrals from patients and staff across the Health Board area. The Health Based IDVA risk assesses patients, raises awareness of domestic violence and abuse and establishes and maintaining health links with Safeguarding/relevant multi-agency forums.

The Health Based IDVA provides practical support and empathy, ensuring the safety needs of the client are paramount, as well as ensuring longer term community support. The IDVA liaises with the police regarding bail conditions/remand and engages with housing and refuge providers.

The Health Based IDVA also provides support to Health Board staff members who are victims of domestic abuse and violence, facilitating the 1-1 Trauma Recovery Toolkit, providing support, understanding, awareness and the ability to thrive following being in an abusive relationship, enabling the health professional to remain in practice, whilst being fully supported. The Health Board have supported the Health IDVA to complete the ISVA training.

SBUHB Healthcare IDVA 2022	Female	Male	TOTAL
Number of Referrals	357	32	389

IRIS (Identification and Referral to Improve Safety) is a general practice-based domestic violence and abuse (DVA) training, support and referral programme, which is a collaboration between primary care and third sector organisations specialising in DVA. IRIS was introduced to all GP practices across SBUHB and since the programme was introduced the majority of practices have received the training. In addition to delivering the IRIS programme, Calan DVS delivered training to over 80 Registrars so that they will be better equipped to recognise signs of Domestic Abuse and to make referrals at an early stage.

Between 2020-2022 there were 153 referrals from GPs within SBUHB, in the two years before IRIS there were 9 referrals from GP practices across SBUHB.

Swansea Women's Aid is a feminist women-only specialist provider of services for women and children experiencing violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV). We offer strength based, needs-led, trauma-informed support with a focus on enabling families to move forward positively with their lives, free from abuse. Services consist of:

Supported housing – 2 refuges and 3 safe houses offering 16 units of accommodation. Women (with/without children) can access for a few nights, weeks or stay until they are re-housed. We offer practical and emotional support, specialist group work (Freedom Programme/Bridging the Gap) and activities

Domestic Abuse Information Support and Empowerment (DAISE) project – offers one-to-one support face-to-face, by telephone or virtually via appointment or drop-in sessions. The support can be one-off or ongoing. We also offer specialist group work (Freedom Programme/Recovery Toolkit) at the SWA office and other venues across Swansea, including the Swansea Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop.

Children and Young People's service (CHYPS) – offers one-to-one support face-to-face, by telephone and virtually and specialist group work (STAR programmes) for children and young people aged 5 to 17 years. We also provide play and activities programmes, parenting workshops and healthy relationship workshops in schools and colleges.

Forest School – taking place in a local woodland, this allows children to develop skills, interest and understanding through a range of activities which provide practical, hands-on experiences in a natural environment

Support, Wellbeing, Advocacy, eNablement (SWAN) project – offers an evening outreach service 4 nights a week to women exploited by the sex industry, providing food and drinks, clothing, contraception, crisis support and access to outreach substance misuse support. This acts as the front door into the daytime support service where the women can receive ongoing practical and emotional support, safety advice and signposting to other agencies to best address their needs. Fortnightly visits are made to local brothels, and we also offer support to women sex working online.

Ask Me - providing free training and ongoing support that helps community members to start conversations about abuse, know where help is available, share their knowledge with others and to know how to give a supportive, helpful response to anyone who shares their experience of abuse.

In addition, SWA offers bespoke training and raising awareness sessions to other organisations and community groups regarding VAWDASV.

SWA 2020-2021	Refuges	DAISE	CHYPS	SWAN	Total
Number of Referrals	81	877	190	141	1289

SWA 2021-2022	Refuges	DAISE	CHYPS	SWAN	Total
Number of Referrals	109	1336	172	407	2024

BAWSO is the lead specialist provider of services to people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) backgrounds affected by domestic abuse and other forms of abuse, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), human trafficking, prostitution and forced marriage.

BAWSO offer purpose-built refuges that are specially adapted to meet the cultural and religious needs of service users. They offer outreach support; information and advice, floating support as well as a FGM Health and Safeguarding community-based project.

In Swansea, there is refuge and safe house provision offering accommodation for up to 13 families. Both can accommodate either families (women and children) or single females. The project has 3 family support workers and one children and young person's worker.

BAWSO 2021	Floating Support	Refuge	Safe houses	Advice Service
Total Supported	51	22	7	235

New Pathways is the largest provider of specialist sexual violence support services in Wales, providing a range of support for people of all genders and ages, who have been affected by rape, sexual assault, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.

Services in Swansea include:

- 24/7 crisis support at our Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) in Swansea.
- ISVAs (Independent Sexual Violence Advisors) offer specialist advice, emotional and practical support for victims, whether or not they report to the Police. The team includes specialist ISVAs who work with children and males. It also contains leads and single point of contacts for engagement and inclusion of minority communities including ethnic minorities and LGBTQ+, those with co-occurring needs e.g., domestic abuse and mental health issues and specific issues such as modern slavery.
- 1:1 Specialist Sexual Violence Counselling for adults and children that can be accessed via phone, video call, or face to face in our Swansea Trauma Recovery Centre. Our therapeutic offering includes specific PTSD related therapies such as EMDR and TF-CBT.
- Wellbeing Service: 1:1 and group sexual violence support including psychoeducational work and trauma coping skills as well as practical and emotional support. This service also offers pre-counselling sessions that help victims get the most out of their counselling experience.
- Perpetrator Interventions: New Pathways will be piloting a Problematic Sexual Behaviour Project, which will initially focus on children and young people who have been victims of child sexual abuse.
- Specialist professional training, research and consultancy.

New Pathways Services 2019 - 2022	Number of Referrals		
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Counselling (female)	288	237	326
Counselling (male)	96	55	60
Counselling (other gender identities)			1
SARC	244	276	487

Stori:

We have been helping to transform the lives of disadvantaged people for over 30 years. We offer support for women, men, children, and families with a wide range of needs – including those who are homeless, have experienced domestic abuse, mental health, and supporting people to manage the impact of addiction”. We help them find their feet, reach goals, and find independence.

Stori 2021-2022	Referrals
Project 13	48
Male DA	50
Floating Support	451
Rocklands Centre	60

CALAN DVS:

Calan DVS are a domestic violence and abuse (DVA) charity in Wales operating services across South, Mid and West Wales, specialist services across Swansea include;

Inspiring Families: An intervention and assessment 10-week structured programme for families that are affected by domestic abuse. It provides professionals with a robust framework to assess the parents’ behaviour, coercive control, disguised compliance, the level of current risk and the likelihood of future risk. It is delivered 1:1 with each perpetrator, victim/survivor and CYP over the same 10-week period.

Compass: A RESPECT accredited recovery and resilience programme for male victims/survivors. (Group)

Myriad: A specifically designed recovery programme for victims/survivors within the LGBTQ+ community. (Group)

ACEs Recovery Toolkit: A programme delivered to both adults and CYP who have, or are, experiencing DVA with the aim of minimising the impact of ACEs associated with DVA and to improve physical/mental well-being. (Group)

IRIS: Ongoing training, education, and consultancy for clinical teams/health professionals to identify domestic abuse. Includes an enhanced referral pathway to our specialist domestic violence support for those who disclose domestic abuse.

Ask & Act Training: Ask & Act is a process of targeted enquiry, practiced across the Public Service, to identify domestic abuse/sexual violence.

SV – Counselling: SV counselling for victims/survivors from within Calan who disclose current or previous sexual abuse/violence.

SV - Lotus Programme: 12-week group, The Lotus Programme provides a safe environment to understand survivors experience of trauma whilst connecting with others. We offer a space where there is no blaming, no shaming and no judgement, for victims/survivors from within Calan.

SV - 1-2-1 Support: The Lotus Project 1-1 Support Service can hold space for survivors to:-

- Learn about grounding and stabilisation techniques for symptoms such as flashbacks, nightmares and dissociation.
- Talk about your experiences in a way that feels safe for the survivor.
- Focus on the individual, their hopes and dreams for the future. Build on their resilience and strengths to empower survivors to move towards them.
- For victims/survivors from within Calan.

Reprovide: A pilot Randomised Controlled Trial programme, consisting of an Intervention group and a Comparison group. It is a 23-week rolling programme with additional 1:1 session and 6-monthly follow up group sessions. It also includes Integrated women's safety support and coordinated multiagency working.

Male IDVA service: 1:1 support for high-risk male victims/survivors of Domestic Abuse.

Consultation and Engagement

Are you Listening and Am I Being Heard? Report

Survivor Consultation: A report of the recommendations made by survivors of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence, to inform the National Strategy in Wales.

Understanding how survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence and other forms of violence against women use and experience public services is key to improving the effectiveness of prevention, protection and support services and systems in Wales.

Survivors' voices and experiences must also be central to informing the development and delivery of legislation, policy and strategy in order to ensure systems and services best meet survivors' needs and action is taken to prevent violence and abuse in the short and longer term.

Your Opinion Matters Project (YOM)

This was a 3-year project, which ran between 2013-16 as part of the Big Lottery funded Community Voice Programme and managed by Swansea Women's Aid, the Project:

- ✓ Developed a coherent voice for survivors of domestic abuse that was informed and could inform service delivery.
- ✓ Encouraged enablement and skills enhancement of disadvantaged women, young people and children.
- ✓ Promoted and established the enablement of service users to review and inform service provision of public services.
- ✓ Gave an increased value to and recognition of survivors of domestic abuse and the invaluable insight they possess on services and what they need.

The project was successful and led into a Service User Forum to further support the voice of the survivors.

Feedback from survivors from the YOM project on consultation with the strategy, stated that being part of the project has identified gaps in

services where they feel victims have been 'let down'. In addition, highlighting that it has been difficult to engage services to get meaningful responses that purport change. Another area identified as a concern was the treatment of victims accessing the Family Courts where they want to see victims of DA being recognised as current victims and decisions to reflect this.

This invaluable feedback helps shape our services ensuring a strength-based, needs-led approach and that all victims have the right response the first time. Service User voices are crucial to the planning and delivery of VAWDASV services. Those that have the experience of VAWDASV are the experts in what services need to be delivered to be effective. Service user engagement is about more than consultation; it is about listening to what is being said and using the skills and expertise of service users in partnership work.

Co-Production Project

The Co-Production Project at Swansea Women's Aid assists survivors to take ownership of the set-up and development of the Co-Production Centre, and its programme of activities. The aim of post-crisis activities and groups being improved wellbeing and increased ability to self-manage the long-term impacts of domestic abuse for women in the area engaged with specialist VAWDASV services, and other public and third sector organisations.

Focus is placed heavily on gathering regular feedback and directly asking attendees what they want or need, giving all survivors an active role in shaping the future of the Centre, but also encouraging each woman to actively adopt an empowering lifelong self-help approach in managing her wellbeing and the long-term effects of abuse. Activities have placed focus on learning coping mechanisms, reducing anxiety, and increasing energy but also bonding, movement, self-expression through creativity and laughter. This approach along with peer support has proven uplifting and to reduce debilitating feelings of shame, self-blame, and isolation.

The project actively encourages independence and take-up of training to empower survivors to succeed, have their voices heard, engage with decision-makers and build mutual trust and respect. Through empowerment the project encourages survivors to engage with public bodies with VAWDASV survivor involvement duties/commitments and positively influence services and strategy in the area.

“The activities I’ve attended have been really uplifting, lately I’m in a much better mood. I have been having a really difficult time and they have been a lifeline. They get me out of the house.”

Activity Attendee (began attending Co-Production activities in December 2022)

“I have been thinking about the amazing, compassionate, and understanding support. I will always remember your support. Activities have helped me to find different ways to help me manage my stress related to post-traumatic stress disorder.”

Activity Attendee (began attending Co-Production activities in December 2022)

“I feel the involvement alone will be hugely empowering and confidence-boosting for women who have experienced abuse. Some women and their children may feel they are finally being believed for the first time and finally experiencing their truth being not only respected but encouraged. Also, how empowering and confidence-building would it be for children who have been affected by abuse to lead, run, and make their own decisions when involved in their own branch of the Co-Production Project?”

Co-Production Volunteer

The Swansea VAWDASV Partnership will continue to work towards a co-produced approach to VAWDASV services and identify opportunities to involve survivor groups or representatives in existing partnerships and structure.

Aims and Key Principles

In line with the requirements of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, our aims and key principles within this strategy have been developed to meet the following 5 ways of working which will help us to work together better, avoid repeating any past mistakes and tackle some of the long-term challenges we are facing.

Long Term

- To ensure there is a strong focus on education and work with young people with the aim of eradicating violence and abuse over the long term.
- To work with communities and employers to bring about a cultural shift in attitudes towards violence and abuse so that it is no longer tolerated or considered acceptable.
- To provide services that offer best value for money.

Early Intervention & Prevention

- To develop effective prevention for all forms of VAWDASV.
- To continue to develop services so that victims and perpetrators can access help and support at the earliest possible time and to prevent cases reaching a point of crisis.

Involvement

- To ensure our service delivery is person centred.
- To ensure the voices of people affected by violence and abuse are heard and that more opportunity is created to develop services that are evidence based and include survivor involvement.

Integration

- To adopt a holistic approach, so that the wellbeing of people affected by violence and abuse is considered in service responses.
- To ensure this work is recognised as everyone's business.

Collaboration

- Continue to build and develop a confident, strong partnership.
- To develop regional and national collaborative approaches where this is more effective than a local response.
- To work towards collaborative commissioning for all VAWDASV services in Swansea.



Overarching Framework and Strategic Objectives

The aims of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 is to:

- Improve arrangements for the **Prevention** of VAWDASV;
- Improve arrangements for the **Protection** of victims of VAWDASV and;
- To improve **Support** for people affected by VAWDASV.

Prevention

We are committed to preventing VAWDASV from happening, by challenging the attitude and behaviours which foster it and intervening early, where possible, to prevent its recurrence.

The prevention of violence is central to agendas on public health; reducing crime and the harm caused by serious violent crime; safeguarding children and adults with support needs; promoting education, learning and skills development; and promoting equality.

Prevention involves education to change attitudes and perceptions (to reduce the incidence of a problem among a population before it occurs) and can be targeted, at broad population groups, such as school-age children or members of a particular community.

Protection

We are committed to ensuring those who experience any form of violence are appropriately protected, eliminating the risk of further harm to victims and their children.

We want **anyone** experiencing these issues to be aware of the support that is available locally and we want to be confident that all professionals within our area are equipped with the knowledge to effectively respond to any disclosures.

Support

We are committed to providing high-quality support for survivors and their families, ensuring services meet their needs and prioritise their safety, to enable them to achieve independence and freedom from abuse.

It is vital that survivors receive the right support, at the right time, to enable them to take action that is right for them.

Strategic Objectives

The objectives within this strategy are derived from those of the published National Strategy and will feed into the Blueprint framework. Having similar objectives within Swansea will enable us to demonstrate how we will support the Welsh Government in achieving its policy objectives regarding Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.

Objective 1

Challenge harmful public attitudes to violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence across Swansea through awareness raising and space for public discussion, promoting a positive response.

Objective 2

Increase awareness in children and young people of the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships and empowering them to positive personal choices.

Objective 3

Increase the focus on holding those who use abusive behaviour to account and support those who may carry out abusive or violent behaviour to change their behaviour and avoid offending.

Objective 4

Make early intervention and prevention a priority.

Objective 5

Relevant professionals are trained to provide effective, timely and appropriate responses to victims and survivors.

Objective 6

Provide all victims with equal access to appropriately resourced, high quality, needs-led, strength-based, inter-sectional and responsive services across Wales.

Objective 7

Prepare robust evidence to inform our work.

Objective 1

Challenge harmful public attitudes to violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence across Swansea through awareness raising and space for public discussion, promoting a positive response.

Current position:

It is essential that we deliver universal awareness campaigns, to raise awareness, challenge negative attitudes and increase peoples understanding about VAWDASV issues, including the help and support that is available locally, regionally and nationally. The VAWDASV Communication & Engagement Group operates on a regional basis ensuring a consistent, co-ordinated, strategic approach. The group has a strong, clear Terms of Reference with membership from relevant partner agencies. The group also has a Communications Plan and calendar of key events.

The group continue to be responsible for;

- the development and implementation of a programme of awareness raising of all VAWDASV services.
- raising awareness of the impact of VAWDASV on victims.
- organising, promoting and undertaking prevention campaigns and initiatives.

We need to consider survivors' feedback when shaping future awareness raising campaigns, taking into account any situations where they sought help but faced adversity and felt misunderstood or not listened to.

Raising awareness in the community in general is vital. Communities need to recognise VAWDASV and the harm it causes, be supportive of survivors and be able to provide information about the help that is available. This is critical since much support to victims comes from these sources, not from service providers. A positive and knowledgeable response from the immediate network surrounding victims and their children is critical to increasing the likelihood of early intervention.

SBUHB has also recognised the importance raising awareness by increasing the visibility of the corporate safeguarding team across the Health

Board by working with high priority areas such as Minor Injuries, Emergency Department, Sexual Health and Midwifery to increase awareness of VAWDASV. With the addition of the violence prevention team (VPT). The purpose of the VPT is to reduce crime and associated harm by providing appropriate support and signposting. Violence Prevention Teams have been successfully implemented across England, with only one other team based in the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff. Along with the Health based IDVA who raises awareness of domestic violence and abuse and is establishing and maintaining health links with Safeguarding/relevant multi-agency forums.

What we will do:

- Utilise local media and social media platforms to increase awareness and positive information through National and local campaigns.
- Promote and provide healthy relationships programmes across multiagency service provisions and sectors.
- Ensure service users voices are captured throughout development of services and influencing the development, driving change.
- Continue to deliver and promote the WG National Training Framework and VAWDASV Training Courses.
- Raise awareness of the Specialist Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence services available.
- Continue to work with NPT to ensure regional approach, promoting campaigns and raising awareness, via the Communication and Engagement Sub- Group.
- Continue to amplify Welsh Government campaigns regarding VAWDASV.
- Increase awareness and service provision raising the profile and public understanding of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence, among vulnerable groups such as ethnic minorities, disabled people, the LGBTQ+ community, older people, refugees and migrants.
- Be proactive in reaching all services with specialist providers sharing expertise and specialist training to agencies that support victims.
- Co-construct a training programme with domestic abuse and sexual violence specialist agencies for public and professionals in relation to adult sexual exploitation. Thus, will enhance understanding and services available.

- Promote ‘Ask Me’ and ‘Change that Lasts’ as part of the community based preventative package.
- Ensure VAWDASV priorities are integrated within the Safer Swansea Community Partnership Strategy.
- Support and promote the growth of the ‘your opinion matters’ group.
- Raise awareness of the SWAN project which supports women who are Sexual exploited and Trafficked.
- Promote and support the development of the SWA Co- Production Centre, ensuring that survivor’s voice is embedded across all services.
- Ensure a broad coverage of VAW – Exploitation, street harassment, workplace harassment, perpetrator focused comms, CYP comms with an understanding exposure to violent and misogynistic media and lifestyles can impact VAWDASV.
- Advocate for sustainable funding to ensure consistency and continuous improvement of services across all areas.
- Work in partnership with Safer Swansea Partnership to address Street Harassment and Safety in Public Places.
- Challenge attitudes and culture around workplace harassment.

On a regional basis, we will:

- Continue to manage the group on a regional basis and ensure the membership of the group is inclusive. Membership to be expanded where appropriate.
- Continue to amplify Welsh Government campaigns regarding VAWDASV, to ensure we play our part in strengthening the messages and making them recognisable across all areas of Wales.
- Develop, launch and evaluate a local Sexual Violence Prevention campaign, using local data to ensure messages are targeted at those who may be at most risk within our communities.
- Increase awareness of sexual exploitation and street harassment through local, regional and national campaigns.
- Develop an annual calendar of national and local events and activities.

Objective 2

Increase awareness in children and young people of the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships and empowering them to positive personal choices.

Current position:

Within Swansea, there are multiple approaches towards prevention, protection and support to children and young people to raise awareness of abusive behaviours and their impact, as well as highlighting healthy and equal relationships across health, education, child & family social services and wider. The School Nursing Service is represented on the Swansea Bay Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) Working Group, and they have developed lesson plan packs for Primary and Secondary schools. They are designed to provide good quality, standardised and evidenced based RSE and ensure pupils receive accurate and age-appropriate information. School Nurses deliver the lesson plans to Years 5/6 in Primary school and Year 9 in Secondary school.

What we will do:

Increase awareness in children and young people of the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships and that abusive behaviour is always wrong.

- Promote and support the WG Whole Education Approach to VAWDASV within all school settings and young people's community settings, e.g., youth clubs', temporary accommodation.
- Promote and support the CMET training for schools around the 'corridor culture', sexual harassment in schools, promoting healthy relationships.
- Ensure children and young people's voices are heard through development of a Framework co-produced with young people.
- Support the development of the working groups for children and young people, disabled people, LGBTQ+ and ethnic minorities, ensuring services have a CYP perspective.

- Support and promote the Co-Production Centre to establish a cohort of young people, ensuring their voices are heard.
- Explore opportunities for challenging misogynistic behaviour and toxic masculinity with young people, considering the influence of social media.
- Strengthen links with all tiers of education including University and FEI, through their involvement in the Leadership Group and subgroups.
- Ensure a VAWDASV lens is considered at early help hub implementation.
- Develop a document mapping the services that provide educative support to children and young people around healthy relationships.
- Educate staff in schools around Child Sexual Abuse, grooming, online safety to ensure children and young people are identified at risk and supported to make positive choices.
- Support the Open Access Youth Service/Evolve to this who engage with around 4000/5000 young people through a blended approach of outreach, youth clubs and targeted work.
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing workers from EHH are aligned to comprehensive schools and deliver the Equilibrium healthy relationships programme for young people.
- (Undertake 1-2-1 targeting work with young people who have experienced or witnessed violence in the home through specialist support services or open access services such as youth work, play, early years, early help.
- Offer Specialist support – DA Hub, Equilibrium, NVR, SWA – CHYPS, Daise Counselling, New Pathways – Children and Young People’s Sexual Violence Counselling and Wellbeing Services.

On a regional basis we will:

1. Raise awareness of all Welsh Government VAWDASV campaigns targeted at CYP with an emphasis on challenging misogyny and developing conversations about acceptable language and behaviour.

Objective 3

Increase the focus on holding those who use abusive behaviour to account and support those who may carry out abusive or violent behaviour to change their behaviour and avoid offending.

Current position:

We are committed to taking action to reduce the risk to victims, ensuring that perpetrators are provided with opportunities for change in a way that maximises safety. Swansea currently delivers the Equilibrium Programme, which is a whole family, solution focused approach to preventing escalation of abuse and maximising safety for victims and families. The programme has gained Respect accreditation and work is ongoing with academic partners in Swansea University to conduct an independent evaluation, which will inform future commissioning.

An additional strand to the Equilibrium there is a perpetrator housing worker who offers support with housing, benefits employment. This primary focus is stabilising their lives and reduce the risks of domestic abuse for victims.

The Drive programme is delivered across the Region working with high-harm, high-risk and serial perpetrators of domestic abuse to prevent their abusive behaviour and protect victims. Drive challenges and supports perpetrators to change and works with partner agencies – like the police and social services – to disrupt abuse. A Regional Drive IDVA supports the victims ensuring their safety while working alongside the Drive case managers. The Drive pilot is being launched in Swansea prison 2023 and with an additional part time Drive IDVA we will be able to monitor the safety and offer support their victims.

The implementation of IRIS (Identification and Referral to Improve Safety) has recommenced across Swansea, the programme includes raising awareness of perpetrator behaviour and advice on signposting (IRIS is discussed further in Objective 5).

Perpetrators of sexual abuse and violence are dealt with through the criminal justice system (CJS). Some sexual violence perpetrator programmes have been run in prisons, however, evaluation of the Core Sex Offender Treatment Programmes (SOTP) found small changes in behaviour that would suggest either that they do not reduce sexual re-offending or that its true impact was not detected (Mews, A., Di Bella, L., & Purver, M.

(2017). Impact evaluation of the prison-based Core Sex Offender Treatment Programme. Ministry of Justice Analytical Series)

There is a clear need for intervention in the community at an earlier stage - when young people are identified as exhibiting problematic sexual behaviour (PSB) or harmful sexual behaviour (HSB). Current HSB interventions can also only be accessed through the criminal justice system or in limited circumstances, through referral from social services.

There is currently no sexual violence related perpetrator service in the region, however New Pathways have recently begun to pilot an early intervention programme for Problematic Sexual Behaviour (PSB) in children and young people affected by Child Sexual Abuse. There is a view to widening this to Harmful Sexual Behaviour (higher risk behaviour) if successful.

What we will do:

Increase the focus on holding perpetrators to account and provide opportunities to change their behaviour based around victim safety.

- Expand existing services to include a range of perpetrator interventions for specific groups of people such as women-only, ethnic minorities, older people and additional learning needs.
- Promote the Equilibrium Programme across services aiming to deliver regionally.
- Engage with community-based programmes.
- Awareness raising and advocating for perpetrator interventions to be considered at all opportunities.
- Strengthen partnerships with the Police and Probation to ensure a consistent approach to holding perpetrators to account.
- Consider training needs for specialists and wider partners around perpetrators of VAWDASV
- Explore options and interventions for perpetrators of all forms of VAWDASV, including sexual violence and exploitation.
- Engage with the PPC South Wales Whole Systems Approach to Domestic Abuse perpetrators.
- CMET will prioritise the disruption of exploitation by using the Home Office disruption tool kit.

- Engage and support national and regional governance structures.
- Support statutory functions such as MAPPA and increase understanding and awareness.
- Have an awareness and support of new measures, particularly perpetrator strategies.
- Support HMP Swansea DRIVE pilot.
- Monitor the demand and impact of housing for perpetrators via specific posts.
- Increase availability of interventions targeted to those who perpetrate abuse with the aim to reduce victims.
- Promote collaborative and co-ordinated multi agency working.
- Prioritise the safety of victims and associated children in all decision making.
- Where offenders are convicted and subsequently released, we will ensure all partners work together so that those considered most dangerous are effectively managed to prevent re-offending
- We will divert males away from behaviour, which is controlling, threatening, intimidating or violent towards women and girls.
- We will be pro-active in the way we prevent offences from occurring.

On a regional basis we will:

1. Ensure high risk/high harm perpetrators of domestic abuse receive appropriate intervention to disrupt and change perpetrating behaviours
2. Promote interventions like Reprovide across the region to raise awareness and encourage participation.
3. Ensure there are suitable referral pathways, to encourage referrals, use and attendance of all perpetrator programs.
4. Consider what measures we can take to improve the identification of perpetrators and engage them in programs that tackle their behavior and hold them to account.

Objective 4

Make early intervention and prevention a priority.

Current position:

Preventing violence and intervening at the earliest possible stage to prevent its occurrence is the fundamental building block to an effective strategy. The need to minimise reactive interventions once a crisis has occurred is pivotal to the ambition to end violence.

There is evidence to show that early identification in healthcare and social care settings, leading to referral routes to specialist services, improves disclosures and referrals to support amongst survivors. In recognition of this, Swansea implemented the Domestic Abuse Hub, which is a preventative team within Child & Family delivering a whole family approach to victims, perpetrators and children where there are concerns around domestic abuse.

Early intervention can reduce the impact of VAWDASV. Priority areas within Health such as Midwifery, Health Visiting, Emergency Department, Minor Injury Unit, Mental Health and Integrated Sexual Health continue to use Routine Enquiry/targeted “Ask and Act” intervention during consultations. Staff are trained to ask about VAWDASV and how to signpost appropriately when a disclosure is made. Routine Enquiry compliance is audited as part of the Health Boards annual audit plan along with targeted inquiry. With the introduction of IRIS, GP practice staff will be asking patients about domestic violence and abuse which will increase the disclosures with support being offered at the earliest opportunity rather than at the point of crisis.

What we will do:

Make early intervention and prevention a priority.

- Ensure our work and vision aligns with the Family Support Continuum.
- Raise awareness and promote early intervention, across all professionals ensuring opportunities at the earliest stage.

- Raise awareness of the ‘Calming the Waves’ program and psychoeducational support offered as part of New Pathways Wellbeing service provision.
- Implement the MANTA system, monitoring the rollout of the new system ensuring earlier trauma informed services for victims and their family.
- Promote the DA One Stop Shop, Swansea SARC recovery Centre and Swansea’s sexual violence and trauma recovery services for professional to refer to for advice and support.
- Promote and support the IRIS project and support sustainable funding.
- Raise awareness of the specialist provision provided by the Domestic Abuse Hub.
- Support and raise awareness of the Cwmtawe Pathway Service.
- Engage with regional and national groups such as collaborative board for information sharing/ good practice.
- Support the Change That Lasts programme, monitor and promote ‘Ask Me’.
- VAWDASV research network – understanding emerging research.
- Stalking and harassment/ exploitation awareness raising.
- Raise awareness of the prevalence of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA).
- DA Hub, importance of a specialist team.
- Ensuring front door services like Housing, CYP and SPOC recognise their role and have relevant training and information.
- Raise awareness to address older people and young people’s needs.
- Referred pathways for non-high risk PPN/referrals solidified and supported.
- Ensure funding is ring-fenced for prevention services.
- Ensure specialist providers can train their staff effectively in all forms of VAWDASV.

- Equilibrium healthy relationships programme for young people.
- Raise awareness of and promote engagement with Spectrum and other school programmes in the region.

On a regional basis we will:

1. Continue to support the roll out of IRIS across the region.
2. Continue to develop work with Welsh Women's Aid to deliver on their Change That Lasts Model.

Objective 5

Relevant professionals are trained to provide effective, timely and appropriate responses to victims and survivors.

Current position:

A Regional National Training Framework Subgroup is in operation with representatives from Training & Development, VAWDASV Leads and the Ask & Act Project Lead from SBUHB. The group is responsible for the development of the training plan for roll out across the authority's – identifying those who require varying levels of the training, promoting and implementing the training and sharing best practice to ensure that the training meets the VAWDASV agenda.

The Health Board have made excellent progress in the implementation of their training plan and have to date trained 3,689 staff. Which has seen a notable increase in the number of referrals to specialist services and MARAC. During 2021-2022, 523 Health Board professionals accessed group 2 "Ask and Act" awareness training.

The Health Board are committed to increasing the awareness of VAWDASV amongst its staff in order to reduce the impact upon victims and their families. IRIS has been implemented across the Health Boards Primary care service group. IRIS is funded by the Health Board. IRIS is a collaboration between Primary Care and a third sector organisation that specialises in Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA), GP staff receive DVA training and when a disclosure is made have the opportunity to refer to a specialist Advocate Educator (AE) that will offer specialist support following referral. The programme funded by the Health Board will be delivered by Calan DVS.

What we will do:

- Continue to deliver on a regional basis the WG National Training Framework, including the 'Ask & Act' training requirements, to ensure all relevant staff are trained.
- Ensure joint delivery of Ask and Act with specialist providers.

- To promote any training opportunities to staff to ensure victims have the appropriate response.
- Ensure all training, including refresher training is timetabled and published.
- Ensure training is recorded, evaluated, and reported back to WG.
- Promote Group 6 of the National Training Framework to all local members and senior leaders and evidence completion.
- Utilise staff expertise in specialist areas, share knowledge and hold awareness raising sessions across all services.
- Continue to monitor training, identify gaps and any challenges, to be addressed in the Leadership Group.
- Promote training opportunities for staff across all services.
- Address significant regional gaps in training on sexual violence awareness.
- Ensure all professionals engaged with children can confidently recognise indicators of CSA and how to respond appropriately (mandatory reporting requirements are recommended by the IICSA enquiry).
- Develop Adult Sexual Exploitation Training for delivery.
- Extend training to offer to other customer facing or public facing roles e.g., pharmacies, retail assistants etc. SVSR – Learning is disseminated and shared through relevant channels.
- Coercive Control – ensure consistent and wide training.
- Focus on ensuring VAWDASV training covers perpetrators in all forms, VAW, DA and SV.
- Support schools with the peer-on-peer report.
- Proactive approach to disseminate information in WG/HO reports e.g., providing oversight at Leadership Groups.
- Training on DA Act and Impact.

- Incorporate local pathways into training.
- Training with IRIS programme for GP's all primary care. Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation training based on IICSA which can be written into training plans.

On a regional basis we will:

- Continue to roll out 'Ask & Act' Group 2 Training promoting the Ask & Act Pathway and regional specialist partners to priority groups of staff across NPT in partnership with Swansea.
- Roll out 'Ask & Act' Group 3 Training to organisational champions across the region in partnership with Swansea, Swansea Bay University Health Board and specialist regional partners.
- Provide accredited local authority and health board 'Ask & Act' trainers with additional training to support their continuous professional development and the sustainability of their training.
- Work with Welsh Women's Aid and partners to deliver Group 6 of the National Training Framework to all local members and senior leaders.

Objective 6

Provide all victims with equal access to appropriately resourced, high quality, needs-led, strength-based, inter-sectional and responsive services across Wales.

Current position:

Current services within Swansea are outlined in the Resources and Service Mapping section this strategy. We have 4 specialist VAWDASV providers in Swansea, offering a range of services including refuge accommodation, move on accommodation, floating support, community outreach, children and young people's services, therapeutic and recovery services, advocacy and advice and specialist ethnic minorities support.

The DA One Stop Shop in Swansea offers a walk-in service, operated by Swansea Women's Aid and Stori. The Domestic Abuse Hub was developed as a response to those needing a preventative, whole family approach with the aim of reducing escalation into statutory services. The IDVA project offers support to ALL high-risk victims of domestic abuse, including a regional Court IDVA who supports victims involved in the criminal court process and a health based IDVA. New Pathways provides SARC, ISVA and therapeutic specialist interventions for both adult and child victims of sexual violence (recent and non-recent) at their Swansea SARC and Trauma Recovery Centre. The Swansea SARC will become a hub for the region (part of the WSAS programme) and offer a full range of crisis, examination and advocacy services.

The SWAN Project sits within Swansea Women's Aid and offers outreach support to women exploited by the sex industry. The Council's Housing Options Service offers a walk-in service for anyone in housing difficulty, including those experiencing Domestic Abuse.

What we will do:

Provide victims with equal access to appropriately resourced, high quality, needs led, strength based, gender responsive services across Swansea.

- Continue to monitor across services to ensure understanding of client groups and client need and ensure services are accessible to all.

- Ensure compliance of Equality Act 2010 recognising all protected characteristics.
- Develop partnerships between the 3 key service delivery areas of VAWDASV, Mental Health & Substance Misuse through the Cwmtawe pathway project.
- Ensuring engagement from the 3 key partners in the Leadership and Sub-Groups.
- Support the development of services focusing on the safety and well-being of people exploited by the sex industry.
- A commitment by all VAWDASV support services that we can all do more to meet the need of victims.
- Raise awareness of services for marginalised communities.
- Multiagency response to safeguarding victims with no recourse to public funds.
- Consider publicity and promotion of services in various formats and language to increase accessibility.
- Individuals with protected characteristics to have access to safe, supported accommodation that meets their needs.
- Agencies to refer to specialist services where they are unable to meet the needs of all their service users.
- Increase in outreach provision for services, ensuring equal access to support, this is particularly limited with victims of sexual violence.
- Implement an Equality Action Plan – Needs assessment for each protected characteristic. Map of each service option by protected mapping characteristic.
- Ensure SV service provision is not only viewed through a ‘DA lens’ and that all victims of sexual violence receive equitable services (including adult victims of child sexual abuse).
- Ensure children and young people who have experienced CSA are able to receive timely and appropriate recovery services that meet their developmental needs.
- Strengthen partnerships with the Police and Probation to ensure a consistent approach to holding perpetrators to account.

- Consider training needs for specialists and wider partners around perpetrators of VAWDASV.
- Explore options and interventions for perpetrators of all forms of VAWDASV, including sexual violence and exploitation.
- Engage with the PPC South Wales Whole Systems Approach to Domestic Abuse perpetrators.
- CMET will prioritise the disruption of exploitation by using the Home Office disruption tool kit.

On a regional basis we will:

- Continue to monitor services across the region, identify barriers to accessing support and work in partnership to ensure equal access to services.

Objective 7

Prepare robust evidence to inform our work.

Current position:

A regional VAWDASV population West Glamorgan Population Needs assessment was completed to provide an overview of service provision, needs and gaps across the region and ensure that the voice of the victim, service provider and commissioners was heard.

[West Glamorgan Population Needs Assessment 2022-2027](#)

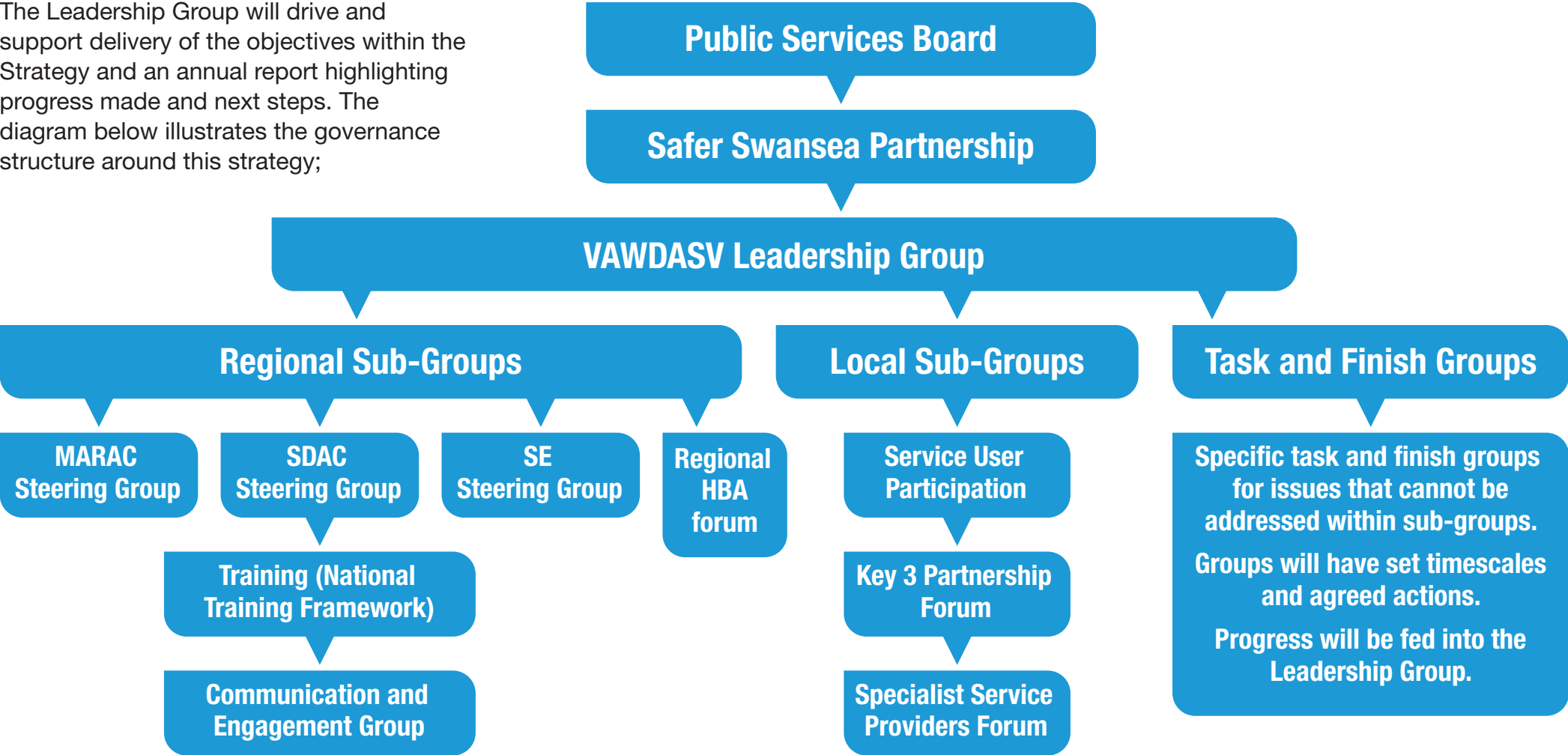
What we will do:

- Ensure robust governance arrangements are in place to facilitate regional working and link to National networks.
- Collect robust data through partnerships, monitoring information to identify trends and gaps in service.
- Pool partnership resources to support joint working and achieve objectives.
- Prepare evidence, based on current needs mapping and services.
- Develop and embed a Commissioning Framework.
- Embed the Performance Framework based on the WG National Indicators.
- Ensure strategic links with the development of the Wellbeing Plan.
- Gather information on regional partnership working and good practice through the Seren Mor Network.

Leadership and Governance

The strategic direction and oversight of the Swansea VAWDASV Strategy is held by the VAWDASV Leadership Group, which is accountable to the Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The Public Services Board will provide challenge and support to the Community Safety Partnership in progressing this Strategy.

The Leadership Group will drive and support delivery of the objectives within the Strategy and an annual report highlighting progress made and next steps. The diagram below illustrates the governance structure around this strategy;



Appendix 1: Glossary

ACE's	Adverse Childhood Experiences	EU	European Union
APB	Area Planning Board	FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
BAME	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic	GP	General Practitioner
BAWSO	Black Association of Women Step Out	IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
BP	Blue print	IRIS	Identification and Referral to Improve Safety
C&E	Communications & Engagement	LGBTQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or questioning (+ other gender identities and sexual orientations)
CAFCASS	Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service	MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
Calan DVS	Calan Domestic Violence Services	NICE	National Institute of Clinical Excellence
CJS	Criminal Justice System	NPT	Neath Port Talbot
CMET	Contextual, missing, Exploited & Trafficked	NPTCBC	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
CSA	Child Sexual Abuse	OSS	One Stop Shop
CSP	Community Safety Partnership	PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
CYP	Children and Young People	PSB	Public Services Board
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review	RSE	Relationship & Sexuality Education
EIP	Early Intervention & Prevention		

SBUHB	Swansea Bay University Health Board
SM	Substance Misuse
SP	Supporting People
SPOC	Single Point of Contact
SSWBA	Social Services & Wellbeing Act
SV	Sexual Violence
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
VAWDASV	Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WA	Women's Aid
WG	Welsh Government
WWA	Welsh Women's Aid
YJEIS	Youth Justice Early Intervention Service



