



Report of the Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities

Council – 25 January 2018

Swansea Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Strategy

Purpose:	The report presents a strategic partnership response for delivering priorities for ending Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) in Swansea
Policy Framework:	Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Council's Policy Commitments Statement
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal, VAWDASV Partnership Groups, Service Users, Public Consultation
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) The Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Strategy be approved.
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The statutory guidance under section 15 of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse & sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 outlines the specific requirements placed on local authorities in relation to the National Training Framework.
- 1.2 The Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 aims to improve the public sector response in Wales to VAWDASV. It provides a strategic focus and ensures consistent consideration of preventative, protective and supportive mechanisms in the delivery of services.

1.3 The statutory guidance for part 4 of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2014 outlines the collective role for Public Service Boards.

1.4 There are requirements under parts 2,3,4,7 & 9 of the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2015 that relate to violence against women, domestic abuse & sexual violence.

2. Partnership Strategy

2.1 The Swansea Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Strategy is a partnership document that can be found under Appendix A.

2.2 The Strategic Plan covers

- Our partnership vision and aspiration to end violence against women, domestic abuse & sexual violence in Swansea.
- Our commitment to hearing and acting on the voices of those that have experienced violence against women, domestic abuse & sexual violence.
- The 7 strategic objectives in line with Welsh Government's.
- Priorities of prevention, protection and support.
- Governance Structure.
- Monitoring and evaluation arrangements.

2.3 The report of the Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Strategy to Council dated 27th July 2017 on the Council's Policy Commitments Statement states (at paragraph 5.10) that "We will continue to work with our partners and support a zero tolerance approach to tackling domestic violence."

3. Equality and Engagement Implications

3.1 The Strategy covers all citizens of Swansea and therefore covers all the 9 protected characteristics of the Equalities Legislation.

3.2 As the Strategy covers children and young people we have taken into account the Council's commitment to the UNCRC.

3.3 A full EIA report was undertaken as a result of the Screening Form:

- The outcomes of the assessment were:
 - Recognition that the Strategy will have a positive influence on all 9 protected characteristics but that they are likely to be a feature for further work within the life of the Strategy.
 - Service user voices and engagement, including those of children will be core to the success of the delivery of the Strategy.
 - Links with tackling poverty and prevention strategies and the UNCRC will need to be made to ensure cross cutting themes are identified.
 - The Council's commitment to the UNCRC will be central to our work with children in this Strategy.
- The EIA report is appended as a background paper (see below).

- 3.4 The Welsh Language Standards have been considered within the EIA and specifically we have considered how to maximise our service delivery through the medium of Welsh. To this end we have;
- Made an action on the EIA Action Plan to undertake an audit on Welsh Language Standards and Welsh Language service delivery to ensure Welsh is given equal status to English.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 provides a legal framework for improving the well-being of people (adults and children) who need care and support, carers who need support, and for transferring social services in Wales. This requires local population needs assessments to inform the development of local strategies.
- 5.2 The Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 ensures a focus across the public sector on the prevention of these issues, the protection of victims and the support of those affected. Section 8 of the Act imposes a duty on local authorities to take reasonable steps to achieve the objectives specified in the most recently published local strategy for its area. Section 15 of the Act introduces a process of targeted enquiry referred to as “Ask and Act” to be practised across the public service to identify violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.
- 5.3 The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 sets out seven well-being goals which are relevant to the prevention of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence and support of survivors, including an equal Wales, a healthy Wales and a Wales of cohesive communities, that public sector bodies have to take action to achieve.
- 5.4 This legal framework links in with other legislation. For example, provisions contained in the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 which specify that whether a person or a member of that person’s household is at risk of abuse, including domestic abuse, is a factor in determining whether it is reasonable to continue to occupy accommodation and The Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 which sets out a new approach to joint contracts which will help survivors of domestic abuse by enabling perpetrators to be targeted for eviction.

Background Papers: EIA Report

Appendices:

- Appendix A Swansea Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Strategy
- Appendix B Consultation Responses