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[Ali.Morris@Swansea.gov.uk](mailto:Ali.Morris@Swansea.gov.uk)

## Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Strategy

We would like you to have your say on our draft Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Strategy. This Strategy applies to all citizens of the City & County of Swansea. We recognise that Swansea has a diverse population, with citizens of different backgrounds and demographics. We want our services to be accessible to ALL that need them and will endeavour to deliver services that fulfil these needs.

This is a Partnership document. In line with our commitment to equality, this Strategy recognises that VAWDASV cannot be tackled by one agency alone, with a multi-agency approach needed for work to be effective for all those that seek advice and support. We would like to invite you to submit your comments on the document during this period of public consultation. Your views are very important so please spare a few minutes to complete this questionnaire.

Are you ...

1.

- 5 (38.5%) A member of the public
- 4 (30.8%) A council employee
- 0 (0.0%) An elected member
- 1 (7.7%) A PSB partner
- 3 (23.1%) A third sector organisation/partner organisation
- 0 (0.0%) A private sector organisation/partner organisation

2. Why are you interested in responding to the consultation on our VAWDASV Strategy?

9 (100.0%)

As a key partner agency I think it is important to respond to this Strategy.
I am interested as I work for a specialist third sector organisation directly involved with VAWDASV issues
Interested in women's issues
its part of my job
Responding because have survived Domestic Abuse
Specialist VAWDASV organisation operating across the City and County of Swansea
To highlight the issue of VAWDASV and enable an appropriate and visible response from the Council
Victim of domestic abuse
We deliver VAWDASV services across the county and we work with the public that receive those services on a daily basis.

**3. Have you read the City and County of Swansea's draft VAWDASV Strategy?**

13 Yes  
(100.0%)  
0 No  
(0.0%)

**4. Thinking about the strategy, do you agree or disagree with the following...? Please cross one box in each row**

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
The strategy is easy to read	6 (46.2%)	5 (38.5%)	1 (7.7%)	1 (7.7%)	0 (0.0%)
The strategy is easy to understand	6 (46.2%)	5 (38.5%)	1 (7.7%)	1 (7.7%)	0 (0.0%)
The strategy is well laid out	8 (61.5%)	2 (15.4%)	1 (7.7%)	2 (15.4%)	0 (0.0%)
The strategy is an appropriate length	6 (50.0%)	3 (25.0%)	1 (8.3%)	2 (16.7%)	0 (0.0%)
The strategy is informative	7 (53.8%)	3 (23.1%)	2 (15.4%)	1 (7.7%)	0 (0.0%)

## Our Vision

**All citizens in Swansea to be safe, happy and healthy and live free from violence 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 enabled to reach their potential.

**5. Thinking about our vision do you agree or disagree with the following...? Please cross one box in each row**

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
The vision is appropriate	8 (61.5%)	5 (38.5%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)

The vision is achievable	3 (23.1%)	3 (23.1%)	6 (46.2%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (7.7%)
The vision is the right one for Swansea	8 (61.5%)	2 (15.4%)	2 (15.4%)	1 (7.7%)	0 (0.0%)

**6. If you disagree with any of the above please tell us why**  
2 (100.0%)

These are just words and won't actually be strenuously tried.
This Vision can only be achieved if more money and resources are provided by WG

## Our Aspirations

**The collective partnership 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 in the right place at the right time**
- **Enable 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 multi-service and multi-agency working,**
- **Provide services in a proactive, timely way to prevent escalation of need and to de-escalate existing need**
- **Provide assistance, whatever the need and support (equality)**

**7. Thinking about our aspirations do you agree or disagree with the following...?  
Please cross one box in each row**

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
The aspirations are appropriate	7 (53.8%)	4 (30.8%)	2 (15.4%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
The aspirations are achievable	3 (23.1%)	4 (30.8%)	5 (38.5%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (7.7%)
The aspirations are the right ones for Swansea	8 (61.5%)	2 (15.4%)	3 (23.1%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)

**8. If you disagree with any of the above please tell us why**  
4 (100.0%)

Nice sentiments but staff can't be bothered to apply the rules now, as they stand, let alone bolder rules.

The aspirations and objectives need to reflect all VAWDASV issueds and not just domestic abuse. For example in the current demand section there is no data at all regarding sexual violence only domestic abuse

The strategy is very broadbrush and we think it lacks focussed commiotments and objectives. We would like to see more focussed objectives and achievable milestones with potential timelines. We are very please with the commitment to partnership working but concerned how far does this partnership working stretch, we would like to like to see a focussed commitment to statutory sector working in partnership with the third sector partners and providers and to implement the appropriate data sharing protocols. There needs to be a clear pathway for victims that demonstrates it is completeky detached from the statutory sector and in particular those dealing with the perpetrstor through a criminal justice process. Safer Lives evidences that victim services as much more successful when the victim services are detached, Dyfed Powys Police evidence a drop out rate of only 29% of victims going through a criminal justice process where South Wales Police drop out rates are over 45% - this is a huge financial impact on the criminal justcie sector and a significant negative impact for victims and early interevention/prevention of crisis.

This should be a police role and not a role for the council. I already pay to much rates which include money to the police

# Strategic Objectives

In line with Welsh Government's National Strategy on Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (2016-2021), we have adopted the following 6 Objectives with a 7th added to strengthen our delivery of the Objectives

**Objective 1: Increase awareness and challenge attitudes of VAWDASV**

**Objective 2: Increased awareness in children and young people of the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships and that abusive behaviour is always wrong**

**Objective 3: Increased focus on holding perpetrators to account and provide opportunities to change their behaviour based around victim safety**

**Objective 4: Make early intervention and prevention a priority**

**Objective 5: Relevant professionals are trained to provide effective, timely and appropriate responses to victims**

**Objective 6: Provide victims with equal access to appropriately resources, high quality, needs led, strength based, gender responsive services**

**Objective 7: Prepare robust evidence to inform our work**

**9. Thinking about our objectives do you agree or disagree with the following...?  
Please cross one box in each row**

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
The objectives are appropriate	10 (76.9%)	3 (23.1%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
The objectives are achievable	5 (38.5%)	3 (23.1%)	4 (30.8%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (7.7%)
The objectives are the right ones for Swansea	10 (76.9%)	1 (7.7%)	2 (15.4%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)

**10. If you disagree with any of the above please tell us why**  
2 (100.0%)

Professionals are only interested in ticking boxes, not actually trying to find what is best for the actual victim and family.

The objectives are only achievable if the statutory and third sector providers/stakeholders can effectively work together, implement the appropriate data sharing protocols, avoid duplication of data collection and carry out regional needs and service assessments to understand and align to the WG delivery framework of regional commissioning and delivery. Funding for Perpetrator services needs to be enhanced by the Police and Crime Commissioner and work together to identify safe solutions that includes victim and child safety at all times.

## Service User Engagement

**Service user voices are crucial to the planning and delivery of VAWDASV services. Those that have experience of VAWDASV are the experts in what services need to deliver to be effective. Service user engagement is more than consultation; it is about listening to what is being said and using the skills and expertise of service users in partnership work. To this end, we have undertaken a number of ways to engage with service users including consultation events, workshops and drop-in sessions. A Service User Rep also sits on our Domestic Abuse Operational Group to ensure a service user voice in our operational service delivery.**

**11. Thinking about the Service User Engagement we have undertaken do you agree or disagree with the following...? Please cross one box in each row**

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
The Service user engagement work is positive	5 (38.5%)	5 (38.5%)	1 (7.7%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (15.4%)
The Service user engagement work is adequate	3 (23.1%)	6 (46.2%)	2 (15.4%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (15.4%)
The Service user engagement work is what is needed to develop the strategy for Swansea	6 (46.2%)	3 (23.1%)	1 (7.7%)	1 (7.7%)	2 (15.4%)

**12. If you disagree with any of the above please tell us why**  
3 (100.0%)

As a third sector provider of VAWDASV services across the county, our Service Users have not been engaged with and therefore we are concerned as to whom, how, where, what SU's were engaged with and what they were asked. We are very experienced in SU consultation and hold a considerable amount of meaningful qualitative and quantitative data on what SU's want. We are concerned that the sample group engaged with does not reflect a full and complete picture of what SU's want across the county from VAWDASV services.

One rep is not enough. Victims are the best advisers.

Whilst it is positive to see that service user engagement is a key part to the planning and delivery of services, it is vital that a range of service users and survivors are used for this - there is a tendency for the same people to be used in areas for this work and it can become a "tick box" exercise. Survivors of sexual violence for example are not always keen to respond to engagement face to face due to disclosure issues and consideration needs to be given to having a varied approach to gathering views and feedback. It would also be useful to have survivors on other operational groups and not just the Domestic Abuse group to reflect the wider VAWDASV issues.

## Measuring Progress

**An annual Action Plan will be developed to drive forward specific actions from the Strategic Objectives. This Plan will be monitored through the Domestic Abuse Monitoring & Delivery Group, Domestic Abuse Strategy Group and the Safer Swansea Steering Group.**

**13. Do you agree or disagree that it is clear how progress of the Strategy will be measured?**

1 (7.7%) Strongly agree (61.5%) 8 Tend to agree (23.1%) 3 Tend to disagree (7.7%) 1 Strongly disagree

**14. If you disagree please tell us why**

3 (100.0%)

it is very domestic abuse focused and does not reflect sexual violence

We are concerned that the groups mentioned are not represented by all the appropriate stakeholders.

why three groups? who is responsible for what bit and how will they be made accountable?

## Comments

**15. If you have any other comments relating to the draft strategy please write in here:**

5 (100.0%)

It would be helpful for consideration to be given to renaming operational and strategic groups to incorporate all aspects of VAWDASV and not just Domestic Abuse (eg DA Operational Group). Whilst there are many positive aspects to the strategy it is very domestic abuse focused.

My understanding is that all government departments must write clear, easy to read documents i.e. can be read and understood by a 9 year old. This document is too wordy and lengthy

Re Accessibility to information re this strategy: would have been helpful to have hard copies of strategy in public places eg library, civic centre, Quadrant, Gp surgeries, A&E, Supermarkets hospitals etc, and to have had a longer time frame to respond. Also Local area coordinators that work with citizens, to have strategy (encourage cooperation between sectors etc).

Swansea Women's Aid (SWA) welcomes the Swansea VAWDASV Strategy 2017-2022. As a specialist VAWDASV agency, SWA is an essential partner within the multi-agency partnership that will drive the achievement of the strategic objectives. It is vital that the specialist VAWDASV agencies are equal partners within this framework and recognised as such so that they are enabled to voice their opinions and represent the independent voice of the sector and the women and children it supports. We are pleased to see that the strategy recognises that the objectives will not be achieved without this buy-in and the multi-agency setting. We are particularly pleased to see that future service planning will take into account all risk levels of victims and will focus on safety and a needs-led approach. This fits with the Change that Lasts model promoted by Women's Aid as the optimum way in which to enable long lasting change. Key to this is the service user voice. Having enabled women for years to feed into the review and development of SWA's services, the proof is in the pudding in that we have a range of services specifically designed around service users' identified needs. An expansion of this into the wider arena is very much welcomed. Regionalisation will be a key issue over the life of this strategy. This is not straightforward and will bring its challenges, both operationally and strategically. SWA is hopeful that the City and County of Swansea will be transparent throughout this process and involve its third sector partners in future planning and commissioning discussions. The development of the DA Hub in Swansea has already introduced changes in the county. Data collection will be strengthened through the referral pathway being developed. This will identify gaps in provision and we trust that when looking strategically at the best way forward, consideration will be given as to what sector is best placed to deliver new provisions. We are disappointed however at the lack of mention of the work being undertaken by the Swansea Sex Work Group within the strategic objectives and would like the areas of development under Strategic Objective 6 to list the development of a service provision for sex workers across the City and County of Swansea that is responsive to their needs and reflects recognised best practice in Wales/UK.

Why are the police not carrying out this work - it is not council responsibility!!!

## About You

**To improve our services and service delivery to you and consider all your needs we hope you will complete the following questions. In accordance with the Data Protection Act, any information requested on the following questions is held in the strictest confidence for data analysis purposes only. The information will enable us to determine whether or not our services are equally accessible by everyone.**

**16. Are you...?**

0 (0.0%) Male  
13 (100.0%) Female

**17. Is your gender the same as that which you were assigned at birth?**

10 (100.0%) Yes  
0 (0.0%) No

**18. How old are you ...**

0 (0.0%) Under 16	2 (15.4%) 56 - 65
0 (0.0%) 16 - 25	0 (0.0%) 66 - 75
1 (7.7%) 26 - 35	0 (0.0%) 76 - 85
5 (38.5%) 36 - 45	0 (0.0%) Over 85
4 (30.8%) 46 - 55	1 (7.7%) Prefer not to say



**19. Would you describe yourself as...**

Please mark all that apply

7 (63.6%) British	0 (0.0%) Other British (please write in at end)
4 (36.4%) Welsh	0 (0.0%) Non British (please write in at end)
0 (0.0%) English	0 (0.0%) Gypsy/traveller
0 (0.0%) Irish	0 (0.0%) Refugee/Asylum Seeker (please write in current/last nationality at end)
0 (0.0%) Scottish	
Write in here	
0 (0.0%)	

**20. To what 'ethnic' group do you consider**

9 (90.0%) <b>White</b> - British	0 (0.0%) <b>Asian or Asian British</b> - Bangladeshi
1 (10.0%) Any other <b>White</b> background (please write in at end)	0 (0.0%) Any other <b>Asian</b> background (please write in at end)
0 (0.0%) <b>Mixed</b> - White & Black Caribbean	0 (0.0%) <b>Black or Black British</b> - Caribbean
0 (0.0%) <b>Mixed</b> - White & Black African	0 (0.0%) <b>Black or Black British</b> - African
0 (0.0%) <b>Mixed</b> - White & Asian	0 (0.0%) Any other <b>Black</b> background (please write in at end)
0 (0.0%) Any other <b>Mixed</b> background (please write in at end)	0 (0.0%) <b>Chinese</b>
0 (0.0%) <b>Asian or Asian British</b> - Indian	0 (0.0%) Other ethnic group ( please write in at end)
0 (0.0%) <b>Asian or Asian British</b> - Pakistani	
Write in here	
0 (0.0%)	

**21. What is your religion, even if you are not currently practicing?**

Please mark one box or write in

3 (42.9%) No religion	0 (0.0%) Jewish
3 (42.9%) Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant, and all other Christian denominations)	0 (0.0%) Muslim
0 (0.0%) Buddhist	0 (0.0%) Sikh
0 (0.0%) Hindu	1 (14.3%) Other
Any other religion or philosophical belief (please write in)	
2 (100.0%)	

**22. Do you consider that you are actively practising your religion?**

0 (0.0%) Yes
8 (100.0%) No

**23. What is your sexual orientation**

2 (22.2%) Bisexual	0 (0.0%) Prefer not to say
1 (11.1%) Gay/ Lesbian	0 (0.0%) Other
6 (66.7%) Heterosexual	
Please write in	
0 (0.0%)	

**24. Can you understand, speak, read or write Welsh?**

Please mark all that apply

4 (40.0%) Understand spoken Welsh	2 (20.0%) Write Welsh
2 (20.0%) Speak Welsh	2 (20.0%) Learning Welsh
2 (20.0%) Read Welsh	5 (50.0%) None of these

**25. Which languages do you use from day to day?**

Please mark all that apply

10 English
(100.0%)
0 (0.0%) Welsh
0 (0.0%) Other (write in)

Please write in

0 (0.0%)
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**26. Do you have any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity?**

**By long-standing we mean anything that has troubled you over a period of time or that is likely to affect you over time.**

**This could also be defined Under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 as: "Having a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on your ability to carry out normal day to day activities."**

2 (20.0%) Yes
8 (80.0%) No

**27. Does this illness or disability limit your activities in any way?**

2 (22.2%) Yes
7 (77.8%) No

**Thank you for your participation**