



BUILDING HAPPIER, SAFER & STRONGER LIVES

MID AND WEST WALES
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN,
DOMESTIC ABUSE AND
SEXUAL VIOLENCE STRATEGY
2023 - 2027

Introduction from the Chair of the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Executive and Chair of the Regional Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategic Board

Ending Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence and supporting those who need it is everyone's business and this strategy, our second to be published, sets out how we aim to achieve this in Mid and West Wales.

Our achievements in the last four years, which are set out in this document, can be attributed to the leadership, collaboration and commitment of stakeholders and survivors and we thank everyone for their contribution and resilience. Whilst it is right that we acknowledge and celebrate these there is work still to be done and our aim is to build on our momentum and progress and to deliver further change and improvements for individuals and families who are experiencing violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence in our communities.

Survivors and stakeholders have prioritised the need to focus on preventative and support services for children and young people and a continued need to raise awareness of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence both with professionals and within our communities. We have listened and these priorities are translated into this strategy.

The pandemic impacted on our daily lives and freedoms in ways that we had never previously experienced. For those living with domestic abuse, the consequences of were even greater and I wish to acknowledge the unfaltering response of specialist and statutory services who provided life-saving support and safety to individuals and families throughout the pandemic.

Whilst the height of the pandemic has passed, we now face further significant political, economic and socio challenges. Families are experiencing a cost of living crisis, Public Services are taking industrial action and our specialist services are facing what has been called a perfect storm¹ in terms of high-demand for services, lack of sustainable funding and recruitment and retention challenges which, combined, are pushing the sector to the brink².

Our specialist sector is critical to the delivery of our vision to Build Happier, Safer and Stronger Lives. It is therefore imperative that resources are invested to sustain and develop services and interventions to enable us to deliver our regional objectives and improve the lives of individuals and families experiencing violence and abuse.

The challenges we continue to face require us to further strengthen our partnerships to deliver our priorities.

This strategy is informed by the needs and experiences of survivors and stakeholders in Mid and West Wales and, whilst it has been developed in the context of Welsh Government's National Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2022-2026, it reflects regional priorities and aims to deliver improvements for individuals, families and communities of Mid and West Wales.

We will focus on understanding what works for individuals, families and communities in Mid and West Wales and share our learning to inform practice and policy improvements at a local, regional and national level.

Whilst prioritising delivery for Mid and West Wales we look to Welsh Government and their Blueprint approach to urgently address and deliver a cross government sustainable funding model for the specialist VAWDASV sector and to lead on the delivery of the priorities identified in the Strategy so that together we are working to deliver our vision to end violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence in Wales

Jake Morgan
Chair of Safeguarding Executive, Mid and West Wales.

Detective Chief Inspector Richard Yelland
Chair of the Regional Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategic Board

¹ A Perfect Storm: The funding crisis pushing the Welsh VAWDASV sector to the brink, Welsh Women's Aid October 2022 <https://welshwomensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Perfect-Storm-Report-ENG-compressed.pdf>

² Ibid

Legislative and Strategic Context for this Strategy

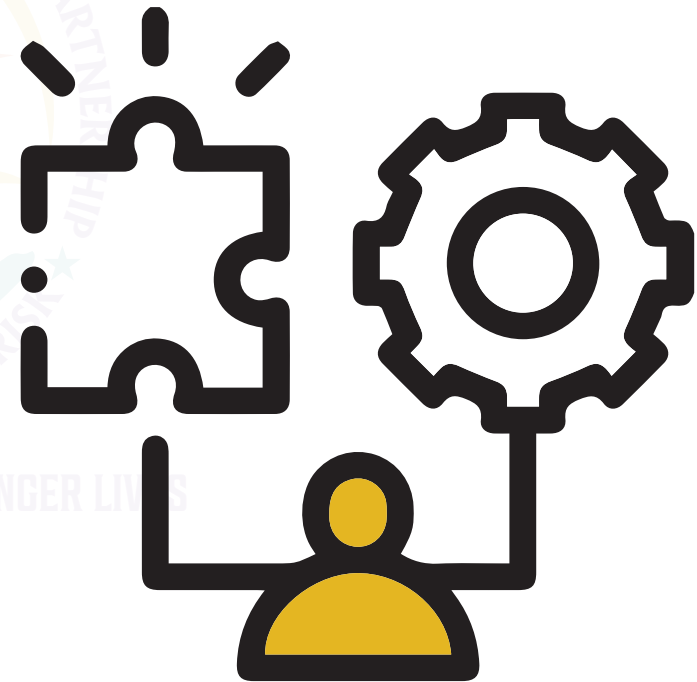
The following legislation and strategies have informed the development of our priorities for 2023 – 2027;

- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- Welsh Government National Strategy on Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence 2022-2026
- Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan 2012-2025
- Welsh Government Review of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Policy 2021
- Safeguarding Children affected by Domestic Abuse, All Wales Practice Guide 2019
- Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015
- Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014
- Housing (Wales) Act 2014

Consideration has also been given to the following:

- Cysur, Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board Annual Plan 2022-23
- West Wales Care Partnership Population Needs Assessment Draft Report June 2022
- Powys Regional Partnership Board Population Needs Assessment and Annual Report 2021-22
- Well-Being Assessments and Plans in Mid and West Wales
- What Works to Prevent Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, Systemic Evidence Assessment: Wales Violence Prevention Unit 2021

- Preventing Sexual Violence in the Night Time Economy: Encouraging Active Bystander against Violence Evaluation May 2022
- A Duty to Support: A research report reviewing support for children and young people experiencing violence and abuse in Wales, Welsh Women's Aid and Joyce Watson MS 2022
- A Perfect Storm: The funding crisis pushing the Welsh VAWDASV sector to the brink, Welsh Women's Aid October 2022



Prevalence of Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in Mid and West Wales

In 2020 - 2021*

2346

individuals received
community-based support
across Mid and West Wales

360

individuals accessed
refuge services

In 2021 - 2022*

13%

Introduction of the Daily Discussion
has resulted in a 13% reduction in
cases being discussed at MARAC
between 2021 and 2022

2399

individuals received
community-based support
across Mid and West Wales

406

individuals accessed
refuge services

*This data has been provided by Welsh Women's Aid on behalf of member services. Note that no direct comparisons should be made between annual data due to difference in the number of providers submitting information.

In the two years 2020-2022 there has been

45%

increase in clients
accessing ISVA services

35%

increase in clients
accessing counselling in
response to experiences of
sexual violence and abuse

57%

increase in clients
accessing New Pathways
Wellbeing services

40%

increase in reports of
Sexual Offences between
2020 and 2022

22%

increase in reports of
Domestic Abuse between
2020 and 2022

Who has informed this strategy?

The following stakeholders have informed the development of this strategy

26 survivors from across Mid and West Wales

BAWSO

Calan DVS

Carmarthenshire County Council

Carmarthenshire Domestic Abuse Services

Ceredigion County Council

Dewis Choice

Dyfed Powys Police

Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner

Goleudy

Hafan Cymru

Hywel Dda University Health Board

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service

Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board

Mid and West Wales Welsh Women's Aid Membership Forum

Montgomeryshire Family Crisis Centre

New Pathways

Pembrokeshire County Council

Pobl

Powys County Council

Powys Teaching Health Board

Probation Service

Threshold Domestic Abuse Service

West Wales Domestic Abuse Services



Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION
Cyfarfod Y
Cyngor Yn Fyw



Heddlu Police
DYFED-POWYS



Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddau
Dyfed-Powys
Police and Crime Commissioner



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Hywel Dda
University Health Board



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru

Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service



CYSUR

Cymorth i Ferched Cymru
Welsh Women's Aid



Powys



Bwrdd Iechyd
Addysgu Powys
Powys Teaching
Health Board

Probation
Service



Threshold DAB

A safe place for anyone
affected by domestic abuse.



Gwasanaeth cam-drin domestig
Gorllewin Cymru

West Wales
Domestic abuse service

Ar gyfer oedolion, plant & phobl ifanc
For adults, children & young people

Effectiveness and Benefits of the Strategy 2018-2022

Effectiveness

19 agencies including stakeholders, specialist support providers and commissioners responded to a questionnaire that examined the effectiveness of the existing strategy in achieving its objectives

68% responded that the strategy had improved the degree to which survivors informed decision making in the region

68% responded that the strategy had improved the effectiveness of commissioning in the region

89% responded that the strategy had contributed to raising awareness amongst citizens and communities of Mid and West Wales

84% of respondents felt that the strategy had strengthened partnership working in the region

74% responded that the strategy had increased children and young people's awareness and understanding of safe, equal and healthy relationships

63% of respondents felt that the strategy had made the governance of VAWDASV in the region more effective*

63% responded that the strategy has made an impact on holding perpetrators to account and providing appropriate interventions*

*Some agency responses stated that they did not feel that they had enough knowledge to answer these questions

76% responded that the strategy has resulted in greater emphasis on early intervention and prevention

When asked to identify what factors impeded or challenged the effectiveness of the strategy the top four responses were

94% of respondents felt that the strategy has improved professionals' knowledge and understanding of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence

- Not enough financial resources to deliver priorities (79%)
- Capacity to attend meetings (53%)
- Competitive issues between providers (53%)
- Complexity of commissioning processes (42%)

Effectiveness and Benefits of the Strategy 2018-2022

Benefits

The strategy is embedded into the MWW region and has brought numerous partners and organisations together to achieve the outcomes detailed in the strategy.

Stakeholders listed the following benefits that the strategy has brought:

- Provides focus and a cohesive approach
- Ensures all agencies are aware of the priorities for the region and how these tie in with the national strategy
- Support to address gaps in services
- Support to increase awareness raising of VAWDASV
- Has enabled additional funding to be applied for, making services such as perpetrator interventions more sustainable
- Supports and encourages partnership working
- Strengthened governance and delivery
- Focuses all agencies on the priorities and brings meaningful working groups together that can implement change
- Improvement in decision making and direction of service provision
- Increased partnership working
- The role of the Regional Advisor and the Regional VAWDASV team have been invaluable in driving forward initiatives and making the most of funding opportunities available
- Central allocation of resources
- Ensuring services developed meet the need of the community
- Specialist services in the region have much closer working relationships since we got the strategy
- Raised the profile of VAWDASV & commitment to delivering on the agenda
- Clear direction setting
- Ability to map progress
- Focuses on the outputs
- Provides assurance to the work being undertaken and achieved
- Aligned to regional need and Welsh Government priorities
- Has supported a stronger unified regional collaboration with clear reporting lines and accountability
- Minimised duplication of services

Achievements in Mid and West Wales 2018 – 2022

Appointment of the Regional VAWDASV Advisor – this appointment has brought coordination to the regional approach and a focus on prevention and service development.

The regional advisor post has had a significant impact on driving improvements and the development of the regional services to tackle VAWDASV.

The role of the Regional Advisor and the regional team have been invaluable in driving forward initiatives and making the most of funding opportunities available.

Stronger Partnerships resulting in pooled resources to invest in service development and the delivery of over 70 different interventions by specialist support services in the region

Regional approach to **Perpetrator Interventions** including the offer of the Choices Programme and the Digital Intervention Hub

Agreement of a regional funding ratio which has contributed to the expansion of Perpetrator Interventions and will determine the funding of future regional projects

Governance Review resulting in robust regional and local oversight of delivery of the strategy

Introduction of an evaluated **Stalking and Harassment Toolkit and Intervention**

Establishment and Evaluation of Multi Agency Daily Discussions to safeguard individuals and children experiencing domestic abuse
Embedding **Operation Soteria** into Policing and Partner's practice to improve outcomes for victims of sexual violence and abuse

Establishment of a **Survivor Advisory Panel** to shape and inform delivery of priorities in the region

Development and delivery of **regional resources and campaigns to raise awareness** including Older People, Child to Parent Abuse, Male Victims, Bystander Initiatives and Domestic Homicide Reviews

Delivery of **AR TRAC** services for children and young people and the **Inspiring Families Programme** across the region

Regional implementation of **Operation Encompass**

Development of a **digital training package and resource directory** for Schools and Education providers

Achievements in Mid and West Wales 2018 – 2022

Secured an additional **£2m funding** for Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence services which has supported capital projects, increased capacity of services and supported victims with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)

Establishment of 2 **BAWSO specialist support workers** in the region providing support to women from culturally diverse backgrounds

Completed a review of current commissioning landscape resulting in a **Regional Commissioning Strategy and Regional VAWDASV Service Specification**

Established an **IRISi pilot** in Primary Care in Carmarthenshire with a commitment from partners to roll out across the region

Partnership between Dewis Choice, Bro Myrddin Housing Association Carmarthenshire County Council delivering **safe space for older people** experiencing domestic abuse as an alternative to refuge

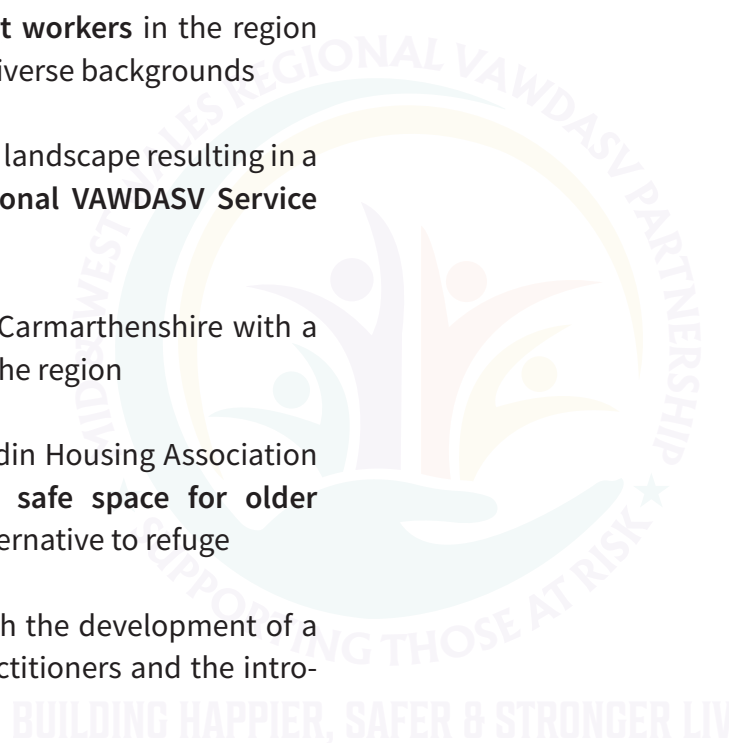
Brought a focus to **Child to Parent Abuse** with the development of a regional guidance document, training for practitioners and the introduction of the PRAM assessment

Community Ambassador programme with the Hair and Beauty Sector across Mid and West Wales

Delivery of the **Myriad Programme** in two of the four counties in the region. The Myriad Programme is an LGBTQ+ 8 week Recovery Programme.

Established **Remote Evidence Facilities** across the Region

The Region has been innovative and has invested in the development of services. The challenge is now to sustain these initiatives

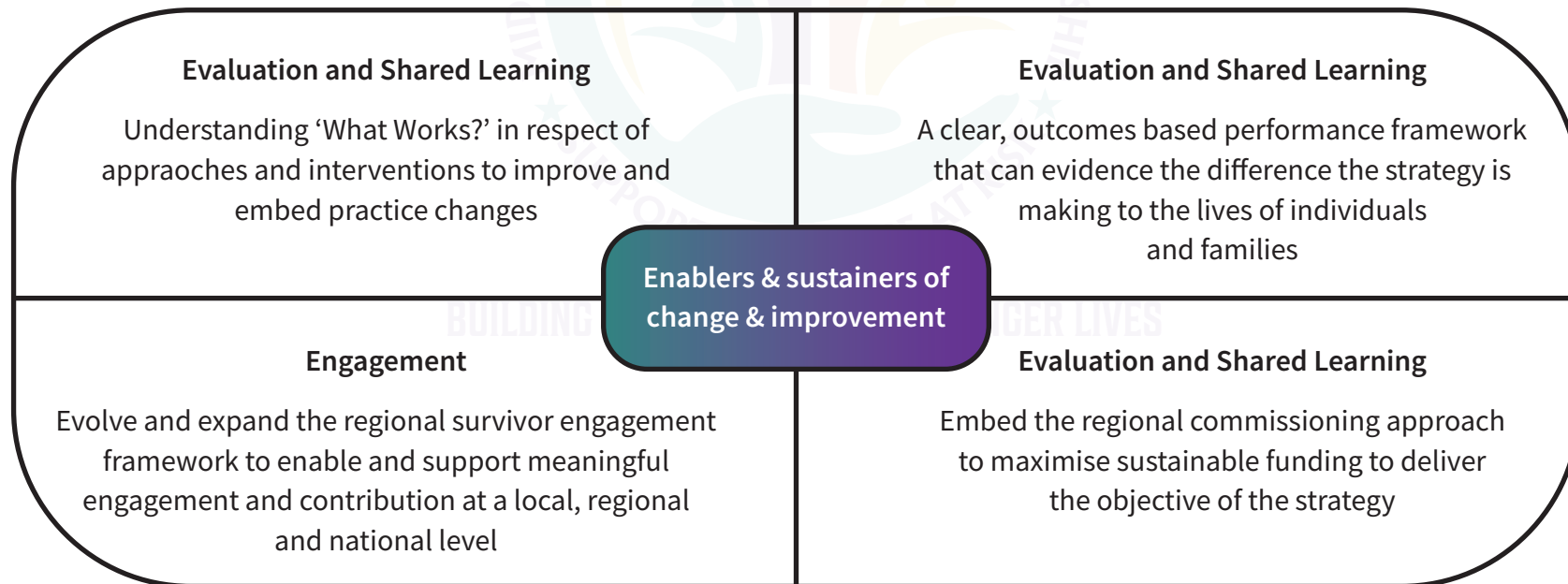


Principles

Eleven key principles have been identified through consultation and engagement with stakeholders and survivors. These will underpin the priorities set out in this strategy and our approach to delivery.

- Survivors Voice
- Whole Society Approach
- Equality
- Intersectionality
- Collaboration and Co-production
- A comprehensive understanding of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence
- Early Intervention and Prevention
- Trauma informed
- Tackling male violence
- Leadership
- Sustainability

Whilst developing our strategic priorities we identified four components which can be seen as enablers and sustainers of change and improvement. They involve improving and integrating core processes to facilitate the development of consistent and cohesive ways to improve outcomes for individuals and their families experiencing Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse or Sexual Violence. These enablers are;



Principles

Sustainable Funding

Welsh Women's Aid State of the Sector Report 2022³ sets out the pillar stones of a sustainable funding model as

- A focus on Early Intervention and Prevention
- Sustainable funding which supports children and young people
- Equal weighting given to Sexual Violence Services
- A continued commitment to refuge and accommodation-based support
- An increase in 'By and For' service provision
- A Welsh solution to supporting survivors with no recourse to public funds
- An acknowledgement that sexual exploitation must sit within the framework of ending Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Accredited perpetrator interventions including early intervention

At a time when specialist services are responding to unprecedented demand they are also facing a crisis in recruitment and retention of skilled and experienced staff who are leaving the sector due to lower salaries compared to Public Services, short term contracts, high and complex caseloads and out of hours work requirements.

The need to agree a sustainable funding model for specialist services has never been so critical.



³<https://welshwomensaid.org.uk/news/a-strategy-for-sustainable-support-state-of-the-sector-2021-published/>

Survivors

Our strategy recognises the vital importance of collaborating with and listening to survivors who are ‘experts by experience’ in terms of what has worked for them, their pathways through services and how easy (or difficult) it has been to find the right service to support them to and move towards independence and recovery.

26 survivors were consulted with in the development of this strategy and their voices and experiences have and will continue to be integral to its development, delivery and monitoring.

There was a strong consistency in the themes that survivors spoke about in terms of their experiences and what should be the priorities for the region.

Public attitudes – raising awareness of all forms of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence

“I didn’t know I was in an abusive situation.”

“There wasn’t physical abuse so I didn’t recognise it as abuse.”

Survivors spoke about the need for greater awareness across society of all forms of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. They spoke about the importance of language and imagery to enable different groups in society to see themselves and their experiences and the need for information to be visible in communities, places where people go, as well through other means. Survivors spoke about the importance of information to enable individuals, their family and friends to recognise abuse and seek help and support.

78% of survivors who attended the consultation event noted this as a top three priority.

The value of the Specialist Sector

Survivors spoke about the importance of responsive, accessible, inter-sectional services able to meet their needs.

“Being able to knock on a door and get the service you need at the right time.”

Survivors also spoke about the need for there to be support services for all victims of violence and abuse

“There needs to be help for all.”

Survivors reflected on their experiences of accessing specialist support services

“Impartial and invaluable.”

“Listen and understand.”

“At your side.”

“I wouldn’t be here now if it wasn’t for the service.”

“Felt safe and secure with them....they gave me an opportunity to start again.”

“The service saved my life.”

“They listened to me and helped me.”

“They listen, respected and validated my experiences.....they reinforced that I was valued and worthwhile...older people don’t often feel this, we can become invisible.”

Survivors

“They’ve helped me to understand my rights and enabled me to make my own decisions.”

“They listened to me, helped me understand and were there to talk to whenever I needed.” (young person)

Survivors also spoke about the challenges to accessing services including living in rural areas, public transport and increasing fuel costs.

Whilst survivors had been or were being supported by specialist services in the region, none of them were aware of the support that was available whilst they were in their abusive relationships and had only found their way to services through being referred by other services. Survivors spoke about the need for information relating to specialist services to be visible and accessible in communities.

Male victims spoke about particular challenges they experienced in seeking support

*“The biggest challenge was finding someone to help us.”
“I didn’t know what to do...I couldn’t see a way out.”*

Dedicated, specialist services for Children and Young People

Survivors spoke about the impact on their children of experiencing abuse including anxiety, self-harm, impact on mental health and overall health and well-being.

90% of survivors who attended a consultation event chose support for children and young people as a priority for the strategy making this the

most important priority for survivors.

“Our children should be confident and assertive....it is so important that they know what a healthy relationship is.”

Survivors wanted specialist support services for children and young people who were victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence and violence against women and spoke about the importance of education and prevention work in schools and colleges.

Survivor groups and peer support available in every area, to reduce isolation and maximise independent spaces that increase confidence, esteem, and empowerment.

“Survivors need an opportunity to come together to share experiences and support each other’s recovery.”

“Feel very alone, where do I go now, how do I mix with people.”

Knowledge and Understanding of Practitioners

Some survivors spoke about positive experiences with practitioners who had identified their abuse and offered pathways to support

“I minimised and normalised what I was going through – it was the counsellor and the nurse who recognised the abuse and it was a relief to tell someone what was happening.”

“It was normal what I was experiencing – I didn’t know any different – it was the paramedic and consultant who recognised the abuse.”

Survivors

“When the social worker spoke to me and highlighted how my partner had been controlling me it was a revelation – I didn’t recognise the control and abuse.”

Many survivors spoke about negative experiences with Police and Social Services which they believed was a result of a lack of knowledge and understanding of the dynamics of domestic abuse and coercive and controlling behaviours.

“Felt that I was fighting the police all the time and I was the victim It was soul destroying the way I was dealt with by Social Services – so demeaning.”

Practitioners understanding of familial abuse – abuse wider than interpersonal abuse

At the consultation event over two thirds of survivors identified this as a priority for the strategy, the third highest priority chosen at the event.

Improved awareness of and response to domestic abuse, sexual violence and all forms of violence against women by professionals involved in the family justice system (CAFCASS Cymru, judges and court personnel, legal representatives)

“The system is broken.”

“A battle worse than the abuse itself.”

Survivors spoke negatively about their experience of the family court system, child contact proceedings and the lack of understanding and

consideration given to domestic abuse, coercive and controlling behaviours and stalking and harassment. Survivors spoke about their experience of perpetrators using the family court system to continue to abuse and control them.

A focus on working with those who perpetrate abuse – to educate and support to change behaviours

Almost half of the survivors attending the consultation event identified this as a priority.

They spoke about those responsible for the abuse being held accountable and given opportunities to change their behaviours through support and intervention.

Safe Accommodation Options

Survivors spoke about the need for a range of safe accommodation options to meet needs of individuals and families and to address barriers currently facing some individuals e.g. older survivors, larger families, individuals with complex support needs, individuals who are working.



Priorities

Stakeholders and Survivors were asked to identify what their priorities were for the strategy. The top three priorities identified by both groups were as follows

Survivors

1. Promoting and Supporting Healthy Relationships for Children and Young People
2. Public attitudes – raising awareness of all forms of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence
3. Improving practitioner’s knowledge and understanding of all forms of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence

Stakeholders

1. Promoting and Supporting Healthy Relationships for Children and Young People
2. Public attitudes – raising awareness of all forms of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence
3. Commissioning of specialist services to meet the needs of survivors

Stakeholders and Survivors spoke about the importance of addressing intersectionality in the strategy, not only through developing our understanding of the needs of different population groups but also ensuring that, as a region, we equip our core services with the knowledge and resources to respond to individual and diverse needs. We have listened to participants who were consistent in their views that children and young people and older people required greater emphasis in this strategy.

Children and Young People

Survivors and stakeholders spoke about the need to

- Provide a flexible, dynamic, responsive and preventative service to children and young people wherever they live in the region
- Provide holistic support and recovery services for children and young people which include refuge and community/outreach workers, therapeutic interventions and CYPVA/CYPSVAs consistently across the region
- Develop a region-wide prevention approach for children and young people
- Build on the investment made in Inspiring Families and Ar Trac services
- Recognise and embed children and young people’s services as core provision requiring funding and investment.

Older People

Survivors and stakeholders spoke about the need to

- Raise public awareness of older people’s experiences of domestic abuse and sexual violence and the help and support available
- Improve practitioners’ knowledge and understanding of older people’s experiences of both interpersonal and familial abuse and pathways to support
- Ensure that there is a consistent service offer across the region to meet the needs of older people
- Increase safe accommodation options for older people experiencing violence and abuse.

Our Objectives 2023-2027

We have aligned our regional objectives with those contained within Welsh Government's Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2022-2026.

The priorities for delivery outlined over the following pages are those that are important and relevant to Mid and West Wales and should be used to influence and inform policy and practice at a national level.

1. Challenge public attitudes to violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence across the Welsh population through awareness raising and space for public discussion with the aim to decrease its occurrence.
2. Increase awareness in children, young people and adults of the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships and empowering them to positive personal choices.
3. Increase focus on those who commit abuse to account and supporting those who may carry out abusive or violence behaviour to change their behaviour and avoid offending.
4. Make early intervention and prevention a priority.
5. Relevant professionals are trained to provide effective, timely and appropriate responses to victims and survivors.
6. Provide all victims with equal access to appropriately resourced, high quality, needs-led, strengths based, intersectional and responsive services.



Who is responsible for delivering this strategy?

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Executive has overall responsibility for this strategy.

The Regional Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategic Board is responsible for delivering and monitoring the strategy and will do this by agreeing an annual Delivery Plan which will set out its priorities and how they will achieve these.

The Regional Strategic Board works with the following groups to ensure that violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence influences and contributes to wider key local and regional priorities;

- Four Public Service Boards
- Two Regional Partnership Boards
- Two Health Board Executive Boards
- Regional Collaborative Committee
- Regional Integrated Offender Management Board
- The two Area Planning Boards (Substance Misuse)
- The Dyfed Powys Criminal Justice Board
- Suicide and Self Harm Prevention Board

How will we measure the impact of the Strategy?

Being able to evidence how the strategy is making a difference to the lives of individuals and families is critical to its success.

One of the enablers for change and improvement identified in Section 7 is key to monitoring and measuring the impact of this strategy;

Evidencing Outcomes: A clear, outcomes-based performance framework that can evidence the difference the strategy is making to the lives of individuals and their families.

The Regional Strategic Board will develop a performance framework which identifies outcomes and indicators to measure progress and success in the delivery of this Strategy which in turn will evidence to stakeholders, survivors and communities the difference the strategy is making and the extent to which our priorities are being achieved.



Delivery Plan 2023 - 2027

Challenge public attitudes to violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence across the Wels population through awareness raising and space for public discussion with the aim to decrease its occurrence

We will	Actions Required	Outcome
<p>Deliver a Regional VAWDASV Communication Plan, informed by survivors and stakeholders, that will communicate coordinated and consistent messages for individuals, families, professionals, employers and communities</p>	<p>Continued VAWDASV Engagement and Communication subgroup</p> <p>Delivery of Communication Campaigns in relation to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older Victims • Children and Young People - attitudes and beliefs <p>Inform the development of and support the publication of national campaigns relating to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street Harassment • Workplace Harassment 	<p>Consistent regional messaging for VAWDASV</p> <p>Information accessible in community spaces, online and via agency communications</p> <p>Annual Communication Plan that is informed and supported by evidence and resources</p>
<p>Improve employers' awareness and responses to individuals who are experiencing VAWDASV</p>	<p>Identify key regional employers with an offer to work with them to develop workplace policies and responses to employees who are experiencing VAWDASV</p> <p>Develop a regional protocol for responding to disclosures of VAWDASV in the workplace</p>	<p>Robust and appropriate workplace policies</p> <p>Improved responses to employees who are experiencing VAWDASV</p> <p>Increased referrals to specialist VAWDASV services</p>

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

We will	Actions Required	Outcome
<p>Continue to support the implementation of the new Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) Curriculum, Code and Guidance</p>	<p>Regional Strategic Group for Whole School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing to;</p> <p>Establish regional pathway for schools and education establishments to support for children and young people</p> <p>Ensure schools and education establishments are offered workshops facilitated by the specialist sector to support the implementation of the RSE curriculum</p>	<p>Support Welsh Government’s whole society approach in supporting the promotion of a consistent concept of what healthy relationships look like.</p> <p>Support learners’ rights to enjoy fulfilling, healthy and safe relationships throughout their lives.</p> <p>Consistent offer by specialist support providers to support the implementation of the RSE Curriculum</p>
<p>Target the campaigns detailed in Priority 1 with community based groups for young people e.g. Young Farmers / Youth Councils, Youth Clubs</p>	<p>Identify learning from approach adopted in Powys to engage with Children and Young People</p> <p>Identify and establish links with the groups we wish to engage with</p>	<p>Consistent, regional messaging for children and young people</p> <p>Increased awareness within children and young people of safe, equal and healthy relationships</p>
<p>Share regional learning to support Welsh Government development of resources to help promote healthy relationships for Public Services</p>	<p>Engage with Welsh Government national workstream to inform the development of resources to support Public Services to promote healthy relationships</p> <p>Link with workplace policy work in Priority 1 so that Public Services and wider employers in the region also have access to the protocol and referral pathways to support services</p>	<p>Increased awareness of VAWDASV amongst employers and employees</p> <p>Improved responses to employees who are experiencing VAWDASV</p> <p>Increased referrals to specialist VAWDASV services</p>

Increase focus on those who commit abuse to account and supporting those who may carry out abusive or violence behaviour to change their behaviour and avoid offending.

We will	Actions Required	Outcome
<p>Better understand what works in respect of perpetrator interventions in Mid and West Wales to sustain and further develop our approach</p>	<p>Evaluate existing regional interventions</p> <p>Implement any learning to improve and further develop existing interventions</p>	<p>A better understanding of what works to support and motivate behavioural change and keep victims and children safe to inform future provision</p> <p>Sustainable and consistent interventions across Mid and West Wales</p> <p>Contribute to Welsh Government's Public Health approach to increase focus on deterring behaviours and facilitating behavioural change</p>
<p>Increase awareness of professionals and communities of the interventions offered in Mid and West Wales to support behaviour change</p>	<p>Repeat activities to raise awareness amongst professionals e.g. Social Workers, Probation Officers, Police Officers</p> <p>Engage with Judiciary in Mid and West Wales to increase awareness of the interventions available and referral pathways</p>	<p>Increased referrals to existing interventions</p> <p>Reduction in re-offending</p> <p>Victims and children are safeguarded</p>
<p>Inform and support the publication of the national campaign relating to provide opportunities for those at risk of or perpetrating abuse to choose education and support</p>	<p>Engage with national Tackling Perpetration work-stream to inform campaign based on regional experience and learning</p> <p>Promote and share national campaign resources across agencies and communities</p>	<p>Consistent messaging to those at risk of or perpetrating abuse to choose education and support</p> <p>Increased referrals to existing interventions</p>
<p>Contribute to national approach to perpetrators of VAWDASV</p>	<p>Engage with Welsh Government national workstream</p> <p>Share experiences and learning from Mid and West Wales</p> <p>Contribute to the development of national approaches to perpetrators of VAWDASV</p>	<p>A national, collective focus on individuals who perpetrate abuse to both deter and facilitate change in behaviour</p>

Make early intervention and prevention a priority

We will	Actions Required	Outcome
<p>Increase the earlier identification, signposting and referral of individuals experiencing VAWDASV by GPs working across Mid and West Wales</p>	<p>Identify learning from the IRISi pilot in Carmarthenshire to inform the implementation of early interventions models/approaches within GP practices across Mid and West Wales</p> <p>Identify funding sources to support the consistent implementation of these models</p>	<p>All GP practices in Mid and West Wales adopt an early intervention model for VAWDASV</p> <p>Individuals experiencing VAWDASV are identified earlier, are safeguarded and offered a referral to a specialist service</p>
<p>Roll out the Community Ambassador Programme</p>	<p>Reflect and identify learning from the pilot with Hair and Beauty Sector</p> <p>Develop an Implementation Plan for regional roll out including the identification of sectors/industries, resources and referral pathways to local specialist services</p>	<p>Safe spaces for individuals to speak about their experiences</p> <p>Earlier identification of individuals experiencing VAWDASV and referrals to specialist services</p> <p>Increase in individuals being supported and safeguarded</p>
<p>Expand Bystander Initiatives across the region</p>	<p>Identify learning from the Bystander Initiative implemented at Aberystwyth University</p> <p>Work with the Violence Prevention Unit to identify learning from Bystander Initiatives focused on sexual harassment and violence linked to the night-time economy</p> <p>Identify sites to deliver the initiatives e.g. university campuses/colleges, towns in Mid and West Wales.</p> <p>Secure funding to deliver the bystander initiatives in Mid and West Wales</p>	<p>Increased awareness of the public of VAWDASV and how to intervene safely</p> <p>Increase safety of individuals</p> <p>Safer streets and communities</p>

We will	Actions Required	Outcome
<p>Establish a Hospital or Health based IDVA</p>	<p>Identify funding to pilot this approach in the Hywel Dda University Health Board</p> <p>Implement a pilot with delivery partners</p> <p>Evaluate the pilot to identify learning to inform the development of approaches that best meet the requirements of the region</p> <p>Identify funding to sustain and develop the approaches</p>	<p>Individuals experiencing VAWDASV accessing hospital services are identified earlier, are safeguarded and can access specialist support at the earliest opportunity</p> <p>Improved responses to Health Board employees experiencing VAWDASV</p> <p>Increased knowledge and confidence of Health Board staff in responding to VAWDASV</p>
<p>Develop and pilot an approach with boys and young men to address male violence and support them to develop healthy relationships based on respect and consent.</p>	<p>Expand the delivery of the work undertaken with community-based sports clubs</p> <p>Identify learning from the approach developed with Powys Youth Council</p> <p>Review best practice and learning from preventative interventions for boys and young men to inform the development and delivery of a consistent approach for Mid and West Wales.</p>	<p>Increased awareness amongst boys and young men of healthy relationships based on respect and consent</p>

We will	Actions Required	Outcome
Develop and pilot programme for girls based on Rights and Empowerment	Review best practice and learning from programmes developed for girls and young women to inform the development and delivery of a consistent approach for Mid and West Wales.	Increased awareness amongst girls and young women of their rights and where to access information and support
Provide a region wide offer of support for children and young people displaying abusive behaviours	<p>Identify good practice and learning from existing provision e.g. Break4Change</p> <p>Present an options paper to the Partnership Board in respect of a regional offer/intervention</p> <p>Support the development and piloting of the New Pathways approach for young people displaying sexually harmful behaviours</p>	Consistent offer of interventions for children and young people displaying abusive behaviours across Mid and West Wales
Improve the links between VAWDASV, Housing and Homelessness Teams across the region, to ensure they are informed and equipped to be the first line of defence against VAWDASV and securing safety for victims	<p>Work with Local Authority housing leads to improve links with Regional VAWDASV work and available specialist support</p> <p>Pilot the co-location of specialist VAWDASV position within a Homelessness Department</p>	<p>Individuals experiencing VAWDASV in contact with Housing and Homelessness Teams are identified earlier, are safeguarded and can access specialist support at the earliest opportunity</p> <p>Increased knowledge and confidence of Housing and Homelessness staff in responding to VAWDASV</p>

We will	Actions Required	Outcome
<p>Improve awareness of the links between experiences of VAWDASV and suicide</p>	<p>Work with Regional Suicide and Self Harm Prevention Co-ordinator to improve links across strategies and delivery plans</p> <p>Identify opportunities to improve professionals' knowledge of the links between experiences of VAWDASV and suicide</p> <p>Referral pathways to specialist support</p> <p>Improve identification of suicides where domestic abuse is a factor and subsequent referrals for Domestic Homicide Reviews</p>	<p>Earlier identification by professionals of individuals who are experiencing VAWDASV and presenting with suicidal ideation</p> <p>Increase knowledge and confidence of staff working with individuals presenting with suicidal ideation in responding to VAWDASV</p> <p>Referral pathways to enable individuals to access specialist services at the earliest opportunity</p> <p>Learning identified to improve responses to individuals who were experiencing VAWDASV and have taken their own lives</p>
<p>Implement learning and recommendations from Domestic Homicide Reviews</p>	<p>Where actions are identified for the Safeguarding Executive and/or the Strategic Board these will be implemented</p> <p>Collate learning and recommendations Action Plans feature in Delivery Plan</p> <p>Key themes and learning presented to Board and SG Board incorporate into next delivery plan</p>	<p>Learning and Recommendations from Domestic Homicide Reviews considered at both a local and regional level to inform practice and service developments</p>

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

We will	Actions Required	Outcome
<p>Oversee, monitor and review the regional implementation of the National Training Framework ensuring compliance by professionals in relevant authorities and specialist sector</p>	<p>Monitor the delivery of the Regional Training Plan centrally across all relevant authorities in the region</p> <p>Coordinate the co-delivery of training with specialist providers centrally</p> <p>Work with survivors for Grp 6 to increase engagement with senior leadership</p> <p>Report centrally to Welsh Government on the delivery of the Regional Training Plan</p>	<p>Increased knowledge, understanding and confidence of professionals in relevant authorities to recognise and respond to VAWDASV</p> <p>Individuals experiencing VAWDASV are identified earlier and signposted / referred to specialist services</p> <p>Increased referrals to specialist services</p>
<p>Improve professionals' knowledge and understanding of violence and abuse</p>	<p>Development and delivery of regional learning events and resources to support learning in respect of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older People • Children and Young People • LGBTQ+ • Sexual Violence and Abuse • Sexual Exploitation 	<p>Increased knowledge and confidence of professionals in respect of experiences of VAWDASV</p> <p>Individuals experiencing VAWDASV are safeguarding and supported</p> <p>Increased referrals to specialist VAWDASV services</p>

We will	Actions Required	Outcome
<p>Pilot and promote alternative training resources in respect of Older People</p>	<p>Pilot the Dewis Choice Virtual Reality Training resource in respect of older people</p> <p>Consider the evaluation findings</p> <p>Include the training as a regional offer</p>	<p>Increased knowledge and confidence of professionals in respect of older people's experiences of VAWDASV</p> <p>Older people experiencing VAWDASV are safeguarding and supported</p> <p>Increased referrals to specialist VAWDASV services</p>
<p>Increase VAWDASV knowledge, understanding and confidence of professionals working in our communities</p>	<p>Welsh Government to develop a training offer for workforce wider than 'relevant authorities'</p> <p>Resources to be made available on Safeguarding Board website</p> <p>Pathways of support to local specialist services to sit alongside any training developed nationally</p>	<p>Increased knowledge, understanding and confidence of professionals wider than 'relevant authorities' to recognise and respond to VAWDASV</p> <p>Individuals experiencing VAWDASV are identified earlier and signposted / referred to specialist services</p> <p>Increased referrals to specialist services</p>

We will	Actions Required	Outcome
<p>Increase knowledge and understanding of the Judiciary within Criminal and Family Court settings</p>	<p>Approach Mid and West Wales Judiciary with an offer to deliver continued professional development in respect of VAWDASV, specialist services and interventions available in the region</p> <p>Work with Welsh Government to lobby the Judicial College for a review of VAWDASV training in the current curriculum</p>	<p>Increased awareness and knowledge within the Judiciary of all aspects of VAWDASV, specialist services and interventions available across Mid and West Wales</p> <p>Improved outcomes for survivors</p>
<p>Ensure that our specialist sector workforce is equipped to respond to diverse needs</p>	<p>Undertake a Training Needs Analysis to understand workforce development needs of specialist VAWDASV services</p> <p>Identify funding sources to support workforce development e.g. Regional Partnership Board Prevention Group</p>	<p>Specialist VAWDASV sector that has an enhanced knowledge and expertise to respond to diverse needs of survivors</p>

Provide all victims with equal access to appropriately resourced, high quality, needs-led, strengths based, intersectional and responsive services

We will	Actions Required	Outcome
<p>Recognise preventative and support services for children and young people as core provision and invest resources to ensure consistent, sustainable and age-appropriate provision across the region including Early Intervention and Prevention provision, specialist Refuge and Outreach support, CYPVA/CYPSVA and therapeutic interventions</p>	<p>Scope and examine existing preventative and support provision for Children and Young People across Mid and West Wales</p> <p>Identify what sources are funding existing Children and Young people’s provision</p> <p>Present an options paper to the VAWDASV Partnership Board for the sustainability and further development of preventative and support provision for children and young people in Mid and West Wales</p>	<p>Consistent offer of preventative and support services for children and young people across Mid and West Wales</p> <p>Improved outcomes for children and young people</p> <p>An agreed approach to funding core services for children and young people</p>
<p>Provide a consistent service offer across the region to meet the needs of older people</p>	<p>Scope existing support offers to older people who are experiencing abuse, funding and outcomes for survivors</p> <p>Literature review of support/interventions for older people</p> <p>Report to the Partnership Board proposing options for the development of regional support offer</p>	<p>A consistent support offer for older people experiencing VAWDASV regardless of risk or referral source</p> <p>Improved outcomes for older people experiencing VAWDASV</p>
<p>Fully Implement the Regional Sexual Assault Referral Centre Model</p>	<p>Continued implementation of the model</p>	<p>Provision of an accredited service to individuals across Mid and West Wales</p>

We will	Actions Required	Outcome
Implement the recommendations of the Review of Independent Sexual Violence Advisers	Partnership Board to request access to the Report Regional commissioning to be informed by the findings/recommendations	Commissioned service to meet the needs of Mid and West Wales Improved outcomes for survivors of sexual violence and abuse
Embed Operation Soteria in day to day practice of policing and partners	Implementation Plan to be shared with the VAWDASV Partnership Board Clarify where oversight and accountability sits and ensure reporting to the VAWDASV Partnership Board	Improved outcomes for survivors of sexual violence and abuse Improved survivor experience of the criminal justice system Improved criminal justice outcomes
Develop a best practice guide to support the establishment and development of Peer Support Groups	Scope existing provision in Mid and West Wales Identify best practice in respect of Peer Support Groups Identify 'what works' in the region Develop a best practice guide	A resource that can be used by survivors and specialist services based on 'what works' An increase in peer support groups across the region Improved outcomes for survivors of VAWDASV

We will	Actions Required	Outcome
Continue to identify and secure funding to deliver safe accommodation options to meet the needs of survivors	<p>Evaluate the Bro Myrddin/Dewis Choice pilot offering safe accommodation for older people with a view to expanding this provision in the region</p> <p>Increase number of dispersed units in the region</p>	Increase in safe accommodation options to meet needs of survivors e.g. older people, complex needs, individuals seeking refuge with older children, individuals who work
Sustain and expand the support provision for survivors from culturally diverse communities across Mid and West Wales	<p>Scope existing support offers to survivors from culturally diverse communities in the region, how they are funded and outcomes for survivors</p> <p>Feedback/Engagement with survivors</p> <p>Report to the Partnership Board proposing options for the development of regional support offer</p>	<p>Consistent and sustainable support offer for survivors from culturally diverse communities</p> <p>Improved outcomes for survivors from culturally diverse communities in Mid and West Wales</p>
Identify opportunities for funding to continue and sustain the offer of support to women with No Recourse to Public Funding (NRPF)	<p>Present a report to the Partnership Board which details the need in the region and the costs of supporting individuals with no recourse to Public Funds</p> <p>Share regional evidence with Welsh Government to support continuation of funding and the development of a Welsh solution for women with No Recourse to Public Funds</p>	<p>A Welsh solution for Women with No Recourse to Public Funds in line with the Nation of Sanctuary Action Plan</p> <p>Women with No Recourse to Public Funds can access specialist support services</p>

We will	Actions Required	Outcome
Develop a consistent support offer to LGBTQ survivors of VAWDASV	<p>Scope existing support offers to LGBTQ survivors in the region, how they are funded and their outcomes for survivors</p> <p>Literature review of wider provision, evaluations and learning</p> <p>Feedback/Engagement with LGBTQ survivors</p> <p>Report to the Partnership Board proposing options for the development of regional support offer</p>	<p>Consistent support offer to LGBTQ survivors across Mid and West Wales</p> <p>Improved outcomes for LGBTQ survivors</p>
Develop an understanding of the prevalence and nature of sex work in the region and the safety and support needs of those involved	<p>Undertake research to develop the Board's understanding of the scale, prevalence and nature of sex working in the region and the safety and support needs of those involved.</p> <p>Commission work to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess prevalence and demand • Identify existing interventions, support mechanisms and gaps • Develop pathways for support, safety and safeguarding • Inform development of services • Raise awareness of professionals 	<p>An understanding of the prevalence and nature of sex work across the region</p> <p>Regional pathways to support and safety</p> <p>Increased knowledge, understanding and confidence of professionals to recognise and respond to sex workers</p> <p>Increased referrals to services</p>
Develop a regional protocol for responding to cases where there are counter allegations of VAWDASV	<p>Scope existing responses to counter allegations of VAWDASV in Mid and West Wales</p> <p>Literature review of approaches/resources to support practitioners in decision making</p> <p>Develop a regional protocol</p>	<p>Consistency of responses in cases where there are counter allegations of VAWDASV</p>

Sustainable Funding and Commissioning

We will	Actions Required	Outcome
<p>Embed the regional VAWDASV commissioning approach</p>	<p>VAWDASV Commissioners to adopt the Regional Service Specification</p> <p>Monitoring the application of the specification in commissioning activity</p>	<p>Consistent application of the Regional Service Specification by VAWDASV Commissioners</p> <p>Consistency of VAWDASV services across Mid and West Wales</p> <p>Equitable access to services for survivors, children and young people and perpetrators of VAWDASV</p>
<p>Maximise funding to VAWDASV services in Mid and West Wales</p>	<p>Regional Commissioning Group to scope and examine what funding contributions are being made to VAWDASV in Mid and West Wales and identify gaps in funding</p> <p>Present an options paper to the Regional VAWDASV Partnership Board to maximise investment in VAWDASV services that can deliver on the priorities in this strategy</p>	<p>Achieving economies of scale</p> <p>Equitable investment subject to population</p> <p>Increase investment of Welsh Government grant funding to support initiatives and services rather than regional posts</p>

Sustainable Funding and Commissioning

We will	Actions Required	Outcome
Support Welsh Government in the review of the National Commissioning Guidance and implement within Regional Commissioning Activity	<p>Engage with national commissioning workstream</p> <p>Clarify legal status of the Commissioning Guidance</p> <p>Share learning and experiences from Mid and West Wales</p>	Consistency of commissioning practice across Wales
Improve local and regional integration of resources and alignment of commissioning activity to improve investment in VAWDASV	Regional VAWDASV Commissioning Group to work with Regional Partnership Boards, Area Planning Boards and Regional Collaborative Committee to identify opportunities for collaborative commissioning	Maximise investment in VAWDASV services and interventions in Mid and West Wales
Share regional learning to inform Welsh Government's Sustainable Commissioning Group	<p>Engage with national commissioning workstream</p> <p>Share learning and experiences from Mid and West Wales</p>	National model of sustainable funding for VAWDASV

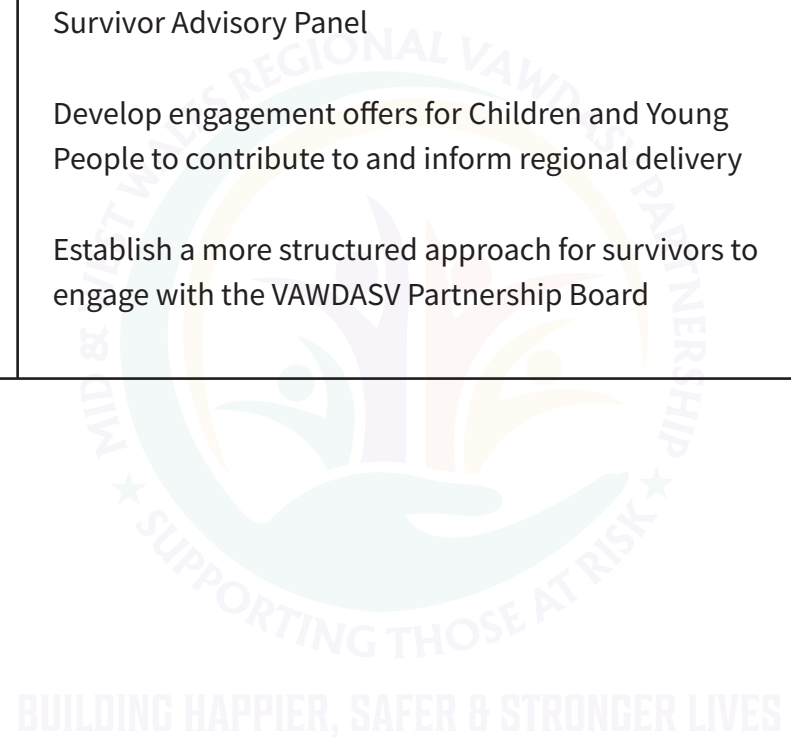
Governance

We will	Actions Required	Outcome
<p>Ensure that the Regional Governance of VAWDASV provides accountability to the National Partnership Board</p>	<p>Review role and Terms of Reference of the Regional Strategic Group to reflect asks of the National Group</p>	<p>A Regional Strategic Group that can provide accountability to the National Partnership Board</p> <p>Mid and West Wales strategy contributes to the delivery of a Wales wide vision to end Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence</p>
<p>Ensure that the learning and experiences of Mid and West Wales are consistently represented at a national level</p>	<p>Secure Mid and West Wales representation on all six national working groups</p>	<p>The experiences of Mid and West Wales informing national development of policy and practice</p>
<p>Maintain and strengthen links with relevant Partnerships/Boards</p>	<p>Review the existing relationships with Boards/Partnerships across the Region</p> <p>Identify opportunities to strengthen influence and integration</p>	<p>Effective collaboration across regional partnerships to deliver VAWDASV priorities</p>
<p>Develop a Performance Framework to measure, monitor and evaluate the strategy and its impact</p>	<p>Develop a regional set of indicators to measure the progress of the regional strategy</p> <p>Contribute to the review of National Indicators</p>	<p>Region can clearly evidence the progress of the strategy and the impact on individuals and families</p> <p>Mid and West Wales contributing to the measurement of progress at a national level</p>

Survivor engagement

We will	Actions Required	Outcome
<p>Build and strengthen our approach to Survivor Engagement</p>	<p>Further develop the Survivor Advisory Panel</p> <p>Expand membership and representation on the Survivor Advisory Panel</p> <p>Develop engagement offers for Children and Young People to contribute to and inform regional delivery</p> <p>Establish a more structured approach for survivors to engage with the VAWDASV Partnership Board</p>	<p>An inclusive regional VAWDASV survivor engagement framework</p> <p>Survivors have a consistent, cohesive mechanism to have their voices heard and to inform policy and practice improvements at a local, regional and national level.</p>

Delivery
Plan



Website:xxxx
Email: xxxx
Social Media: xxxx



Any additional info here?