

Jane Hutt AC/AM  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog a'r Prif Chwip  
Deputy Minister and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JH-/00111/20

Janet Finch-Saunders AM  
Chair, Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
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*Dear Janet,*

22 February 2020

Thank you for your latest letter of 12 February relating to petition P-05-882 Transforming the response for older people experiencing domestic abuse – a call for action. I have outlined responses to both your requests below.

Members requested that my officials directly engage with petitioners, Dewis Choice in relation to training and service provision. I have asked my officials to make direct contact with Dewis Choice representatives and I am informed introductions have been made. I am confident that mutual priorities can be agreed through direct engagement and discussion.

I'm also assured that VAWDASV officials have been engaged with the work of Dewis Choice indirectly, with attendance at the 'Transforming the Response to Domestic Abuse in Later Life' launch event this month.

Members of the Committee also enquired about funding allocations of outreach services available for victims of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV). The Housing Support Grant supports vulnerable people over the age of 16 to address the, sometimes multiple, problems they face, such as debt, employment, tenancy management, substance misuse, violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence, and mental health issues. The Grant is disseminated to local authorities and through local needs assessments and needs-led commissioning to develop a Housing Support Programme (HSP) Strategy every four years.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Through the Housing Support Grant in 2018-19 we provided £9,808,784 to fund support to victims of VAWDASV, this amounted to 1,397 units of support, 73% of these units (1020) were dedicated to Outreach support for victims of VAWDASV.

We also provided £10,018,187 of housing-related support for older people provision (over 55), a total of 14,316 units of support was offered and 50.6% of these units (7,248) were dedicated to outreach support for older people provision.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ('the Act') shares seven well-being goals detailing the ways in which public bodies must work, and work together to improve the well-being of Wales and to create a more equal Wales. This goal is supported through the VAWDASV National Strategy, where we have committed to provide victims with equal access to appropriately resourced, high quality, needs led, strength based, gender responsive services across Wales.

I hope this reassures you that needs led commissioning of Services is happening throughout Wales.

I also wish to update the Committee on equipping staff in VAWDASV specialist services with appropriate skills, knowledge and confidence to respond to older victims of domestic abuse. I referred to this in my previous response to you on 3 December 2019.

We have commissioned a four-day specialist course, 'Responding to Older People Affected by Domestic Abuse' through our National Training Framework. The course is due to begin next month and will improve specialist workers' understanding of the particular forms of abuse that older people can experience and the best ways of providing support in order to create an age-inclusive service.

Best Wishes



**Jane Hutt AC/AM**

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