

Leighton Andrews AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus
Minister for Public Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/our ref: MB/LA/4670/14

Assembly Members
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

10 November 2014

Dear Colleagues,

On 16 September Mark Isherwood asked the Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty a question in plenary regarding perpetrator programmes, and specifically the cessation of funding for the Choose2Change Programme delivered by Relate Cymru in North Wales. The Minister asked him to put his concerns in writing, which he did and I replied on 26 September as the issue falls within my portfolio. I have subsequently been informed the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner, Winston Roddick, has agreed to fund the Programme to enable it to continue operating until the end of March 2015.

In 2010, the Welsh Government provided one-off, emergency funding for the Choose2Change Programme. The funding was intended to support the Programme whilst it sought to secure mainstream funding to safeguard itself longer term. Choose2Change is a local service. I would expect, therefore, local commissioners such as Local Authorities, the Local Health Board and the Police and Crime Commissioner to consider the future of this service.

Working with perpetrators is key to addressing all forms of violence and domestic abuse. Perpetrator programmes are an important element of prevention and without them, the cycle of abuse will never be broken.

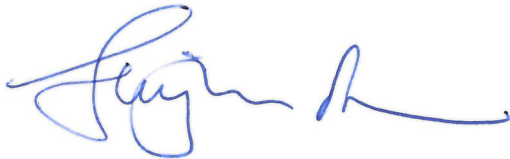
In preparing the National Strategy, provision for which is included in the Gender-based Violence, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Bill, consideration will be given to steps the Welsh Ministers could take in assisting the development of perpetrator programmes. The Welsh Government commissioned report *Building*

Effective Responses: An Independent Review of Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Services in Wales, which was published on 30 April 2014, suggested testing a range of perpetrator programmes to develop the evidence base, which is not currently sufficiently robust. This recommendation will be considered in the context of developing the National Strategy.

Similarly, where there is an identified need for perpetrator programmes in local areas, Local Authorities and Local Health Boards would need to consider what action they ought to take through their local strategy, provision for which is also included in the Bill, to address such a need.

Given this, I welcome the interim funding which has been agreed by the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner for the Choose2Change Programme. I would encourage local commissioners to consider on-going funding of the Programme with local need in mind.

Yours sincerely,



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