



Llinell Gymorth Live Fear
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Cymorth i Ferched Cymru
Welsh Women's Aid

Rhoi Merched a Phlant yn Gyntaf
Putting Women & Children First

Dear Jenny,

We are writing in response to your letter dated 25th September 2023 requesting further information regarding Ask and Act, the delivery of which has been the responsibility of Welsh Women's Aid since its initial development in 2016. For context, Welsh Women's Aid are funded to provide accredited Groups 2 and 3 Train the Trainer training to public and specialist sector practitioners across Wales as part of the National Training Framework for Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV). This training is commonly referred to as Ask and Act. Currently, the relevant authorities under the National Training Framework include county and borough councils, local health boards, fire and rescue authorities, and NHS trusts.

Complementing Ask & Act, we also deliver Trusted Professional training as part of our Change that Lasts whole systems approach to tackling gender-based violence and abuse. This is a one-day training course for professionals throughout Wales who come into contact with survivors of VAWDASV. The course trains individuals to respond appropriately to disclosures and refer survivors and perpetrators to specialist support services. In the last three years, we have trained 180 professionals through this route.

Funding Received

Welsh Women's Aid was funded by Welsh Government to develop the Ask and Act training materials for the initial Train the Trainer courses in 2016. We continued to develop and deliver the training for the cross-Wales rollout, with our contract being renewed in 2018 and then again in 2022.

The current contract awarded to Welsh Women's Aid totals £132,650 and runs from November 2022 to March 2025. The Welsh Government also provides funding directly to relevant regional authorities for onward delivery of Ask & Act training sessions to staff and they submit returns to Welsh Government directly.

How are you reporting progress to Welsh Government?

We complete quarterly reports which are provided to the Welsh Government and meet regularly with Welsh Government officials to monitor progress. The regular reports provided to Welsh Government include the following information:

- Number of practitioners trained to deliver Ask and Act
- Number of practitioners who have completed assessments
- Of the above, the number who have passed and the number of resubmissions
- Qualitative feedback from learners
- Emerging themes and/or patterns
- Challenges and learning from delivery

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Welsh Women's Aid is a registered charity in England and Wales, No. 1140962
and a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales, No. 07483469



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How are you measuring the success of the training you deliver?

Welsh Women's Aid pride ourselves on our robust evaluation processes which aim to demonstrate the impact of Ask and Act training on learners. These processes include:

- A pre-course survey which aims to establish the level of knowledge and skill of the learners before taking part in the training
- A post-course survey to measure learner confidence, knowledge, practice, and skills
- A further survey between 3 and 9 months post-training to gather longer-term reflections and to understand how learners have embedded learning from training into their individual practice
- Practitioners are also asked to provide case studies, if possible, to give us further opportunities to increase engagement with learners and improve the training

This year, we have trained a total of 80 learners. All learners who completed feedback for Group 2 and Group 3 training rated the trainer's subject knowledge as 'excellent'. Learners who provided feedback stated that the training left them *'more empowered to continue supporting others'*.

Please can you outline any discussions you may have had with the Welsh Government about expanding the Ask and Act scheme to other organisations, including your view on who this might include?

Discussions have taken place regarding the expansion of Act and Act to practitioners outside the public sector, including those in the police, housing, and the private sector. In our view, the training could be expanded more widely to professionals, for example, in housing associations, food banks, GP surgeries, public transport, Citizen's Advice, Job Centre plus and organisations such as Sports Wales. This would ensure the appropriate individuals are adequately trained and confident to encourage disclosures and respond effectively. We believe such an expansion would ensure every interaction between survivors and the relevant professionals counts and would guarantee the provision of consistently high-quality services across Wales.

The additional funding that would be needed to roll out the scheme further, and whether Welsh Women's Aid has the capacity to deliver it?

It is challenging to provide a definitive response regarding the additional funding required as it would be dependent on several factors such as the types of training required and the number of people to be trained.

However, Welsh Women's Aid and our nine implementation partners (DASU North Wales, Threshold DAS, RASASC, West Wales DAS, Calan DVS, Bawso, Swansea Women's Aid, Thrive and Safer Wales) have sufficient capacity to deliver the training if it were to be rolled out further. The implementation partners are located in different regions across Wales, which we believe bring vital local knowledge to the training provision.

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We hope the information contained in this letter is of use to the Committee, we are happy to provide any further information as required.

Yours Sincerely,

Jennifer Mills
Policy Officer, Welsh Women's Aid

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