

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol, y
Trefnydd a'r Prif Chwip
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Jenny Rathbone MS
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

10 December 2024

Dear Jenny

Following our correspondence in May regarding the Equality and Social Justice Committee's inquiry and report into a "Public health approach to preventing gender-based violence" and Plenary debate, I have now published the [Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence \(VAWDASV\) Annual Report 2023-24](#).

The VAWDASV Annual Report covers the work completed between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024, with reference to the six objectives set out in the VAWDASV National Strategy 2022-2026. Alongside this, I have published a [progress update report on the Blueprint High Level Plan](#). This is the first time we have brought together the reporting on these two elements to demonstrate the significance of the Blueprint approach in delivering the objectives of the strategy.

I would like specifically to draw your attention to the following sections of the VAWDASV Annual Report that provide an update on the Equality and Social Justice Committee recommendations.

Recommendation 2. *The Welsh Government should embrace its role as an innovator and leader in applying a public health approach to gender-based violence, by:*

- identifying opportunities to raise awareness and generate shared understanding of the approach and Blueprint;*
- contributing to the evidence base of what works by proactively publishing progress updates and resources used to underpin the Blueprint;*
- continuing to prioritise work with the next generation through effective programmes aimed at children and young people.*

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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.

In addition to the Blueprint High Level progress report I mentioned above, Part 1 of the Annual Report includes an update on our strategic communications, including the publication of a [VAWDASV Communications and Engagement Toolkit](#) and 7-minute progress updates intended to inform stakeholders of progress.

Recommendation 10. *The Welsh Government should consider funding a nation-wide public awareness campaign with a top male, sporting role model who can inspire other men and boys to take a stand against violence and promote positive values and behaviours. It is important this person is well-informed about the issue and receives appropriate training to effectively communicate and advocate for change. An evaluation of impact should be undertaken at the end of the campaign.*

Part 2 of the Annual Report, Objectives 1 and 4, provides a detailed update on our successful Sound campaign which encourages more reflective discussions amongst men and boys as to how they can play their role in addressing violence against women and girls, in addition to committing to evaluate phases 1 and 2 of the Sound campaign.

Recommendation 11. *The Welsh Government perpetrator workstream should undertake a rapid review of perpetrator programmes designed to prevent GBV that are available across Wales. The review should seek to provide assurance that each programme considers the safety of survivors and can evidence effective rehabilitation. It should also consider different cultural and contextual factors that can influence the effectiveness of perpetrator programmes and be completed by June 2024.*

The Blueprint progress report provides an update on the Tackling Perpetration Workstream, and specifically on the all-Wales survey which sought to gather information in relation to all currently available perpetrator interventions. The report and the recommendations included within it have received sign off from the VAWDASV National Partnership Board. The workstream is developing an interventions directory using the information gathered through the survey.

Recommendation 3. *The Welsh Government should set out how the development and evaluation of policies which address the intersectionality of GBV will be informed by data, evidence, and analysis. In particular the Welsh Government should provide the Equality, Race and Disability Evidence Units with clarity regarding their priorities and agree timescales for completion of key milestones by end of April 2024. The response should include details of:*

- *the target date for completing the work to establish baseline data and a summary of the baseline indicators it intends to use;*
- *the partners it will work with to gather baseline data and the target date by which data-gathering efforts will be mainstreamed; and*
- *when it anticipates the data gathered by the Units will be able to meaningfully contribute to policy development and evaluation.*

Part 1 of the Annual Report sets out the conclusions of the Task and Finish group which will be presented to the VAWDASV National Programme Board in December. Following this an update on the conclusions of the group and next steps will be published in early 2025.

I will write in the new year to provide a full update on all the Committee's recommendations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke above the first letter 'J'.

Jane Hutt AS/MS

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