

National Assembly for Wales Cross Party Group on Violence Against Women and Children.

Date: 21 October 2014

Venue: Ty Hywel. Conference Room 24.

Present: Jocelyn Davies AM (Chair), Christine Chapman AM, Julie Morgan AM

Rhayna Pritchard (Researcher to Jocelyn Davies AM), Angharad Lewis (Communications officer to Jocelyn Davies AM), Colin Palfrey (AMSS Lindsey Whittle AM), Ellie Mower (AMSS Peter Black AM), Liz Newton (AMSS Peter Black AM), Jocelyn Robinson (AMSS Julie Morgan), Sion Mile (AMSS Julie Morgan AM), Sam Rock (AMSS Julie Morgan AM) .

Tina Reece (Welsh Women's Aid), Lucy Holmes (Port Talbot and Hafan Women's Aid), Donna Marie Lowe (Survivors Trust) Johanna Robinson (Survivors Trust), Elle McNeill (Citizens Advice Bureau), Sara Reid (Children are Unbeatable), Paula Hardy (South Wales Police), Jan Pickles (South Wales Police), Bernie Bowen-Thompson (Safer Wales), Simon Borja (Safer Wales), Ruth Allen (Hafan Cymru), Ruth Mullineux (NSPCC), Vivienne Laing (NSPCC),

1 Welcome

Welcome by Jocelyn Davies AM (Chair).

2 Apologies

Leighton Andrews AM, David Melding AM, Cathy Owens (Deryn), Phil Walker (The Survivors Trust), Jackie Stamp (New Pathways), Emma Renold (Cardiff University), Jacqueline Hay (Llamau).

3 Tina Reece, Policy and Campaigns Officer – Welsh Women's Aid. Briefing on CPS domestic violence statistics

Overall prosecutions / convictions have increased

CPS stats on false allegations of DV and rape are much lower than believed. False allegations usually have other factors such as age and mental health.

South Wales has high attrition rates but the UK is down overall.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

- The volume of VAWG crime prosecuted rose from 82,165 in 2012-13 to 90,516 in 2013-14. A rise of 8,351 defendants prosecuted;
- The volume convicted rose by 6,527 from 60,853 in 2012-13 to 67,380 in 2013-14;
- From those with recorded gender, **the proportion of women victims was 84%**;
- **94% of VAWG defendants in 2013-14 were men**;
- It was of concern to note that 26% of defendants (23,557) were under 24 years old, with 2,746 (3%) of defendants being 14-17 years old and 197 (0.2%) aged from 10-13;
- From those victims with recorded age, the majority were aged 25-59 (65%) and 18-24 (25%);
- Also of concern are figures showing 30.5% of victims (20,624) were under 24 years old, with 3,157 (5%) aged 14-17, 830 (1%) aged 10-13 and 163 under 10 years of age.

A full copy of the report can be found at:



cps_vawg_report_20
131 (2).pdf

4 Open debate on the group's response to the Gender-based Violence, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Bill.

Areas debated were:

- The Bill in general.
- The content of the Bill.
- Government Advisor.
- Services for victims.
- Perpetrators.
- Definitions.
- Reasonable chastisement.

Jocelyn Davies AM will be writing to the Minister for Public Services, with a copy to the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee, outlining the group's response. The group agreed that the Bill needs to include a much stronger policy on education and an amendment to include the removal of reasonable chastisement as a legal defence.

5 Any other business.

No.

6 Date of next meeting.

To be announced