

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

Date: 16 October 2013

Venue: Ty Hywel. Conference Room 24

Present: Jocelyn Davies AM (Chair), Lesley Griffiths AM Minister for Local Government and Government Business, Sarah Rose, Mark Isherwood AM, Cathy Davies (Hafan), Tim Ruscoe (Barnardo's Cymru), Jennifer Dunne (Equality and Human Rights Commission), Jim Stewart (Evangelical Wales), Hannah Wharf (Welsh Refugee Council), Bernie Bowen-Thomson (Safer Wales), Emma Renold (Cardiff University), Philip Walker (Survivors Trust Wales), Jackie Stamp (New Pathways), Lisa Deek (Llamau), Kate Carr (NSPCC), Paula Hardy (Welsh Women's Aid), Tina Reece (Welsh Women's Aid), Ann Hubbard (Wales Migration Partnership), Mwenya Chimba (BAWSO), A Jones (Welsh Assembly of Women), Liz Newton (researcher to Peter Black AM), Rhayna Pritchard (Researcher to Jocelyn Davies AM).

1 Apologies

Apologies received from Simon Thomas AM and Naomi Brightmore.

2 Welcome

2.1 Jocelyn opened the meeting by welcoming Lesley Griffiths AM and thanking her for attending. Jocelyn noted that the meeting was to facilitate an informal discussion on the Welsh Government's proposed 'Ending Violence Against Women and Domestic Abuse (Wales) Bill'.

Agenda

- 3 **The Advisor** - The group discussed the role, powers and accountability of the advisor. It was highlighted that a commissioner rather than an advisor would be beneficial.
4. **Review of Services** – The Minister outlined the Review of Services and the possible financial implications of the review.
5. **Education** - The Minister recognised that there was a strong case for a specific syllabus within education. Emma Renold (Cardiff University) informed the Minister of her research for the cross-party group on childhood sexuality – sexualisation and equality. The minister was keen to see the research and would try to send a representative to the launch of the research to be held in the Pierhead on 5 December 2013.
6. **Work based Initiatives** - The group suggested that work based initiatives could be carried out effectively in the private sector through a poster campaign, faxed to work places. The Minister agreed that the idea was good and workable due to little financial output and could be carried out efficiently and quickly.
7. **Accommodation choices** – Paula Hardy (Welsh Women's Aid) outlined the need for varied accommodation options, based on need, so that the refuge service does not become over occupied incorrectly. It was agreed by those present that this was not always the case and the Bill should not put further stress on accommodation options but relieve it.

8. **Funding** – Concerns were raised by those present regarding the financial resources for the advisor, accommodation and training. The Minister highlighted the need for the review of Services to be completed before a full answer could be given but added that the new funding would not be taken from the existing pot.

9. Jocelyn Davies AM thanked the Minister for her candid manner and for attending the cross-party group meeting. Those present also highlighted their appreciation to the Minister for her open and supportive manner.

10 **Any other business.**

10.1 It was agreed that the AGM would be held in January 2014.

10.2 To be included on the agenda was the ‘gender question’, which was noted in the meeting’s agenda.

10.3 Paula Hardy (Welsh Women’s Aid) requested that Education be placed on the agenda to coincide with the Review of Services.

10.4 Jocelyn asked Emma Renold (Cardiff University) to give a presentation on her research at the AGM, as the launch will have taken place.

10.5 Jocelyn added that after the AGM, the group will have sufficient evidence to give to the Minister so that she can push those aspects of the Bill.

CLOSE