



Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales

Cross Party Group on Violence against Women and Children

'Wales Launch of third edition of Respect Standard: Safe, effective, accountable work with perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse'

Sponsored by Mark Isherwood AM and Bethan Jenkins AM

13 December 2017, 12:30-13:30

Conference Room C, Tŷ Hywel, National Assembly for Wales

Mark Isherwood AM (Co-chair)
Leader of the House and Chief Whip Julie James AM (speaker)
Kelly McGuire – Relate (speaker)
Jo Todd – Respect (speaker)
Hilary Watson – Welsh Women's Aid (minutes)
David Rowlands AM
Jane Hutt AM
Sara Kirkpatrick – Respect
Tina Reece – Welsh Women's Aid
Eleri Butler – Welsh Women's Aid
Gwilym Roberts – Relate
Kay Quinn – Atal y Fro
Sophie Hirst – Atal y Fro
Cathy – SEEdS, Welsh Women's Aid
Cerys Miles – HMPS
Mel Senior – Barnardo's
Martin Kaid – Barnardo's
Natalie Southgate – Cardiff Council (gender specific service)
Nicola Jones – Cardiff Council
V. Penticini – Threshold DAS
D. R. Evans – Threshold DAS
L. Elton – Threshold DAS
Ellie Taylor – Calan DVS
Luke Ivens – Phoenix Domestic Abuse
Cath James – Phoenix Domestic Abuse

Susan Curly – Phoenix Domestic Abuse
Elin Nicholson – Chwarae Teg
Darren O'Connell – Safer Merthyr
Ceri Melhuish-Thomas – Dads Can
Rosie McGuigan – RCT CBC
Frances Beecher – Llamau
Bethan Phillips – NafW
Paula Hardy – SW Police
Mutale Merrill – Bawso
Eleri Evans

Apologies:

Bethan Jenkins AM (Co-Chair)
Llyr Gruffydd AM
Simon Thomas AM
Sophie Howe, Commissioner for Future Generations
Michelle Pooley - West Wales DAS
Cheryl Emery - RCTCBC
Catherine Fookes – WEN Wales
Amy Price – Independent
Kate Jones – PTAWA
Sophie – SEEdS, Welsh Women's Aid
Siân Morgan – Hafan Cymru
Ceri Wood – Gwent VAWDASV team
Rachel Allen – Gwent Police

Minutes

The meeting, chaired by Mark Isherwood AM, was the Welsh launch of the new Respect standards (3rd edition) by the Leader of the House and Chief Whip Julie James AM, for safely working with perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse.

Due to the time constraints of the launch, the minutes from the last meeting will be checked at the next following meeting.

Speakers:

Jo Todd, CEO of Respect UK

'Introduction to the new Respect Accreditation Standards: Safe and effective practice while working with perpetrators'

Leader of the House & Chief Whip, Julie James AM

'Welsh Government's commitment to perpetrator work in Wales'

Kelly McGuire, Development Manager at Relate

'Providing perpetrator programmes in Wales'

Discussion:

New standards: Respect has developed the new Respect Accreditation Standards, an evidence-based framework for work with perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse underpinned by 10 key principles, focused on behaviour change and risk management, so that members of the public, including survivors and perpetrators, funders, commissioners and other professionals, can be assured of high-quality safety-focused services. There are also other new areas of work developing and delivering interventions, including: work with young people who use violence and abuse towards a family member; interventions to disrupt abusive behaviour and manage high-risk perpetrators; work with women using violence against men and work with those in same sex relationships.

It was stated by Respect that the newly updated standards reflect the new landscape and practice of the emerging field of working with perpetrators of domestic abuse (DA), developed in partnership with the specialist sector, such as with Welsh Women's Aid. It was also stated that safety of survivors and their children is at the heart of the standards. Jo continued by confirming that the new standards cover everyone – whether or not they are motivated to change, with a new innovative framework and principles that underpin the standards. Mark Isherwood AM highlighted that Welsh Government should take note of this 'gold standard'.

Welsh context: Relate are currently the only accredited organisation in Wales and state that working within the standards is reassuring and worth the cost. Respect added that more Wales based organisations will also be going through the accreditation process soon – as they had been waiting for the new standards before beginning.

Domestic abuse only: the standards currently address domestic violence and abuse perpetrators only. It was stated that an evidence base for how best to work with perpetrators of wider VAWDASV would be needed to make them appropriate for all forms of VAWDASV. Respect is interested in developing this in the future.

Leader of the House and Chief Whip Julie James AM intro: Leader of the House and Chief Whip welcomed information from the specialist VAWDASV sector to help her develop her understanding of the portfolio and how Welsh Government's policies can go forward.

Welsh Women's Aid's 40th anniversary: Jane Hutt AM announced her sponsorship of the anniversary event 'Still We Rise' in the Pierhead building on 25th January 2018 from 4-6pm. She encouraged CPG attendees to join her in celebrating 40 years of Welsh Women's Aid.

Commissioners: concerns were raised that commissioners in Wales were doing harm and things could be becoming unsafe. Concerns around the lifting of the Supporting People Grant ring-fence were voiced specifically, and Jane Hutt AM said that she would take this concern back to Julie James AM. Mark Isherwood AM also highlighted that he had raised this point in the draft budget debate the week before.

Actions:

1. Draft a letter to Leader of the House and Chief Whip Julie James AM about concerns from the group that commissioners in Wales may be doing harm with regards to VAWDASV due to lack of understanding of the specialist sector and other details.
2. Circulate the invitation for the 40th anniversary of Welsh Women's Aid event 'Still We Rise' on 25th January 2018.

The Chair thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 13:30.