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Arweinydd y Tŷ a'r Prif Chwip
Leader of the House and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/01097/18

David John Rowlands AM
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Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 29 November regarding the Petitions Committee - P-05-798 Male domestic violence victim support services to be independently run and funded.

The Welsh Government is committed to tackling all forms of gender based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence and to supporting all victims of domestic abuse, regardless of their gender or sexuality.

Work to implement the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Act, the National Strategy and Delivery Framework recognises that men also experience domestic abuse and sexual violence. Whilst we acknowledge the disproportionate experience of women and girls, this does not negate violence and abuse directed towards men and boys or perpetrated by women and we recognise that anyone (women, men, children and young people) can experience and be affected by these issues.

Where we fund organisations directly, this is either to act as an umbrella organisation for both genders (Welsh Women's Aid and BAWSO), or to deliver a service to both genders (New Pathways for Sexual Violence services, Hafan Cymru to deliver healthy relationships education, Welsh Women's Aid to deliver the Live Fear Free Helpline, for example). The only organisation we fund to deliver to only one gender is Safer Wales for the men only Project Dyn and Dyn male helpline.

The regions also commission services. In January 2019, we will be publishing our statutory guidance for the commissioning of Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Services in Wales. The aim of this guidance is to promote high quality collaborative commissioning that delivers more consistent and effective services to prevent Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) and protect and support victims of VAWDASV across Wales. This goes beyond commissioning

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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.

services with funding from Welsh Government, but lays expectations for pooling budgets when commissioning VAWDASV services.

The guidance contains a set of core commissioning principles on which a regional commissioning strategy should be based. This includes an understanding of VAWDASV as gendered and a commitment to provide all survivors equal access to holistic, appropriately resourced, high quality, needs-led, strengths-based, gender responsive services across Wales.

The guidance also sets out the expectation that commissioning decisions should be based on a robust assessment of needs and gaps. The information obtained from this should be used as the basis for developing strategic objectives and the regional commissioning strategy.

The statutory commissioning guidance will also contain detail of how monitoring and evaluation should be undertaken with formal evaluation mechanisms specified and built into the design and delivery of services from the outset. This will feed into and inform future service development, design and commissioning and the regional commissioning strategy itself.

In terms of those who receive public funding through the VAWDASV services grant, this funding is subject to the development and agreement of an annual delivery plan which meets the outcomes of the grant award and is monitored on a quarterly basis. Funding is subject to compliance against the terms and conditions of grant offer and due diligence processes.

Yours sincerely



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