



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA/JH/0031/20

John Griffiths AM
Chair, Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

26 February 2020

Dear John,

During my appearance before the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee on Wednesday 12 February 2020 I agreed to send you the following:

- A list of the Act's achievements since the last evidence session took place in November 2018 – this is attached at doc 1.
- Details of the National Indicators – these can be found at this link: <https://gov.wales/violence-against-women-domestic-abuse-and-sexual-violence-national-indicators-wales>
- Links to the toolkit for schools and to the online guidance toolkit – this can be found at this link - <https://gov.wales/violence-against-women-domestic-abuse-and-sexual-violence-vawdasv-educational-toolkit>
- The Wales Centre for Public Policy research, when available – I am expecting this in the next few weeks and will forward to you when I receive it.

Yours sincerely,

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

Jane Hutt AC/AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog a'r Prif Chwip
Deputy Minister and Chief Whip

Achievements since last Committee appearance by then Leader of the House and Chief Whip, Julie James, AM on 7 November 2018

December 2018: A Rapid Evidence Assessment was published on “what works” in reducing the likelihood of re-offending for those who have committed domestic abuse

December 2018: National Standards for services working with perpetrators was published.

January 2019: “This is not love: this is control” campaign focussing on coercive control was launched.

9 March 2019: The Welsh Government jointly hosted a seminar with the Home Office on “A Practical Guide to Forced Marriage and Female Mutilation Protection Orders”

25 March 2019: The Welsh Government commissioned Welsh Women’s Aid to host a National Public Sector Leadership Conference.

May 2019: Statutory guidance for commissioning VAWDASV services was published.

May 2019: The relevant authorities submitted their second annual report as required by the National Training Framework.

June 2019: National Indicators for VAWDASV were published.

5 July 2019: The Welsh Government’s Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Progress report for the period: 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 was published.

July 2019: Welsh Government hosted a round table with senior leaders to discuss street harassment. This resulted in delegates making written commitments to addressing street harassment in their organisations

August 2019: CAFCASS Cymru produced two guides for practitioners on domestic abuse and working with children

September 2019: The National Advisers published their annual progress report for 2018-19.

September to November 2019: Welsh Government piloted a survivor engagement panel, which we are currently evaluating for potential roll out.

November 2019: The National Advisers published their annual plan for the next financial year 2020-2021.

November 2019: Good Practice Guidance for non-specialist public service workers on working with adult perpetrators was published

6 February 2020: Communications campaign on the theme of control and sexual violence was launched. This is the latest in the ‘This is not Love’ campaign. This campaign has driven traffic to the Live Fear Free helpline with callers referring to the campaign and the campaign pages have received over 70,000 views.

Ongoing Work

Progress Reports

- The National Advisers have provided four periodic reports to ELGC on progress in implementing the VAWDASV Act.

National Indicators and National Strategy

- We have held four of six planned workshops to further refine the National Indicators and identify additional data sources. Two further workshops will be held during March. This will also inform the development of our next five-year strategy.
- We have held two Expert Stakeholder Groups, chaired by the National Advisers. The four Welsh Government Directors General are part of this group which is taking forward work streams to inform the next National Strategy

Perpetrators

- Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) in Wales has agreed to implement the Welsh Government's VAWDASV Perpetrator Service Standards for all non-accredited VAWDASV-related interventions.
- There have been six practice sharing events for those working with perpetrators since November 2018
- We have supported a Masters of Research Project on harassment in partnership with Swansea University since January 2019.
- We continue to support a number of Masters of Forensic Psychology research projects on the evaluation of perpetrator services in Wales. Since the last meeting, one project has been completed and three more have been initiated.

Training and Development

- Ask and Act training is now available across Gwent, Cwm Taf, North Wales, Mid and West Wales, Welsh Fire and Rescue Services, Welsh Ambulance Service Trust as well as health boards and trusts. The full roll out to Ask and Act will be completed during 2020-21.
- Following White Ribbon Day on 21 November 2019, a further 7 White Ribbon ambassadors have been recruited within Welsh Government and we are beginning work to renew Welsh Government's White Ribbon accreditation.
- We are planning training for AMs and their staff on VAWDASV.

Survivor Engagement

- We are undertaking a review to identify more effective methods of engaging with diverse groups so they may have a voice in policy development and delivery.

Education

- Officials worked with The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales to develop guidance aimed at higher education institutions in Wales on tackling VAWDASV for publication in March 2020
- Officials are working with the Welsh Joint Education Committee to design and pilot a Health and Wellbeing Peer Mentoring challenge for the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate. This will also promote the White Ribbon Youth Advocate Programme.
- Policy leads have been working jointly on developing the VAWDASV aspects of the Relationships and Sexuality part of the new curriculum. The Education Minister

announced on 21 January that children in Wales will have full access to the curriculum.

Funding

- We have awarded £2.4 million to fund new capital projects between 2018 and 2020.
- A total of £120,000 has been made available by the Welsh Government as grants to the seven regions to support them in improving the provision of perpetrator services in their areas in 2019-20.
- An additional £0.25 million revenue was announced in the 2020-21 draft budget, bringing the VAWDASV revenue budget to £5.25 million
- An additional £1.2 million capital funding was announced in the 2020-21 draft budget for dispersed units for those for whom refuge provision is not appropriate.