

Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau

Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee

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**COMISIYNYDD
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Dear John

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)

In response to your request for information regarding the above agenda, it is one that impacts upon all partner organisations and the communities we serve and is vital that we address, both as individual organisations and collaboratively. I believe that the VAWDASV Act, passed in April 2015, provides the opportunity for a truly collaborative approach with a joint strategic focus amongst partners resulting in consistent and comprehensive service delivery.

I am currently in the process of drafting my new Police and Crime Plan, within which the identification and support for victims of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence will certainly feature. It is addressed within the Protecting Vulnerable People priority contained within the existing Plan which I inherited upon my election.

I currently commission services for victims of both domestic abuse and sexual violence, including the provision of 3 Sexual Abuse Referral Centres across the Force area. These provide the facility for forensic medical examinations and also ensure ongoing counselling and support through the criminal justice system for both adult and child victims. The service I commission from Hafan Cymru provides Independent Domestic Violence Advisors and I have recently increased the resource provided via this service. I am aware that we still have some distance to travel in order to provide sufficient service capacity to meet the ever increasing level of need as evidenced by our numbers of MARAC referrals. However, I am committed to working with partners to ensure that this vital aspect of victim support is appropriately addressed.

I recognise that crisis support is only one aspect of service delivery within this agenda and that preventing escalation of our low risk incidents is as crucial as supporting those already identified as high risk. I am fully committed to the prevention agenda across all areas of crime and policing and this will form a significant strand within my new Police and Crime Plan as well as being factored into future budget planning.

I recently convened a meeting of key representatives from across the Dyfed Powys region to consolidate our proposed way forward on the VAWDASV agenda and to identify the joint finance and resources that we are able to commit to this area of work. The outcome of this was a commitment to a joint regional needs analysis, development of a regional VAWDASV strategy and ultimately the joint commissioning of services. This will provide a consistent and equitable service provision for victims whilst ensuring that we secure the most cost effective service and maximise the capacity for front line delivery.

I hope the above information will be of assistance to the Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Dafydd Llywelyn
Police and Crime Commissioner