



# **Cwm Taf Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence Strategy Annual Report 2019-2020**

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# Cwm Taf Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy – Annual Report 2019-2020

## Introduction

### Welcome to the second Annual Report of the Cwm Taf Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Steering Group

In 2015, the Welsh Government passed the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act (Wales) - VAWDASV

(1) The purpose of this Act is to improve:

- a) arrangements for the prevention of gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence;
- b) arrangements for the protection of victims of gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence;
- c) support for people affected by gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

The Act specified that Local Authorities and Local Health Boards (plus relevant authorities) are required to develop a joint local VAWDASV Strategy and provide an annual update report against this strategy. In Cwm Taf the responsibility for developing and monitoring the VAWDASV strategy has been delegated to the Cwm Taf VAWDASV Steering Group which is a partnership of relevant authorities and local service providers.

In accordance with the Act, the Cwm Taf VAWDASV strategy must:

- a) Specify objectives which the Local Authority and the Local Health Board consider will, if achieved, contribute to the pursuit of the purpose of this Act;
- b) Specify the periods of time within which the Local Authority and the Local Health Board propose to achieve the specified objectives;
- c) Identify the actions that the Local Authority and the Local Health Board propose to take to achieve the specified objectives;
- d) A Local Authority and a Local Health Board may specify objectives.

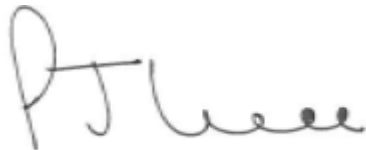
For ease of monitoring in Cwm Taf, the objectives, actions and timescales have been incorporated into an implementation plan that is reported upon on a quarterly basis. Any issues or risks raised in relation to delivering the plan are elevated to the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) for their decision and/or action. This supports the CSP to take ownership of VAWDASV at a strategic level and provide leadership to the VAWDASV Steering Group on the delivery of the plan.

This report highlights the work that the VAWDASV Steering Group has undertaken during 2019/2020, in pursuit of the aim to ensure that the people of Cwm Taf are safe from all the harms associated with VAWDASV. The Steering Group are acutely aware that this can only be achieved through strong partnership, with all agencies working together proactively and productively.

Members of the VAWDASV Steering Group continue to seek opportunities to further develop and improve safeguarding in relation to VAWDASV in Cwm Taf and recognise that this can only be achieved through effective collaboration. Therefore, collaboration with partner agencies, Welsh Government and Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board will continue, to enhance practice and to share learning.

Cwm Taf VAWDASV Steering Group will also endeavour to engage with users of services, whether they are children or adults and offer them opportunities to participate in the VAWDASV agenda.

2019-2020 has been a challenging year for the VAWDASV sector just as it has been for the Country. The Cwm Taf region had to deal with the devastation caused by severe flooding, quickly followed by the pandemic of Covid-19. In respect of Covid-19, our service providers have met all the challenges remarkably well, introducing new ways of working for staff and new ways of communicating with service users. Despite all the difficulties, agencies have continued to deliver the high quality, responsive services that meet the needs of those experiencing VAWDASV.



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**Signed: Paul Mee - Chair, Cwm Taf CSP, Chair - Cwm Taf VAWDASV Steering Group**

## **Membership of VAWDASV steering group**

See Appendix A

## **Governance structure**

See Appendix B

## **Cwm Taf VAWDASV Strategic Aims**

The Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 required Local Authorities and their relevant partners to develop a local VAWDASV strategy. The Cwm Taf VAWDASV Steering Group complied with this requirement and developed its aims to be consistent with the VAWDASV National Strategy and to meet local need.

During 2019-2020, Cwm Taf aims were as follows:

**Aim 1: Increase awareness of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence across the Cwm Taf population.**

**Aim 2: To break the generational cycle of VAWDASV behaviour in families by promoting healthy relationships in children and young people.**

**Aim 3: Hold perpetrators to account for their actions and support them to change their behaviour.**

**Aim 4: Ensure services are designed and commissioned to meet the needs of the Cwm Taf population.**

**Aim 5: Ensure that services are fit for purpose and quality assured.**

## What have we achieved? - Aim 1

### Increase awareness of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence across the Cwm Taf population.

Close collaboration between the VAWDASV Steering Group and the Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) Safeguarding Board has meant a wider reach for raising awareness activities in the Cwm Taf region. This was achieved through the Safeguarding Board adopting raising awareness of domestic abuse as a key priority in its 2019-20 Safeguarding Annual Plan.

Consequently, most of the activity that took place during Safeguarding Week, 11th to the 15th November was also themed around domestic abuse. See embedded bulletin for further details.



Whilst planning for Safeguarding Week and its activity, a theme emerged of Adolescent to Parent Violence. Whilst the planning group wanted a more generic theme for the week, it was agreed that this was a relevant issue to pursue. As a result of this discussion Merthyr Tydfil Borough Wide Youth Forum (MTBWYF) offered to develop a DVD around this topic, supported by VAWDASV Steering Group and CTM Safeguarding Board.

The project was led by Safer Merthyr Tydfil Participation Officers and the product that emerged was an animation made by young people for young people, aiming to raise awareness about domestic abuse and violence by children and young people toward parents/carers.

The animation **In My House..... Yn fy nhŷ** can be viewed at

English: [vimeo.com/417954018](https://vimeo.com/417954018)

Welsh: [vimeo.com/417955589](https://vimeo.com/417955589)

The Animation was due to be accompanied by a toolkit and launched through a regional event. Unfortunately, the event was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. Despite the restrictions, the young people felt it was important that their message was aired, therefore the animation was uploaded to Facebook, Twitter and websites.

On Twitter the animation has gained **710** impressions, **5** media views, has had a total of **36** engagements and **3** re-tweets.

The original Facebook post by MTBWYF the animation gained a reach of **1877** people, **14** shares and **5** engagements. The second post by MTBWYF OF the animation has reached **1855** people, **8** shares and has had **43** engagements.

The animation was also uploaded by the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board onto their Facebook page and has been viewed **1,683** times.

Finally, the animation has been shared with the National Safeguarding Board and the Victims Commissioners' Group.

In the past 3 years Cwm Taf has convened 5 Domestic Homicide Review Panels, of the 5 victims, 2 were male. This factor led to a recommendation that the region raise awareness of males as victims of domestic abuse. During the last quarter, a partnership group met to develop the campaign materials and plan the activity. The strap line, leaflets and posters were completed but once again, the events could not take place due to the pandemic.

The strap line for the male victim campaign is 'Any Man Can .....'. Below are embedded a selection of campaign materials (materials are also available in Welsh)



The plan for this campaign is for it to now be launched digitally in June 2020.

In 2019- 2020 the Welsh Government provided the VAWDASV service providers of the region with a grant to engage service users in some community communication activity. The intention of the activity was to extend awareness of existing Welsh Government campaigns by using creative mediums such as art and photography. The Cwm Taf region chose 'This is not love.... this is control' and 'Don't be a bystander' as their inspiration. The culmination of this work was meant to be an exhibition and celebration of the service users' work.

As the exhibition could not go ahead, it is the intention that the body of service users' work be incorporated into a video clip next financial year.

The Cwm Taf region also participated in national awareness raising activity such as White Ribbon Day and Sexual Awareness Week

<https://twitter.com/SMTCYMRU/status/1199339972953657344/photo/1>

The main vehicle for raising awareness of VAWDASV amongst professionals in the Cwm Taf region has been through the rollout of the VAWDASV National Training Framework (NTF)

Since implementation, **5,977** staff members from Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council have completed group 1 training. Figures are not available locally for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB, Welsh Ambulance Service Trust or the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service as they report directly to Welsh Government.

The table below outlines Cwm Taf's progress regarding the VAWDASV NTF in 2019-2020

<b>Group</b>	<b>Numbers completed</b>
1	1470 (LA data only)
2	367
3	0 (no group 3 trainers)
4	9
5	5

Increasing awareness of domestic abuse in professionals employed in primary health care is a role of the Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS) project

Working closely with primary care, the IRIS project aims to increase the identification of victims and perpetrators of abuse and improve the support they receive. This service is commissioned by Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board and provides training and support to the 38 G.P practices throughout Cwm Taf.

Each practice receives specialist clinical training for GPs and practice staff including additional training for frontline staff, as well as administrators. The training focuses on providing information on how to identify domestic abuse through clinical enquiry and how to respond in terms of assessing immediate risk, referral, recording and confidentiality.

Once each practice has received the full training, they become a domestic abuse aware practice. This is recognised and promoted to patients by the displaying of posters and information cards, identifying them as domestic abuse aware. Practices also receive referral forms and information on care pathways for female survivors, male survivors, and perpetrators. Within Cwm Taf **37/38** practices are fully IRIS aware i.e. have completed all 3 training sessions. **498** practice staff have completed IRIS training.

New Pathways are the key provider of training on sexual violence and related subjects in the Cwm Taf region. In this period, they trained **456** people in a diverse range of subjects including courses on sexual violence, domestic abuse and substance misuse, modern day slavery, human trafficking and child sexual exploitation



## **What have we achieved? - Aim 2**

### **To break the generational cycle of VAWDASV behaviour in families by promoting healthy relationships in children and young people**

One of the ways to promote healthy relationships in young people is through the Whole Education Approach. Last year there was recognition by the Cwm Taf VAWDASV Steering Group that there was uncertainty about how well schools were embedding the approach. Consequently, this year a survey was conducted with schools to determine if they were aware of the approach and how well they were implementing it. Not all schools responded to the survey but from the responses received, the VAWDASV Steering Group was able to determine a way forward.

A decision was made to focus upon achieving two of the key elements of the whole education approach.

1. Children and young people learn about violence against women, domestic abuse, and sexual violence
2. Staff learn about violence against women, domestic abuse, and sexual violence.

#### **Key Element 1**

To provide opportunities for children and young people to learn about VAWDASV, the Welsh Government's VAWDASV team has commissioned Hafan Cymru to deliver the Spectrum programme across schools in Wales.

#### **All Spectrum sessions**

- Promote the importance of healthy relationships and raise the awareness of children, young people, and adults about the issues of Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence;
- Are delivered by qualified and experienced teachers. Sessions can be delivered in Welsh or English and all resources are bilingual;
- Are cross curricular and are designed to promote peer discussion, using a range of techniques;
- Use materials that are thought provoking but are not designed to be so emotive as to cause distress, including the concept of "The Safety Zone";
- Are designed to promote discussion not disclosure;
- Conclude with information for young people on where they can access help and support both inside and outside the school.

During 2019-2020 Hafan Cymru delivered the following sessions in Cwm Taf schools:

#### **Merthyr**

- Total Number of sessions = 15
- Total number of pupils in sessions = 267
- Total number of staff in pupil sessions = 20

### **Rhondda Cynon Taf**

- Total Number of sessions = 194
- Total number of pupils in sessions = 2026
- Total number of staff in pupil sessions = 168
- Total number of Staff in Training = 154

As Hafan Cymru does not have the capacity to deliver to every class and year group many schools also commission local VAWDASV services to deliver aspects of healthy relationships.

In the Merthyr area of the region, Safer Merthyr Tydfil delivered a healthy relationship programme to:

Number of individuals worked with	657
Number of group sessions	62

Llamau has provided the following sessions across Cwm Taf schools and colleges: -

#### **Schools**

Number of individuals worked with	866
Number of group sessions	29

#### **Colleges**

Number of individuals worked with	264
Number of group sessions	12

### **Key Element 2**

Data from the school's survey enabled the region to determine that insufficient school staff had completed Group 1 VAWDASV NTF (e learning) so this became a focus of activity. The problem was particularly prevalent in RCT schools who had limited access to e-learning.

To facilitate an increase in completion of group 1 training in RCT schools, the VAWDASV Steering Group secured a grant from the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board to commission face-to-face group 1 training, targeted at school staff. Rhondda Cynon Taf Women's Aid secured the contract and made available **21** sessions to be delivered over **7** days in March 2020.

Unfortunately, only **15** sessions were delivered with only **48** attendees. The lack of attendance was due to staff being unable to be released from their workplace and the onset of the pandemic

As schools were aware that they could not release sufficient staff to attend the face-to-face sessions, many took the approach to send a representative to the training who would then distribute the booklets within their own school for completion. This model has seemingly worked well as **519** members of staff have completed the training in this way.

The training may not have been well attended but it has raised awareness of the course as there has been a vast increase in the number of schools who have requested they are set up on the Source, RCT's e-learning platform so that they can access the training. The expectation is that completions via this method will increase next year.

During the early part of 2020, RCT Catering Services were also encouraged to complete the online training via tablet devices that were physically taken into schools around RCT.

In addition to working in schools, healthy relationships work also happens in the wider community

The ADAPT programme is Llamau's bespoke group work for young people aged 13-18 years that was made in consultation with them and covers the following key areas:

- Healthy friendships;
- Healthy relationships;
- Warning signs of abuse;
- Grooming and exploitation including CCE and CSE;
- Sexual consent and coercion;
- Feeling safe and increasing self-belief.

The ADAPT programme in 2019-2020:

- was delivered **6** times;
- **48** young people attended;
- **45** completed the programme (93%).

**100%** of those completing felt they had a better understanding of the issues, knew how to identify warning signs of grooming and abuse, knew how to keep safe and how to access services for themselves or others.

The Comets & Rockets programme provided by Safer Merthyr Tydfil (SMT) takes a slightly different approach to breaking the generational cycle of domestic abuse. The service supports young people who have witnessed domestic abuse, through group programmes and play therapy, whilst at the same time supporting parents via group

programmes. The purpose of the parental work is to increase understanding of the effects of domestic abuse on their children. Parents are also taught how to undertake therapeutic activities with their child to re-build relationships and increase attachment.

In 2019-2020 Comets and Rockets supported **97** children and **24** parents.

New Pathways have been delivering the Sea Change course which is a group-work programme for young people. This was co-produced by a former service user and focuses on raising awareness of trauma, stabilisation and safety techniques and healthy relationships.

## What have we achieved? - Aim 3

### Hold perpetrators to account for their actions and support them to change their behaviour

In Cwm Taf there are provisions for perpetrators of domestic abuse. The DRIVE project works with perpetrators whose victims have been deemed high risk. DRIVE targets the perpetrators of domestic abuse to improve outcomes for victims and children. The key objectives are to:

- reduce the number of serial perpetrators of domestic abuse;
- reduce the number of repeat and new victims;
- reduce the harm caused to victims and children;
- intervene earlier to safeguard families living with high-harm domestic abuse.

The DRIVE service has two strands for working with perpetrators:

- I. To support perpetrators to change their behaviour;
- II. To disrupt the perpetrators opportunities for abusive behaviour.

During 2019-2020 DRIVE

- Received **112** referrals;
- **40** cases fully engaged;
- Had **91** cases open at the end of March;
- Safeguarded **119** victims and **213** children.

NB there are more victims than perpetrators. This is because DRIVE often uncover hidden victims during their interventions.

Through a combination of psychological evaluation and trauma therapy, DRIVE are now able to work with the most high-risk perpetrators who cause high levels of harm.

Every service user who works with DRIVE is subject to a formulation to identify the factors that influence negative behaviours and try to establish why these developed. Once identified, plans can be established to target those negative behaviours, thereby reducing risk.

Every intervention offered by DRIVE to domestic abuse perpetrators is accompanied by support from the IDVA service. The purpose of the IDVA support is to ensure that the safety of those at risk is not compromised by the intervention and that they are aided to establish lives free from abuse

The Oasis Centre (IDVA service), which is managed by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council provides a Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme. This DVPP is offered to those perpetrators who wish to change their behaviour. Access to the programme is on a voluntary basis.

Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programmes are behaviour-change programmes for people who use violence and abuse towards their ex partners/partner. The primary

aim of the DVPP is to increase the safety and wellbeing of survivors and their children.

Perpetrator work must offer perpetrators a realistic opportunity to achieve sustainable change by:

- helping them to stop being violent and abusive;
- helping them learn how to relate to their partners in a respectful and equal way;
- helping them develop non-abusive ways of dealing with difficulties in their relationships and cope with their anger.

During 2019–2020 the DVPP:

- Offered support to **25** perpetrators;
- Offered support to **2** victims;
- **13** offered one to one work;
- **12** offered one to one work and group work;
- **2** completed with a planned closure, this is a reduction from 8 in 2018/2019;
- **54%** felt that they understood the impact of their behaviour and were able to control their behaviour;
- **38%** took responsibility for their behaviour;
- **31%** of service users were willing to change their behaviour following support;
- **88%** of cases involved children and there was an increase in referrals from Children's Social Care to 36% from 25% in 2018/19;
- **76%** of cases had a mental health need present.

2019-2020 was the first full operational year for The Family Programme. The Family Programme works across the Cwm Taf region and offers specialist support for families experiencing domestic abuse who wish to remain together.

The aim of the service is to enable the family to live together safely or be supported to separate amicably.

The Family Programme adopts a whole family approach providing interventions for perpetrators, victims, and their children.

The service provides a range of therapeutic interventions and activities that focus upon

- Safety;
- Risk management;
- Behavioural change;
- Impact of domestic abuse on children;
- ACE's;
- Respectful communication;
- Attachment;
- Emotional resilience.

During 2019-2020 the service has supported:

- **28** families;
- **56** adults;
- **69** children;
- **46** children aged over 3 years +;
- **23** children aged under 3 years.

As a result of the programme families report:

- Feeling safer;
- Having more positive relationships;
- Have a better understanding of the impact of domestic abuse on their children;
- Feeling more empowered in life.

In respect of sexual abuse, New Pathways worked with **392** people as part of SARC and ISVA services. This specialist advocacy and support enables victims to achieve best evidence, make informed decisions about their choices in the criminal justice system and be supported to remain engaged within the criminal justice process. SARC and ISVA services working closely with the police and criminal justice agencies ensures that perpetrators are held to account for their actions.

## What have we achieved? - Aim 4

### Ensure services are designed and commissioned to meet the needs of the Cwm Taf population

In the last financial year Cwm Taf and Bridgend commissioned a consultant to recommend how the region could achieve regional commissioning, it was the intention that these reports form the basis of the way forward for the region. A commissioning group met and there was broad agreement on what services could look like and what potentially could be re-commissioned. Unfortunately, dealing with flooding and Covid 19 meant key participants in the commissioning arena were unavailable to complete work on this task so this issue will be carried forward into 2020-21.

In 2019-2020 Cwm Taf and Bridgend also commissioned a group of consultants to review services for perpetrators with a view to establishing what perpetrators services are required in the future. Recommendations from this report will be carried forward to 2020-2021.

Whilst the Cwm Taf region has not undertaken any major recommissioning of services, reconfiguration and extension of services has been undertaken to:

- meet identified need;
- create consistency or provision;
- reduce duplication of provision.

Currently, the following services operate across the Cwm Taf Region:

- DRIVE;
- IRIS;
- Family Programme;
- Comets and Rockets;
- Sexual abuse and violence services.

IDVA, tenancy support, outreach services and refuges continue to be provided by separate agencies. Whilst there are some small differences in provision, overall there is consistency determined by roles and outcome requirements

An area of unmet need for the region is specific services for the BAME population. Currently there is no funding for Honour Based Violence, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation

In 2019-2020 BAWSO supported:

#### **Merthyr**

7 BME women.



## **RCT**

**3** HBV;

**6** modern slavery and human trafficking.

The numbers above in no way reflect local needs, these are simply the victims that BAWSO were able to help, given that they have no funded project for these issues in Cwm Taf.

The expansion of services to cover the region has been achieved primarily through the third sector and their ability to successfully attract grant funding.

In 2020-2021, the Cwm Taf region will become Cwm Taf Morgannwg and the challenge will be to continue creating consistency of provision across three Local Authority areas.

Throughout the year, despite local and global issues, local providers have continued to provide essential services to the victims, perpetrators and families experiencing VAWDASV.

In 2019-2020, refugees in Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taf supported a total of **186** service users.

RCT = 135;

Merthyr = 51.

These figures are slightly less than last year and may in part be attributable to the new guidance on rent arrears. The guidance has led to some women having to pay 12 consecutive weeks of arrear repayments before being eligible for registration for rehousing. This in turn has caused concerns as it prevents more women and children from accessing crisis accommodation when needed and not being moved on in a timely manner.

Floating Support supported **228** individuals:

RCT = 104;

Merthyr = 124.

IDVA services, combined RCT and Merthyr, supported the following victims:

<b>People accessing the service directly - NB Oasis only deals with high risk</b>		
<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Breakdown by high/medium/low risk</b>	<b>Total number of beneficiaries in this reporting period</b>
<b>Women</b>	<b>High</b> <b>Medium</b>	<b>1334</b> <b>276</b>
<b>Men</b>	<b>High</b> <b>Medium</b>	<b>145</b> <b>28</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>1783</b>

<b>People reporting that they have been provided with the information and advice they need to access services and support and are able to make informed choices</b>		
<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Breakdown by high/medium/low risk</b>	<b>Total anticipated number of beneficiaries in 2018 - 2019</b>
<b>Women</b>	<b>High</b> <b>Medium</b>	<b>624</b> <b>273</b>
<b>Men</b>	<b>High</b> <b>Medium</b>	<b>111</b> <b>67</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1075</b>

During 2019-202, New Pathways

Received referrals for counselling for:

**601** adults;

**154** children.

Provided access to counselling for:

**392** adults;

**143** children.

New Pathways outcome measures demonstrated that:

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Total</b>
% Children reporting a reduction in symptoms of distress	88%
% Adults reporting a reduction in symptoms of distress	89%
% Children reporting an increased ability to cope	87%
% Adults reporting an increased ability to cope	91%
% Children reporting an increased ability to access support	81%
% Adults reporting an increased ability to access support	85%
% Children reporting a reduction in self-harming behaviours	79%

% Adults reporting a reduction in self-harming behaviours	85%
% Children reporting an increase in self-esteem and confidence	84%
% Adults reporting an increase in self-esteem and confidence	89%

In 2019-2020, Women's Aid RCT opened new centres in Aberdare (Cynon Safety Centre) and Pontypridd. Along with the Safer Rhondda Centre, it now means that Women's Aid has a presence in each area of RCT.

The provision of three centres across the County providing a range of support services has enabled the organisation to provide local services for local people whilst ensuring all services are equally accessible for women, men and children across the County regardless of postcode.

Outlined below is some of the activity data of RCT Women's Aid:

### **SAFE project**

Referrals	778
Drop in	168
Group programmes- various	116
Legal appointments	86
PPN follow up standard/ medium risk	1760

### **Safer Rhondda Centre**

Referrals adults	229
Referrals young people	68
Drop in	97
Group programmes adults- various	55
Group programmes CYP	18
One to one sessions CYP	74

## Cynon Safety Centre

Referrals	32 (only February and March 2020)
Drop in	7
Group programmes- various	3
Legal appointments	86

## **What have we achieved? - Aim 5**

### **Ensure that services are fit for purpose and quality assured.**

In respect of core standards, the situation remains the same as last year; most VAWDASV organisations within Cwm Taf have either achieved a recognised core standard or are actively working towards one. However, the perpetrator report commissioned in December 2019 did evidence that the two existing Domestic Violence Perpetrators Programmes, in the region, are not accredited and do not currently meet Welsh Government Perpetrator Standards. Accreditation of these programmes is an action that needs to be taken forward into next year's quality assurance agenda.

Cwm Taf does not have a local set of performance indicators, as it was felt pertinent to wait for the introduction of the national indicators. Unfortunately, the development and introduction of these has been disrupted by the pandemic.

However, during the last quarter of the year all VAWDASV service providers agreed to submit a core set of data to the Silver Command Safeguarding Group to enable strategic leads to monitor patterns and trends of referrals during the lockdown. It could, however, be suggested that these returns continue to provide basic data on service provision in the region.

Throughout last year, the MARAC Quality Assurance Group worked in partnership, to determine whether the processes of the MASH daily DV discussions and the MARAC were effective in achieving positive outcomes for victims and their families.

The Quality Assurance Group concluded that neither process was as effective as they could be.

This year the MARAC Quality Assurance Group focussed their efforts on developing proposals for change that would increase effectiveness.

Several proposals for change were submitted to the Community Safety Partnership and Safeguarding Board. Finally, in March 2020, a proposal was accepted by both strategic groups. This work will be taken forward into 2020-2021 for implementation.

## Implementation Plan 2020-21

Through the delivery of the 2019-20 VAWDASV implementation plan, several new actions have emerged along with actions that need to continue. These will be carried forward into the 2020-2021 implementation plan. These include the following:

- Representatives of the new Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) areas to work together to integrate delivery plans to ensure shared objectives;
- Representatives of CTM to work together to develop new governance structures;
- Utilise the reports and recommendations of the independent consultants to take forward the commissioning approach in relation to victims and perpetrators of VAWDASV;
- When developing a commissioning programme consider the new ways of working that have evolved during the pandemic so that good practice is not lost. Post pandemic services are likely to look different to those commissioned pre pandemic;
- Develop and deliver a programme of campaigning activity based on local needs. To include the digital launch of Any Man Can and the production of a video to exhibit the work of service users;
- Continue to engage with the Engagement, Participation and Communication subgroup of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board to increase the dissemination of VAWDASV campaign messages;
- Continue to work towards consistency of approach to delivering VAWDASV awareness raising across Cwm Taf Morgannwg schools;
- Continue with the implementation of all levels of the VAWDASV National Training Framework;
- Work with Welsh Government and other regions to develop new virtual mechanisms for the delivery of Ask and Act;
- Encourage and assist the Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programmes to achieve Welsh Government Perpetrator Standards and/or a recognised accreditation;
- Adopt and implement the VAWDASV National Core Performance Indicators;
- Service providers to provide an agreed set of core data on a quarterly basis;
- Implement the agreed changes to the MASH domestic abuse discussions and MARAC;
- Strengthen the support offered and provided to those identified as particularly vulnerable by the safeguarding system including children and young people.

## Appendix A

### VAWDASV Steering Group Membership

The following organisations are represented on the Cwm Taf VAWDASV Steering Group (for some organisations several departments are represented).

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Departments</b>
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	Public Health Protection
	Supporting People
	Housing
	Education
	Community Safety
	Safeguarding
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	Public Health, Protection & Community Services
	Supporting People
	Education
	Community Safety
	Housing
	Adult Services & Safeguarding
Cwm Taf University Health Board	Children Services
	Safeguarding
South Wales Police	
Welsh Ambulance Service Trust	
South Wales Fire and Rescue	
National Probation Service	
New Pathways	
Safer Merthyr Tydfil	
BAWSO	
RCT Women's Aid	
Llamau	
Police and Crime Commissioners Office	

## Appendix B

### Governance Structure

