

Agenda – Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 2 – Senedd

Meeting date: 7 November 2018

Meeting time: 09.50

For further information contact:

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Pre-meeting (09.50 – 10.00)

- 1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest**

- 2 Post legislative inquiry into the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015: scrutiny of the Leader of the House and Chief Whip**
(10.00 – 11.00) (Pages 1 – 14)
Julie James AM, Leader of the House and Chief Whip
Christine Grimshaw, Head of VAWDA Team, Welsh Government
Jo-Anne Daniels, Director, Communities and Tackling Poverty, Welsh Government

- 3 Papers to note** (Page 15)
 - 3.1 Additional information from the Welsh Local Government Association in relation to the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2019–20** (Pages 16 – 19)

- 4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (vi) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting**

Break (11.00 – 11.05)



- 5 Post legislative inquiry into the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act 2015: consideration of the evidence received under item 2**
(11.05 – 11.15)
- 6 Renting Homes (Fees etc.) (Wales) Bill – Order of Consideration – agreement in principle ahead of Stage 2 proceedings**
(11.15 – 11.20) (Pages 20 – 24)
- 7 Inquiry into fire safety in high rise blocks in Wales (private sector): consideration of the draft report**
(11.20 – 12.45) (Pages 25 – 52)

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Equality, Local Government and Communities (ELGC) Committee

Post Legislative Work of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act

Much has been achieved since the last update in February 2018 on the implementation on the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act ('the Act'). This includes:

- March 2018 - Draft guidance for regional commissioning of Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence services in Wales was published for consultation.
- March 2018 – Consultation on methods for consulting with survivors launched
- March 2018 - Local Strategies Guidance was published for local authorities and local health boards.
- April 2018 Welsh Government “Don’t be a Bystander campaign” launched.
- April 2018 – Completed a review of Domestic Homicide Reviews
- April 2018 – Launch of the 2018 – 2023 ‘Framework to Support Positive Change for those at Risk of Offending in Wales’
- April 2018 – Established a Perpetrator Services Network
- June 2018 – Report on improving outcomes from Domestic Homicide Reviews and similar death reviews completed.
- June 2018 second annual progress report: 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 laid in Assembly
- July 2018 National Delivery Framework published
- September 2018 – Summary of Consultation Responses and Written Statement on next steps for a National Survivor Engagement Framework published.
- September 2018 – Summary of Consultation Responses on Draft guidance for regional commissioning of Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence services in Wales published.
- September 2018 – Stakeholder workshops to prepare Draft National Indicators for consultation
- September 2018 – First National Advisers’ Annual Report laid.

National Strategy¹ and cross-government Delivery Framework

In the National Strategy² we confirmed we would publish a delivery framework setting out how Welsh Government will seek to meet the objectives of the Strategy. This was published in July.

The Delivery Framework outlines the actions that have been achieved to date, and what we aim to deliver over the next 3 years in order to achieve the objectives within the Strategy. This will be updated in due course to include the National Indicators.

¹ <https://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/commsafety/181716-vawdasv-delivery-framework-en.pdf>

² Published under section 3 of the Act

National Indicators

Officials are supporting the National Advisors in working with stakeholders to develop National Indicators which align with the Well-being of Future Generations Indicators³ and the Well-being Goals. The VAWDASV National Indicators will be laid before the Assembly early in 2019.

Local Strategies

Under the section 5 of the Act, local authorities and local health boards are required to develop and publish a local VAWDASV strategy, setting out the identified needs and priorities for their area, this may be included with their local well-being plan issued under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

The guidance for local strategies was published in March 2018. Following the publication of the guidance, all local authorities and local health boards published the first strategies for 2018–23 in the Spring. The National Advisors are currently reviewing and analysing the strategies for evidence of high quality strategic planning, co-ordination and consistency.

The National Advisors are committed to working with local authorities and local health boards to support them to update their strategies in 2019 -2020 to ensure that they reflect the National Indicators once they are published.

Sustainable Funding Model

A Task and Finish Group of key stakeholders was set up to develop a sustainable funding model. The work of this group focussed on assisting in the development of the Commissioning Guidance to deliver a multi-agency, needs-based approach. This group was not convened during the consultation and analysis of this guidance and regrouped at the beginning of October under the Chair of one of the National Advisors. The Group will now focus on reviewing the implementation of the Commissioning Guidance to assist in ensuring compliance across the regions.

Statutory Guidance

Commissioning guidance

Feedback from the consultation on draft commissioning guidance has informed the amendments that are being made to the commissioning guidance following the public consultation process that closed in June. A decision as to when we will issue the commissioning guidance as statutory guidance will be made early in the New Year.

National Training Framework

Statutory guidance on the National Training Framework was published in March 2016.

- By the end of March 2018 over 127,000 workers in Wales (including those who do not work within the VAWDASV sector) had completed the VAWDASV e-Learning or equivalent training. Post course evaluations show the proportion of participants who:
 - understood what VAWDASV was rose from 51% to 79%;
 - felt confident to recognise signs of VAWDASV rose from 56% to 96%; and they were confident to signpost friends and family for help rose from less than a quarter to 64%

³ Published under section 10 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Ask and Act

Ask and Act is being delivered across five regions. This will leave one region in Wales (Dyfed Powys) to join the programme in 2019-2020. Over 1800 practitioners have already been trained to “Ask and Act” and a further 4000 professionals are forecast to be trained during 2018-2019.

Methods used to quality assure the standards of training are through pre- and post-training evaluation forms and through governance of the training sub-groups. This will ensure that the national rollout of “Ask and Act” is complete by 2021. We aim to measure the impact of the training via the National Indicators.

Education

The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills accepted the Sex and Relationships Expert Group’s recommendations in May 2018. An officials group has been established to take forward the recommendations, which include a statutory requirement to embed sexuality and relationships in the revised national curriculum.

The Welsh Government continues to fund Hafan Cymru’s Spectrum project to teach children and young people the importance of healthy relationships, to raise awareness of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence and where to seek help.

Officials are working with HEFCW to develop guidance that will be issued to higher education institutions under section 10 of the Act.

Working with perpetrators

A forensic psychologist (supported by a project manager) is operating under a collaborative working arrangement between Welsh Government and Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service to take forward work on perpetrator policy. Work to date has included the launch of the 2018-2023 ‘Framework to Support Positive Change for those at Risk of Offending in Wales’. The Framework supports the priorities of the All Wales Criminal Justice Board, including violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

A perpetrator services network has been established and regular ‘practice sharing’ events take place throughout the year in both north and south Wales. Advice has been provided on current and potential VAWDASV perpetrator services and a Rapid Evidence Review on ‘what works’ with domestic abuse perpetrators is due to be published.

Officials are working with stakeholders across Wales, including Police and Crime Commissioners, to develop evidence-based approaches to prevention and early intervention. Work is also underway to develop commissioning pathways for effective perpetrator services. A mapping exercise of perpetrator services in Gwent has been undertaken and learning from this exercise will be shared with other regions once completed.

Standards for VAWDASV perpetrator services, produced in partnership with representatives of the sector are nearing completion and will be launched later in the year. Good practice guidance for public services working with perpetrators will be going out to consultation shortly.

Domestic Homicide Review

Welsh Government commissioned a review of Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) to assess the effectiveness of the response of Welsh Government, Community Safety Partnerships and other public services to DHRs and make recommendations to improve the response. This review was completed in April 2018 and a final report has been produced that includes findings and recommendations. Officials are reviewing the report and recommendations in order to advise Ministers and to seek agreement on the next steps. The report will be submitted to Ministers for consideration in November, together with the recommendations for the next steps.

Communications

Survivors and service providers have worked very closely with officials to develop the VAWDASV campaigns.

THIS IS ME

The THIS IS ME campaign that was launched in January 2018 to challenge gender stereotypes has had the following reach to date:

Live Fear Free website use increased by 6,042% compared to the same period last year

- 2 million impressions through TV advertisements
- Almost 5 million impressions through radio advertisements
- 43% increase in page likes on Facebook
- 117 new followers on Twitter.

The campaign aims to start a conversation around gender identity stereotyping and gender inequality as a cause and a consequence of VAWDASV, raise public awareness and challenge attitudes. THIS IS ME forms the basis of a three-year campaign plan with the overarching message:

Wales will not accept violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence and wants its citizens to challenge its causes, consequences and the inherent behaviours

Don't be a Bystander

The second campaign, "Don't be a Bystander" launched on the 25th April 2018 using the hashtag #waleswontstandby, and followed on from the THIS IS ME campaign. This campaign shared the words of survivors of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence through film, radio and social media activity. The campaign aimed to show how powerful a positive intervention can be for someone who is experiencing or who has experienced violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Calls to the Live Fear Free helpline from "concerned others" doubled during the campaign period.

In 2018-2020 our campaigns will continue to build on this key message and values and will have an overarching theme of Coercive Control.

The campaigns reflect two main values

- That everyone has the right to live fear free from violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence;
- That Wales will not stand by or accept violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence

National Survivor Engagement Framework

A commitment in the National Strategy is to develop a sustainable national survivor engagement framework. The Welsh Government consulted on options and published responses in September. Next steps include research with those survivor groups who are under-represented in the findings from previous survivor engagement work and a small-scale pilot for a national survivor engagement panel.

This work will aim to address the knowledge gaps we have identified and progress our commitment to ensuring a more representative group of survivors have a formal role in shaping Welsh Government policy.

The outcomes of the pilot will be evaluated and will make recommendations for a long-term National Survivor Engagement Framework with formal links into national VAWDASV governance structures

Live Fear Free

Welsh Government continues to fund the Live Fear Free website and helpline to provide 24 hour confidential support, information and advice to women, men and children experiencing abuse, concerned others and professionals.

FGM, Honour Based Violence (HBV) and Forced Marriage

Welsh Government jointly chairs the FGM, HBV and FM Leadership Group with the Crown Prosecution Service and BAWSO. The All Wales Honour based Violence (HBV) Delivery Plan sets out the framework for key partners to contribute to tackling HBV in Wales, whilst providing the best possible support to survivors and directly links to the VAWDASV Delivery Framework. The group has created a FGM logo and supported Wales's first specialist Women's Wellbeing clinic.

National Advisors' Annual Report and Annual Plan

As required under section 21 of the Act, the National Advisors have produced and published their 2018 Annual Report, and this was laid before The National Assembly on 25 September. The report provides an overview of their work since they were appointed in November 2017. This report also highlights emerging issues that will form the basis of the National Advisors' Annual Plan for 2019 - 2020, which will be laid before the National Assembly by the end of November 2018.

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Advisory Group and the Gender Equality Review

The VAWDASV Advisory Group was initiated following the introduction of the Act in April 2015. The group was dissolved following a review of its remit and membership. A smaller Expert group made up of academics with expertise in the field of gender equality and VAWDASV has been established and is due to meet for the first time before the end of this year. This is likely to provide opportunities to

engage with the Gender Equality Review, now in its second phase, following the initial rapid review of Welsh Government's gender and equality policies.

Istanbul Convention

The UK signed the Council of Europe Convention on Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (The Istanbul Convention) in 2012 and the First Minister has written to the Prime Minister about the delay in ratifying the Convention.

The policy choices we have made in Wales have facilitated our compliance with the Istanbul Convention within our areas of competence. Only compliance with Article 44 in relation to extra-territorial jurisdiction, over which the UK Government must make changes to domestic law prevents ratification of the Convention.

The UK Government's Domestic Violence Bill, announced in the 2016 Queen's Speech, is currently subject to scrutiny by the Commons Committee, and will when enacted enable compliance with Article 44 in relation to extra-territorial jurisdiction, which is the one remaining obstacle to ratification.

Agenda Item 3

Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee

7 November 2018 – papers to note cover sheet

Paper no.	Issue	From	Action point
ELGC(5)-30-18 Paper 2	Welsh Government draft budget 2019-20	Welsh Local Government Association	Response to the Committee's request for additional information during the evidence session on 25 October 2018

Agenda Item 3.1

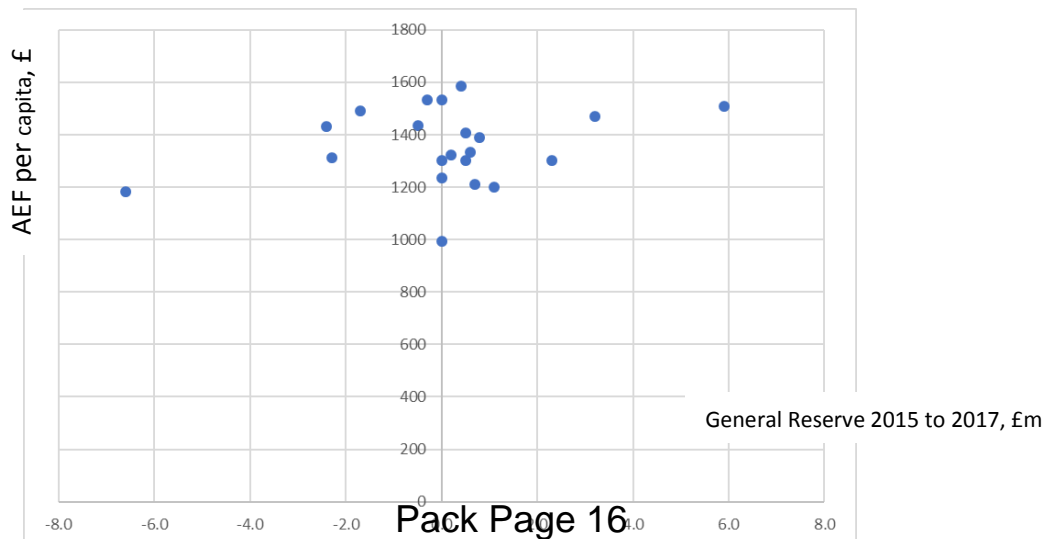
Reserves compared to funding

This was Mark Isherwood’s point about whether there being a relationship between low funded authorities and those running down reserves. The change in the general reserve between 2015 and 2017 against core grant (AEF) per capita for each authority is set out below. There is no statistically significant relationship.

Figure 1: Table of reserves movement vs core grant (AEF)

	Change in General Reserve (2015 to 2017), £m	AEF per capita, £
Anglesey	1.2	1356
Blaenau Gwent	0.4	1587
Bridgend	0.6	1333
Caerphilly	3.2	1471
Cardiff	1.1	1199
Carmarthenshire	0.8	1388
Ceredigion	0.2	1323
Conwy	2.3	1303
Denbighshire	-1.7	1492
Flintshire	0.7	1210
Gwynedd	0.5	1405
Merthyr Tydfil	0.0	1533
Monmouthshire	0.0	995
Neath Port Talbot	5.9	1508
Newport	-2.4	1432
Pembrokeshire	0.5	1302
Powys	-2.3	1312
Rhondda Cynon Taf	-0.3	1533
Swansea	0.0	1302
Torfaen	-0.5	1434
Vale of Glamorgan	-6.6	1183
Wrexham	0.0	1236

Figure 2: Scatter plot of reserve movements vs core grant



Preventative Health

Local authorities provide a range of services that potentially promote independence and can be part of the continuum of prevention, for example: respite, reablement, adaptations, telecare, advocacy and recreational, leisure and lifelong learning opportunities. These services are more than just preventative services but could be major contributors to the prevention agenda.

In looking at how to support preventative approaches a number of authorities have employed community connectors, community co-ordinators and community agents. These roles work with all partner agencies in key locations such as Single Points of Access, GP practices and community settings, with the intention of linking to other services and helping to reduce the impact of social isolation and loneliness, helping to reduce hospital admission and support hospital discharge, and promote independence and overall wellbeing. Their key role is to support individuals and their families to access advice and assistance that is provided by the third sector, other parts of the authority and from other public sector organisations, as well as identify appropriate services and groups, within their own communities, such as social groups that could help contribute to their wellbeing.

A recent evaluation of preventative models and approaches in West Wales¹ for example concluded that, “it is clear that a considerable amount of work has gone into laying a framework for prevention in the three local authorities and health board individually, and regionally within the West Wales Care Partnership.”

Carmarthenshire’s approach, using the PEIPIL model, sets out a three-tier approach to prevention, prioritising well-being and taking an asset based approach. The tiers are:

- Prevention – to provide help to help yourself; for anyone who wants to be as well as they can be.
- Early intervention – to provide help when you need it which may reduce the impact of illness or disability; support for people at risk because of specific health issues.
- Promoting independent living – to provide ongoing specialist help to help delay dependency; to ensure that well-being and independence is maximised.

Ceredigion has developed an approach where emphasis is placed on prevention and early intervention, working with individuals, families and communities to source and develop their own solutions in supporting and promoting independence. It sets out the fact that it is at a key stage in its development, moving to a model which will, with Porth y Gymuned (a new service operated by the Council which will consist of trained staff, who will be able to assist residents of all ages in Ceredigion, by helping them to make connections to access support opportunities in their area that could maintain and improve their wellbeing), have a clear community based approach to prevention to complement existing preventative arrangements. The relationship between all the elements of the approach is based on prevention as a continuum of support.

Pembrokeshire uniquely has a multi-agency Preventions Programme Board which provides the lead and focus for the development and implementation of a shared preventions vision,

¹ <http://www.wwcp.org.uk/?mdocs-file=4027>

strategic framework and delivery plan. A vision for developing preventative services and resourceful communities in Pembrokeshire is clear that prevention is part of a continuum – preventing or delaying the need for formal care and also about preventing escalating need for people already receiving care.

The preventative agenda goes far beyond just social care, for example we are aware of the benefits of investing in homes - the impact of one preventative service overlapping others is well demonstrated through housing. Lower incidents of cardiovascular disease, bronchial related illness, fewer GP visits, and less admissions to A and E, are linked to the sufficient and quality provision of homes. Poor quality homes can cost more in the long term if they, for example, are not energy efficient. Powys, for example, *brought together* adult social care, housing services and *highways* under their 'Fit for Purpose project' to improve housing and grounds so that tenants and home owners have improved access and services to their homes, and can live more independently in their community.

Services such as transport can also play a vital role in helping people to stay connected and support people's wellbeing. The majority of local authorities have a budget for subsidising bus routes which are not commercially viable but are considered necessary routes. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult for local authorities to protect this level of subsidy during times of austerity and a number of authorities have had to look at reducing or in some cases ending this funding. Local authorities continue to contribute to the Concessionary Fares Scheme which entitles over 60s (and some other categories) to free bus transport, which again supports people, but this is impacted if bus routes are reduced due to financial constraints. Local authorities continue to look for innovative solutions to these problems and we have seen examples being developed, for example, Bwcabus in Carmarthenshire/South Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire is a multi-partner project and in Monmouthshire where the Council operates its own community transport company which connects outlying rural areas with towns in Monmouthshire.

In addition to these types of services national schemes have been developed such as the National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS) centrally coordinated by WLGA and with funding from Public Health Wales (PHW). The Scheme targets clients aged 16 and over who have, or are at risk of developing, a chronic disease. NERS is an evidence-based health intervention incorporating physical activity and behavioral change techniques to support referred clients to make lifestyle changes to improve their health and wellbeing. It operates in all 22 local authorities in Wales with one National Coordinator / Local Coordinator per local authority and approximately 96 whole time equivalent specialist Exercise Referral Professional Instructors across Wales.

Local authorities in Wales have also developed the Dewis Cymru information and advice website for citizens, which provides quality information about how people can maintain or improve their well-being and about organisations which can help them. Dewis Cymru is intended to promote people's well-being by making it easier for them to find out about how to improve their well-being, and the sources of advice and support which can help them. This site includes information about being well, being safe, being at home, and being social. It also covers aspects such as managing your money and information if someone is looking after someone else. It could be general information to help people think about what

matters, or it could be something more specific - about the sorts of extra support that might help people remain in their own home for as long as possible for example. As well as being a source of information for citizens it has been designed to be useful for people like GPs, Librarians, Social Workers and lots of local organisations who offer information to the public as part of their work.

The proportion of social care that's provided by private providers.

The latest available data we can find from Statswales is data from now discontinued central returns. On average 82% of contracted hours are provided by independent sector (not necessarily the private sector).

Figure 3: Yearly hours of home provided by local authorities and independent sector (2016)

	Hours of homecare provided by the local authority (year)	Hours of homecare provided by the independent sector under contract (year)	Independent Sector Exposure
	2,280,595	10,232,804	82%
Isle of Anglesey	81,705	197,626	71%
Gwynedd	257,087	353,428	58%
Conwy	108,448	631,516	85%
Denbighshire	19,537	264,341	93%
Flintshire	n/a
Wrexham	52,311	396,200	88%
Powys	86,330	450,318	84%
Ceredigion	868	184,050	100%
Pembrokeshire	-	804,035	100%
Carmarthenshire	314,659	472,901	60%
Swansea	247,768	695,728	74%
Neath Port Talbot	183,451	420,161	70%
Bridgend	232,460	364,615	61%
Vale of Glamorgan	27,772	764,809	96%
Cardiff	89,912	1,381,491	94%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	240,957	580,401	71%
Merthyr Tydfil	4,084	237,771	98%
Caerphilly	155,261	509,385	77%
Blaenau Gwent	42,698	304,388	88%
Torfaen	28,682	305,343	91%
Monmouthshire	71,512	504,440	88%
Newport	35,094	409,856	92%

Source PM2 returns 2015-16

Agenda Item 6

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

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