

SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 21ST MAY, 2018

SUBJECT :

DRAFT REGIONAL STRATEGY - "SAFER LIVES, HEALTHIER FAMILIES" TACKLING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, DOMESTIC ABUSE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES 2018-2022

Purpose:

This report is intended to provide members with an opportunity to comment on the "Safer Lives, Healthier Families" a draft regional strategy to tackle Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence in our Communities.

To consider and comment on the following issues:

This is Mid and West Wales' first joint strategy to tackle Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence and outlines how the region will support victims and survivors, tackle perpetrators, ensure professionals have the tools and knowledge to act, increase awareness of the issues and help children and young people to understand inequality in relationships and that abusive behaviour is always wrong.

The Strategy aims to embed Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence as "everyone's business" and a cross cutting theme that requires all areas of public policy to address and to shape and improve the delivery of services for those affected.

Reasons:

To ascertain the committee's views as part of the strategy consultation which will inform the submission to Welsh Government and publication of the final strategy.

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. J. Tremlett (Social Care & Health Portfolio Holder)

Directorate

Communities

Name of Head of Service:

Avril Bracey

Designation:

Head of Mental Health & Learning
Disabilities (Chair Mid and West Wales
VAWDASV Strategic Group)

Tel Nos.

01267 228092

E Mail Addresses:

ABracey@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 21ST MAY, 2018

SUBJECT:

DRAFT REGIONAL STRATEGY - “SAFER LIVES, HEALTHIER FAMILIES” TACKLING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, DOMESTIC ABUSE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES 2018-2022

The Strategy aims to embed Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence as “everyone’s business” and a cross cutting theme that requires all areas of public policy to address and to shape and improve the delivery of services for those affected.

Strategic Priorities

In developing the strategic priorities consideration has been given to the requirements of the Act and wider Welsh Government legislation and policy, the result of the needs assessments and key priorities already identified in the region and the experiences of survivors and stakeholders.

Based on the rationale detailed in the document the six strategic aims of the National Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy have been adopted as the framework for this regional strategy;

Strategic Priority 1: Increase knowledge and awareness and challenge attitudes towards equality and violence against women domestic abuse and sexual violence amongst citizens of Mid and West Wales

Strategic Priority 2: Increased awareness in children and young people of the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships and that abusive behaviour is always wrong

Strategic Priority 3: Increased focus on holding perpetrators to account and provide opportunities to change their behaviour based around victim safety

Strategic Priority 4: Make early intervention and prevention a priority

Strategic Priority 5: Relevant professionals are trained to provide effective, timely and appropriate responses to victims and survivors

Strategic Priority 6: Provide victims with equal access to appropriately resourced, high quality, needs led, strength based, gender responsive services across Wales
Actions are identified that will enable the region to make the necessary improvements against each of these strategic priorities.

Actions to deliver the strategic priorities will be embedded into an overarching Strategic Delivery Plan which will sit alongside the Strategy. It is envisaged that annual priorities from the Strategic Delivery Plan will be identified by the Strategic Group and reported to the Regional Safeguarding Executive and other key local and regional partnerships to ensure effective discharge of statutory responsibilities under the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

YES –

- Mid and West Wales VAWDASV Strategic Group – Draft Strategy - “Safer Lives, Healthier Families” Tackling Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence in our Communities 2018-2022
- Overview Report of the Draft Strategy – “Safer Lives, Healthier Families” Tackling Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence in our Communities 2018-2022

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Avril Bracey

Head of Mental Health & Learning Disabilities
(Chair Mid and West Wales VAWDASV Strategic Group)

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	YES	NONE	YES	YES	NONE

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The strategy aims to underpin, influence and directly contribute to key regional policy priorities including those set by;

- The four Public Service Boards
- CYSUR Regional Children's Safeguarding Board
- CWMPAS Regional Adult's Safeguarding Board
- The two Regional Partnership Boards
- Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner
- The Supporting People Regional Collaborative Committee
- Dyfed Powys Criminal Justice Board

An equality impact assessment is being undertaken on the strategy by colleagues in Education in Powys and Hywel Dda Health Boards who are members of the Regional Strategic Group.

The consultation documents will be available on the Authority's website in Welsh, English and easy read versions.

2. Legal

The enactment of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 (The Act) requires the public sector in Wales to work together in a consistent and cohesive way to improve the outcomes for individuals and their families subjected to Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse or Sexual Violence.

Section 5 of the Act requires local authorities and Local Health Boards to jointly prepare, publish and implement a Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence strategy.

3. Finance

The region has received grant funding from Welsh Government of £313,400 which is being utilised in the first year to implement the strategy.

5. Risk Management Issues

There is a risk that if partners do not collaborate and prioritise the implementation of this strategy our vision for all individuals to live their lives free from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation and for their rights to be protected will not be realised.

7. Staffing Implications

An element of the Grant funding is being utilised to support a Regional Advisor post and business support. The post will be line managed in the interim by the Senior Safeguarding Manager in Carmarthenshire.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Avril Bracey Head of Mental Health & Learning Disabilities
(Chair Mid and West Wales VAWDASV Strategic Group)

1. Local Member(s)

The consultation document will be available on the Authority's Website.

2. Community / Town Council

The consultation document will be available on the Authority's Website.

3. Relevant Partners

Engagement and consultation was carried out with survivors, specialist service providers, generic service providers, commissioners, stakeholders and members of the Mid and West Wales Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategic Group.

To develop regional priorities that accurately reflected local experiences, a series of locality based workshops were held in addition to targeted focus groups and interviews.

The range of engagement activity provided an opportunity for stakeholders, commissioners, providers and survivors to directly contribute to the development of the strategy, identify what works, highlight gaps in current provision and opportunities for improvement. Participants were also provided with an opportunity to articulate their vision for the strategy and to identify priorities for action.

Participants were highly engaged in providing observations of the current and future landscape and the information gathered during this process provided a broad spectrum of opinions which are reflected within our identified strategic priorities.

A public consultation will be undertaken from April to June 2018 across the region.

4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

The consultation document will be available on the Authority's Website.

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection