

Briefing Note for Live Well Committee

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

1. Purpose of the Briefing

This note provides members with a concise overview of:

- The statutory framework under the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 (“the VAWDASV Act”)
- The duties placed on local authorities and partners
- The role of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in delivering these responsibilities
- The rationale for bringing this information to members at this time
- There is a period of 6 months after the election to review the current VAWDASV strategy and make a recommendation to ministers. This is currently being undertaken and early engagement has taken place ahead of a formal consultation.

This is intended to support members’ understanding, scrutiny, and leadership role in addressing VAWDASV across the authority.

2. Key Facts and Legislative Context

The VAWDASV (Wales) Act 2015 represents a significant legislative commitment by Welsh Government to:

- Improve prevention, protection, and support for people affected by violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence
- Strengthen strategic leadership and accountability across public bodies
- Promote cultural change and awareness raising across Welsh society

Key duties for local authorities include:

- Working collaboratively with partners to prepare and implement a local strategy to tackle VAWDASV
- Assessing needs for support and safeguarding within the community
- Promoting training, awareness raising, and early intervention
- Contributing to regional governance arrangements alongside Health Boards, Police, and other statutory partners

The Act places a clear emphasis on multi-agency working, recognising that no single organisation can address VAWDASV effectively in isolation.

3. Role of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

The CSP is a statutory multi-agency partnership with responsibility for addressing community safety issues, including VAWDASV.

In this context, the CSP:

- Coordinates multi-agency operational and strategic responses
- Supports delivery of the regional VAWDASV strategy
- Promotes information sharing and joint problem-solving
- Leads on public awareness and prevention initiatives
- Ensures alignment with wider priorities such as safeguarding, public protection, and wellbeing under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

4. This briefing is being presented to members at this time to:

- Support member awareness and oversight in advance of ongoing strategy delivery and reporting cycles
- Ensure members are informed of statutory duties and compliance requirements under the VAWDASV Act
- Reinforce the importance of corporate and political leadership in tackling VAWDASV
- Highlight current partnership activity and priorities, particularly in relation to prevention and awareness raising
- Align with wider council commitments to safeguarding, equality, and community wellbeing

Given the cross-cutting nature of VAWDASV, it is essential that members are equipped to:

- Champion the agenda within their wards and committees
- Understand referral pathways and community resources
- Provide appropriate scrutiny of performance and outcomes

5. Key Messages for Members

- VAWDASV is a significant public health and community safety issue requiring coordinated action
- The council has statutory duties under Welsh legislation and must work in partnership to meet these obligations
- The CSP plays a central role in coordinating and delivering this work
- Awareness raising and prevention are core priorities, alongside supporting victims and survivors
- Members have a critical role in leadership, advocacy, and scrutiny

6. Further information

Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan VAWDASV Strategy 2023-28 - [VAWDASV-strategy-2023-28-English](#)

Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence: strategy 2022 to 2026 - [Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence: strategy 2022 to 2026 \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)