



## A duty to support:

A research report reviewing support for children and young people experiencing violence and abuse in Wales.







This short research project was commissioned by Joyce Watson MS with the aim of identifying the current level of strategic commitments and investment across local authorities, local health boards and Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to ensure support for children and young people experiencing violence against women, domestic abuse, and sexual violence (VAWDASV). This report was drafted by Welsh Women's Aid.

#### **Foreword**

Consistently there are children in Wales experiencing violence and in need of access to high quality, needs led, trauma informed support. There should be no doubt that the provision of specialist services for children and young people should be accessible to all children that need it. Support should be delivered by skilled professionals with the experience to offer a range of specialist support to children and young people that reflect their diverse spectrum of needs.

I commissioned this report as the first step in a wider scope of work to ensure that children and young people experiencing VAWDASV can achieve safety, support and recover from their experience.

Over the past decade, the Welsh Government has shown a commitment to ending violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence in Wales through legislation, national strategies, and guidance and support for public bodies to fulfil their duties.

This is a timely piece of work, aligning with the publication of the new Wales VAWDASV National Strategy, and the development of Local-Wellbeing plans. We have just seen local elections and welcome our new and continuing colleagues in this joint effort to provide safety and support for all children and young people across Wales.

The aim of this specific report is to identify the current level of strategic commitments and investment across local authorities, local health boards and Police and Crime Commissioners, in ensuring support for children and young people affected by violence and abuse.

#### Key findings include:

- Of people supported by VAWDASV services a small percentage are children and young people (CYP) – indicating the need for increased, dedicated funding for CYP workers
- Despite areas of good practice there is still a postcode lottery for children and young people needing to access specialist support
- There are inconsistencies across local authorities around how funding is categorised as spent on Children and Young People services. Some do not directly commission services for CYP, these services are provided by existing specialist services or other interventions targeted at children & families or through in-house services
- Not all local authorities have a Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee, or can point to the committee responsible for these issues
- Commissioning Hubs and Regional Commissioning Board appear to be having a positive impact on improving the consistency of support being provided

Whilst this report shows there are pockets of good commissioning practice across Wales and a strong desire from specialist VAWDASV services as well as Welsh Government to provide this support, we also see opportunities to strengthen provision, and truly listen to and provide for the needs of children and young people across Wales.

I sincerely hope Welsh Government, local authorities, health boards and Police and Crime Commissioners will absorb the lessons from this report and accept the recommendations provided.

Joyce Watson MS

#### Introduction

Data published in Welsh Women's Aid's 2019 *Children Matter* report<sup>1</sup> highlighted that of the regional Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) strategies in Wales used to inform future commissioning, only two made concrete commitments to develop and provide specialist provision for children and young people affected by VAWDASV. In addition, three strategies only referred to children and young people in the context of raising awareness of healthy relationships in schools, with no commentary around ensuring any provision of specialist support and intervention.

All too often, children and young people's experiences of violence and abuse are not meaningfully referenced within strategies and funding for VAWDASV provision. Findings through the research and reading for this report highlight that provision of services for children and young people in Wales is 'limited, patchy and hugely varied due in large part to unsustainable, inconsistent and in some cases total non-existence of funding towards specialist dedicated services for children and young people'. This means children are not given the support they need to heal and recover from their experiences as survivors in their own right, leading to long term impacts on their health and well-being throughout their lives.

NSPCC has found that one in five children have been exposed to domestic abuse.<sup>3</sup> Despite the VAWDASV (Wales) 2015 Act<sup>4</sup> and the Domestic Abuse Act 2021<sup>5</sup> recognising children experiencing domestic abuse in their own right, support for children and young people across Wales is found to be inconsistent and, as evidenced in later chapters, mapping of services has demonstrated the urgent need for better funding and resources to meet need. The COVID-19 pandemic has only intensified this. NSPCC recorded that calls to helplines increased<sup>6</sup> during the national lockdowns and specialist services reported increased pressure on already stretched provision.

Welsh Women's Aid's report *I trust them*<sup>7</sup> presents the findings from an online survey designed to contribute to an evidence base of children and young people's sources of 'resilience' in communities. The survey found that there were some clear differences between the sources of potential support identified by Black and minoritised young people and their White British counterparts. In particular: Black and minoritised respondents were nearly half as likely to identify the police as a source of support compared to their White British counterparts (17% and 32%, respectively). A similar pattern emerged in relation to parents,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.welshwomensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Children-and-Young-People-participation-report-FINAL.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.welshwomensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Children-and-Young-People-participation-report-FINAL.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/pre-2013/child-abuse-neglect-uk-today

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/3/contents/enacted

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/17/contents/enacted

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2021/nspcc-child-abuse-helpline-pandemic/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> https://www.welshwomensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/I-trust-them-CYP-Resilience-Survey-Report-English-1.pdf

with 24% and 46%, respectively. Black and minoritised respondents were also three times less likely to identify an employer as a source of support (7% and 21%, respectively), and were less likely to identify anybody from within the education sector as a potential source of support (66% compared to 86%).

The findings of the *I trust them* report suggest that a lack of understanding of abuse, combined with a culture of victim-blaming and normalisation of sexist and misogynistic behaviours, remain prevalent factors affecting young people's likelihood of seeking support. It is also clear that key institutions, especially the police and education, are not considered accessible, desirable, or trustworthy places to seek support by many young people. This is partly due to a high volume of previous bad experiences with said institutions and/or a lack of means to attend or access these spaces. This is more pronounced for Black and minoritised children and young people.

By sending Freedom of Information (FOI) requests to all 22 Welsh local authorities, the seven local health boards and the four police and crime commissioners, we sought to gain insight into the level of investment each agency is committing towards supporting children and young people with experience of VAWDASV, including levels of investment in statutory provision and also third, specialist and 'by and for' sector (run by and for the communities they serve).

Through an analysis of each agency's FOI response and a consideration of existing legislation and guidance, this report will aim to paint a picture of the current level of provision available for children and young people in Wales, identify gaps and give constructive recommendations to all agencies as well as Welsh Government.

#### **Context setting**

The undertaking of this short project is set to a backdrop of several key pieces of legislation, all of which present certain legal duties on different agencies outlined within the report. Understanding this is vital to painting a full picture of the powers and responsibilities Wales has to create a robust network of support for children and young people. This chapter will give a brief overview of legislative duties in Wales and the wider UK, and will highlight any relevant strategies and guidance.

#### Legislation

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015
The Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 aims to improve arrangements for the prevention of gender-based violence, domestic abuse, and sexual violence; improve arrangements for the protection of victims of such abuse and violence; improve support for people affected by such abuse and violence; and requires the

appointment of a National Adviser on gender-based violence, domestic abuse, and sexual violence.

#### Key duties:

- The Act places a general duty on local authorities to have regard (along with all other relevant matters) to the need to remove or minimise any factors which increase the risk of violence against women and girls or, exacerbate the impact of such violence on victims;
- The Act places a duty on local authorities and health boards to produce and publish a local strategy for the local authority area and then to take reasonable steps to achieve the objectives set out in the local strategy;

#### Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

The Act provides the legal framework for improving the well-being of people who need care and support, and carers who need support, and for transforming social services in Wales.

#### Key duties:

- One of the key principles of the Act is **earlier intervention** promoting the use of preventative approaches within the community to address people's needs before they become critical.
- The Act imposes duties on local authorities, health boards and Welsh Ministers that require them to work to promote the well-being of those who need care and support.
- Local authorities and health boards should, under the Act, come together in new statutory partnerships to drive integration, innovation, and service change.

#### Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-being of Future Generations Act requires public bodies in Wales to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities, and each other, and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.

#### Key duties:

- Under the Act each public body has a well-being duty
- Public bodies must publish a statement when setting their wellbeing objectives explaining why they feel the objective will help them achieve the goals and how it has applied the sustainable development principle.

#### Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011

Children's rights are enshrined in Welsh law under Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011 - underlining Wales' commitment to children's rights and the UNCRC.

Domestic Abuse Act 2021

In the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 children are named as victims of domestic abuse in their own right as the following.

(1) This section applies where behaviour of a person ("A") towards another person ("B") is domestic abuse.

(2)Any reference in this Act to a victim of domestic abuse includes a reference to a child who—

(a)sees or hears, or experiences the effects of, the abuse, and (b)is related to A or B.

#### Statutory guidance

Wales VAWDASV strategy (Refresh publication pending at time of report drafting)

The National Strategy on Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence – 2016 – 2021 is shortly being replaced by a new refreshed strategy. The refreshed strategy has now finished its consultation period and final edits are being made. It has been raised by respondents that the draft strategy does not make strong enough representations on its commitment to supporting children and young people.

In their response, the Cross-Party Group on Violence Against Women and Children raised:

Worryingly, there are still some specialist VAWDASV services in Wales that do not have any dedicated funding for support children and young people. Provision is very limited when compared to the population in the areas of service coverage. Short-term (mostly from trusts and foundations) and low levels of funding means that services are precarious. This impacts on staff turnover and service continuity, which impacts adversely on children and young people who have experienced trauma and need time to build trusting relationships with professionals. We are concerned about the current capacity levels of specialist services to provide adequate support and the knowledge of public bodies, including schools, to enable early intervention and referral routes to specialised services. Limited specialist support and ineffective statutory responses to disclosures are leading to some young reporting significant impact on their ability to recover from the abuse.

#### The response also noted:

Often any resource for children and young people is incumbent on the adult survivor accessing support, commissioning of services must recognise the needs of child victims in their own right. While we acknowledge this Objective been amended slightly with the use of 'all' in this revised objective, we are very concerned about the implications of children and young people not being explicitly named under this objective. Article 39 of the UNCRC, which is embedded in Welsh Law, is clear that children have a right to recover from abuse and trauma. This objective must be clear that children are

entitled to support across Wales. Local commissioners seem unaware of their responsibilities towards child victims and with the unresolved issue of secure and sustainable funding for specialist services, child victims are likely to be at the end of the queue.

We hope these concerns will be taken into consideration and reflected in the final draft of the strategy.

Statutory Guidance for the Commissioning of VAWDASV Services in Wales

The aim of this guidance is to promote high quality, collaborative commissioning that delivers more consistent and effective services to prevent VAWDASV and protect and support victims of VAWDASV across Wales.

We have selected part of the guidance most relevant to commissioning services for children and young people.

The commissioned services should ensure victims and survivors – whether adults or children – receive the protection and support they need. The guidance encourages agencies to recognise that VAWDASV prevention is everyone's business and to work together to provide an effective commissioning and delivery framework that will ensure the well-being of those affected by violence and abuse, hold perpetrators accountable for their behaviour and contribute to the prevention of VAWDASV in local communities.

This distinction between specialist and generic services is supported by the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (The Istanbul Convention) and distinguishes specialist services from generic services on the grounds that they are underpinned by a gendered understanding; they are rights-based and safety-focused; they avoid repeat victimisation; they can provide, where possible, a range of services on the same premises; their approaches are integrated, recognising the relationships between victims/survivors, perpetrators and their environment; and they address the specific needs of women, children and young people who are victims and survivors (Council of Europe, 2012).

#### 2.9 principles of commissioning include

- a commitment to provide all survivors, including children and young people, equal access to holistic, appropriately resourced, high quality, needs-led, strengths-based, gender responsive services across Wales.
- a commitment to engage with and be informed by survivors, including children and young people, to inform needs analysis, service design and whole system responses.
- a commitment to children's rights and recognition of the specific needs of children and young people experiencing or witnessing VAWDASV. Similarly, recognition of the rights

of children and young people in preventing VAWDASV happening to or affecting them in the future.

#### **UNCRC**

Since 2004 Welsh Government has used the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) as the basis of its work for children and young people.

There are a number of other strategies and frameworks which are relevant to this area of provision which regional commissioning partnerships should consider: <a href="https://downloads.unicef.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2010/05/UNCRC">https://downloads.unicef.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2010/05/UNCRC</a> PRESS200910web.p df

#### **Questions Asked**

The aim of this report was the exploration of the current level of strategic commitments and investment from named agencies in ensuring support for children and young people experiencing VAWDASV. We asked the same series of questions to each authority. We are aware that local authorities, local health boards and police and crime commissioners have different statutory duties, however all place the wellbeing of children and young people as key priorities. As such we wanted to gauge on a level platform, the level of commitment being made across agencies regardless of statutory duty, and how close each agency's statutory duty was to being met or surpassed.

At the time this report is written, Welsh Government still maintain that 'Ending VAWDSASV and supporting those who need it is everyone's business' in the consultation document of the refreshed VAWDASV national strategy. If this is a sincere stance then it is crucial to have leadership that encourages all agencies to equally contribute, and realise that providing quality specialist children's support is absolutely crucial to ending VAWDASV as a whole.

Roughly, we aimed to ascertain the following (exact question wording can be found in appendix A):

- What data LA/LHB/PCCs hold on the number/percentage of children they support affected by VAWDASV? Is this data disaggregated across protected characteristics?
- How are LA/LHB/PCCs aligning their commissioning of social care and support for children and young people with commissioning of specialist VAWDASV support?
- What is the join up across responses to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and VAWDASV within strategic decision making within commissioning frameworks and local authority committees?
- When did the local authority CYP scrutiny committee last scrutinise the provision of services and support to child VAWDASV victims? What were the findings?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> https://gov.wales/consultation-refresh-violence-against-women-domestic-abuse-and-sexual-violence-national-strategy

- What is included about VAWDASV and its impact on children and young people in the local population assessments and wellbeing strategies?
- Has there been or are there plans for the public service board and regional partnership boards to consult with adult and child VAWDASV victims to inform assessments and strategies?

#### From this data we hoped to learn:

- a) If relevant data is held by the agency
- b) What kinds of support are commissioned by the agency
- c) The number of children and young people being supported by available services
- d) How the agency is aligning their commissioning of social care and support for children and young people with commissioning of specialist VAWDASV support
- e) What the join up is across responses to ACEs and VAWDASV within strategic decision making
- f) If Local Authorities had a CYP scrutiny committee and the last time the committee met
- g) What is included about VAWDASV and its impact on children and young people in the local population assessments and wellbeing strategies

#### Was a response provided in time for the release of the report?

The majority of agencies contacted provided a response to the FOI questions before the completion of this report. Please see full breakdown below. Those who have not have acknowledged the request and have apologised for the delay.

#### Agencies who completed a response

• Local Authorities: 20/22

University Health Boards: 6/7

Police and Crime Commissioners: 4/4

#### Is relevant data held by the agency?

Of those who engaged with the process responses varied around the level of detail held that could be provided. Whilst in the majority of cases there was at least one question where an answer was not provided, some respondents reported not being able to provide an answer to the requests as a whole as they either did not hold the data, or they estimated that collecting the data would have exceeded the appropriate limit of resources allocated to provide the information in the request. One respondent also declined to answer the questions individually and instead provided a document they felt sufficiently answered the request. Full breakdown below.

Respondents who felt they could not provide relevant data or did not answer the direct questions

Local Authorities: 5/17

University Health Boards: 2/5

• Police and Crime Commissioners: 0/4

#### Kinds of support being commissioned

The support available to children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse was found to be very varied depending on which LA/UHB/PCC that child or young person resides in. This is not wholly surprising as Welsh Women's Aid along with other organisations has campaigned for years to end the postcode lottery of specialist support for Children and Young People. Limited specialist support and ineffective statutory responses to disclosures are leading to some children and young people reporting significant impact on their ability to recover from the abuse. 10

Support being commissioned included:

- Local Authorities:
  - Families First
  - DASH Project
  - STAR Programme
  - DART
  - In-house services
  - Commissioning specialist VAWDASV services to provide a CYP worker
  - Several local authorities responded that they do not directly commission
     VAWDASV services for children and young people
  - Several local authorities responded that they provide wider family support which they feel captures CYP support
- University Health Boards:
  - Of the health boards that responded, none indicated that they have allocated specific funding within UHB children's services for children and young people with experience of VAWDASV but did reference specialist CYP Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) workers
- Police and Crime Commissioners:
  - Each PCC commissions, funds or provides grant agreements for some kind of specialist CYP support including:
  - Commissioning specialist services to provide CYP workers
  - Specialist ACEs projects

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> https://www.welshwomensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/WWA-response-to-WG-VAWDASV-Strat-1.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> https://www.welshwomensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/WWA-Feministo-for-Party-Manifestos-Design-V2.pdf

#### Counselling services

The majority of these projects have one-to-three-year funding cycles, which causes the issues outlined at the beginning of this report. Although support varies locally there is a wealth of knowledge and experience that can be learned and applied in a strategic and consistent way.

### The number of children and young people being supported by available services

As above, the way each respondent records this information, where the information is held and who has access to this information varies greatly, making it difficult to draw patterns and constancies.

What is indicative of the responses is that the number of children and young people receiving direct specialist VAWDASV support is significantly lower than the number of adults accessing direct specialist support. As it is recognised in the Domestic Abuse Bill 2021 that children experience domestic abuse in their own right, services should be expanded to meet the need - which we can see from a raise in calls to helplines is not currently being met.

# How the agency is aligning their commissioning of social care and support for children and young people with commissioning of specialist VAWDASV support/ the join up across responses to ACEs and VAWDASV within strategic decision making

Consistent with the previous findings, the way in which the questions around aligning with social services and the ACEs agenda was interpreted differently by each respondent. Some instances of good practice which would be good to see replicated across all agencies include:

- Local Authorities:
  - Regional commissioning boards and subgroups
  - Commissioning Hub approach
  - ACEs considered as part of the commissioning cycle
  - Mandatory training
  - Preventative and statutory services that support safeguarding, including VAWDASV services being considered within corporate and service plans
  - Population needs assessments which pay attention to the prevalence of ACEs
- University Health Boards:
  - Collaboration with social care colleagues
  - Sitting as a statutory member of the Regional Safeguarding Board
  - Sitting as a member of the Regional VAVDASW Board and its sub-groups which includes a commissioning group
- Police and Crime Commissioners

- Work with local authority and other partner agencies to align and where appropriate jointly commission support services
- Co-commissioning all specialist VAWDASV support services, including services to support children and young people
- Linking ACEs through the Public Service Boards, Community Safety Partnership boards and working with Local Health Boards, integrating training and raising awareness

#### **Local Authority CYP scrutiny committees**

Of the local authorities who responded only three confirmed that they have an active Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee. All three had met within the last six months and discussed access to VAWDASV services in some form. Of the local authorities who actively confirmed they do not have this committee, a further three confirmed the committee or board responsible for having these conversations and taking forward actions on providing services for children and young people effected by VAWDASV. The remaining responding local authorities either stated that they do not have this committee or that they were unaware if this committee existed.

#### **Well-being strategies**

Most respondents are in the process of preparing their local well-being strategies for publication in either 2022 or 2023. Of the 10 local authorities where VAWDASV and CYP are being actively considered within planning, respondents said:

- Well-being strategies tend to follow the objectives in the VAWDASV Strategy so will
  be looking towards the new strategy for guidance. This comment highlights the
  importance of setting the right objectives in the new national strategy.
- One local authority's Youth Council has voted for domestic abuse as their priority issue for this year, wanting to research the topic to give a young people's perspective on the issue
- One local authority replied "There is a chapter developing in the regional Population Needs Assessment specifically about CYP and VAWDASV which will read across to the local Wellbeing Assessment"
- Another local authority replied, "The draft 2022 Well-being Assessment further recognises that domestic abuse encompasses not just physical violence, but emotional, psychological, financial or sexual abuse within a family or intimate relationship and that the consequences are stark."
- Another local authority provided, "The [Public Services Board] PSB is working alongside the Co-production network for Wales to engage with a range of local residents and groups specified in the statutory guidance that accompanies the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act."

• One local authority's current strategy recognises that "domestic violence remains a key challenge to personal safety, as well as having an impact on communities, and is an important issue in the context of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) agenda."

However, some local authorities responded that their well-being plans currently do not specifically reference VAWDASV in relation to children and young people. A number of respondents have referenced consultation events and feedback from these events in relation to upcoming well-being plans — though due to the pandemic, a lot of this engagement was online.

#### **Key findings and recommendations**

#### Key findings

- Of people supported by VAWDASV services a small percentage are children and young people – indicating the need for increased dedicated funding for CYP workers
- Despite areas of good practice, there is still a postcode lottery for children and young people needing to access specialist support
- There is inconsistency across local authorities around how funding is categorised as spent on Children and Young People services. Some do not directly commission services for CYP and these services are provided by existing specialist services or other interventions targeted at children & families or through in-house services
- Not all local authorities have a Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee, or can point to the committee responsible for these issues
- Commissioning Hubs and Regional Commissioning Board appear to be having a positive impact on the consistency of support being provided.

#### Recommendations

#### Funding & provision

- Carry out an inquiry into the adequate commissioning and provision of specialist services for children and young people affected by VAWDASV across Wales.
- For the shortfall in service provision for children to be addressed and sustainable funding secured.
- That all future well-being strategies and regional strategies must provide services for children and young people, and that in developing strategies, designing services, and evaluating the success of interventions, children and young people are consulted.

#### Early intervention and training

• That early intervention work is prioritised.

- The need for training for education staff as Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum is rolled out to be able to respond to disclosures in a trauma-informed and needs-led manner.
- The importance of enabling young people affected by VAWDASV early access to specialist support.
- Appropriate advice and support to be made available online for young people.
- The benefit of enabling peer learning and signposting.
- Safeguarding in schools must have a direct link with local specialist services and clear referral pathways.

#### **Afterword**

The Wales VAWDASV Strategy Refresh (2022-2026) was published on 24.05.22, following the writing and sign-off of this report.

The sector are currently reflecting on the content and commitments made within it in relation to children and young people.

#### Annex 1

**FOI Draft Questions:** What we want to find out: To identify the current level of strategic commitments and investment across local authorities, local health boards and PCCs in ensuring the support for children and young people experiencing VAWDASV achieve safety and recover from their experiences. To whom it may concern, I would be grateful if you could provide answers to the following questions. 1. How much funding is [\_\_\_\_\_] committing towards supporting children and young people with experience of VAWDASV? Please supply the following information, disaggregating statutory services from third sector services: The annual budget and spending on support for children and young people affected by VAWDASV for the last 3 financial years. The names of the services who are commissioned during the last 3 financial years and what specific support they are commissioned to provide for children and young people affected by VAWDASV? (as defined within the WG Statutory Commissioning Guidance) The length of contracts for the above commissioned services. 2. What data does [\_\_\_\_\_] hold on the number and percentage of children affected by VAWDASV who are supported by their commissioned services? Please supply the following data, disaggregated across protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010. If it is not possible to provide the disaggregated data, please explain why and provide the aggregated data. The number of children affected by VAWDASV supported by each commissioned service during each of the last 3 financial years. The percentage of children affected by VAWDASV supported by each commissioned service during each of the last 3 financial years. 3. How is [\_\_\_\_\_] aligning their commissioning of social care and support for children and young people with commissioning of specialist VAWDASV support? 4. How does strategic decision-making around ACEs link up with strategic decision-making about VAWDASV within local authority committees? 5. When did the local authority Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee last scrutinise the provision of services and support to child VAWDASV victims? What were the findings,

6. What is included about VAWDASV and its impact on children and young people in the local assessment of wellbeing as required under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act?

and how do the findings fulfil the duties on public bodies under the VAWDASV (Wales) Act

2015?

- How were the needs of children and young people affected by VAWDASV included in the aforementioned local assessment of wellbeing?
- 7. Has the Public Service Board consulted with adult and child victims of VAWDASV in preparation for the local wellbeing plan? If not, are there plans to do so?

Thank you in advance for your response.

The costs of this publication have been met by the Senedd Commission using public funds. Talwyd costau'r cyhoeddiad hwn gan Gomisiwn y Senedd, gan ddefnyddio arian cyhoeddus.

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