

Response Form

Consultation on the draft Housing Support Grant Practice Guidance

Consultation Response Form

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The closing date for response is 29 November 2019.

Please respond by completing the online form or
completing the questionnaire and sending via email to
SupportingPeople@gov.wales

Or by post to:

Supporting People Team
Housing Policy
Welsh Government
Rhydycar Business Park
Merthyr Tydfil
CF48 1UZ

Welsh Women's Aid response to Welsh Government Housing Support Grant Draft Guidance

Summary of recommendations for Welsh Government;

- To commit to publishing the Equality Impact Assessment in the guidance as it stands
- Clarifying that any new grants and funding streams introduced by Welsh Government do not constitute public funds under immigration rules, unless they specifically fall within immigration law and associated rules.
- Introduce a national destitution fund for survivors with no recourse to public funds who fall outside of Government concessions and whose well-being and safety is being impacted detrimentally as a result.
- Expand eligibility to children under 16 residing in refuge and consider what HSG funding can be aligned with CCG funding to ensure children impacted by VAWDASV are adequately supported
- Welsh Government to include distinct VAWDASV outcomes for each goal in the outcomes framework for the grant, in line with the outcome aim of a more equal Wales within the Future Generations Act.
- The view of who is in housing need must be broader, with an understanding that women and children from all walks of life can be impacted by VAWDASV and it is not just a cohort of women with additional vulnerabilities
- Sanctuary schemes to be embedded within a whole housing and coordinated community response
- A national as well as regional/local response to VAWDASV is imperative with the specific needs of Black, minoritized, disabled, LGBT+ and any survivors with additional protected characteristics considered.
- VAWDASV services and survivors must be engaged in the process of developing strategies if they are going to fully build on strengths, meet needs and reduce the harmful effects of abuse.
- All forms of VAWDASV must be considered, rather than a default assumption that a focus on domestic abuse meets the varying needs of all survivors of VAWDASV.
- Adequate funding must be explicitly identified as being available for disabled survivors as evidence shows this is not the case.
- The value of crisis work, provided by the specialist VAWDASV sector, must be recognised as essential in the work to support and mitigate risk for survivors.

1a. Is eligibility for the grant clearly described, and correct in terms of its scope? If the answer is no, what would you change about the guidance?

No

Welsh Women's Aid is concerned that eligibility to be supported under this grant references "as long as they are eligible to receive public funding". but then includes the following point; **Services to individuals who are currently not housed and to whom no statutory duty is owed**, and later (page 7) states the HSG should not fund any of the core services required under any statutory duty held by a public body, e.g. homelessness and social care legislation (ie public funds under immigration rules).

It is not clear if this refers to public funding eligibility under immigration rules, or some other definition of public funding and eligibility criteria. According to the **UK NRPF Network**, immigration rules clearly state "housing and homelessness assistance" constitutes very specific discharge of statutory duties to prevent homelessness (e.g.

allocation of a council house; allocation of housing association property is if this is allocated under the local authority duty discharge - otherwise it is not; and local authority homelessness assistance provided by discharging their statutory).

By stipulating that anyone whose immigration status determines they cannot access “public funds” cannot, from next year, be supported in Wales by this new Housing Support Grant established by Welsh Government – even if the grant is used for delivering support not related to statutory duty discharge – results in discrimination against a large group of people. This ***specifically discriminates against survivors of domestic and sexual violence***, who would have previously been able to access specialist advocacy and community support or support in refuges (if the service could cover rental costs) to help them recover from abuse and meet their housing support needs. This is contrary to Welsh Government duties to adhere to the Istanbul Convention¹ and its support for all migrants and refugees as part of its commitment to become a Nation of Sanctuary².

We therefore call, again, on Welsh Government to commit to;

- ***Publishing the Equality Impact Assessment in the guidance as it stands***
- ***Clarifying that any new grants and funding streams introduced by Welsh Government do not constitute public funds under immigration rules, unless they specifically fall within immigration law and associated rules.***
- ***Introduce a national destitution fund for survivors with no recourse to public funds who fall outside of Government concessions and whose well-being and safety is being impacted detrimentally as a result.***

Welsh Women’s Aid is also concerned that eligibility is not expanded to children residing in refuges with their mother. While we recognise that the draft guidance cites eligibility criteria is for those age 16 and over, specialist children’s work in the VAWDASV sector is chronically underfunded, which prevents services from being able to fully support both mother and child holistically, which is in the best interests of the child.

Despite the delay caused by the general election, the Domestic Abuse Bill at a UK level is expected to progress under a new Westminster government. Within the draft bill is a commitment to recognising children as victims of abuse in their own right. In addition, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 39³ (recovery from trauma and reintegration), states; ‘children who have experienced neglect, abuse, exploitation, torture or who are victims of war must receive special support to help them recover their health, dignity, self-respect and social life’, something the specialist sector is best placed to deliver.

While we appreciate the argument may be that funding for children’s work will sit under the Children and Communities Grant, we are clear that for children residing in refuge, ***there must be a clear reference in the guidance of the expectation to resource support for parents with children who are in refuges in Wales, in recognition of the decades of evidence that supporting the non-abusing parent to be safe and together with their children is the best means of safeguarding and recovery from abuse.***

For example, page 12 could read;

“What HSG related support services can be jointly commissioned with CCG programmes to deliver common outcomes? For example, in relation to services such as family support, **support for women and children in refuges.**”

¹ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/home?>

² https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-03/nation-of-sanctuary-refugee-and-asylum-seeker-plan_0.pdf

³ https://downloads.unicef.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/UNCRC_united_nations_convention_on_the_rights_of_the_child.pdf?ga=2.179885412.1191592317.1574093632-459038857.1574093632 page 11

We welcome the clarity that local connection will not apply.

1b. Do you think the draft guidance provides a clear purpose for the grant? If the answer is no, what would you add to the guidance?

Welsh Women's Aid is concerned the outcomes for the grant are not clear enough. While we appreciate this is still under review, more clarity is needed on what the outcomes will address. Welsh Women's Aid has provided Welsh Government with suggested outcomes, these are included as an appendix at the end of this response.*

The lack of inclusion in the outcomes framework of VAWDASV specific outcomes accompanied by a lack of reference to the Wales suite of quality assurance frameworks available for domestic and sexual violence services, could result in local authorities not prioritising spending on specialist services.

We therefore urge Welsh Government to include distinct VAWDASV outcomes for each goal in the outcomes framework for the grant, in line with the outcome aim of a more equal Wales within the Future Generations Act.

Our member services are also concerned the view of who is in housing need may be too narrow in the draft guidance, particularly given the focus on the need to support 'vulnerable' tenants to maintain a tenancy. Survivors are not one homogeneous group who are always vulnerable due to various complex needs. While of course some survivors will have additional needs that impact their ability to sustain a tenancy, others' 'vulnerability' may be the risk posed by a perpetrator of VAWDASV and the impact of that perpetrator's coercive control limiting a survivor's space for action; their housing need is 'simply' therefore for a place of safety and support where they can begin to work through their experience of trauma and increase their space for action. Point 1.2.1 states 'support is person centred, aimed at supporting people to secure and maintain sustainable housing by addressing the mental health and/or substance misuse problems...' we feel the sentence should end at '...maintain sustainable housing' to avoid an assumption about vulnerability or that particular cohorts of women, those with pre-existing vulnerabilities, are the only ones who experience VAWDASV.

2. The section on funding for Alarm Services (at Annex F of the guidance) is intended to be clearer and is broader than in previous guidance. Is the scope for funding alarms appropriate and clear?

We welcome that alarms for VAWDASV are specifically named, as sanctuary schemes can be a useful tool, within a whole housing approach, to support survivors. However, it is important that the limitations of sanctuary schemes are understood, they do not stop abuse, but can mitigate risk. It is also important that any sanctuary schemes are imbedded within a coordinated community response, a best practice method of working to tackle abuse which brings services together to ensure local systems keep survivors safe and hold abusers to account. Sanctuary schemes can, in fact, pose a risk if the provision of the scheme is not backed up with specialist support and address tagging by the Police and Fire Service.

We are also concerned about the suggestion that authorities can charge an individual for an alarm. This is not appropriate for survivors of VAWDASV who are victims of a crime and should not be further penalised for that.

3. Do you think the strategic planning framework within the draft guidance provides sufficient;

- Flexibility
- Accountability
- Transparency?

If not suggest how this could be improved.

Welsh Women's Aid is clear that more detail is needed on how specific cohorts of people will be directly supported. As highlighted, we understand there are no outcomes specifically targeted at VAWDASV so are concerned this cohort of service user will be missed.

We note the inclusion of Regional VAWDASV needs assessments as an area to consider when authorities are developing them, however the transient nature of survivors must be considered here and local or regional needs in response to VAWDASV must not be the only consideration. A national response to survivors is also important, with the specific needs of Black, minoritized, disabled, LGBT+ and any survivors with additional protected characteristics are considered.

Finally, the recently launched Wales Audit Office report has noted a distinct lack of inclusion of specialist services and survivors in the development of strategies. The report found, of the stakeholders engaged with when developing strategies, survivors of VAWDASV were the least engaged with group, despite being experts by experience⁴. We are clear that VAWDASV services and survivors must be engaged in this process if strategies are going to fully build on strengths, meet needs and reduce the harmful effects of abuse.

4. Regional Working

Do you think the direction set for regional working and the scope of the Regional Collaborative Groups is correct?

Welsh Women's Aid welcomes the approach to collaborative working, particularly ensuring best practice is shared and collaboration is encouraged between health, social care and housing as this model of working compliments approaches to VAWDASV which cut across so many policy areas. However, we note the reference to '**development of specialist services for which there is not a critical mass locally**'. This of course could apply to specialist VAWDASV services, particularly for BME and LGBT survivors or in less populated areas where a regional approach may be seen as a more cost-effective option. It is essential local provision is not lost in this process, as local services are embedded within their communities and know the local need, something which could be lost if provision is purely regional.

5. Do you think the draft guidance has any negative impact on equality across the protected characteristics? If the answer is yes, please explain why?

Yes

While the draft guidance refers to VAWDASV, we are clear when commissioning services that all forms of VAWDASV **must** be considered, rather than a default assumption that a focus on domestic abuse meets the varying needs of all survivors of VAWDASV. We are concerned Supporting People funding currently is minimal for other types of violence against women. Our members who work with survivors of sexual violence for example have told us this cohort of women are not receiving the same response as survivors of domestic abuse. sexual violence victims and those exploited through the sex industry are unfairly excluded from Supporting People funded accommodation due to funder restrictions, for example, and while survivors may have multiple support needs, if their presenting issue is sexual violence, it is not treated as priority and they are not considered for rehousing.

⁴ https://www.audit.wales/sites/default/files/publications/VAWDASV_eng.pdf page 14

As stated in this response, we are concerned about the impact of this grant on survivors with no recourse to public funds. If services in receipt of this funding are prevented from supporting this cohort of survivors, their limited options for safety are reduced even further essentially forcing them to stay in violent and abusive situations or face destitution.

We reiterate our point that children in refuge are not adequately provided for in the draft guidance. We assume the assumption within the guidance is that the statutory duty kicks in for homeless children under 16 and therefore this duty would not fall under the HSG. However, for children who go into refuge rather than into foster/social services care, the local authority may have housed them but, as we've pointed out, the resources are not available to support them appropriately, due to chronic underfunding of specialist children's work. The specialist sector must be fully resourced to support children impacted by VAWDASV, we are clear the answer is not that children are removed from the care of their mother and placed with foster parents in order for the authority to meet its duty. But that the holistic, specialist, trauma informed, and needs led work the sector can do, concurrently, with both mother and child is in the best interest of children impacted by VAWDASV.

We welcome the acknowledgment of the benefit of funding group work. However Welsh Women's Aid members have highlighted their concerns that childcare costs are not always covered by funding which impacts on the service, as a lack of childcare is prohibitive to many women attending the programme. This could be a specific equality impact on women having equal access to support as the majority of care-giving still falls to women.

Adequate funding must be explicitly identified as being available for disabled survivors. For example, findings from our joint report with Disability Wales titled 'Supporting disabled people experiencing violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence in Wales⁵' found services were not always fully resourced to support disabled survivors, additionally, disabled survivors knew this, with many responses stating they did not report the abuse, as one pointed out '*the support was not there for me to move away from the family home, so there was little point in me reporting the abuse*⁶'

6. We would like to know your views on the effects that the draft practice guidance would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased or negative effects be mitigated?

Welsh Women's Aid is clear that services must be offered in both languages. Survivors must be given the opportunity to express themselves in Welsh but also to speak to someone who understands the context of living in Welsh speaking communities; that it is not just a language but a culture. Welsh speaking staff have highlighted that some Welsh speakers have chosen to disclose in English, even when they know the support/helpline worker is a Welsh speaker – numbers on the amount who have used the Welsh language may be lower therefore than the number who can speak the language – but as mentioned, it is important they can speak to someone who understands the context. The Specialist Sector must be fully resourced to meet the needs of Welsh speakers equally with English speakers.

⁵ Supporting Disabled People Experiencing Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, Welsh Women's Aid and Disability Wales <https://www.welshwomensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/WWA-and-Disability-Wales-2019-report-Final-ENG.pdf>

⁶ Ibid, page 19

Members have highlighted to us their concern about provision for other languages, BSL and easy read formats. There is no mention of provision for this in the draft guidance, despite many services incurring costs to cover this. We feel provision for all, regardless of language or other communication needs is essential to allow services to provide support for all survivors, this is particularly pertinent as Wales becomes a Nation of Sanctuary.

8. We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them.

Welsh Women's Aid is concerned with the wording in point 2.8.2 '**cyclical use of services should be regarded as an unsatisfactory outcome**'. This directly contradicts evidence in the VAWDASV sector which shows that returning to use specialist services to meet their needs, once the crisis is over, is a positive aspect of provision. This appears to not place any value on crisis work which aims to encourage longer-term use of services, which is a vital part of the VAWDASV specialist sector. It also appears to go against Welsh Government campaigns aimed at encouraging disclosure and accessing support. Given the fluid nature of risk and the significant levels of unmet need that are experienced by survivors, women may access a service multiple times over several months, for example when child arrangement orders enforced through the Family Courts force the survivor back into contact with the perpetrator.

We are also concerned that a dismissal of the cyclical nature of support will act as another barrier to support for survivors with complex and multiple needs, who experience multiple discrimination and disadvantage and who have to navigate broken systems for help and support, who as such may access support sporadically.

Appendix 1: VAWDASV Outcomes Framework

National Wellbeing Goal 1: A Prosperous Wales

National Indicators (that can be disaggregated to a local level):

(16) Percentage of people in employment who are on permanent contracts (or on temporary contracts and not seeking permanent employment) and who earn more than 2/3 of the UK median wage.

(19) Percentage of people living in households in material deprivation.

VAWDASV (8) Those in relevant job roles are trained to recognise and appropriately respond to VAWDASV

Flexible Funding Goal 1: Programme participants are supported to find work, progress, and stay in work.

Underpinning objectives include:

- young people are engaged in educational learning
- people are engaged in employment and voluntary work
- parents are supported to work
- children do not live in poverty.
- **Survivors of abuse are supported to not live in poverty**⁷

Flexible Funding Programme Outcomes (SMART Performance Measures)

Immediate (results)

- Number of people actively seeking employment*
- Number of people participating in training/courses that helps find employment
- Number of people engaged by and receiving employability support
- **Number of survivors of abuse knowledgeable about and able to access support and advocacy to mitigate impacts of financial abuse/coercive control**
- **Number of public service employers with effective workplace policies on violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence**

Medium-Term

- Number of people gaining employment (minimum of 16 hours per week)*
- **Number of survivors of abuse supported to retain or (re)enter employment**

Long-Term

- Proportion of supported households that are workless
- Increased number of supported people with disabilities and protected characteristics in employment
- Proportion of supported households living in poverty relative to the UK median
- Proportion of supported households with children living in poverty relative to the UK median
- **Proportion of women in Wales not living in poverty**

Example Outputs

- **C&P:** No. of registered childcare spaces available.
- **CFW+/ LF/SP/SDF:** No. of people in receipt of support to help find employment

Example Activities

- **C&P:** Support given to the childcare and play sector to address gaps in provision
- **CFW+/ LF/SP/SDF:** Provision of support to help people find employment

⁷ Distinct and different from other objectives due to financial abuse/coercive control and correlation with poverty even in high-earning households; measured by national data on poverty/employability broken down by gender; cross referenced with data nationally from WWA

National Wellbeing Goal 3: A Healthier Wales

National Indicators (that can be disaggregated to a local level)

- (1) Percentage of live single births with a birth weight of under 2,500g.
 - (2) Healthy life expectancy at birth including the gap between the least and most deprived.
 - (3) Percentage of adults who have fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours (not smoking, healthy weight, eat five fruit or vegetables a day, not drinking above guidelines and meet the physical activity guidelines).
 - (29) Mean mental well-being score for people*
- VAWDASV (9) Ensure victims receive appropriate support**

Flexible Funding Goal 3: Programme participant physical and mental health is enhanced, and they understand the choices and behaviours that will support that.

Underpinning objectives include:

- People are physically healthy
- People are mentally healthy (for adults and children).
- **Survivors have increased space for action to be physically and mentally healthy**⁸

Flexible Funding Programme Outcomes (SMART Performance Measures)

Immediate (results)	Medium-Term	Long-Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of parents supported to improve their ability to support their child's health and well-being • Number of people that receive support for risky health behaviours associated with: Smoking, Alcohol, Drugs etc* • Number of people supported for mental health and wellbeing needs* • Number of survivors of abuse supported to increase their health and well-being and mitigate the adverse impacts of abuse on their children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people reporting an improvement with their mental health and emotional well-being* • Number of people reporting a more active and healthier lifestyle* • Number of people reporting an improvement in healthy eating* • Number of parents completing an evidence based parenting programme • Number of survivors reporting reduced isolation and an improvement in physical health and emotional well-being 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in number of hospital admissions for risky health behaviours associated with Smoking, Alcohol, Drugs* • Reduction in number of people requiring high level mental health support. • Reduction in number of substance misuse cases • Reduction in the number of hospital and health service interventions due to violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence • Increase in the number of protection orders (DVPOs, FPMO and FGMPOs) made in Wales that results in space for action for victims

Example Outputs

- **FF/SP:** Number of people assessed as needing mental and emotional wellbeing support, physical activity levels, physical health*, as having risky health behaviours associated with: Smoking, Alcohol, Drugs etc*
- **C&P/FS:** No. of vulnerable children provided with childcare
- **PPE:** Number of young people identified with substance misuse issues
- **LF:** No. of people identified with health-related matters and referral to substance misuse support

Example Activities

- **FF:** Provision of parenting classes and referral to health services, pre and post birth
- **C&P/FF:** Provision of childcare/respite for families affected by disability/SEN
- **FS:** Provision of health visiting services, health advice and parenting classes.
- **LF:** Provision of advice and support on health and related matters

⁸ Distinct and different as survivors of abuse denied access to and use of health/WB services; increasing space for action is a specified outcome that is measurable ego through national population surveys; measurable through national data – NHS /LAs and WWA and population surveys; “space for action” is measured in terms of sense of self, help-seeking, competence, well-being and safety, finances, parenting friends and family, and community (from specialist services “space for action” scale -Costs of Freedom research (CWASU)

National Wellbeing Goal 4: A More Equal Wales

National Indicators (that can be disaggregated to a local level)

- (6) Measurement of development of young children
- (7) Average capped 9 points score of pupils, including the gap between those who are eligible or are not eligible for free school meals.
- (8) Percentage of adults with qualifications at the different levels of the National Qualifications Framework.
- (24) Percentage of people satisfied with their ability to get to/ access the facilities and services they need.
- VAWDASV (3) Increase in awareness amongst children and young people in Wales of the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships**
- VAWDASV (4) Increase in awareness amongst children and young people that abuse is always wrong.**

Flexible Funding Goal 4: Programme participants are enabled to fulfil their potential no matter their background.

Underpinning objectives include:

- children start school ready to learn on a par with their peers
- those furthest from the labour market are supported into employment
- children impacted by ACEs, or at risk of being impacted by ACEs, are not disadvantaged.
- **Children experiencing domestic and sexual abuse supported to recover from its impact⁹**

Flexible Funding Programme Outcomes (SMART Performance Measures)

Immediate (results)

- Number of people enrolled on basic skills courses/training
- Number of people supported to enrol in further or higher education
- Number of people enrolled in informal learning
- Number of children with identified development needs including SLT
- Number of children supported with school attendance.
- Number of care experienced young people who have been helped towards independence
- **Number of children and young people supported by specialist rape crisis, sexual violence and domestic abuse services**

Medium-Term

- Number of people improving their basic skills
- Number of people gaining a nationally recognised qualification or accreditation*
- Number of children who have improved their school attendance/childcare attendance
- Number of parents with improved ability to support their child with their learning and development needs
- Number of supported children reaching development milestones
- **Number of supported children and young people reporting increase in confidence and well-being**
- **Number of parents who are perpetrators accessing programmes to stop abuse**

Long-Term

- Number of supported people gaining a nationally recognised qualification or accreditation*
- **Number of children and young people confident about sustaining safe, equal, violence-free relationships**
- **Proportion of children and young people in Wales /experiencing domestic abuse and sexual violence**

Example Outputs

- **C&P & FS:** Number of childcare places supported, created, and sustained for low income groups and children with additional needs.
- **FS and FF:** No. of parents supported with own and child's health and wellbeing.
- **PPE/LF/SP:** Number identified with basic skills issues prior qualification deficits

Example Activities

- **C&P:** Programmes to support equality of access to registered childcare settings
- **FS&FF:** Provision of evidence based parenting classes and support with child wellbeing
- **PPE/LF/SP:** Provision of programme of training courses and qualifications.

National wellbeing goal:

A more Equal Wales

⁹ This is distinct and different as children and young people impacted by/experiencing abuse need to recover from abuse, not only not be further disadvantaged

National indicators: ¹⁰

46: The return on investment of partnerships in Wales working towards UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 – Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls

VAWDASV (2) Increase in awareness across all sections of society that violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence is unacceptable

Flexible funding goal 4b: Violence against women and girls – as a cause and consequence of the unequal position of women and girls in society - is prevented and eliminated

Underpinning objectives include:

- Survivors of abuse (adults and children) have safe access to adequate and quality specialist support¹¹ which helps them achieve freedom and from abuse, and no survivor is turned away when seeking support
- Black and minoritised women, migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and children experiencing abuse have equal access to support, protection and justice
- Perpetrators of sexual violence, domestic abuse, harassment, stalking, forced marriage, female genital mutilation and 'honour-based' violence are held to account and access appropriate interventions that create positive behaviour change that ends their abuse
- People live free from violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence in Wales

Flexible funding outcomes

Immediate:

- Number of women and girls, men and boys who have experienced violence and abuse¹²
- Number of survivors (adults and children) effectively supported by specialist services in local area
- Children who have experienced abuse identified and access effective support that mitigate its impacts.
- Number of survivors (adults and children) effectively supported by specialist services led 'by and for' BME women
- Number of survivors affected by multiple discriminations effectively supported by specialist services
- Number of survivors with insecure visa status effectively supported and protected from abuse
- Number of community members trained and supported to challenge VAWDASV and promote women's and girls' human rights

Medium term:

- Number of survivors engaged in development and review of service design
- Number of survivors reporting increased access to justice
- Number of survivors reporting they feel supported to exit the sex industry
- Number of survivors who self-report they felt in control and have power to decide next steps to healing for them
- Number of survivors who know their rights and feel empowered
- Number of perpetrators who stop violence against women and girls
- Number of people reporting their environments are safer (schools, public spaces, home, work environments and online)
- Number of men and boys who agree that violence against women and girls is never acceptable

Long term (1-4 are requirements for Wales to measure under WBFG indicators – UN SDG 5)

- Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age
- Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18
- Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence
- Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age
- Women and men experiencing more equitable distribution of resources and power in public and private spheres

Example of programme / grant activities

- Women's rights organisations are resourced to create and sustain change
- Support and advocacy for adults and children to mitigate the consequences of experiencing violence and abuse.

¹⁰ The flexible funding programme currently doesn't address VAWDASV indicator (2) nor the WBFG indicator 46 in relation to vawdasv prevention and gender equality – which is a statutory duty under Welsh legislation

¹¹ See pp 13-15 of the Wales VAWDASV Commissioning Guidance <http://www.assembly.wales/laid%20documents/sub-ld12217/sub-ld12217-e.pdf>

¹² Disaggregated by form (physical, sexual, control, psychological, financial); severity (moderate/severe); perpetrator (intimate/ other relative/other known person/stranger/ state); protected characteristics; period (last year/lifetime); and frequency (one/few/many time(s))

- Institutional advocacy to strengthen organizations and community commitments to prevent VAW and to ensure obligations to prevent VAW are met
- Formal and informal education to change and strengthen social norms against inequality, discrimination, disrespect and violence
- Engage communities, state and other agencies to strengthen structures, cultures and practices supportive of gender equality and non-violence
- Leadership development among women and girls and nonviolent men and boys in communities and organizations.
- School or community programmes to improve economic, social and political empowerment to build women’s and girls’ personal skills and resources, and to transform relations between men and women.
- Advocacy, support and systems change to challenge demand for prostitution and support for people in the sex industry to safely exit and achieve economic independence
- Women’s rights organisations and organisations that promote the engagement of men and boys in gender equality and human rights take an active role in supporting prevention work led by the PSB.

Programmes Most Aligned to This Flexible Funding Goal

National Wellbeing Goal 5: A Wales of Cohesive Communities

National Indicators (that can be disaggregated to a local level)

(34) Number of households successfully prevented from becoming homeless per 10,000 households.

VAWDASV (1) Increase in reporting of all forms of VAWDASV

VAWDASV (5) Increase in VAWDASV related incidents which result in an arrest, prosecution and conviction.

Flexible Funding Goal 5a: Participants are not homeless and live in suitable accommodation.

Underpinning objectives include:

- people are not homeless or at risk of being homeless
- young people live in a home that best supports them
- vulnerable people can manage their accommodation.
- **Survivors are not experiencing VAWDASV by perpetrators, in their environment¹³**

Flexible Funding Programme Outcomes (SMART Performance Measures)

Immediate (results)

- Number of people who have been supported to prevent homelessness*
- Number of young people supported to enable them to remain independently in their own home*
- Number of rough sleepers who have been supported into accommodation
- **Number of survivors of abuse able to access refuge-based support and other specialist services to meet their housing needs**

Medium-Term

- Number of people who have accommodation and are able to manage it
- Number of people who are not at imminent risk of homelessness
- Number of people with improved financial literacy/capability*
- Number of people whose financial situation has stabilised or improved*
- **Number of survivors of abuse who report feeling physically and emotionally safe in their environment**
- **Percentage of perpetrators brought to justice for their abuse**

Long-Term

- Proportion supported households that are homeless
- Proportion of supported households living in temporary accommodation
- Proportion of supported households in debt
- **Proportion of survivors of abuse who are not homeless due to abuse and report independence and freedom from abuse**

Example Outputs

- **SP/HP:** Number engaged with housing support services and financial/debt advice services
- **FF:** Number receiving debt advice services

Example Activities

- **SP/LF/FF:** Provision of services to assess advice and service needs including financial inclusion, independent living.
- **HP:** programme of support to assess needs and prevent homelessness
- **SDF:** Assessment of needs for YP to enable them to remain independent in own home

¹³ Distinct and different – as it's only survivors of abuse who experience the impact of that abuse and which directly causes housing needs/homelessness – and the root cause of the housing need/homelessness is perpetrators of abuse in their environment

National Wellbeing Goal 5: A Wales of Cohesive Communities

National Indicators (that can be disaggregated to a local level)

(25) Percentage of people feeling safe at home

(29) Mean mental well-being score for people

VAWDASV (6) Perpetrators are able to receive appropriate intervention

VAWDASV (7) Enable equal access to & availability of effective, evidence based early interventions for victims and survivors.



Flexible Funding Goal 5b: Participants are in safe and healthy relationships.

Underpinning objectives include:

- people can manage their relationships
- people feel safe
- people feel part of their community
- people are resilient, capable and coping.
- **Survivors of abuse feel regain confidence, power and control over their lives, and have safe and healthy relationships** ¹⁴



Flexible Funding Programme Outcomes (SMART Performance Measures)

Immediate (results)	Medium-Term	Long-Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of parents accessing evidence-based parenting programmes • Number of children supported with challenging behaviour • Number of people supported by relationship management programmes • Number of survivors supported by accredited specialist services • Number of women experiencing multiple discrimination supported to access women's centres/ services in the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of supported people completing evidence-based parenting and relationship programmes • Number of supported families completing support programmes on family resilience and relationships • Number of survivors reporting increased feeling of control and strengthened peer support • Number of perpetrators of abuse completing evidence-based accredited interventions and stop their violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in number of reported domestic violence incidents by supported people • Number of children cases amongst supported families • Number of supported children in local authority care • number of people feeling safe In their own home • number of people who feel part of their community • Reduction in number of supported families experiencing or perpetrating rape, sexual violence, domestic abuse, forced marriage, FGM, 'honour-based violence, sexual exploitation and harassment

Example Outputs

- **PPE:** Number referred for support with relationship issues
- **FF/FS:** Number referred to evidence-based parenting programmes
- **SP/HP:** Number referred to specialist advice and support services by type of service

Example Activities

- **PPE:** programme assessment of YP and family support to identify any issues leading to offending behaviour
- **FF/FS:** programme of assessment of need for an evidence-based parenting programme
- **SP/HP:** assessment of need for specialist advise and support services e.g. domestic abuse services, substance misuse

¹⁴ Distinct and different as VAWDASV is specifically an abuse of power and control which impacts on whether they can attain healthy safe relationships

National Wellbeing Goal 5: A Wales of Cohesive Communities

National Indicators (that can be disaggregated to a local level)

(25) Percentage of people feeling safe at home, walking in the local area, and when travelling.

VAWDASV (10) Increased victim confidence and access to justice

Flexible Funding Goal 5c: Participating children and young people are not engaged in criminal activities or anti-social behaviour.

Underpinning objectives include:

- people are supported with their needs that might contribute to offending and anti-social behaviour
- people are diverted from criminal and anti-social behaviour
- people are diverted from reoffending including the use of restorative interventions
- ex-offenders are supported to reintegrate and resettle at end of sentences.
- **Children and young people impacted by VAWDASV feel in control and able to maintain healthy relationships¹⁵**

Flexible Funding Programme Outcomes (SMART Performance Measures)

Immediate (results)

- Number of people engaged in the project who received a custodial sentence
- Number of people supported by youth offending teams
- Number of people supported by programme for behaviour issues
- Number of parents accessing evidence based parenting programmes
- **Number of children accessing accredited specialist support to mitigate impacts of sexual and domestic abuse**

Medium-Term

- Number of supported people completing relationship and parenting courses
- Number of supported people completing relationship and parenting courses
- Number of supported children who have improved their school attendance/childcare attendance
- Number of supported people demonstrating behaviour issues
- Number of supported people engaging in anti-social behaviour
- **Number of supported children and young people impacted by abuse reporting increased feeling of control, safety and strengthened peer support**
- **Number of young people supported to stop their abuse against partners, peers, parents and other adults**

Long-Term

- Reduce the number of first-time entrants to the justice system in Wales;
- Reduce the rate of proven reoffending by people in Wales;
- Reduce the proportion of young people who receive a conviction in court then being sentenced to custody.
- **Reduction in the proportion of adolescent to parent / partner violence**
- **Reduction in the number of young people impacted by abuse involved in the CJS**
- **Reduction in the number of supported young people enter the sex industry**

Example Outputs

- **PPE:** Number referred to support with relationship issues
- **FF/FS:** Number referred to evidence-based parenting programmes
- **SP/HP:** Number referred to specialist advice and support services by type of service

Example Activities

- **PPE:** programme of assessment of YP and family support needs to identify any issues leading to offending behaviour
- **FF/FS:** provision of assessment of need for evidence-based parenting programme
- **SP/HP:** programme of assessment of need for specialist advice and support services e.g. domestic abuse services, substance misuse

¹⁵ Distinct and different as VAWDASV experienced by children is specifically an abuse of power and control which impacts on whether they can attain healthy safe relationships

Are you:

Providing your own personal response	<input type="checkbox"/>
Submitting a response on behalf of an organisation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here:	<input type="checkbox"/>