



# **Cwm Taf Morgannwg Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence Strategy Annual Report 2021-2022**

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# Cwm Taf Morgannwg Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy – Annual Report 2021-2022

## Introduction

Welcome to the Annual Report of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Regional Strategic and Commissioning Partnership. This is the fourth annual report provided by the Cwm Taf and Bridgend regions and the second as an amalgamated Cwm Taf Morgannwg region

In 2015, the Welsh Government passed the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act (Wales) - VAWDASV

(1) The purpose of this Act is to improve:

- a) arrangements for the prevention of gender-based violence, domestic abuse, and sexual violence.
- b) arrangements for the protection of victims of gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence.
- c) support for people affected by gender-based violence, domestic abuse, and sexual violence.

The Act specified that Local Authorities and Local Health Boards (plus relevant authorities) are required to develop a joint local VAWDASV Strategy and provide an annual update report against this strategy. In Cwm Taf Morgannwg the responsibility for developing and monitoring the VAWDASV strategy has been delegated to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg VAWDASV Regional Strategic and Commissioning Partnership which is a partnership of relevant authorities and local service providers.

In accordance with the Act, the Cwm Taf Morgannwg VAWDASV strategy must:

- a) Specify objectives which the Local Authority and the Local Health Board consider will, if achieved, contribute to the pursuit of the purpose of this Act.
- b) Specify the periods of time within which the Local Authority and the Local Health Board propose to achieve the specified objectives.
- c) Identify the actions that the Local Authority and the Local Health Board propose to take to achieve the specified objectives.
- d) A Local Authority and a Local Health Board may specify objectives.

For ease of monitoring in Cwm Taf Morgannwg, the objectives, actions and timescales have been incorporated into a delivery plan that is reported upon on a quarterly basis. Any issues or risks raised in relation to delivering the plan are elevated to the Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and Bridgend CSP for their decision and/or action. This supports the CSP's to take ownership of VAWDASV at a strategic level and provide leadership to the VAWDASV Regional Strategic and Commissioning Partnership on the delivery of the plan.

This report highlights the work that the CTM, VAWDASV Regional Strategic and Commissioning Partnership has undertaken during 2021/22 in pursuit of the aim to ensure that the people of Cwm Taf Morgannwg are safe from all the harms associated with VAWDASV. The VAWDASV Partnership are acutely aware that this can only be achieved through strong collaboration, with all agencies working together proactively and productively.

Indeed, many of the CTM achievements would not have been possible without the support of the organisations who have provided funding for many of our service provisions, in particular the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioners Office.

Members of the VAWDASV Regional Strategic and Commissioning Partnership continue to seek opportunities to further develop and improve safeguarding in relation to VAWDASV in Cwm Taf Morgannwg and recognise that this can only be achieved through effective cooperation between Strategic Boards. Therefore, collaboration with partner agencies, Welsh Government and Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board will continue, to enhance practice and to share learning.

Cwm Taf Morgannwg VAWDASV Regional Strategic and Commissioning Partnership will also endeavour to engage with users of services more effectively, whether they are children or adults and offer them opportunities to co-produce strategies, policies etc.

Even though the Covid Pandemic has continued to create challenges for service delivery, VAWDASV services in CTM have met those challenges and have continued to provide high quality services.

## Membership of VAWDASV Regional Strategic and Commissioning Partnership

See Appendix A

## Governance structures

In 20-21 the Cwm Taf VAWDASV strategic partnership became the Cwm Taf Morgannwg partnership group however the rest of the governance structure has been arranged around the regions of Bridgend and Cwm Taf. This situation remained unchanged in 21-22, consequently the VAWDASV group reports to two CSP's see **Appendix B**.

## Cwm Taf Morgannwg VAWDASV Strategic Aims

The Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 required Local Authorities and their relevant partners to develop a local VAWDASV strategy. The Cwm Taf Morgannwg VAWDASV Regional Strategic and Commissioning Partnership complied with this requirement and developed its aims to be consistent with the VAWDASV National Strategy and to meet local need.

During 2021-2022, Cwm Taf Morgannwg aims were as follows:

**Aim 1: Increase awareness of violence against women, domestic abuse, and sexual violence across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg population.**

**Aim 2: To break the generational cycle of VAWDASV behaviour in families by promoting healthy relationships in children and young people.**

**Aim 3: Hold perpetrators to account for their actions and support them to change their behaviour.**

**Aim 4: Ensure services are designed and commissioned to meet the needs of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg population.**

**Aim 5: Ensure that services are fit for purpose and quality assured.**

## What have we achieved? - Aim 1

### **Increase awareness of violence against women, domestic abuse, and sexual violence across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg population.**

Whilst the Covid restrictions in Wales were less restrictive in 21-22 than 20-21, services were by no means operating in the way they had prior to the pandemic. Therefore, communication with the public has continued to be a high priority activity. Social media has played a vital role in enabling service providers to inform the public and victims of VAWDASV that services are still operating and how they can be accessed. To further this communication and awareness raising the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region has promoted the Welsh Government campaigns of 'Home shouldn't be a place of fear' and 'Call out only'

In the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region the VAWDASV Regional Strategic and Commissioning Partnership and the Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) Safeguarding Board enjoy close collaborative working arrangements. This has meant that the VAWDASV partnership has been enabled to reach a wider target audience for campaign messages. This has been achieved through using the Safeguarding Boards website, face book account and news bulletins.

As always VAWDASV service providers participated in Safeguarding week. In 21-22 the overall theme of CTM Safeguarding week was Safeguarding our communities so VAWDASV organisations delivered sessions linked to that theme. Some of the activities provided were

- coercive control sessions to professionals
- sessions to raise awareness of the family intervention programme (SMT)
- sessions on how to deal with disclosures of sexual violence (new pathways)
- the relaunch of the Ask Angela campaign

In 2021- 2022 the Welsh Government provided the VAWDASV service providers of the region with a grant to raise awareness of VAWDASV amongst the beauty industry. 6 local providers came together to develop and deliver the 'Snip it in the bud campaign' Please see document below which outlines the project timeline, what materials were developed, how they were delivered and what outcomes were achieved



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The Cwm Taf Morgannwg region also participated in national awareness raising activity such as White Ribbon Day and the 16 days of action. As it was still difficult to bring too many individuals together, local organisations agreed to contribute to a Cwm Taf Morgannwg timetable of activity. The document below is the timetable of what was delivered, and the outcomes achieved



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New Pathways held a successful Sexual Violence ‘Frontline Focus’ event in Sexual Violence Awareness Week. The demand for the event was well beyond expectations and 723 frontline workers from across Wales attended. Feedback was extremely positive and there was clearly an appetite for standalone sexual violence specific information.

As the Assia Service had restructured its provisions it designed new posters and leaflets to make the public aware of what services are on offer. the service was further promoted through doorstepping local businesses and providing information stands in local communities.

The main vehicle for raising awareness of VAWDASV amongst professionals in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region has been through the rollout of the VAWDASV National Training Framework (NTF)

Since the commencement of the National Training Framework **20,253** staff from Bridgend, Merthyr, Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Authorities and Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB have completed group1 training. These figures have been adjusted this year to only account for staff who have been trained and are still employed by the organisation.

Figures are not available locally for Welsh Ambulance Service Trust or the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service as they report directly to Welsh Government.

The table below outlines Cwm Taf Morgannwg’s progress regarding the VAWDASV NTF in 2021-2022

<b>Group</b>	<b>Numbers completed</b>
1	1457(LA data only)
2	234
3	33
4	25 (93 specialist staff also attended additional specialist training)
5	7

It should be noted that during this period all locally delivered training in relation to the NTF was delivered online.

Increasing awareness of domestic abuse in professionals employed in primary health care is a role of the Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS) project. The service has been provided in Cwm Taf for many years but for Bridgend 2021-22 represents the first full year of delivery. IRIS is delivered as a collaborative provision between two specialist providers. Safer Merthyr Tydfil delivers in Merthyr Tydfil, Cynon, and Bridgend whilst RCT Domestic Abuse Services delivers in Rhondda and Taf areas

Working closely with primary care, the IRIS project aims to increase the identification of victims and perpetrators of abuse and improve the support they receive. This service is commissioned by Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board and provides training and support to clinicians and administrative staff in the 54 G.P practices throughout Cwm Taf Morgannwg.

Each practice receives specialist training sessions for GPs and clinical staff and separate sessions aimed at frontline, reception staff and administrators. The training focuses on providing information on how to identify domestic abuse through clinical enquiry and how to respond in terms of assessing immediate risk, referral, recording and confidentiality.

Once each practice has received the full training, they become a domestic abuse aware practice. This is recognised and promoted to patients by the displaying of posters and information cards, identifying them as domestic abuse aware. Practices also receive referral forms and information on care pathways for female survivors, male survivors, and perpetrators.

During 2021-22 IRIS has achieved:

- **100%** of practices in Merthyr Tydfil and RCT designated IRIS aware practices (all 3 training sessions completed)
- **95%** of practices in Bridgend have undertaken IRIS training in the first year of delivery
- **218** clinicians trained
- **102** reception and admin staff trained
- **95%** of GPs and clinicians reported an increased understanding of the complexities of Domestic Violence and abuse (DVA) and felt more confident using targeted enquiry to identify DVA

New Pathways are the key provider of training on sexual violence and related subjects in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region. During 21-22 all their course were provided online and delivered across South Wales. In this time frame they delivered **171** courses to **1997** people. Some of the courses on offer in Cwm Taf Morgannwg included the following.

**Vicarious Trauma** - supporting staff and volunteers to recognise and respond to the personal consequences of supporting people who have experienced trauma. This included helping people recognise the signs of vicarious trauma, identify their own protective factors, and develop strategies for protecting themselves.

**Suicide Awareness** - helping staff and volunteers recognise the signs that somebody might be thinking about suicide; feel more comfortable exploring this; learn how to develop safety plans and when to activate an emergency response.

**Sexual Violence** - facilitating staff and volunteer to recognise the scope of sexual violence, its impact on people, common responses and coping strategies and the range of support and advocacy services available.

**Pre-trial Therapy** – supporting staff and volunteers to understand the requirements for pre-trial therapy



## What have we achieved? - Aim 2

### **To break the generational cycle of VAWDASV behaviour in families by promoting healthy relationships in children and young people**

One of the ways to promote healthy relationships in young people is through the Whole Education Approach. In 2021-22 the focus in schools was upon achieving two of the key elements of the whole education approach.

1. Children and young people learn about violence against women, domestic abuse, and sexual violence
2. Staff learn about violence against women, domestic abuse, and sexual violence.

This work was commenced in 2019 -20 however due to Covid disruption over the past 2 years the activity hasn't progressed as far as anticipated, therefore the action has rolled over into 2021-22.

#### **Key Element 1**

To provide opportunities for children and young people to learn about VAWDASV, the Welsh Government's VAWDASV Team has commissioned Hafan Cymru to deliver the Spectrum programme across schools in Wales. In Cwm Taf Morgannwg this is one of the main delivery vehicles

#### All Spectrum sessions

- Promote the importance of healthy relationships and raise the awareness of children, young people, and adults about the issues of Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.
- Are delivered by qualified and experienced teachers. Sessions can be delivered in Welsh or English and all resources are bilingual.
- Are cross curricular and are designed to promote peer discussion, using a range of techniques.
- Use materials that are thought provoking but are not designed to be so emotive as to cause distress, including the concept of "The Safety Zone".
- Are designed to promote discussion not disclosure.
- Conclude with information for young people on where they can access help and support both inside and outside the school.

During 2021-2022 Hafan Cymru delivered the following sessions in Cwm Taf Morgannwg schools:

#### Merthyr

- Total Number of sessions = 84
- Total number of pupils in sessions =772
- Total number of staff in pupil sessions = 92

Rhondda Cynon Taf

- Total Number of sessions =186
- Total number of pupils in sessions = 2147
- Total number of staff in pupil sessions = 204

Bridgend

- Total Number of sessions = 29
- Total number of pupils in sessions =283
- Total number of staff in pupil sessions = 19

As Hafan Cymru does not have the capacity to deliver to every class and year group many schools also commission local VAWDASV services to deliver aspects of healthy relationships.

In the Merthyr area of the CTM region, Safer Merthyr Tydfil (SMT) is contracted by the Local Authority to deliver healthy relationships sessions in comprehensive schools and youth clubs. During Q1 21-22 group delivery didn't take place due to Covid restrictions.

In Q2-Q4 SMT delivered

Number of individuals worked with	131
Number of group sessions	21 11 in schools 10 in youth clubs

Even though organisations have not been able to go into schools as freely as pre covid they have still worked towards the objective of promoting healthy relationships in children and young people. To this end Llamau delivered Healthy Relationship sessions across CTM with **801** attendees. In addition, **60** Young People attended sexting, consent, and coercion awareness sessions. These sessions were delivered online and in person where possible

Llamau have also delivered their ADAPT programme. Adapt is Llamau's bespoke 6 weeks course for young people aged 12-17 years. Adapt covers the following key areas:

- Healthy friendships.
- Healthy and unhealthy relationships.
- Warning signs of abuse.
- Online safety, grooming and exploitation

In 21-22

**64** young people attended the Adapt groups

**14** young people benefitted from 1:1 support with the specialist worker around their own relationships.

The Comets & Rockets programme provided by Safer Merthyr Tydfil (SMT) across the region, takes a slightly different approach to breaking the generational cycle of domestic abuse. The service supports young people aged 3-16 who have experienced/witnessed domestic abuse, through group programmes and play therapy, whilst at the same time supporting parents via group programmes. The purpose of the parental work is to increase understanding of the effects of domestic abuse on their children. Parents are also taught how to undertake therapeutic activities with their child to re-build relationships and increase attachment

In 2021-2022 Comets and Rockets achieved the following.

- 1-1 group sessions delivered with 69 children in Cwm Taf. 6 X Comets and Rockets 6-week groups delivered in Bridgend.
- 3 x 8-week parent group programs delivered across Cwm Taf Morgannwg with 18 parent/carers
- 13 families received Heart to Heart 6 week group sessions on a 1-1 basis due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- 37 children received one to one play therapy session

The Assia service does not work directly with CYP however to further this aim the service has undertaken a full programme of domestic abuse training with staff in the Partnerships for Progress parent and baby units, and to Midwives in Princess of Wales Hospital.

## **Key Element 2**

In previous years it was the ambition of the VAWDASV strategic partnership to increase the take up of the NTF group1 e learning amongst education staff. This ambition has been in part achieved; however, it is difficult to determine the exact increase as the local authorities present e learning figures for the whole organisation rather than specific departments.

However, to increase compliance RCTCBC has compiled a list of education staff who have not completed group 1 e learning. The list was disseminated to various education services for follow up and completion. It is intended to repeat this action on a regular basis.

In 2021- 22 RCTCBC also produced a guide for schools to support the VAWDASV agenda, containing information about training requirements and the Estyn recommendations from We don't tell our teachers' report into peer-on-peer sexual abuse. Please see document embedded below. This document has been shared with the Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil areas to try and create consistency across the region and to foster the sharing of good practice.



rct whole  
education.pdf

## What have we achieved? – Aim 3

### **Hold perpetrators to account for their actions and support them to change their behaviour.**

In Cwm Taf Morgannwg there are provisions for perpetrators of domestic abuse. The DRIVE project works across the region with perpetrators whose victims have been deemed high risk. DRIVE targets the perpetrators of domestic abuse to improve outcomes for victims and children. The key objectives are to:

- reduce the number of serial perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- reduce the number of repeat and new victims.
- reduce the harm caused to victims and children.
- intervene earlier to safeguard families living with high-harm domestic abuse.

The DRIVE service advocates a multi-model approach that interlaces support and disruption interventions for those who perpetrate domestic abuse. So, Drive offers

- To support perpetrators to change their behaviour.

Or

- To disrupt the perpetrators opportunities for abusive behaviour.

Working with Perpetrators of domestic abuse is always challenging but is particularly difficult when working within Covid restrictions as support workers must be mindful at all times of the risks posed to the victims and children of perpetrators. This is the reason why every intervention offered by DRIVE to domestic abuse perpetrators is accompanied by support from an IDVA service. The purpose of the IDVA support is to ensure that the safety of those at risk is not compromised by the perpetrator intervention and that the victims are aided to establish lives free from abuse.

In 2021 2022 they key data for Drive is as follows: -

Cases accepted – 138 -134 male 4 female

Referral route – 138 MARAC

Approx. 60% engagement = approx. 83 individuals

Victims safeguarded– 163

CYP safeguarded 296

NB there are more victims than perpetrators. This is because DRIVE often uncover hidden victims during their interventions.

To support the work of perpetrator and victims' services, the Cwm Taf region provides the Family Programme funded by the PCCO. The Family Programme provides specialist support for families experiencing domestic abuse who wish to remain together safely or be supported to separate amicably and positively co-parent.

The service aims to

- Bring the whole family closer together
- Strengthen and improve family safety, well-being, and positive relationships
- Ensure the family is seen through the child/young person's eyes with their wellbeing paramount
- Ensure the responsibility for the abuse lies with the abusive parent
- Ensure safety and risk always remain central to the model.

The service provides a range of therapeutic interventions and activities that focus upon

- Safety.
- Risk management.
- Behavioural change.
- Impact of domestic abuse on children.
- ACE's.
- Respectful communication.
- Attachment
- Emotional resilience

Key data for 2021- 22

- 46 Families referred
- 58 families supported (including families who remained open from 20-21)
- 53 Families benefited from the service
- 27 Families accessed ongoing support
- 4 CYP accessed direct support
- 10 families accessed phase 2 sessions
- 4 families accessed Phase 2 extension sessions
- 2 families self-referred for additional support following case closure:

As a result of the programme 53 Families are noted as beneficiaries against the following outcomes:

- Improved Health & Wellbeing

- Increased Feelings of Safety
- Better Able to Cope with Aspects of Everyday Life
- Better Informed and Empowered to Act

The Family Programme achieved Respect Accreditation in August 2021

In 20-21 it was identified that the CTM region needed a Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme (DAPP) that is consistent across the region. The position was that only the RCT area was delivering a DAPP, Bridgend's had been decommissioned and Merthyr had no provision. Consequently, in 21-22 a task group was convened to establish what was required and to secure the necessary funding. (See aim 4 for further details)

In respect of sexual violence, New Pathways SARC and ISVA services worked with 386 people (291 adults and 95 children) from the CTM region, a 37% increase from 20-21. This specialist advocacy and support enables victims to achieve best evidence, make informed decisions about their choices in the criminal justice system and be supported to remain engaged within the criminal justice process. SARC and ISVA services working closely with the police and criminal justice agencies ensures that perpetrators are held to account for their actions.

This service is also actively involved in ensuring that victims in the Cwm Taf areas are aware of the opportunity to pre-record evidence in Crown Court given by Section 28.

Additionally, New Pathways offers pre-trial therapy that supports victims to manage and cope with the effects of trauma, which is critical in the long periods that victims often wait to reach court.

Towards the end of 2020-21 the Welsh Government VAWDASV team provided all regions of Wales with a capital grant to establish and equip remote evidence centres for victims of VAWDASV. Remote evidence centres are an alternative to attending court and enable VAWDASV victims to provide evidence at trial, via a live video link with the court. It is intended that providing evidence in this way will result in more prosecutions as victims are less likely to be intimidated by the process and environment.

In CTM the grant has facilitated the establishment of 4 remote evidence centres in Rhondda, Aberdare, Merthyr Tydfil and Maesteg.

In the earlier part of the year the focus for all sites across Wales was on the development of consistent protocols and procedures, booking processes, establishment of interagency pathways, communication tools and awareness raising of the sites. Most of this work is complete but there are several task groups that meet to oversee the implementation and ongoing issues occurring at the sites.

In CTM the first use of the sites took place in November 2021. Since the first usage there has been a slow and steady increase in cases being heard in remote evidence centres. now called safe video link sites

Between November 2021- March 22 CTM sites had been used on 9 occasions with 9 associated guilty verdicts, which looks promising for outcomes in the future.

What have we achieved? - Aim 4

<b>Ensure services are designed and commissioned to meet the needs of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg population</b>
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Throughout 21-22 the CTM VAWDASV Strategic Partnership has worked on its strategic objective to create consistent and effective services across the geographic areas of the region.

Whilst regional procurement of all services has not been possible due to the local authorities' different interpretation of procurement procedures and timescales of contracts, greater consistency of service provision has still been achieved. This consistency has been achieved using methods other than procurement such as adopting agreed role profiles and service specifications. Accreditation awards help services to achieve the same quality standards.

However, when considering the commissioning of new services, a regional approach is always the first option.

As a result of working in this way for several years all the regions that make up Cwm Taf Morgannwg have the following provisions, many of which are commissioned across the entire region

- Refuge provision
- Dispersed accommodation.
- IDVA provision
- Children's Idva provision
- Tenancy support/outreach work
- Recovery programmes
- CYP services
- Drive
- IRIS
- BAME service
- ISVA provision
- Access to SARC

In 2020- 21 it was identified through gap analysis and evidence of need that there was a need for a regional DAPP. At the time of identification, the only provision available in CTM, to perpetrators of domestic abuse was the Drive project. As Drive only works with those who are high risk there were no opportunities for earlier interventions, and no step down services for those who completed Drive interventions to move onto. Consequently in 2021 a task group was established to commission a regional DAPP. This work is now completed and SMT have been commissioned to deliver their Driving Change Programme.

The primary purpose of the Driving change Programme is to support and maintain the safety and wellbeing of women and children, who are affected, or likely to be affected by domestic abuse.

When delivering Driving Change, the following objectives need to be achieved

- Hold perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse to account for their behaviour.
- Support individuals to stop abusive behaviour
- Support individuals to develop respectful attitudes and relationships

Funding has been secured from several sources to deliver this programme, which will commence in 2022-23.

During this year the CTM region has worked alongside the Police and Crime Commissioners Office (PCCO) and the other regions of South Wales to increase the amount of IDVA/ISVA provision, as well as develop a more consistent approach to IDVA provision. As a result of this work the CTM region secured MOJ funding, until 2025 to provide 3 Children's IDVA one in each region of CTM.

This is a new and innovative approach to both IDVA and CYP ways of working and means that children from families discussed at MARAC now have their own Advocate expressing the CYP views and needs.

The Children's IDVA service did not commence until Q3, despite this late start the IDVA's supported 74 high risk CYP through individual and group work programmes.

The collaboration with the PCCO also led to the establishment of a new Health IDVA post in the region, working in the Royal Glamorgan Hospital 5 days per week. The post is funded until 2025 so the CTM VAWDASV steering group are considering this a pilot project, with a view to exploring proposals for scaling up of this provision across Prince Charles and Princess of Wales hospitals. As the post was only recruited to in February 2022 there is little data to report. However, in the short time of being in post the health Idva has provided support to 5 individuals identified at the A & E Department with a total of 12 service users being supported.

In 2021-22 the needs of children and young people (CYP) seeking sexual violence assistance in Cwm Taf was supported by an additional specialist CYP ISVA for Cwm Taf and a CYP Sexual Violence Support Worker for South Wales. The specific needs of Males were supported by an additional Male ISVA covering South Wales. Part of the role of the Male ISVA is to help raise awareness of the support that is available for males affected by Sexual Violence. Consequently, the IDVA met with staff at Parc Prison. The work will acknowledge the difficulties faced by men disclosing and raise awareness that even whilst in custody support is available.

As a result of further collaborative working the RCT area have appointed a Housing First IDVA, this post is funded via the RCTCBC Housing Support Grant to meet the needs of Domestic Abuse victims in the Council's Housing First project in addition to those who are homeless or in temporary accommodation. As this post is unique in



the region the VAWDASV Steering Group will be considering what the benefits are in adopting this approach.

Throughout the year, despite covid issues, and barriers to service delivery local providers have continued to provide essential services to the victims, perpetrators and families experiencing VAWDASV.

Below is a selection of data and information from VAWDASV services in Cwm Taf Morgannwg

Refuge provision. In 2021-2022 the three refuges accommodated the following

RCT = 154

Merthyr = 26 women 13 children =39

Bridgend=57 women 44 children =10

As a result of additional Welsh Government VAWDASV funding, the providers of refuges across the region have been able to employ part time CYP refuge support workers. Which means that whilst at a refuge children have been able to access 1:1 support, refuge based group work and the opportunity to enjoy play based activities that allow them to just be children

The data in the next 2 tables is the combined total of the Assia Service, DART, and Oasis Centres (IDVA services of Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and RCT) work with high and medium risk victims of domestic abuse.

<b>People accessing the service directly - NB Oasis and Assia only deal with high risk</b>		
<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Breakdown by high/medium/low risk</b>	<b>Total number of beneficiaries</b>
<b>Women</b>	<b>High</b> <b>Medium</b>	<b>1934</b> <b>379</b>
<b>Men</b>	<b>High</b> <b>Medium</b>	<b>283</b> <b>39</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>2639</b>

This figure shows a 25% increase on what was reported last year

<b>People reporting that they have been provided with the information and advice they need to access services and support and are able to make informed choices</b>		
<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Breakdown by high/medium/low risk</b>	<b>Total number of beneficiaries</b>
<b>Women</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>968</b>
	<b>Medium</b>	<b>376</b>
<b>Men</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>211</b>
	<b>Medium</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1642</b>

This figure represents a 27% increase on what was reported last year.

In addition to their SARC and ISVA work New Pathways also provides specialist therapeutic services to adults and children These services include a sexual violence wellbeing service and a sexual violence counselling service. During 2021-2022, New Pathways received referrals for therapeutic services for:

**576** adults.

**121** children.

This represents a 34% increase on 20-21. Despite rising referrals, in 2021-22 New Pathways achieved a further 30% reduction to the sexual violence counselling waiting lists. They achieved this by sustaining an innovative model to use short term funding (Sessional Counselling project supported by their Wellbeing Service). This activity was supported in Cwm Taf through Additional Needs VAWDASV funding

RCT Domestic Abuse Service provides a variety of support services for those who have experienced domestic abuse within the RCT areas, outlined below is some of the activity data of this service:

### **SAFE project**

Referrals Female	1533
Referrals Male	20
Drop in via telephone, web and online	387
Group programmes- online and face to face	655
Legal appointments	86
PPN follow up standard/ medium risk	1259
Young people (18-24yrs)	35 female 32 male
Safer Rhondda CYP one to one Support	33

What have we achieved? - Aim 5

**Ensure that services are fit for purpose and quality assured.**

In respect of core standards, the situation remains the same as last year; all VAWDASV organisations within Cwm Taf Morgannwg have either achieved a recognised core standard or are actively working towards one.

In relation to sexual violence standards senior members of New Pathways ISVA team have supported LimeCulture (ISVA Quality Standards Accreditor) to strengthen the current ISVA standards for children and young people based on practice in New Pathways.

Cwm Taf Morgannwg does not have a local set of performance indicators, as it was felt pertinent to wait for the introduction of the national indicators. Unfortunately, the introduction and implementation of these has been delayed by the pandemic and are due to be reviewed in 22-23 to reflect the new National VAWDASV Strategy

In this financial year the MARAC Quality Assurance Group began implementation of a set of proposals designed to create greater effectiveness in the MARAC process. This work necessitated working across the CTM Safeguarding Board, the Cwm Taf CSP and the Bridgend CSP as the region has two MASH and two MARAC. The work has been facilitated by the new MARAC posts funded through the additional VAWDASV revenue grant. The implementation plan is ongoing and is being reviewed regularly by the MARAC QA Group. This work should be completed in 2022-23.

## CTM VAWDASV Delivery Plan 2022-23

Through the execution of the 2021-22 VAWDASV Delivery Plan and the development of the new National Strategy several new actions have emerged which will be carried forward into 2022-23 Delivery Plan. this includes the following actions:

- Review and update the CTM VAWDASV Strategy in line with new National Strategy
- Review and update the CTM VAWDASV Delivery Plan
- Develop a VAWDASV risk register to accompany Strategy and Delivery Plan.
- Deliver the newly commissioned DAPP- Driving Change.
- Monitor new IDVA /ISVA posts to learn lessons and share good practice.
- Develop and deliver a programme of campaigning activity based on local needs and the requirements of the National VAWDASV Strategy
- Ensure that the Survivors Voice is heard in the CTM region and utilise that voice in the coproduction of services
- Continue to engage with the Engagement, Participation and Communication subgroup of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board to increase the dissemination of VAWDASV campaign messages.
- Review and update the mechanisms utilised to deliver the VAWDASV National Training Framework.
- Continue to work in partnership with, other regions and the PCCO to develop and deliver a range of perpetrator and IDVA/ISVA interventions.
- Evaluate the implementation of the agreed changes to the MARAC process.
- Monitor the performance of the 4 remote evidence centres within CTM to understand their impact on victims and on the CJS.
- Adopt and implement the VAWDASV National Core Performance Indicators once available

## Appendix A

### **VAWDASV Regional Strategic and Commissioning Partnership Membership**

The following organisations are represented on the Cwm Taf Morgannwg VAWDASV Regional Strategic and Commissioning Partnership (for some organisations several departments are represented).

<b>Organisation</b>
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Bridgend County Borough Council
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board
South Wales Police
National Probation Service
New Pathways
Safer Merthyr Tydfil
BAWSO
RCT Women's Aid
Llamau
Police and Crime Commissioners Office

## Appendix B

### Governance structure Bridgend



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### Governance structure Cwm Taf



Cwm Taf  
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