



Uned Atal Trais
Violence Prevention Unit

Gender based violence: the impact on children and young people

Challenges for the new Welsh Government and Senedd

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Wales Violence Prevention Unit



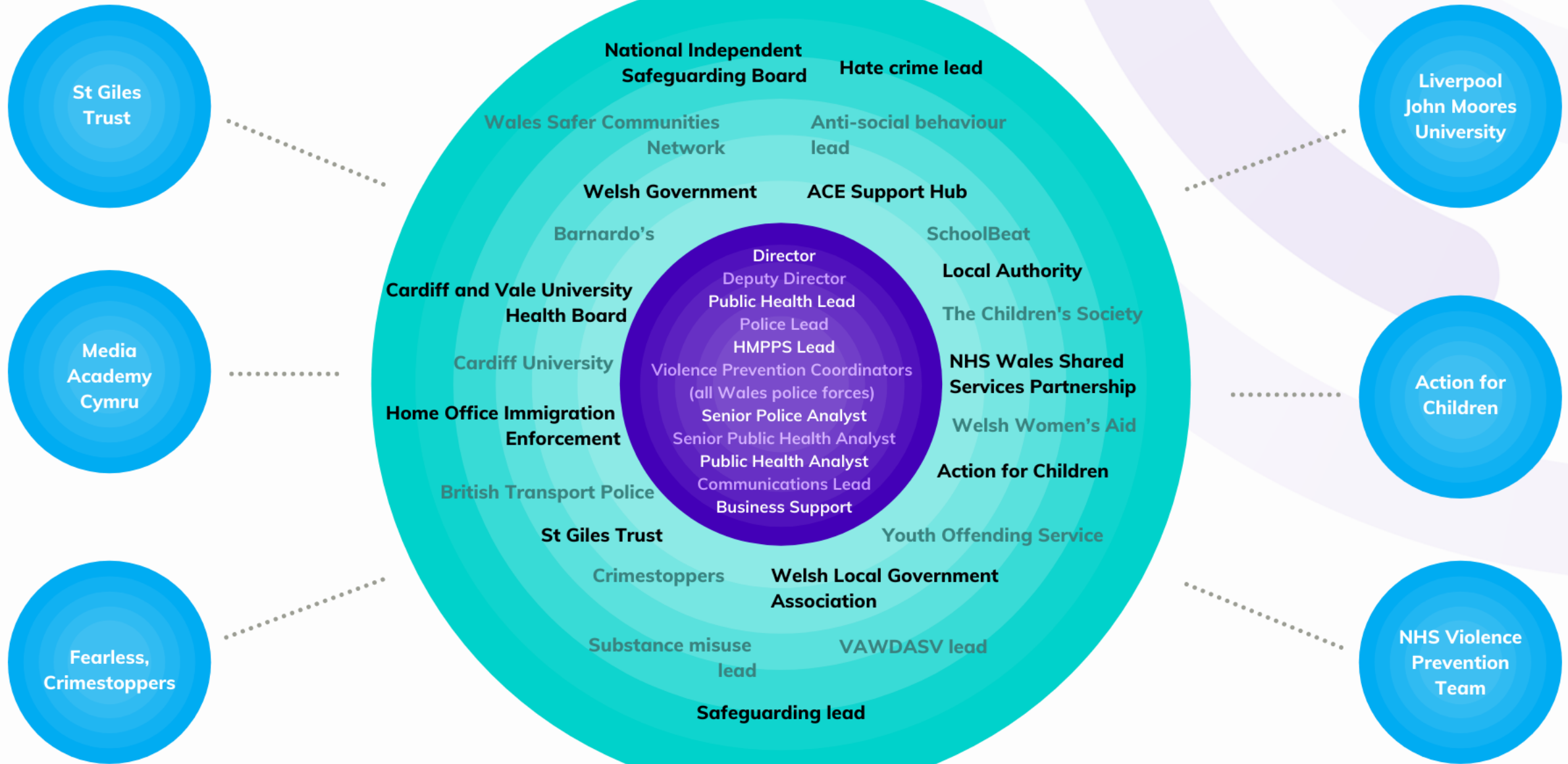
Uned Atal Trais
Violence Prevention Unit

A partnership of passionate people from an alliance of organisations, working together to prevent violence in Wales

Our overarching priority:

To prevent violence across Wales through the implementation of a public health approach

Wales Violence Prevention Unit Membership



Preventing VAWDASV



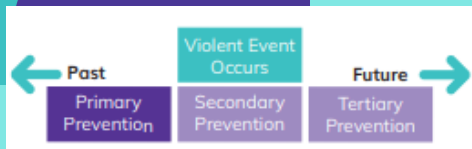
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What Works to Prevent Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)?

Systematic Evidence Assessment



Bystander Experiences of Domestic Violence and Abuse during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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#SAFE TO SAY

BETS ON ME PULLING HER TONIGHT?
THAT'S NOT FUNNY.

#SAFE TO SAY

YOU'RE SO UGLY, NOBODY WANTS YOU.
DON'T LISTEN TO HER, COME AND CHILL WITH US.

#SAFE TO SAY

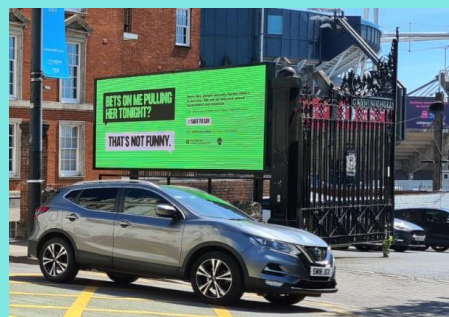
WHO DARES ME TO SLAP HER BUM?!

NAH MATE, THAT'S NOT COOL...

#SAFE TO SAY

GIVE US A KISS, HOT STUFF!
EXCUSE ME, CAN YOU LEAVE OUR FRIEND ALONE PLEASE?

#SAFE TO SAY



EXCUSE ME, CAN YOU LEAVE OUR FRIEND ALONE PLEASE?

18 likes

#SafeToSay

Every day, people sexually harass others in Wales. We can all help end sexual harassment and violence. Let's take a stand safely and make a real difference. #SafeToSay

ACTIVE BYSTANDER TOOLKIT

Every day, people sexually harass others in our city. We can all help end sexual harassment and violence.

Let's take a stand safely and make a real difference.

#SAFE TO SAY

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www.safetosay.wales

Each of us will have different levels of confidence and comfort when it comes to challenging harassment, and it's important that we only help in ways that are safe for ourselves and everyone involved. We all have a role to play.

Here are some tips to help you be an active bystander:

SAFETY FIRST

Assess the scene. What's happening? Is it safe to intervene, or can you find support nearby to help?

Avoid words or actions that could make it more dangerous for the person being targeted.

If you see someone in immediate danger of physical or sexual violence, dial 999.

CHECK IN

It's easier and often safer to ignore the harasser and check in with the person they've targeted. If it's loud, you could try a thumbs up or making eye contact. Be neutral and friendly. You're showing that you're aware of the situation, not rushing in or taking over.

If they don't need help, then no harm done!

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SHAPE UP

If you ignore this behaviour when the harasser is a friend, what message does this send?

If your mate is crossing the line, it's always worth checking in. If it doesn't feel possible to challenge them at the time, having a one-on-one conversation later can be just as important.

Try: naming the problem, the impact it's having, and what you think they could change.

In conversation, you can be an active bystander by not 'laughing along' with harmful comments, and by sharing another perspective which shows that not everyone agrees.

WHO DARES ME TO SLAP HER BUM?!

NAH MATE, THAT'S NOT COOL...

IT'S ON US

Think about your own words, ideas and actions. How do they make others feel?

Remember that the impact on others is more important than your intentions. If someone feels uncomfortable around you because of things you say or do, it's up to you to stop, think, and change, even if you didn't mean to cause harm.

Be a role model!

5

SUPPORTING OTHERS

When someone tells you they have experienced sexual harassment or gender-based violence, it means they trust you to believe and support them. Don't let them regret their decision to speak up. 1 in 3 women have experienced abuse or violence in their lifetime, so it's crucial that in our communities we give a helpful and non-blaming response to be part of the solution.

There is no normal or right way for someone to respond to experiencing sexual harassment, some people may be in shock or just want to leave the situation. Validate how they are feeling and let them know you are there for them and show support. Do not tell them what to do as they are the expert of their own experience.

Try: Thank you for sharing that with me, I'm sorry that happened to you. That's not okay and I'll do what I can to help.

LET THEM KNOW ABOUT HELPFUL SERVICES

The Live Fear Free Helpline is not only available for anyone who has experienced any form of gender-based violence including sexual harassment, but for people who are concerned about someone else. Call 24/7 for advice and support.

Webchat:
gov.wales/live-fear-free
Call:
0808 80 10 100
Text:
07860077333

If you suspect someone is in immediate danger of physical or sexual violence, please call 999.

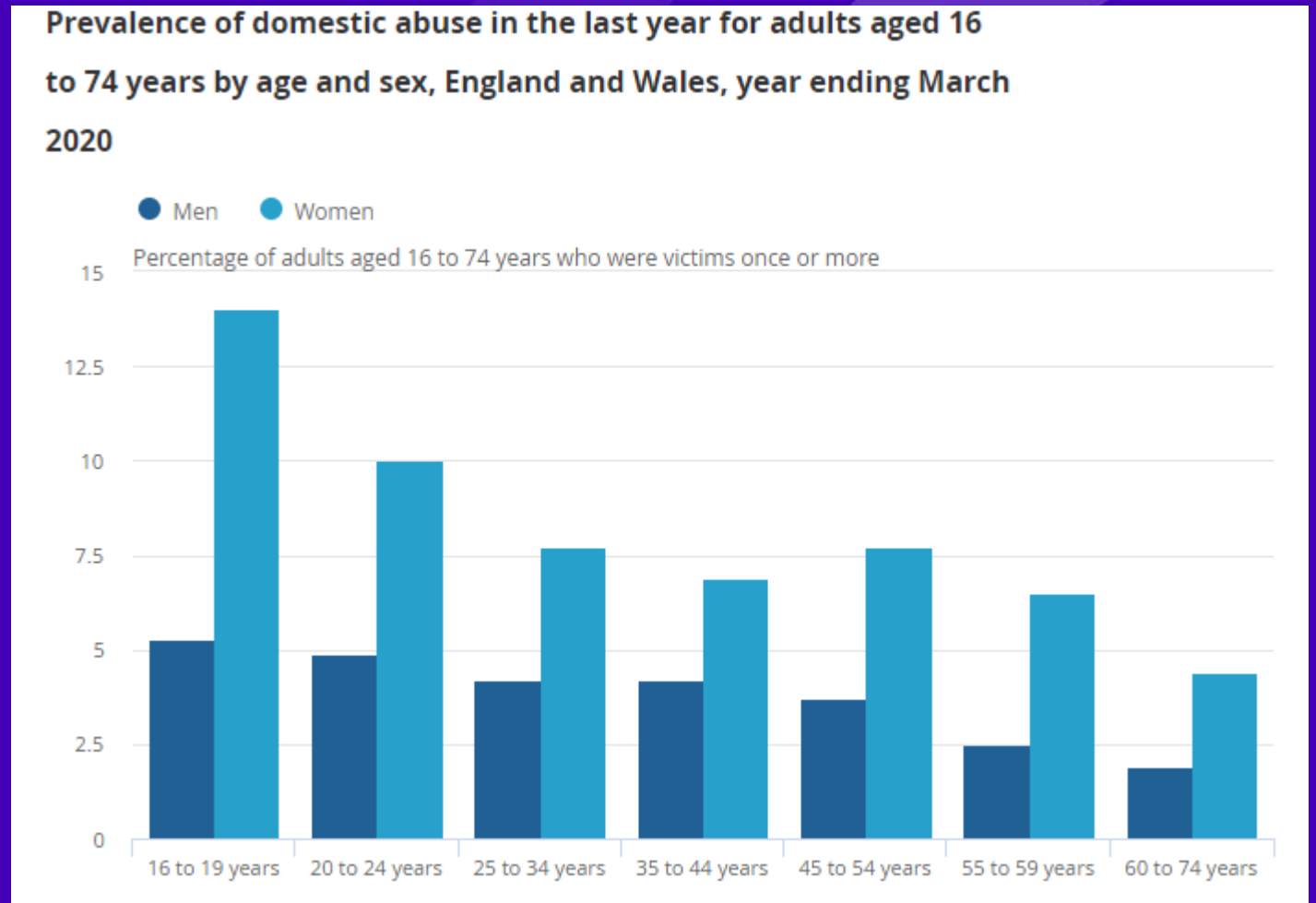
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Introduction

1. **Gender based violence** among children and young people in Wales and its **impact**
2. A **public health approach** to the prevention of GBV
3. **'What works to prevent gender based violence?'**
4. **Challenges for the Welsh Government and Senedd**

Domestic abuse and age

- The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) year ending March 2020 showed that women aged 16 to 19 years were significantly more likely to be victims of any domestic abuse in the last year than women aged 25 years and over (Figure 4).
- For men, there were few significant differences by age, however, those aged 55 to 74 years were less likely to be victims of domestic abuse in the last year than those in most other age groups.



Source – ONS, 2020

COVID and Gender Based Violence

- Significant concern throughout the pandemic about violence in the home, UN introducing term *"shadow pandemic"*
- March 2021 – found an increase in young people (under 18 and 18-24) attending A&E Departments in South Wales for **domestic abuse-related assault**
- Spring and Summer terms 2021, violence monitoring from multiple sources (schools and police) indicating **increases in violence among children and young people**
- April- July 2021, identified significant increase in assault attendances at A&E Departments where the reporting location was **school or school bus.**

Sexual Harassment in Schools and Public Spaces

- UN Women UK found that **86% of young women** (18-24) had been sexually harassed in a public space
- Review of sexual harassment and abuse in schools and colleges in England reported by Ofsted in June 2021 – found **concerning levels of sexual harassment and abuse in schools**
- **91 Welsh schools** named on ‘Everyone’s Invited’ site which publishes anon allegations of sexual harassment
- Estyn have announce a **review into sexual harassment** in Welsh schools will go ahead

Impact of gender based violence

- Well documented in scientific literature
- Short and long term health consequences – across the **life course** and **inter-generationally**
- Physical, reproductive, sexual and psychological consequences
- Trauma and PTSD
- Fatal outcomes – homicide and suicide
- Burden on **health, social care** and **criminal justice services** and society more broadly

Why is violence a public health issue?

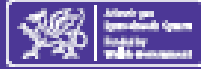
- Violence has a significant impact on **health**
- Violence is both a cause and a consequence of **inequality**
- Violence is **predictable** and **preventable**
- The **tools** and **approaches** used in public health can be used to **complement** existing criminal justice and specialist service responses, skills and expertise

What is a public health approach to VAWDASV prevention?

- **Systematic approach** to the prevention of VAWDASV
- **Whole system** and **multi-agency** approach, **co-produced** by partners and communities
- **Preventative** and focused on the root causes of VAWDASV
- **Data-led** and **evidence-based** - led by epidemiological analysis and scientific knowledge of 'what works'
- **Empowering** and **asset-based**



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What Works to Prevent Violence
against Women, Domestic Abuse
and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)?

Systematic Evidence Assessment

Published: **21st September 2021**

Available: https://www.violencepreventionwales.co.uk/cms-assets/research/What-Works-to-Prevent-Violence-against-Women-Domestic-Abuse-and-Sexual-Violence-Systematic-Evidence-Assessment-2021-09-20-124755_aypz.pdf

Addis & Snowdon (2021) *What works to prevent VAWDASV? Systematic Evidence Assessment*, Wales Violence Prevention Unit, Cardiff

This review was funded by Welsh Government.



Ariennir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by
Welsh Government

High Level Findings

- **Complex and extensive project** – range of effective practice which provides a strong position to inform the VAWDASV strategy refresh
- Prevention of VAWDASV is increasingly **feasible and effective**
- Wealth of **evidence** on the prevention of VAWDASV with new evidence of effective practice **emerging all the time**
- Stand-alone interventions unlikely to work but should be seen as part of an '**eco-system**' of interventions which seek to prevent VAWDASV through a whole-system approach

An 'eco-system' of VAWDASV prevention

1. **Programmes with a strong evidence base** should be developed for a Welsh context and delivered and evaluated at scale. These include:
 - Programmes that prevent VAWDASV through transforming harmful gender norms (i.e. [Real Consent](#), [Coaching Boys into Men](#)) in colleges, schools, sports clubs, online, universities
 - Programmes in schools to prevent VAWDASV (including ADV) (i.e. [Safe Dates](#), [Real Consent](#), [Shifting Boundaries](#), [Stepping Stones](#)) using healthy relationships knowledge and skill development, and bystander training, as part of a peer-led, whole-school approach
 - Invest in the development of evidence-based bystander training in schools, colleges, universities and communities (i.e. [Green Dot](#), [Intervention Initiative](#), [Active Bystander Communities](#))

An 'eco-system' of VAWDASV prevention (cont.)

2. Develop, pilot and evaluate interventions with a **promising evidence base** including:
 - web and ICT based interventions
 - theatre interventions
 - empowerment approaches
 - social norms marketing campaigns
 - night time economy interventions (bystander training for staff and campaigns)
3. Continue to invest in and evaluate **early intervention in healthcare**, and **scale up of evidence based practice** i.e. IRIS
4. Evaluate the impact of **policy and legislation** on VAWDASV prevention including alcohol policy and VAWDASV policy
5. Fund research into interventions with a **limited evidence base or gaps in the evidence** including workplace interventions, the implementation of preventative programmes with diverse communities, exploitation and trafficking, VAWDASV among older age groups and so-called honour based abuse.

Challenges for the new Welsh Government and Senedd

- Commitment and investment for **prevention**
- Recognition of VAWDASV in children and young people's own relationships & the systemic levels of **gender based violence**
- Development of an **eco-system** of violence prevention which challenges gender based violence across our society
- Building back from COVID using a **trauma informed approach** and developing a society that is more **resilient** to gender based violence



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Diolch Thanks
Any Questions?

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