



Plismona
yng Nghymru
Policing in Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

VAWDASV National Partnership Board – meeting notes

Date: Wednesday 24th January 2024

Time: 9.00am-11.00am

Location: MS Teams

Chair: Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip, Welsh Government and PCC
Dafydd Llywelyn, Dyfed-Powys PCC, on behalf of Policing in Wales

Attendees:

Name	Role	Organisation
Jane Hutt MS (Co-Chair)	Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip	Welsh Government
PCC Dafydd Llywelyn (Co-Chair)	Police and Crime Commissioner	Dyfed-Powys OPCC, on behalf of Policing in Wales
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Welsh Government
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Welsh Government
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Welsh Government
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Welsh Government
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Welsh Government
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Welsh Government
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	SPWCC
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	SWPCC / Policing in Wales
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Gwent Police
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Hosted by SWPCC on behalf of Welsh Government and Policing in Wales
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	SWPCC
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Safer Wales

[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Gwent OPCC
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Office of the Director General Health/NHS Chief Executive
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	New Pathways
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	North Wales OPCC
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Public Health Wales
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Welsh Government
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Welsh Government
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	HMPPS
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Older People's Commissioners Office
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Domestic Abuse Commissioner Office
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	HMCTS
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Welsh Government
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Welsh Government
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Welsh Government
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	WLGA
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Wales TUC
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	BAWSO
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Welsh Government
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Welsh Government
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Welsh Government
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Welsh Government

Apologies sent from [information redacted]

1. Welcome, Introductions, apologies and membership

Co-Chair Jane Hutt, Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip (MSJCW) opened the meeting and noted brief introductions for new members as well as apologies. A special welcome was made to [information redacted] newly appointed Head of

VAWDASV Policy at Welsh Government. MSJCW invited any new members or deputy members to introduce themselves when they first speak in the meeting.

MSJCW provided opening remarks for the meeting.

The VAWDASV Progress Report was published in October 2023, the co-chairs have set out three priority areas of work for the Programme:

- Reviewing the National Indications
- Developing a communications strategy
- Implementing an intersectional approach and toolkit.

An overview of the Economic and Social Justice Committee Report “How we must all play our part” was provided along with an update on the Welsh Government Budget. Board members were advised the VAWDASV budget will be sustained at existing levels, highlighting the challenges this poses.

MSJCW highlighted the recently published South Wales Fire and Rescue Report and applauded the individuals concerned for their bravery in coming forward. She highlighted the need to respond to this report at pace, and noted links to the Workplace Harassment workstream.

Co-chair Dafydd Llywelyn, Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) also provided opening remarks thanking members for progress made to date. Key points included:

- The Policing in Wales Taskforce was re-established in Autumn 2023 focussing on delivering improvement in three key areas; enhancing the use of civil orders, improving data quality and intelligence with particular focus on protected characteristics data to support an intersectional approach, and tackling perpetrators and access to perpetrator programmes.
- The action being taken within policing to uphold professional standards.

Board members held a rich discussion around communication with the public to increase public confidence in the police as well as requesting clarity around Police recording mechanisms, support pathways and the availability of perpetrator programmes.

ACTION 1: [information redacted]), [information redacted] and [information redacted] to meet with [information redacted] to discuss policing updates, in particular perpetrator programmes.

2. Minutes and Actions of the last meeting

MSJCW noted relevant updates have been included in the agenda of the meeting. The minutes were confirmed as an accurate reflection of the previous meeting.

3. Emerging/Contemporary Issues

MSJCW outlined emerging and contemporary issues of note for the board.

[information redacted] and [information redacted] have been meeting co-chairs of each VAWDASV Blueprint workstream to review progress, following all meetings taking place, a report will be produced and presented to Programme Board in March 2024 detailing the findings.

The Tackling Perpetration workstream survey has been launched and members were encouraged to share or complete the survey if not already done so. The survey can be accessed via <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/MIYUKK/>. A request was made for the Tackling Perpetration workstream to be the next thematic subject at Partnership Board in April 2024.

[information redacted] advised an initial round-table event has been held for IRIS to discuss funding constraints and inconsistent delivery across Wales. [information redacted] provided feedback from the meeting and invited comments, noting this has also been raised by Regional Coordinators.

Members raised budgetary constraints as an emerging issue and the increasing challenge this brings to the Blueprint. Although recognising that the Welsh Government's core VAWDASV budget has been sustained, Board members raised funding from other budgets has been cut, impacting on service delivery and waiting lists for victims and survivors, including IRIS.

ACTION 2: Tackling Perpetration workstream to be the thematic subject for the next Partnership Board, June 2024.

ACTION 3: A further IRIS roundtable meeting to be arranged.

4. Thematic Subject – VAWDASV Blueprint Workplace Harassment

[information redacted] and [information redacted] provided opening remarks and context for the thematic discussion.

A visual presentation was provided alongside [information redacted] and [information redacted] presenting to the Board the key findings and progress from within the workstream. Key points included:

- Highlighting barriers to reporting workplace harassment.
- The critical importance of effective leadership.
- An uncertainty from employers around implementing best practice to create safer workplace environments and addressing workplace harassment.
- A 10-point checklist for employers to begin to tackle workplace harassment.
- Proposals for the development and future action of the workstream.

The Workplace Harassment co-chairs made the following asks of the Board:

- 1) Ministerial attendance and support for a series of public service summits.
- 2) Funding and support to establish and evaluate the impact of an expert oversight panel to aid public service organisations implement best practice.

- 3) For all Board members to commit to assessing their organisations action using the 10-point check list as an initial self-assessment tool.

These requests were met with approval.

Members provided praise for the direction of the workstream and a discussion was held around engaging with inspectorates and regulatory bodies to embed best practice.

ACTION 4: Workplace harassment public service summits to be organised in accordance with Ministerial attendance.

ACTION 5: Board members to assess their organisations' action using the 10-point check list as a self-assessment tool, to begin to tackle workplace harassment.

5. VAWDASV Communications Plan

[information redacted] provided an overview of the VAWDASV communications strategy being developed to support the Blueprint, outlining WG objectives, current campaigns including Sound and planned next steps.

Members highlighted the need for early engagement with stakeholders on new developments. Members also suggested expanding campaigns to target wider audiences, clearer amplification of existing support services and the need to provide updates specifically on Blueprint activity alongside other communications activity.

[information redacted] advised the Blueprint Team have created a draft 7-minute briefing which will be circulated with the meeting minutes.

ACTION 6: [information redacted] to share VAWDASV Blueprint draft 7-minute briefing with the Board.

6. VAWDASV Regional Boards Feedback

[information redacted] provided feedback from Regional Boards, highlighting budgetary challenges and cuts alongside significant increases in demand for services, with some agencies quoting they have seen referral increases of between 30-50%. Concerns around funding for IRIS within Health budgets were raised and SH expressed an interest in supporting the work of the Sustainable Whole System Approach workstream.

Regional boards are looking at awareness raising opportunities for new legislation, e.g. Jade's Law. Work is underway to ensure action on the Serious Violence Duty is aligned with VAWDASV.

ACTION 7: [information redacted] to support the work of the Sustainable Whole System Approach workstream.

ACTION 8: [information redacted] to be invited to the next IRIS round table meeting.

ACTION 9: Board members who would like to attend the next IRIS round table to contact [information redacted].

ACTION 10 Board members to contact [information redacted] with details of any awareness raising activities regarding Jade's Law.

7. Survivor Voice Scrutiny and Involvement Panel

[information redacted] and [information redacted] provided their update on the panel. The panel met on 22nd January to review existing processes. Key points included:

- Concerns around funding and access to services.
- The panel reviewed the ESJ report and its recommendations and provided feedback on experiences for victims particularly within educational settings.
- A request was made for panel members to be included within Blueprint workstream meetings to broaden their oversight and understanding.
- Concerns around intersectional approaches of tackling VAWDASV, particularly around effective perpetrator interventions.
- The panel also raised the requirement for the integration of core services to be included within the Blueprint.
- Board members provided feedback particularly around facilitating additional meaningful engagement between the Blueprint workstreams and the Panel.

ACTION 11: [information redacted] and [information redacted] to review with workstream co-chairs how panel members can attend workstream meetings in a meaningful way.

8. Blueprint Programme – progress and timescales

[information redacted] provided a brief update on the programme, including:

- The programme status is at amber/ green with the Programme maintaining momentum.
- The Vanguard pilot to review a whole system approach is taking place at the end of February and beginning of March and feedback will be provided at the next Board meeting in April 2024.
- Work is progressing with the intersectionality resource guide and toolkit and testing of its application is to be carried out; A review of the National Indicators has begun and a task and finish group has been established.
- [information redacted] advised there is no formal risk management process in place for the Blueprint and this is something that will be reviewed with an update to be provided to the Board.
- Current risks identified within the Blueprint are budgetary pressures and staffing resources due to several vacancies within the Welsh Government VAWDASV Team.

Due to time limitations with the agenda item, a request was made for Blueprint programme updates to be included earlier within the agenda at future meetings.

ACTION 12: Vanguard findings to be presented at the next Partnership Board meeting.

ACTION 13: [information redacted] to review risk management process for the Blueprint and provide an update at the next Partnership Board meeting.

ACTION 14: Blueprint programme updates to be placed earlier in the agenda at future meetings.

9. AOB and Closure

PCC thanked the group for the meeting.

No other business noted.

Meeting closed.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AGREED

Action Point 1	[information redacted] to discuss policing updates, in particular perpetrator programmes.	[information redacted]
Action Point 2	Tackling Perpetration workstream to be the thematic subject for the next Partnership Board, June 2024.	[information redacted]
Action Point 3	A further IRIS roundtable meeting to be arranged	[information redacted] and WG
Action Point 4	Workplace harassment public service summits to be organised in accordance with Ministerial attendance.	[information redacted] Blueprint Team
Action Point 5	Board members to assess their organisations action using the 10-point check list as a self-assessment tool, to begin to tackle workplace harassment.	All members
Action Point 6	[information redacted] to share VAWDASV Blueprint draft 7-minute briefing with the Board.	[information redacted]
Action Point 7	[information redacted] to support the work of the Sustainable Whole System Approach workstream.	[information redacted]
Action Point 8	[information redacted] to be invited to the next IRIS round table meeting.	[information redacted] & WG
Action Point 9	Board members who would like to attend the next IRIS round table to contact [information redacted].	All members
Action Point 10	Board members to contact [information redacted] with details of any awareness raising activities regarding Jade's Law.	All members
Action Point 11	[information redacted] and [information redacted] to review with workstream co-chairs how panel members can attend workstream meetings in a meaningful way.	[information redacted]
Action Point 12	Vanguard findings to be presented at the next Partnership Board meeting.	[information redacted]
Action Point 13	[information redacted] to review risk management process for the Blueprint and provide an update at the next Partnership Board meeting.	[information redacted]

Action Point 14	Blueprint programme updates to be placed earlier in the agenda at future meetings.	[information redacted]
------------------------	---	------------------------