



Plismona  
yng Nghymru  
**Policing in Wales**



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

## VAWDASV National Partnership Board – Minutes

**Date:** Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**Time:** 14.00-16.00

**Location:** MS Teams

**Chair:** Emma Wools, South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner, on behalf of Policing in Wales and Jane Hutt MS, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip, Welsh Government

### Attendees:

Name	Role	Organisation
Emma Wools (Chair)	Police and Crime Commissioner	South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
Jane Hutt MS (Chair)	Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip	Welsh Government
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Welsh Government
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Welsh Government
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Welsh Government
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	SWPCC / Policing in Wales
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Hosted by SWPCC on behalf of Welsh Government and Policing in Wales
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	SWPCC
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	SWPCC
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Older People's Commissioner for Wales
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Welsh Government
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	New Pathways
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	CPS
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	PHW
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Welsh Government
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Gwent Police

[information redacted]	[information redacted]	WLGA
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Welsh Women's Aid
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	North Wales OPCC
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	BAWSO
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Welsh Government
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	North Wales Police
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Age Cymru
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	HMPPS
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Welsh Government
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Safer Wales
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	ADSS Cymru
[information redacted]	[information redacted]	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Apologies: [information redacted]

## 1. Welcome, Introductions, apologies, and membership.

Co-chair Jane Hutt MS, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip (CSSJTCW) opened the meeting by welcoming board members and fellow co-chair Emma Wools, Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales (EW).

The board welcomes Chief Fire Officer, [information redacted] for Mid and West Wales and [information redacted] Head of Cross Cutting Strategy in Welsh Government. Apologies were noted.

Members were informed of the First Minister, Eluned Morgan's, priorities in the following areas:

- Iechyd da – A healthier Wales
- Green jobs and growth
- Opportunity for every family
- Connecting communities

It is critical that the VAWDASV Blueprint delivers the necessary impact by the end of the VAWDASV National Strategy and Senedd term in 2026. There needs to be a period of reflection to assess how the Blueprint is supporting the First Minister's priorities alongside the VAWDASV objectives.

## 2. Emerging/Contemporary Issues

EW highlighted the UK Government's Safer Streets commitment to halving VAWG over the next 10 years, leading with initiatives such as introducing domestic abuse experts in emergency service control rooms as well as establishing dedicated courts for rape trials, in partnership with devolved and non-devolved government. Further information of the pledges and missions can be found on the UK Government website.

CSSJTCW provided members with an update following an introductory meeting with Minister Alex Davies-Jones, Parliamentary Minister for Victims and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in early October. There is an agreement that collaborative working to tackle VAWDASV is a positive step, with Minister Davies-Jones keen to learn more about the Sound campaign, as well as the mapping exercises undertaken by the Children and Young People's and Tackling Perpetration workstreams.

Minister Davies-Jones has accepted an invite to attend one of the upcoming National Partnership Boards, with a desire to share insight into the UK Government's plans for halving VAWG as well as to take learning from what Wales is undertaking to address VAWDASV. A date for the Minister's attendance is being arranged. Both CSSJTCW and Minister Davies-Jones have agreed to jointly attend specialist VAWDASV services in Wales.

Members are informed that officials are looking at the funding of IDVA's and ISVA's, trying to establish clarity around ongoing UK Government funding, recognising the complexities around the funding landscape.

Following the introductory meeting with Minister Alex Davies-Jones, there are plans to meet with Jess Phillips, Minister for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls, to ensure a robust working relationship with the Home Office to tackle VAWDASV together.

[information redacted] informed members that there have been initial conversations between New Pathways and the Ministers, who are keen to be involved in discussions around the specialist sector in Wales.

Members held discussion regarding the roundtable events being held to develop a UK VAWG strategy, stressing the importance of intergovernmental working and highlighting there will be other missions that will connect with the VAWDASV strategy. Initial conversations and meetings between members and ministers are providing a positive feeling, however concerns are noted around the need for additional resources and funding allocation, not a movement of resources from one area to another, which could result in unintended consequences.

EW said it would be helpful for Board members to start to think about key messages/headlines which could feed into conversations with UK Government. Having a message of the collective is stronger.

**Action 1: Members to think about what the consistent key messaging is going to be going forward for Wales, with the UK Government. Board members to submit key messaging to the VAWDASV Blueprint Mailbox by 30 November 2024.**

[information redacted] provided members with an update on the outcome of the super-complaint regarding police response to stalking made by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust on behalf of the National Stalking Consortium. The investigation concluded with 29 recommendations to ensure better safeguarding for victims.

**Action 2: [information redacted] to include stalking and harassment on the agenda as a thematic item at the next board meeting in February 2024.**

### 3. Thematic Subject – Vanguard

#### Board was asked to: -

- Note the findings of the Vanguard pilot – This was agreed.
- Agree next steps for strengthening the working relationship between Local Health Boards and Local Authorities regarding VAWDASV responsibilities. It was agreed there would be an action to provide Vanguard feedback as well as feedback from the Sustainable Whole System Approach surveys and workshops to executive leaders of Health, Local Authority and Criminal Justice partners.

Chief Superintendent [information redacted] provided members with a presentation on the Vanguard Whole Systems Pilots, which included looking at needs assessments.

Members held rich discussion around the recognition that changing the system is not going to be easy and stressed the importance of senior leaders creating space to have frank and transparent conversations with those that are working in the day-to-day system and the importance of the work being undertaken by Sustainable Whole Systems Approach workstream.

The Vanguard findings highlight the importance of being trauma informed consistently, as well as ensuring that service users are guided through the system and not just passed along between agencies. Transforming the system now will help future generations; by ensuring primary intervention is strengthened, this may prevent young victims of VAWDASV potentially becoming victims or perpetrators as adults.

There are plans to also consider the findings from the Vanguard work undertaken in Dyfed Powys, to take learning and uncover any common themes with the work undertaken in

Gwent. There is a request that during the Ask and Act review the level of uptake be considered and by who.

It is important that when looking at a whole system change, that in addition to identifying those that are experiencing harm, there is a need to identify those causing harm and to respond effectively.

It was noted that there is a significant gap in the system for older people who are victims of domestic abuse, and it is important that they are considered and engaged with this work.

There needs to be more explicit governance at a regional level and more strategic ownership in this space; the lack of attendance and engagement should be explored as it is a risk to the development of this work. The use of regulatory bodies was suggested as a means of managing accountability at a senior level.

ADSS Cymru commended the approach with senior leaders getting the sense of seeing and feeling how services are delivered locally, and recognised there needs to be a commitment from Directors of Social services to assist with this work, whilst recognising resourcing and capacity remains in immensely challenging times.

[information redacted] suggested we convene an executive summit to feedback findings of the Vanguard work and Whole Systems approach workstream to date. There needs to be space for executive leaders in Health, Local Authority and our Justice partners to have first-hand feedback, feed into discussions, to accelerate pace behind our ambitions.

CSSJTCW thanked those who were present at the meeting today, however, it was noted that executive engagement and buy in has been poor (e.g. Sustainable Whole System workshops and Workplace Harassment conferences). The Cabinet Secretary expressed concerns about the need for more executive leaders from the public sector to attend the Partnership Board meeting in the future to ensure conversations drive forward the whole system approach.

**Action 3: [information redacted] to explore the future of IRIS as concerns are raised around the inconsistencies of its use.**

CSSJTCW to escalate concerns around representation from senior leaders within the National Partnership Board meetings with the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care.

**Action 4: The Sustainable Whole System Approach workstream will draft proposals on how to address the lack of engagement and ownership from strategic VAWDASV regional leads for the next board meeting in February 2025. The results will include options for informing how we direct the conversation with regional leads moving forward.**

**Action 5: VAWDASV Blueprint team to develop a proposal for an executive summit to feedback the findings of the Blueprint's Vanguard work, and Sustainable Whole**



**System approach workstreams survey results, in order for Public Sector executive leaders to accelerate the delivery of the ambitions set out in the VAWDASV National strategy. (Subject to the recommendations made via Action 4 above)**

This will build upon the findings and summary report from the Sustainable Whole System Approach workstream regional engagement seminars held in Summer 2024 in both North and South Wales.

#### **4. VAWDASV Blueprint Programme – progress and updates**

Senior Responsible Officers for VAWDASV Blueprint, [information redacted] and [information redacted] provided members with a presentation of the Programme updates.

- **Progress highlights**

The highlight report is very detailed and is being reviewed to look at improving how best to capture a high-level overview.

- **Welsh Governments Annual report**

This will be published in November and will provide an update on the VAWDASV objectives as well as the Blueprint.

- **Forward planning for future VAWDASV National Partnership Boards.**

The National Programme Board gave space for members to share comments around the delivery of the Blueprint and the actions coming out that will have the biggest impact by the end of the strategy. As part of an ongoing discussions, workstream co-chairs are asked to consider the following:

**Action 6: Co-chairs of each workstream to consider, ‘what would it take to make a tangible, practical impact by May 2026?’, for discussion at the next VAWDASV National Programme Board meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December.**

National Partnership Board Meeting dates for 2025 have been set, diary invites have already been issued to Board members:

- 27<sup>th</sup> February 10.00-12.00
- 26<sup>th</sup> June 13.00-15.00
- 23<sup>rd</sup> October 13.00-15.00

- **Risk Register management process**

The Welsh Government audit provided recommendations around risk management. These have been addressed at a workshop, and a revised approach to risk management has been brought to the board for agreement.

**Board Decision required: -**

- The Board is asked to agree the new risk management process in principle. **Agreed.**



## 5. Survivor Voice Scrutiny and Involvement Panel

[information redacted] and [information redacted] led members through the Survivor Voice Scrutiny and Involvement panel update.

[information redacted] informed members that [information redacted] has now left their post and gave thanks for all the support provided.

Survivors are integrated into the workstream meetings and have been heavily engaged in the Workplace Harassment Senior Leaders Conference, providing testimonies and feeding into discussions, particularly around what services public bodies are procuring.

Survivors have also addressed issues around young people not being engaged in consultation mechanisms in Wales, as part of the Children and Young People's workstream.

As part of the Sustainable Whole System Approach, survivors have raised concerns around the civil and criminal justice system and how they have been negatively impacted when they have crossed over. There have also been queries regarding where things fit when they do not sit in the blueprint model, for example homelessness and economic abuse.

The Tackling Perpetration workstream raised plenty of discussion, with members of the workstream being asked to consider the management of the development of an effective and trustworthy directory of perpetrator services.

The fallout from the Southport incidence raised discussions around whether violent offenders are being cross referenced to see if they are perpetrators or potential perpetrators of violence against women, domestic abuse or sexual violence.

The board sends thanks to the survivor panel members for all their input and reinforces the importance of linking to other ongoing pieces of work such as the Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan and Cohesion Community Strategy.

## 6. VAWDASV Regional Boards feedback

[information redacted] provided members with the VAWDASV regional chairs update, informing members of the key issues being dealt with at a regional level in Wales. The regional chairs meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> October identified two areas of focus, single unified safeguarding review (SUSR) and funding.

CSSJTCW thanked [information redacted] for the feedback and requested a meeting with the VAWDASV regional Chairs and Advisers, in the spirit of getting pace and leadership to be refreshed. [information redacted] would also wish to be included in the meeting

**Action 7: [information redacted] will circulate the updated SUSR report with board members.**

Action 8: [information redacted] and [information redacted] to organise a meeting between CSSJTCW, EW and VAWDASV regional Chairs and Advisers.

## 7. Minutes and actions of the last meeting - 18.07.2024

The minutes and actions were confirmed as an accurate reflection of the previous meeting.

## 8. AOB and Closure

No other business noted. Members are thanked for their contributions and informed the next VAWDASV National Partnership Board meeting will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

**Action 9: Invite Alex Davies-Jones and/or Jess Phillips to the next National Partnership Board meeting.**

Meeting closed.

## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AGREED

Action Point 1	Members to think about what the consistent key messaging is going to be going forward for Wales, with the UK Government. Board members to submit key messaging to the VAWDASV Blueprint Mailbox by 30 November 2024.	All members
Action Point 2	[information redacted] to include stalking and harassment on the agenda as a thematic item at the next board meeting in February 2024.	[information redacted]
Action Point 3	[information redacted] to explore the future of IRIS as concerns are raised around the inconsistencies of its use.	[information redacted]
Action Point 4	The Sustainable Whole System Approach workstream will draft proposals on how to address the lack of engagement and ownership from strategic VAWDASV regional leads for the next board meeting in February 2025. The results will include options for informing how we direct the conversation with regional leads moving forward.	[information redacted]
Action Point 5	VAWDASV Blueprint team to develop a proposal for an executive summit to	VAWDASV Blueprint Team





	feedback the findings of the Blueprint's Vanguard work, and Sustainable Whole System approach workstreams survey results, in order for Public Sector executive leaders to accelerate the delivery of the ambitions set out in the VAWDASV National strategy. (Subject to the recommendations made via Action 4 above)	
Action Point 6	Co-chairs of each workstream to consider, 'what would it take to make a tangible, practical impact by May 2026?', for discussion at the next VAWDASV National Programme Board meeting on 10 <sup>th</sup> December.	Workstream co-chairs
Action Point 7	[information redacted] will circulate the updated SUSR report with board members.	[information redacted]
Action Point 8	[information redacted] and [information redacted] to organise a meeting between CSSJTCW, EW and VAWDASV regional Chairs and Advisers.	[information redacted]
Action Point 9	Invite Alex Davies-Jones and/or Jess Phillips to the next National Partnership Board meeting.	[information redacted]