

Committee: **Cabinet**

Date of meeting: **4th October 2023**

Report Subject: **Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (VAWDASV):
Gwent Regional Strategy 2023 – 2027**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr H Trollope, Cabinet Member People and Social Services**

Report Submitted by: **Sarah King, Head of Democratic Services Governance and Partnerships**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance and Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
	14.09.23	07.09.23			19.09.23	04.10.23		

1. **Purpose of the Report**
 - 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Cabinet with the '*Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (VAWDASV): Gwent Regional Strategy 2023 – 2027*' (Appendix 1).
2. **Scope and Background**
 - 2.1 Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) is everybody's business. Individuals have a right to live, work and enjoy communities that are safe, and free from abuse and violence.
 - 2.2 This Strategy will set out how we are looking at achieving this vision across Gwent, in the prevention of VAWDASV, protection from VAWDASV and support for those impacted by VAWDASV. It will show that across Gwent, partners, stakeholders and those with lived experience of VAWDASV are committed to collaborative working and joined up approaches to tackle issues of abuse and violence.
 - 2.3 Due to regional movements in the period leading up to and in development of this Strategy, there has been a limited evidence base to truly understand local needs. Acknowledging the absence of quantitative and analytical data, this Strategy has been informed by the needs and demands of the sector through regional workshops and stakeholder meetings. Lived experience has also informed this Strategy through survivor engagement.
 - 2.4 The six objectives outlined within the Strategy have been developed in the context of Welsh Government's National Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2022-2026. To achieve these objectives, priorities have been separated into two approaches:

Fundamentals (areas integral to successful change)

1. Implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act, 2021 (Section 3)

2. Regional Structures Reform
3. Infrastructure for Regional Services and Delivery

Focus Areas (specifically reflecting the regional needs of the Gwent population)

1. Tackling Perpetration
 2. Children and Young People
 3. Misogyny and Harassment
 4. Multiple or Co-occurring Needs
- 2.5 The Strategic Plan outlines how we intend to achieve these priorities by 2027. Delivery of the priorities will be detailed within an Annual Delivery Plan, agreed each year through the governance structures in place for the region.

Options for Recommendation

- 3.1 This report was considered by the People Scrutiny Committee on 19th September 2023, and Option 1 was recommended for approval by Cabinet.
- 3.2 **Option 1**
For Cabinet to consider and approve the strategy.

Option 2

To consider the strategy content and suggest any areas for improvement relating to the three Fundamentals outlined paragraph 2.4 above (and below), prior to approval:

1. Implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act, 2021 (Section 3)
2. Regional Structures Reform
3. Infrastructure for Regional Services and Delivery

Any suggested improvements to the Fundamentals will be considered under the respective VAWDASV sub-groups between September and November 2023.

4. **Monitoring Arrangements**
- 4.1 The Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council strategic representative on the VAWDASV Board is Sarah King, Head of Democratic Services, Governance and Partnerships; supported by Helena Hunt, Professional Lead Community Safety.
5. **Background Documents /Electronic Links**

Appendix 1 – Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (VAWDASV): Gwent Regional Strategy 2023 – 2027