



CABINET – 11TH APRIL 2018

SUBJECT: DRAFT GWENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE STRATEGY

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 1.1 The report, which was considered by Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on the 20th March 2018 presented Members with the draft Gwent Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Strategy. The Strategy is required by the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 and has been prepared by the Gwent VAWDASV Partnership Board of which the Council is a Member. It calls for the Public Sector in Wales to work together in a consistent and cohesive way to improve the outcomes for individuals and their families subjected to VAWDASV.
- 1.2 The Partnership Board has been established to meet the requirements of the Act and consists of the five Local Authorities in Gwent, Gwent Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Welsh Ambulance Service, Probation Services, Registered Social Landlords, Supporting People Regional Collaborative Committee, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Gwent Adult and Children Safeguarding Boards, VAWDASV Specialist Sector Partners and Voluntary Sector Organisations.
- 1.3 Members expressed concerns in relation to the language and terminology used throughout the Strategy and felt that this excludes some groups of people. It was explained that issues around the language used will be discussed through training sessions and work will be undertaken across Gwent that will target all groups. The purpose of the training is to ensure that Professionals are trained to provide an effective response to anyone affected by any form of gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence. Through on-going monitoring, evaluating and review the VAWDASSV Partnership will ensure issues around equality are consistently raised and delivery of the strategy adapted. In addition, the strategy will bring about increased disclosure intended to raise basic awareness.
- 1.4 The Scrutiny Committee also discussed the need for the strategy to be promoted across Third Sector Voluntary Organisations as they feel this message needs to be extended on a wider scale.

RESOLVED that subject to the foregoing, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed:

- (i) the draft Gwent Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Strategy, be supported;
- (ii) the Strategy be promoted widely across Third Sector Voluntary Organisations.

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Appendix 1: Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Report – 20th March 2018