



VAWDASV RESEARCH NETWORK

Newsletter

Network update -

Welcome to the June 2024 edition of the VAWDASV Research Network Newsletter.

This issue includes the latest news from Network members, including exciting new interventions like Welsh Women's Aid's "Ask Me" Programme for children and young people, and successful funding bids like the University of South Wales' project to tackle stalking. There's also information on how to take part in a joint response to a call for evidence to improve how people impacted by VAWDASV are supported in their interactions with the justice system.

We also share details of recent research publications, such as the innovative Bawso BME Oral Stories Project which utilises multimodal storytelling to explore research themes of heritage, migration and belonging. Also, the sobering Women's Aid's Investing to Save report, which includes an economic analysis demonstrating for every pound invested in domestic abuse support services there could be a saving to the public purse of at least £9.

Thank you to all our members who have contributed to this edition. If you would like to know more or include an item in our next quarterly newsletter, please get in touch:

vawdasvwales@southwales.ac.uk

Emily and Sarah

Prof Emily Underwood-Lee and Dr Sarah Wallace

Co-chairs of the VAWDASV Research Network Wales

NETWORK MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Bryony Parry is Communications and Engagement Lead for the Wales Violence Prevention Unit (VPU). Bryony is particularly interested in how professionals can better work

with and support children and young people to co-produce solutions to violence, especially in terms of how professionals and services communicate with children and young people about issues that impact them.

Bryony has led on the consultation and supported the coproduction of the Wales Without Violence Framework. A highlight of this project was building a relationship with the Peer Action Collective Cymru, a team of young peer researchers who co-wrote the Framework, and working together to generate innovative consultation and engagement ideas, like the Violence Prevention Pop-Up Shop. Bryony has also led on campaigns for the VPU, including the #SafeToSay campaign. #SafeToSay utilises the bystander theory of change and behavioural insights to encourage and empower people to be active bystanders against sexual harrasment and other problematic sexual behaviours. You can see more about the campaign at www.safetosay.wales.

Bryony is a keen collaborate and an advocate for evidence-informed approaches to violence prevention. If you'd like to know more about the work of the VPU email PHW.ViolencePreventionUnit@wales.nhs.uk

NEWS -

Welsh Women's Aid Launches "Ask Me" Programme for children and young people



Together, let's encourage CYP to empower their generation to ask, learn, and create a Change That Lasts.

As part of their Change That Lasts model, Welsh Women's Aid have launched an innovative early intervention and prevention programme designed specifically for Children and Young People (CYP) in Wales. Named "Ask Me for Children and Young People," this programme has been co-produced with CYP across Wales, ensuring it reflects their needs and experiences.

The Ask Me programme comprises six modules that can be delivered individually or as a series, providing flexibility to cater to varying needs and preferences. It is not only available within communities but also extends to specialist services, with ongoing training provided to ensure effective implementation. Modules are continually reviewed and updated to ensure they remain relevant and responsive to emerging issues and challenges faced and identified by CYP. Through collaboration with community groups such as ITEC Skills, GISDA, Child Friendly Cardiff, NYAS, and YMCA, Welsh Women's Aid remains deeply embedded in local communities and aims to ensure the programme remains inclusive and reflective of diverse experiences.

For more information about the "Ask Me" programme for children and young people and how to get involved, [please visit the Welsh Women's Aid website](#) or contact: CADA@welshwomensaid.org.uk.

Share Anonymous Case Studies to Help Improve Responses to Domestic Abuse within LGBT+ Communities

The Drive Partnership, in collaboration with Durham University, has launched a new data collection tool to increase the quantity and quality of data on LGBT+ perpetrators. This data will support and inform the development of specialist perpetrator interventions that better address domestic abuse within LGBT+ communities.

The data collection tool is available to all practitioners, allowing them to provide anonymous information about an LGBT+ perpetrator they have worked with/who has been referred to their service, as well as anonymous information about the victim-survivor(s) associated with that perpetrator.

This project is intending to pool information from practitioners from across England and Wales over the next 12 months. At the end of the project, the team will collate and analyse the data and disseminate it through a report, launch event and in an academic article to inform the field more broadly.

For more information and to complete or share the case study survey, [please visit The Drive Partnership website](#).

University of South Wales Awarded Funding to Tackle Stalking

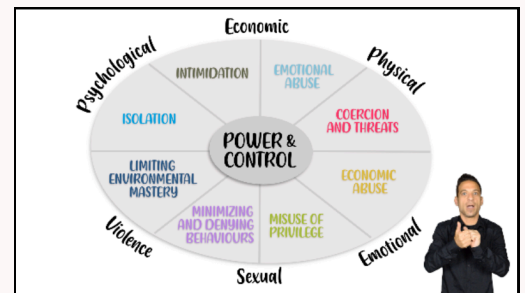
The University of South Wales (USW) has been awarded research funding aimed at tackling the issue of stalking among young people (16-24). One of five successful awards out of 73 applications for the VISION Consortium 'Small Projects Fund', the project will be delivered in collaboration with South Wales Police and domestic abuse charity, Calan DVS.

The research will consist of two main components. Firstly, a rapid literature review to identify existing evidence and best practice both in Wales, the UK and internationally. Secondly, a series of workshops with young people across Wales to gather firsthand experiences and perspectives on stalking behaviours and facilitate reciprocal learning between young people and researchers.

[Click here to read more](#)

New Animation: Hidden Harms

In partnership with Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board and Creative Connection Animation Studio, Dewis Choice co-created an animation entitled "Hidden Harms". The animation explores the 'lived experiences' of older victim-survivors of domestic abuse, highlighting the nature and dynamics of abuse in later life. Now, the animation is available in British Sign Language. By sharing the "Hidden Harms" animation through the medium of BSL, Dewis Choice hopes the animation will reach victim-survivors who have been overlooked. It is a small step towards breaking down the barriers that leave older BSL users vulnerable, ensuring they receive the education, help and support they need.



[Click here to watch the animation on YouTube](#)

[Click here to read the blog on the Dewis Choice website](#)

Calan DVS 2024 Impact Report

Calan DVS has published its 23-2024 Impact Report which highlights the impact it has had in terms of service delivery and the communities in which it has worked over the past 12 months.

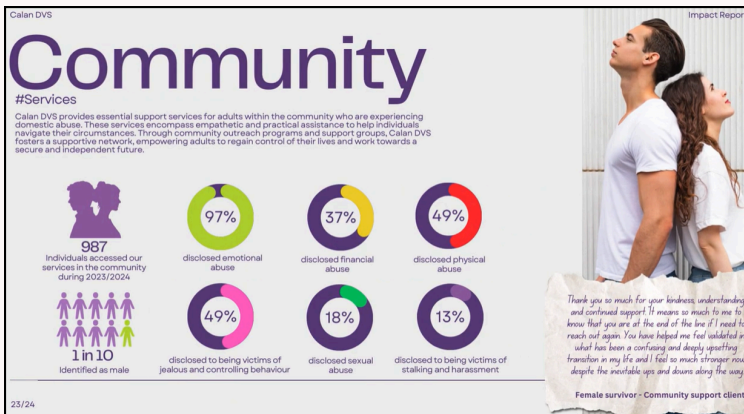
Highlights from the past year include:

Community Services

- 987 individuals accessed services in the community (and 1 in 10 of these identified as male).
- Accommodation Services - 92 women and 83 children were housed in Calan DVS refuges.

Children and Young People's Services

- 343 CYP's supported in the community.
- 838 Drawing and Talking Sessions Delivered.
- 83 children supported in refuge.
- 41 families with children supported through Inspiring Families.
- Worked with more than 80 schools across the region.



- 1,501 pupils reached through the Crucial Crew initiative.
- Sexual Violence Services
- More than 250 1-1 sessions delivered and more than 240 counselling sessions delivered through the Lotus Project – a dedicated sexual violence support service.
- Calan DVS programmes
- 234 individuals in 41 families have been supported through the delivery of 31 programmes.

- 71 coffee mornings and peer support groups have been facilitated through Calan Cwtch and the Compass project.
- Staff training
- Over 50 Calan DVS staff participated in over 70 diverse training programmes, enhancing their skills and knowledge to better serve the community.
- Calan DVS extended its expertise by
- training over 600 professionals in other
- organisations, fostering a wider impact
- through shared learning and development.

[Click here to read the full impact report](#)



JUNE 2024

Survey now open: Understanding the Service Needs of LGBTQ+ Survivors of Sexual Violence in Wales

New Pathway's LGBTQ+ Research Project is now recruiting participants. The project: "Understanding the Service Needs of LGBTQ+ Survivors of Sexual Violence in Wales" seeks to better understand the barriers that LGBTQ+ people face in accessing sexual violence support services, and how services can be adapted or developed to better meet the needs of LGBTQ+ people.

New Pathways are asking participants to complete a survey, and there is also the option of taking part in an interview.

[Please click here to access and share the survey](#)

If you can share leaflets about this project, please contact Debbie Woodroffe who will be able to provide you with some: **debbie.woodroffe@newpathways.org.uk**

Complete the #NoGreyArea survey

As part of their #NoGreyArea (phase 2) campaign, Welsh Women's Aid have launched a survey to collate qualitative information on experiences of public sexual harassment and its impact on victim/survivors' feelings & future behaviours.

Please support this survey by sharing with any relevant networks:

Survey Link: **[#NoGreyArea Phase 2 Survey](#)**

Share the post on Instagram: **[Instagram Post](#)**

RESEARCH

The Bawso BME Oral Stories Project: Multimodal Storytelling about Heritage, Migration and Belonging

“Bawso BME Oral Stories” is a partnership project being delivered by the University of South Wales’s George Ewart Evans Centre of Storytelling, Amgueddfa Cymru (Museum Wales), and frontline domestic abuse service Bawso, funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Bawso is a specialist service delivering expert support to over 6,000 survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence, human trafficking, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage annually. The “Bawso BME Oral Stories” project works with Bawso service users to facilitate storytelling about their lives and heritage, stories which will be archived in the national collection of Wales and be used to diversify representations of contemporary identity and belonging in Wales.

The project recently shared a number of stories from the collection at an event in Cardiff, where the audience were able to listen to some of the service-user digital stories. Audience members were then able to reflect on what they had heard and ask questions about the rewards, challenges and opportunities about using storytelling when working with gender-based violence services.

To learn more about the project, [visit the Bawso website](#)

Women’s Aid: Investing to Save Report

This report presents research by Women’s Aid and economic analysis by ResPublica. Women’s Aid finds that the economic case is clear for the UK Government to commit to investing £427 million per year, as a minimum, to fund specialist domestic abuse services for women and their children across England. As an economic analysis commissioned by Women’s Aid shows, for every pound invested in domestic abuse support services we will see a saving to the public purse of at least £9.

[Click here to read the Investing to Save Report](#)

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

The Wales Violence Prevention Unit (VPU)’s research ‘Bystander experiences of domestic violence and abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic’ was recently published in the Journal of Gender-Based Violence.

The study recommends the development of evidence-based and theoretically informed bystander training programmes and public awareness campaigns, which include information on support for bystanders, to better equip bystanders to recognise DVA and support those who have been affected by it. Possessing these necessary skills could mitigate the negative impacts experienced by bystanders. When it comes to public health emergencies, the study recommends that these training programmes and campaigns should include specific messaging consistent with any additional health guidance or restrictions, as this could further mitigate the impact on bystanders’ wellbeing.

[Click here to read full article is available open access on the Journal of Gender-Based Violence.](#)

JUNE 2024

FUNDING AND COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES -

Call for Evidence to improve the way people are supported in their interactions with the justice system as part of the Domestic Abuse Bill

There is an ongoing call for evidence which is asking:

How can we minimise the harm to those engaging with the family justice system? What factors affect the effectiveness of Domestic Violence Protection Orders and other measures in the Domestic Abuse Bill?

The Chairs of the VAWDASV Research Network, Sarah and Emily, have proposed a joint response to this call from the VAWDASV Research Network to ensure that the Welsh perspective is adequately represented, especially given the devolved nature of some services involved in this call.

If you would like to be involved in the response, please contact Sarah Wallace at sarah.wallace@southwales.ac.uk, and let her know if:

1. you would like to be part of a working group that pulls together some evidence
2. you have any evidence that you feel should be included (e.g. unpublished studies, published articles or reports in peer or grey literature, etc.)

The call is temporarily closed due to the pre-election period, so the Network will submit a response after 4th July.

Health and Care Research Wales Emerging Researcher Scheme

The Emerging Researcher Scheme is open to early-stage individuals employed by either NHS or social care organisations who wish to consider progressing a career in health and social care research. The funding will cover salary costs for up to 0.4 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) days per week for two years along with reasonable research consumables.

It is an annual scheme with calls opening in January each year. The next call is scheduled for January 2025.

[Click here for more information on the Health and Care Research Wales website](#)

Health and Care Research Wales Advancing Researcher Scheme

The Advancing Researcher Scheme is open to mid-career researchers employed by Higher Education Institutes (HEI) or research active staff employed in NHS or social care organisations. The funding will cover salary costs for up to 0.4 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) days per week for two years along with reasonable research consumables.

It is an annual scheme with calls opening in September each year. The next call is scheduled for September 2024.

[Click here for more information on the Health and Care Research Wales website](#)

ENGAGEMENT -

Between March and June, we achieved an average email open rate of 39%, which indicates our network members are finding information on research and funding opportunities and the latest news on VAWDASV in Wales useful!

Open rate: A percentage showing how many people opened an email of those who received it. A good email open rate falls between 17% and 28%.

GET IN TOUCH -

For more information on the network or if you are looking to join us or if you would like to submit an article for our next quarterly newsletter, get in touch via email: vawdasvwales@southwales.ac.uk

Trais yn Erbyn Menywod,
Cam-drin Domestig a
Thrais Rywiol
RHWYDWAITH YMCHWIL CYMRU



Violence Against Women,
Domestic Abuse and
Sexual Violence
RESEARCH NETWORK WALES