

Violence Prevention e-Bulletin

Produced by Wales Violence Prevention Unit – February 2022

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the Wales Violence Prevention Unit e-bulletin.

I am pleased to share with you details of the second phase of our sexual harassment prevention campaign, #SafeToSay. The campaign was initially developed in collaboration with the Good Night Out Campaign and with support from Welsh Women's Aid.

Sexual harassment is never okay, and when left unchallenged it can escalate to more serious forms of sexual violence. With this campaign, we hope to encourage men to step in and safely challenge their friends who are displaying harassment behaviours. The campaign will be delivered across social media and through in place advertising at railway stations, bus stops and inside pubs and clubs in South Wales until March 2022.

We would really appreciate partners' support in sharing the campaign, and you can find more details on this below.

At present, a stocktake of the Violence Prevention Unit is being undertaken by the Home Office Violence and Vulnerability Unit, supported by the Director of the Scottish VRU. They have undertaken a large number of interviews already and I look forward to hearing and responding to the findings shortly. In the meantime, my sincere thanks to everyone who has been interviewed and contributed to this review.

I have mentioned in past Newsletters about Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews and a pilot approach that would be taking place in South Wales. The VPU will continue to support the development of these reviews. However, The legislation that enables these pilots is now likely to be later than expected, and likely to be in Winter 2022.

As always, please [get in touch with us](#) if you would like to hear more information about the Unit and engage with our work. I hope you enjoy this Newsletter and please do stay safe and stay well.

Jon Drake
Director

Wales Violence Prevention Unit
[@WalesVPU](#)

e-Bulletin Content:

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- #SafeToSay – Power to the Bystander

Research and Resources:

- Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Risk and Harm to Vulnerable Groups
- Abuse of Children and Young People
- In the news

#SAFETOSAY – POWER TO THE BYSTANDER



#SafeToSay – Power to the Bystander

Following a promising four-week pilot, phase two of the #SafeToSay campaign will be delivered between February and March 2022.

The campaign will seek to prevent sexual harassment by encouraging active bystander responses toward individuals who demonstrate inappropriate and harmful behaviours. More specifically, the campaign seeks to encourage and equip people to speak up when they witness their friend displaying these behaviours.

In this phase, the campaign will be delivered primarily in South Wales through funding from the Safety of Women at Night (SWAN) Fund. However, we encourage partners across Wales to share the campaign on their channels to spread the important message that we all have a role to play in preventing sexual harassment and violence, and using our voice to challenge attitudes and beliefs may empower others to do the same.

Why are we doing this campaign?

Within the UK, a small number of evidence-based campaigns and approaches have been delivered, which have sought to address sexual assault and harassment within the NTE by: challenging perpetrators to consider their behaviour; upskilling staff within the industry to identify and respond to inappropriate behaviours or vulnerable individuals; enhancing safety measures within the NTE; and, encouraging friends to look out for each other.

This campaign seeks to prevent sexual violence by establishing a cultural shift in attitudes towards sexual harassment and violence. Research demonstrates that sexual violence stems from beliefs and attitudes towards other people, which are cultivated through exposure and repeated reinforcement by those around them. These beliefs and attitudes progress into verbal expression (e.g. sexual harassment and jokes) which, without intervention, can progress into physical expression (e.g. physical and sexual assault; McMahon & Banyard, 2012). This means that sexual harassment, when unchallenged, can result in sexual violence.

Therefore, this campaign will enhance awareness of harmful sexual behaviours and empower the public to proactively challenge and respond to these behaviours in a non-confrontational way, to reduce the social acceptability of these behaviours. By addressing the lower level behaviours (sexual harassment), it can prevent behaviours from escalating to more serious harm (sexual violence), as well as stopping them from happening in the first instance.

We would love for our partners to support this campaign, and help spread the message that we can all help prevent sexual harassment.

[Click here to download the campaign assets](#)

[Click here to download the toolkit with suggested social media posts](#)

If you cannot access the toolkit or the campaign assets, please email bryony.parry@wales.nhs.uk

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS, DOMESTIC ABUSE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE



Domestic Abuse Act, Strategy, and Guidance Update

The Home Office are working at pace to implement all remaining provisions of the [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#). A commencement schedule has been published, outlining the timings for bringing into force each of the Act's provisions, and can be found [here](#) on [GOV.UK](#).

Rape Review and Operation Soteria Progress Update

A progress update on the Rape Review and Operation Soteria has recently been published. [Click here to view the progress update.](#)

Policing Violence Against Women and Girls National Framework

The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and College of Policing (CoP) recently published the [Policing Violence Against Women and Girls National Framework](#), one of the recommendations from the recent HMICFRS inspection into the policing of VAWG. The framework aims to coordinate and standardise the policing response to VAWG, focussing on prevention, action to pursue perpetrators and help build women's trust in policing.

Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Toolkit

In conjunction with the VAWG national framework the College of Policing published a [VAWG toolkit](#) which sets out, for different categories of VAWG crimes, the existing criminal offences and protective tools and resources which police responders can consider when they become aware that a VAWG crime may have taken place. This includes materials for [street harassment](#), meeting the commitment in the VAWG Strategy that the College would provide new guidance for police officers on this subject.

Guidance for police first responders on so-called 'honour'-based abuse

Alongside the 'The VAWG Framework' and Street Harassment Materials the coincides with College of Policing also published [guidance for police first responders on so-called 'honour'-based abuse](#). That meets part of a VAWG Strategy commitment and, to meet its other part, the College will now be developing an equivalent product for police investigators.

Call for expertise to develop a public information campaign on VAWG

The Home Office Communications team are continuing to develop a public information campaign to tackle violence against women and girls and are currently working on gathering case studies, to highlight real stories and experiences of a diverse range of victims/survivors, perpetrators and bystanders. We would welcome and greatly appreciate any expertise and insights from organisations and survivors to inform our approach. If you would like more information, and to help shape campaign development, please contact Daveena.Solanki@homeoffice.gov.uk and India.Todd@homeoffice.gov.uk.

RISK AND HARM TO VULNERABLE GROUPS

REPORT: 'Trauma-informed': Identifying Key Language and Terminology through a Review of the Literature.

The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Support Hub and Wrexham Glyndwr University (WGU) have developed this essential resource to underpin their journey to become a trauma and ACE informed University. The report shows that while trauma-informed care has become a familiar term, there is a lack of clarity in terms of its operating definition. This is recognised as a barrier to creating trauma-informed services as well as having an impact on the ability to consistently implement and evaluate such approaches. [Click here to read the report.](#)

The use of out-of-court disposals and diversion at the 'front end

Crest Advisory has published a report on the use of out-of-court disposals and diversion at the 'front end. This report examines the effectiveness of out-of-court disposals and diversion programmes and considers whether there is scope to increase their use.

[Click here to read the report and watch the webinar.](#)

Associations between adverse childhood experiences, attitudes towards COVID-19 restrictions and vaccine hesitancy: a cross-sectional study

Research conducted by Public Health Wales and Bangor University amongst adults in Wales identified that vaccine hesitancy was three times higher among people who had experienced four or more types of childhood trauma than it was among those who hadn't experienced any. [Click here to read the article.](#)

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



New Report Promotes Solutions to Tackle Youth Violence and Criminal Justice Reform

Launched in January 2021 with a series of workshops, the initiative brought together 67 Salzburg Global Fellows, comprising activists, formerly incarcerated persons, policymakers, public officials, researchers and social entrepreneurs from the US and 18 countries around the world, to examine and compile innovative approaches to transforming judicial and prison systems, as well as reducing youth violence and enhancing community safety.

[Read the report here.](#)

[Read the executive summary here.](#)

Appropriate Language: Child Exploitation

When talking about children and exploitation, language matters. It can be the difference between a child being properly safeguarded or put at further risk of exploitation. The Children's Society are hopeful this guidance will influence the direct practice of professionals as well as the wider culture of safeguarding children. [Read the guidance here.](#)



Government failing to tackle violence against women

As published by the Guardian "Many of the solutions and the responses from government, and in the criminal justice system, have missed the mark. We haven't gone as far as we should have done. And we haven't moved as quickly in terms of making things better for women and girls who report abuse." [Click here for the full article](#)

Warning of 'unacceptable' lack of checks as criminals allowed to live with potential victims while under curfew restrictions

As published by the Telegraph ' A woman was assaulted by a domestic abuser after he was confined to her home under a tagged curfew, an inspector has revealed - as he warned of a lack of checks. [Click here for the full article](#)

London violence: Children as young as 10 fear being stabbed

Published by the BBC, London set an unwelcome new record of 30 teenage stabbing homicides in 2021, while a third of all of England's stabbing deaths are reported by the Metropolitan Police. [Click here for the full article.](#)

If you have resources you would like featured in the e-bulletin or you were forwarded this email and would like to subscribe, email: bryony.parry@wales.nhs.uk

For more information on our work, visit www.violencepreventionwales.co.uk

To see what we are up to, follow us on Twitter [@WalesVPU](https://twitter.com/WalesVPU)