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**NORTH WALES** SOCIAL CARE AND WELL-BEING  
SERVICES IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE

# Population assessment update

October 2017 (Issue 11)

## Have your say!

Thank you to everyone who has given us feedback on the population assessment regional plan.

If you haven't seen it yet, there is still chance to have your say. The consultation is open until 31 October 2017:

[www.northwalescollaborative.wales/north-wales-population-assessment/regional-plan](http://www.northwalescollaborative.wales/north-wales-population-assessment/regional-plan).



## Spot the difference...

The chapter on violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence in the regional plan is different from the others. This is because we're working on a separate regional strategy under the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.

The strategy will build on the evidence collected in population assessment and workshops are underway to update the information and fill in any gaps. To find out more about this work please contact Rhiannon Edwards

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## Spotlight on...

## Violence against

## women, domestic abuse and sexual violence



## Sorry we missed you

We tried our best to include as many people as possible in the first consultation on the population assessment. We sent questionnaires far and wide, arranged workshops and asked every contact and network we could find for information.

Hundreds of people replied and over 200 people helped us write the report but we still didn't catch everyone. This is something we can do better. If you're hearing about the population assessment for the first time now and you have information you think could help us, please let us know. We'll also use our website to advertise future opportunities to get involved, so please check back regularly: [www.northwalescollaborative.wales](http://www.northwalescollaborative.wales)

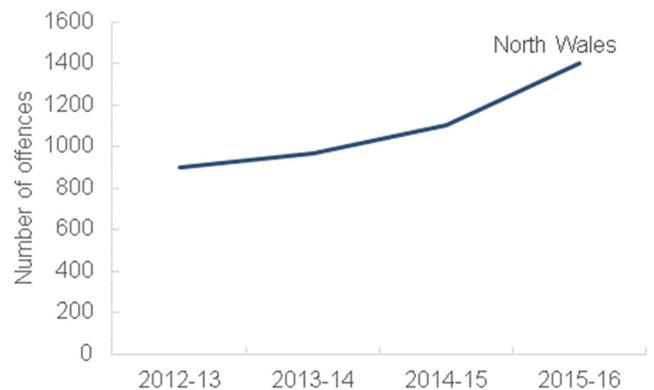
# What we found out

- Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence are under-reported. The number of reported incidents has risen over the past five years.
- The total number of domestic incidents recorded by the police in 2015-16 in North Wales was around 11,000.
- The number of recorded sexual offences was around 1,400 in North Wales during 2015-16.
- Domestic and sexual violence and abuse affects both women and men although women are more likely to experience them.
- Services should take into account the different needs of women and men.
- Cases of coercive control are now being recorded in North Wales since the offence came into effect in December 2015.
- Domestic abuse costs public services estimated £66 million a year in North Wales in health care, criminal justice, social services, housing and refuges, legal costs and lost economic output.
- The Supporting People needs mapping exercise identified 1,600 people in North Wales (92% women, 8% men) with a support need linked to domestic abuse.

Domestic violence by victims gender, North Wales



Number of sexual offences by local authority



## What people told us...

- Believe my story (no matter how irrational it seems)
- Support me and help me (and my children) stay safe
- The perpetrator is responsible, not me

## New legislation

- Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015
- The creation of a new offence entitled, Controlling and Coercive Behaviour in an Intimate or Family Relationship subject to section 76 of the Serious Crimes Act
- The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act introduces new functions relating to domestic abuse: a new definition of an Adult at Risk; adult protection and support orders and adult safeguarding boards; and, the duty to enquire and report where a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that a person is an adult at risk.

# What we think should happen

- Develop stronger strategic and practice links between domestic abuse services and adult safeguarding.
- Improve support for children and young people who are witnessing domestic violence and abuse.
- Make sure there are sufficient options for housing victims of domestic violence and abuse who have additional care and support needs that require round the clock staffing.
- Work with North Wales Police on their priorities of domestic abuse, modern slavery and sexual abuse (including child sexual exploitation).
- Find out more about the need for specialist support, such as floating support, for BAME people in North Wales.
- Prepare a regional strategy under the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.

## Services needed

- Dedicated local specialist services for domestic and sexual violence and abuse that are accessible and adequately resourced.
- Access to refuge for people who have had to urgently leave home to escape abuse or violence, and later, move on accommodation and longer term housing solutions.
- Peer support groups, therapeutic counselling and recover courses.
- Swift access to financial support when needed. Lack of money is a key reason people stay with their abuser.
- Specialist training for every service that encounters people who have experienced domestic violence and abuse.
- School-based preventative programmes
- Perpetrator programmes

## Making the links between safeguarding and domestic abuse

Research shows that a significant proportion of adults who need safeguarding support do so because they are experiencing domestic abuse. There is also a strong link between domestic abuse and child abuse. Exposure to domestic violence and abuse is always abusive to children, although the impact on them may vary.

Despite the clear overlap between work to support people experiencing domestic abuse and safeguarding adults work, the two have developed as separate professional fields. Clear strategic and practice links need to be made between the approaches. This includes making the most of opportunities for joint assessment and joint working across adult and children's services and domestic abuse services.

# Themes

- Children & young people
- Older people
- Health, physical disabilities & sensory impairment
- Learning disability & autism
- Mental health
- Carers
- Violence against women, domestic abuse & sexual violence
- Homelessness
- Veterans
- People in the secure estate

# More information

## Population assessment and area plan toolkits:

[www.socialcare.wales/hub/hub-resource-sub-categories/planning-and-promoting](http://www.socialcare.wales/hub/hub-resource-sub-categories/planning-and-promoting)

## Part 2 Code of Practice:

[www.socialcare.wales/hub/sswbact-codes](http://www.socialcare.wales/hub/sswbact-codes)

## Area plan guidance:

<http://gov.wales/docs/dhss/publications/170206statutory-guidanceen.pdf>

## Dewis Cymru (services available to meet the needs identified in the assessment):

<https://www.dewis.wales/>

# Contact us

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# Background to the population assessment

The population assessment pulls together information about people's care and support needs and the support needs of carers in North Wales. It aims to show how well people's needs are being met and the services we will need to meet them in future. Local authorities in North Wales worked together with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB), supported by Public Health Wales, to produce the assessment which is a requirement of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act (2014).

The population assessment will be used to make decisions about the services we need to provide in North Wales to meet people's care and support needs and the support needs of carers. It will help us make decisions about where to use our resources, meet other requirements of the act and inform the work of the Regional Partnership Board.

We have used all kinds of evidence to identify what's needed and asked people what they think is important including people who currently use care and support services, the North Wales citizen's panel, and staff who deliver services in the local authorities, health, private and voluntary sectors.

Next, we will write a regional area plan setting out the range and level of services councils and local health boards propose to provide or arrange in response to the population assessment. This has to be finished by 1 April 2018.

