

**Wales Violence Prevention Unit**

**2020/21**

**Annual Report**



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**Violence Prevention Unit**

# Introduction

## Welcome to our 2020/21 Annual Report, which includes the highlights, achievements, challenges and impacts of our first full year of operation.



The Wales Violence Prevention Unit is a small multi-agency team of dedicated professionals, which includes representation from health, police, community, and criminal justice sectors. Whilst the team has a variety of

backgrounds and expertise, we operate with a single shared mission of preventing violence. The only acceptable level of violence in Wales is zero, and we work tirelessly with our community, statutory and voluntary sector partners to realise this ambition.

This year has seen a great many successes, including the launch of our violence monitoring reports, which have been an invaluable source of information for us and our partners; the implementation of a South Wales Police Serious Violence Prevention Champions Programme; and of course, the provision of a number of evidence-based interventions that have helped keep young people in South Wales safe.

However, we have also overcome significant challenges in delivery. When planning for this year, I think it is fair to say few people could have predicted what 2020 had in store. As much of people's lives have been spent at home since March 2020, our intervention providers have found innovative ways of connecting with service users and the wider community. From the outset of the pandemic, we have been aware that home is not a safe place for everyone, and the Unit joined the rapid mobilisation of public and voluntary sector partners in ensuring those who are victims of violence were aware of how to, and could still, get support.

This report provides an opportunity to reflect on the progress we have made this year and highlight some key priorities for 2021/22 and beyond.

### **Jon Drake**

Director  
Wales Violence Prevention Unit

# Comments from our

# Oversight Board organisations:

## Jane Hutt MS, Minister for Social Justice.

The Welsh Government is committed to ensuring that the people of Wales are given the tools and support needed to help them lead healthy lives free from the fear of violence. The Violence Prevention Unit (VPU) plays a significant role in helping us to understand the causes of violence in our communities, allowing us to work to prevent crime occurring rather than simply respond to it once it has.

This important report outlines the tremendous work that has been delivered by the Unit in its first full year in operation,

including innovative examples of enhancing collaboration between policing and justice services, improving data gathering and analysis and undertaking vital research which will help us develop evidence-based effective interventions.

I look forward to seeing the Unit develop over the coming year, bringing together even more partners from across Wales so that together we can make a real difference to people's lives.

## Rt Hon Alun Michael, South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner

Cooperation is absolutely fundamental to success in preventing violence. So are clarity of purpose and shared ambition. The importance of our approach is perfectly illustrated through the establishment of the Wales Violence Prevention Unit by Commissioners and Chief Constables in Wales working together and with others. It's a joint initiative which has been supported from the start by Public Health Wales as well as by Local Authorities, Third Sector organisations and Welsh Government.

Running through this report like golden threads are examples of targeted action, strong partnership working, innovation and an evidence-based approach. That approach is already making a real difference to how violence is understood, responded to and ultimately prevented here in Wales.

I look forward to working with the Unit to further develop targeted activity and interventions that will ensure that connections between all forms of violence are understood and acted upon.

## Jan Williams, Chair, Public Health Wales

I would like to extend my thanks to the Violence Prevention Unit for the tremendous work they have done this year in establishing themselves and their role in Wales; ensuring that through a public health and partnership approach we are driving forward prevention of violence. It has been particularly good to see how this work has aligned with the

work of the ACE Support Hub, and the learning from the police and partners' Early Action Together programme. We are leading the way in Wales on violence prevention, and the focus on violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence has been crucial to ensuring Wales looks for every opportunity to prevent and tackle this shadow pandemic in our society.

## Chief Constable Jeremy Vaughan, South Wales Police

The Wales Violence Prevention Unit has built on an existing strong partnership between policing and health in Wales and I am pleased to have witnessed over the last 12 months the progress it has made towards creating a Wales free from violence.

Police officers work tirelessly to keep people and communities safe, working alongside our communities and partners, and we won't tolerate violence – particularly when the most vulnerable are exploited or put at risk.

But we cannot arrest our way to a zero-violence nation. Preventing violence is everyone's business and everyone's

responsibility, and the collaboration which has been fundamental to the Unit's success must continue. I am keen that we continue to build on data sharing and monitoring systems, so we have a true picture of violence across Wales, to inform our prevention and response activities. As Wales begins its recovery from Covid-19, we will need to focus on the impact of the pandemic on violence and adversity.

I welcome the progress the Unit has already made in its first full year of operation. I am pleased that future funding has been secured for the Unit, so that – together – we can continue to develop initiatives and interventions to help make Wales a safer place for everyone.

# The Wales Violence Prevention Unit

## The Wales Violence Prevention Unit was established through funding from the Home Office in 2019.

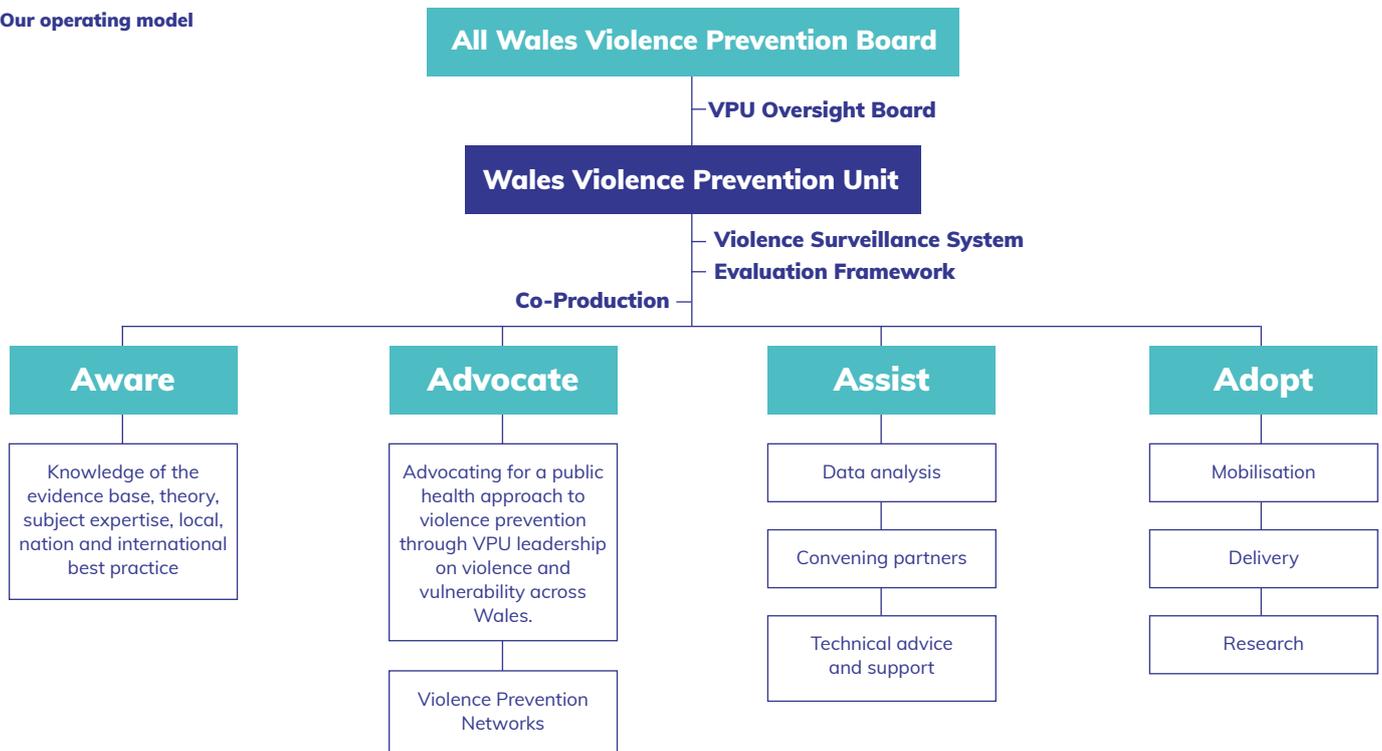
We take a public health approach to preventing all forms of violence across Wales. This involves seeking to understand the root causes of violence, and using this evidence to develop interventions focused on tackling these causes. Interventions are properly evaluated before being scaled up, if appropriate, to help more people and communities across Wales.

Through this approach, we aim to develop a whole systems response to violence prevention. Our full-time team comprises members from police forces, Police and Crime Commissioners' teams, Public Health

Wales, HM Prison & Probation and third sector specialist support services. We work with over 30 other organisations across Wales too, as part of our associate membership scheme.

We work closely with partners and providers to develop and deliver programmes and projects that ensure violence prevention activity in Wales is coordinated, effective and sustainable and we have a team of analysts and researchers who are able to carry out research and evaluation into violence prevention activity in Wales.

### Our operating model



# The partnership

# landscape in Wales

**The Wales Violence Prevention Unit is fortunate to build on a strong foundation of violence prevention collaboration and innovation, to deliver real change for individuals and communities in Wales.**

We believe that the key to prevention is twofold: prediction and partnership. This is demonstrated in our ethos and uniquely broad membership.

To be successful, we must work in partnership with organisations in the violence prevention and response sector. Our membership spans across health, policing, policy, education and the voluntary sector, with our ever-expanding associate membership scheme ensuring the right voices are listened to.

As well as delivering joint projects with a range of partners, our associate membership model ensures that we are able to maximise opportunities by utilising local knowledge and existing structures to influence violence prevention activity across Wales.

We also support and work alongside local partnership structures, with a particular focus on Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs). This is to help ensure that strategic responsibility for work around health, education, safeguarding and communications, in relation to violence prevention, is embedded within the relevant structures, enabling a whole-systems response to violence prevention.



## Full-time members

- Director
- Deputy Director
- Public Health Lead
- Police Lead
- HMPPS Lead
- Youth Justice Lead
- Education Lead
- Violence Prevention Coordinators (four police forces)
- Child Sexual Exploitation Lead
- Senior Police Analyst
- Senior Public Health Analyst
- Public Health Analyst
- Communications Lead
- Business Support

## Associate members

- Barnardo's
- Cardiff University
- Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
- Home Office Immigration Enforcement
- Crimestoppers
- ACE Support Hub
- Dyfodol
- Welsh Local Government Association
- Youth Offending Service
- Action for Children
- Welsh Women's Aid
- NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership
- Welsh Government
- The Children's Society
- NWSSP L&RS Solicitors
- Safeguarding Lead

## Service providers

- Co-Pro Wales
- St Giles Trust
- NHS Violence Prevention Team
- Media Academy Cymru
- Fearless
- Liverpool John Moore's University
- Action for Children

# The Costs of Violence to the Healthcare System in Wales

To inform our prevention strategy, and support us and our partners in making informed decisions on how to invest vital funds and resources, in 2020 we commissioned the Public Health Institute at Liverpool John Moores University to conduct research into the costs of violence to the Welsh healthcare system. The report, which investigated the financial impact of violence in Wales, revealed that violent incidents cost the NHS **£205.4 million** each year.

The study examined the financial cost to the NHS when responding to violent incidents, including physical assaults, intimate partner violence, knife crime and self-harm. Short-term costs associated with physical injuries from assault and abuse amount to £13.9 million every year. This includes the costs of A&E attendances, ambulance call outs and hospital admissions. A further £22.2 million is spent on treatment for the emotional impact of violence, such as counselling for depression and anxiety.

“The health and emotional costs of violence for people who experience it can be far greater than the economic burden it places on services. However, establishing the financial cost of violence to our healthcare system supports us and our partners in making informed decisions on how to invest vital funds and resources to prevent violence.”

**Jon Drake, Director, Wales Violence Prevention Unit.**

The short-term costs of self-directed violence amount to £7.4 million every year, meaning a total of **£46.6 million** is spent every year on addressing the direct consequences of violence.

An increasing body of research has identified that certain health concerns can result from the individual experiencing violence or neglect in childhood. The research indicates that **£158.8 million** is spent every year in Wales on treating the long term impacts of violence including depression, anxiety, alcohol use and illicit drug use as a consequence of violence.

## Making the case for investment in violence prevention

- Challenge misconceptions and beliefs about the value of investing in violence prevention.
- Identify interventions with short-term benefits, as well as the mid- to long-term, and intergenerational, benefits.
- Identify potential shared objectives and goals, and highlight ‘win-win’ situations across sectors.
- Give a ‘human face’ to the potential beneficiaries of violence prevention actions.

## Total direct healthcare costs for three risk factors and causes of ill health related to ACEs



# Our Strategy

## Our Prevention Strategy is designed as a framework for the prevention of serious youth violence in South Wales. It is intended primarily for policy makers and professionals working on preventing and responding to serious youth violence.

It is designed to empower individuals, communities and organisations to take a public health approach to violence prevention, with the support and leadership of the Violence Prevention Unit.

The framework guides the implementation of a whole systems approach to violence prevention informed by the work of multi-agency partners, academics, and those with lived experience. It is underpinned by the following principles:



- Develop a **sustainable commissioning model** that supports a long term approach to the provision of evidence-based, transformative early intervention and prevention approaches to serious violence and associated vulnerabilities, bringing key partners together to identify opportunities for joint commissioning and service delivery;



- Advise on violence trends and ensure that programmes and interventions are developed in line with **key strategy, policy, legislation and research**, at both a local and national level, and act as a driver for policy and legislative change;



- Provide a mechanism for people, particularly those with lived experience of serious violence, **to be heard and to influence** issues that affect them. Shape the development and delivery of a spectrum of services that are both reflective of need and available at the earliest opportunity; and,



- Recognise that both a **robust legislative and criminal justice framework** to disrupt and prevent serious violence, and, **community based interventions** to prevent and intervene at the earliest opportunity, are key to tackling these issues;



- Apply a **trauma informed, person centred approach** to violence prevention, where collectively partners build on the needs and strengths of individuals and communities. Ensure services, processes and systems are able to adapt and respond to this, rather than individuals needing to fit within an existing, pre-defined and compartmentalised service delivery landscape;



- Work within a bespoke evaluation framework to **assess the impact and effectiveness** of violence prevention activities in Wales.

# Our Interventions

**In light of the existing and escalating levels of serious youth violence within Cardiff and Swansea, and in order to maintain support for young people in South Wales that were accessing specialist services previously funded via the Early Intervention Youth Fund, we have commissioned a number of interventions so far:**

## St Giles Trust

St Giles Trust work with young people identified as 'at-risk' of violence involvement, to engage them in support. Timely interventions are delivered by two dedicated St Giles Early Intervention and Prevention Workers across Cardiff and Swansea, at a "teachable moment" when a young person is most likely to engage with intensive, tailored support.

They also identify opportunities to support the families of young people who have been identified at risk of being drawn into crime, where appropriate. The nature of interventions delivered vary according to the identified needs of the individual.

Interventions can be activity based (e.g. support to attend appointments), and focused one-to-one work which encourages young people to consider choices and consequences, and make positive changes.

**Between April and December 2020, St Giles Trust have supported 44 individuals through this work.**

## Crimestoppers

We fund two dedicated caseworkers from Fearless, Crimestoppers' youth service, to target identified serious violence hotspot areas in Cardiff and Swansea.

The roles have focused on building partnerships with key agencies at a local level, identifying and responding to opportunities to deliver Fearless sessions to children and young people within both education and community settings. The sessions are interactive workshops covering key issues such as child criminal exploitation, drug running and knife



crime. The caseworkers also provide training to better equip professionals in identifying and responding to signs and disclosures from the young people they work with.

**Between April and December 2020, the Fearless team engaged with 770 children and young people and 574 professionals.**

## NHS Violence Prevention Team

The NHS Violence Prevention Team consists of two members of staff; a qualified Nurse and an Advocate, based within the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff - Wales' busiest Emergency Department, which has recently been established as a Major Trauma Centre.

**Between April and December 2020, the NHS Violence Prevention Team engaged with 342 patients.**

Supervised by Cardiff and Vale University Health Board's Head of Safeguarding, the Violence Prevention Team deliver advice, support and guidance to patients who have experienced violence with injury.

The Violence Prevention Team seek to support patients to engage with community services, to enable longer-term follow-up support, and to address the wider needs of the patient. The primary referring agency is the Action for Children Side-Step programme, an early intervention service working with 11-18 year olds on the cusp of being involved in Serious Organised Crime. The service provides intensive one-to-one support, peer mentoring, education and employment training. We have commissioned Action for Children to allocate a hospital case worker to respond to referrals from the Violence Prevention Team for individuals aged 11-30 years old. The case worker provides a rapid response to referrals, delivers targeted support and acts as a navigator, signposting to appropriate community services and engaging with statutory services.

**Between July and December 2020, 15 individuals have received intensive, 1:1 support from the Action for Children case worker.**

**Media Academy Cymru (MAC) – Braver Choices**

We have funded Media Academy Cymru (MAC) to deliver a knife crime project which has worked to ensure young people in hotspot areas in Cardiff and Swansea who are using, or on the periphery of using, knives and other offensive weapons will have a fast-track bespoke, strengths based intervention with a qualified Youth Worker. This includes safeguarding and supporting change through a cognitive behavioural approach, underpinned by an assessment from the Cerridwen Violence Intervention and/or asset +. The children and young people often have multiple and complex needs which are identified and addressed, including negative peer association, poverty, and involvement in the criminal justice system through drugs or violence, which increases the risk of child exploitation, injury and mortality.

**Between July and December 2020, the Braver Choices project has supported 34 individuals.**

**Media Academy Cymru (MAC) – Parallel Lives**

The Parallel Lives programme is for children (aged 10-16 years) and parents where adolescent to parent/carer violence (APV) has been identified within the home, there are professionals involved with the family and both parties wish to make positive changes. The Programme works separately with each cohort in groups before bringing them back together to develop a plan of action to help improve communication at home and reduce conflict. Parallel Lives is a four week programme which commences following an initial one day workshop to assess the needs of the family. The sessions are activity based and focus on communication, emotional literacy, positive parenting, cognitive functioning, active listening and creative writing. Activities include the use of personal development stars, face-to-face conferencing and writing letters to each other. These activities are underpinned with theory and help the families to develop skills that can be translated back in the home.

**Between April and December 2020, the Parallel Lives programme has engaged with 68 families.**



# Violence Prevention

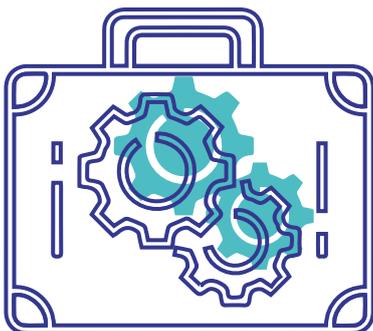
## Evaluation Toolkit

**Effective evaluation of existing prevention programmes is crucial to ending violence in Wales. Where new interventions are developed and tested, or existing interventions are adapted to new settings or population groups, it is critical to evaluate these programmes before scaling up.**

As well as commissioning and supporting partners in delivering evidence based interventions, we have developed a Violence Prevention Evaluation Toolkit to support partners and providers in evaluating their own interventions. Not only will this add to the evidence base on what works to prevent violence in Wales, it will also help ensure that unintended and potentially harmful outcomes are prevented and programmes are implemented with consideration of the local context.

The Toolkit provides users with guidance on what evaluation is, why it's important and the different types of evaluations, key steps to consider when developing an evaluation plan, collecting and analysing data, and reporting evaluation findings and examples of measurements that can tell us whether an intervention is achieving its aimed outcomes.

The Violence Prevention Evaluation Toolkit can be downloaded from our website, and contains a useful checklist to consider when planning and delivering an evaluation.



### Re-Aim Evaluation Framework

**Reach:** The absolute number, proportion, and representativeness of individuals who are willing to participate in a given initiative, intervention, or programme.

**Efficacy:** The impact of an intervention on important outcomes, including potential negative effects, quality of life, and economic outcomes.

**Adoption:** The absolute number, proportion, and representativeness of settings and intervention agents (people who deliver the programme) who are willing to initiate a programme.

**Implementation:** At the setting level, implementation refers to the programme's fidelity to the various elements of an intervention's protocol, including consistency of delivery as intended and the time and cost of the intervention. At the individual level, implementation refers to service user's use of the intervention strategies.

**Maintenance:** The extent to which the outcomes associated with a programme are maintained. This can be from an organisational (e.g. policy, culture) perspective, and an individual-level perspective. Maintenance is defined as long-term effects of a programme on outcomes six or more months after the most recent intervention contact.

# Monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on violence

## We know that violence, like any other public health problem, is preventable.

We also know that using one set of data alone will not provide a comprehensive understanding of the problem. To truly understand the nature, scope and causes of violence, we must bring partnership data together, analyse it and provide our partners and stakeholders access to this analysis. This will inform violence prevention and response activity as one, rather than as individual parts.

A multi-agency approach between health organisations and police has been established in South Wales since 2015, known as the Violence Surveillance System. This system helps agencies establish a picture of the level and nature of violent incidents within the South Wales Police area, and enables us to:

- monitor violence trends over time;
- understand where the violence hotspots are;
- identify what days, times and locations violence is more prevalent; and,
- identify the population groups most at risk of violence victimisation and perpetration.

The Unit is now responsible for the management and development of the Violence Surveillance System. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, we used this system to produce monthly violence monitoring reports, using data sources from across Wales. These reports shared intelligence on the on-going impact of COVID-19 response measures on violence across Wales.

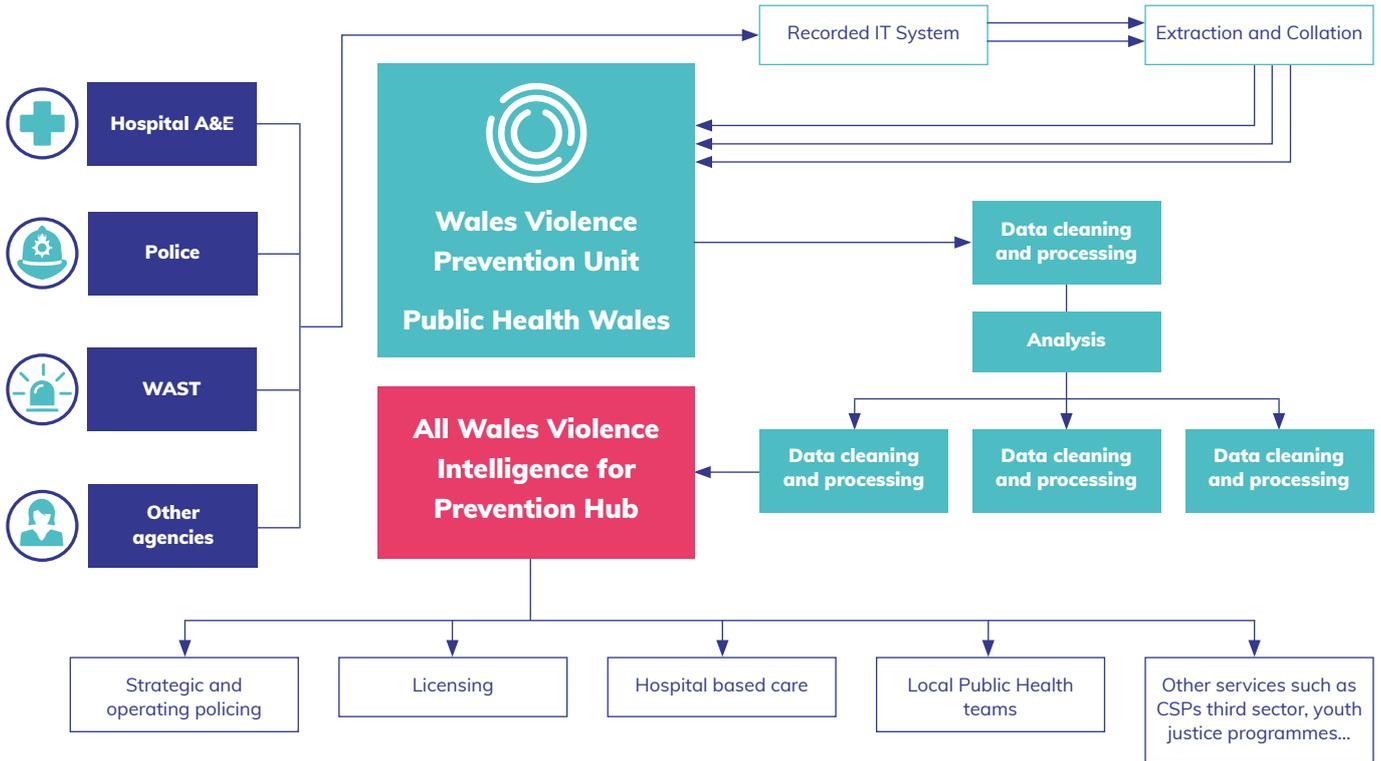
This has helped us and our partners understand and respond to all forms of violence during the pandemic, with the aim of reducing the risk of hidden harm by providing clear recommendations on how to manage emerging and actual risks and threats.

We are currently developing the Violence Intelligence for Prevention Hub, which will bring together more data from multiple sources from across Wales, including emergency department assault attendances and hospital admissions, police reported crime data, ambulance service call-out data, and walk-in centre data. This enhanced system will provide a comprehensive representation of the epidemiology of violence at a local and national level in Wales, support the profiling of communities at-risk of violence and provide a multi-agency platform where routinely collected data is used to measure the impact of policy and other interventions.

Ultimately, the Violence Intelligence for Prevention Hub will be an invaluable, interactive tool for us and our Welsh partners, which will enable localised solutions to prevent violence in Wales.



**Surveillance with the Violence Intelligence Prevention Hub**



**Our response to COVID-19**

We operate on a collective passion from the public sector and voluntary organisations in Wales to prevent violence. Many of our members are from organisations that were identified as key responders during the pandemic. They were under significant pressure yet still doing all they could to protect the people and communities in Wales.

We supported our partners through four key points of action:

**Data analysis**

To ensure that emerging trends and patterns of violence were recorded and understood by partners; to ensure that preventative and response measures were data and intelligence-led; and to ensure that analysis can be undertaken following the outbreak to inform response to future events and build the international evidence base.

**Strategic communications**

To ensure that violence was considered among the communications plans of partners and that prevention messages were built into communications and social marketing campaigns.

**Supporting frontline services**

We are uniquely placed to listen to our multi-agency partners and provide support and advocacy to address gaps, where appropriate. We worked with the services we commission to ensure, where possible, intervention work was conducted online or via the phone.

**Information, guidance and evidence**

We developed an information hub for guidance, information and evidence relating to violence, prevention and the pandemic.

# Implementing a Public Health

## Approach to Violence Prevention

### between HMPPS and Youth

### Justice Services in Cardiff

Data analysis as part of our Strategic Needs Assessment highlighted violence trends amongst people aged 16-24 years old, reinforcing the need for services working across this age group to work collaboratively.

To take this forward, two of our team members who are seconded full-time from Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) have developed an enhanced way of working with the Youth Justice Service (YJS) in Cardiff. This enables the organisations to identify possible gaps in provision, develop an evidence base for future work, and allow for a better understanding of the risk assessment and risk management of high-risk young people.

This includes HMPPS involvement in YJS Case Planning Forums, the implementation of Serious Violence Multi-Agency Meetings (SVMACC) and the joint delivery of ongoing criminal behaviour mapping exercises.

To date, from Case Planning Forums, YJS staff have been linked in with HMPPS for 13 cases which has allowed risk information to be shared in respect of the relevant cases and 17 different young people have been discussed at SVMACC to consider their wider impact on criminality in the Cardiff area.

## South Wales Police Serious

## Violence Prevention Champions

We launched the Serious Violence Prevention Champions Programme with South Wales Police in 2020. It aims to engage Officers at all levels within the Force in our mission to prevent serious violence using a public health approach, by using evidence to develop prevention initiatives and a trauma-informed approach when responding to incidents.

The Programme provides Champions with the knowledge and resources to promote a public health

approach across policing, as well as provide a forum for Officers to share best practice and concerns to inform the Unit's work. Our broad range of members also provides a hub of expertise for the Champions, providing knowledge and skills to support Officers in furthering violence prevention initiatives within their area.

To date, 52 Officers have joined the Serious Violence Prevention Champions Programme.

# Communicating our Mission

**In our first year, we have focused on engaging key stakeholders in our mission to prevent all forms of violence in Wales.**

We issue regular violence prevention e-Bulletins which highlight the latest research and initiatives taking place locally, nationally and internationally.

Our website is regularly updated with the latest news from the Unit and we shout about what matters on our Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn profiles.

## Wales Violence Prevention Conference

In March 2020, we hosted Wales' first Violence Prevention Conference. It was our first event, supported by fantastic speakers from across our partnership. It was a chance for us to show our stakeholders what we are about, and to gain valuable insight from them to inform our mission of preventing violence in Wales.



Principality Stadium



**200**  
delegates



**76%**  
of delegates rated it as very good or excellent



**85%**  
of delegates wanted to attend future events



From your feedback, next time we will include more speakers and delegates with lived experience

## Virtually the same! Engaging in the new normal

Since March 2020, like many others, we have found ourselves connecting online only. That has not stopped us sharing the latest knowledge and best practice with partners though, and keeping the violence prevention conversation going!



We hosted **6**  
online events



Over **800** attendees across the events

Our website went live in July 2020 and we have been keeping it updated with the latest news, research and evidence since. As of March 2020:



**6.5k** unique users



**8.9k** sessions



Research and Evidence in the most popular section with **1,242 views**

We know it is not enough to just engage the violence prevention community, though. To prevent violence, we must engage everyone in the conversation. We must help people to think differently about why violence occurs, so we can put the right measures in

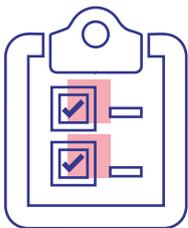
place to stop it from happening. It's really important we share our mission with the public, and let those who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing violence know they are not alone – and that we are working to make Wales a safer place for everyone.

**What have you seen during the pandemic? Bystander research survey**

The Wales Violence Prevention Unit was awarded funding by Public Health Wales to carry out vital research into people's experiences of witnessing or having concerns about domestic abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic. This research included a survey, which was open to all adults who lived or worked in Wales.

It was really important that we reached as many people as possible, and encouraged them to take part in the survey so we could get a good understanding of bystander behaviour during this time, and use this evidence to support bystander training and inform policy and prevention programmes going forward.

We ran an advertising campaign, went big on stakeholder engagement and secured media coverage, resulting in 395 people taking the survey during a three week period.



Survey webpage received over **1,500 views** with 1,200 clicking through from social media ads



Advertorial in WalesOnline received 2,100 views, with **3,250 engagements** on social media



**21 stakeholders** engaged with the survey promotion, including new collaborators including universities and Transport for Wales

**What have you seen during the pandemic?**

**By telling us about your experience of witnessing domestic abuse, we can help people in the future.**

[Click here to find out more about the survey](#)

# Evaluation

**To inform the continued development of the Wales Violence Prevention Unit, in 2020 we commissioned the Public Health Institute, Liverpool John Moores University, to conduct our first Evaluation. Evaluation is a key principle of the public health approach and is vital in ensuring our work provides the maximum benefit to the people of Wales.**

As part of the evaluation, the Unit was measured against five principles; collaboration; co-production; cooperation in data and intelligence sharing; counter-narrative development; and community consensus. The evaluation used interviews with members and stakeholders of the Unit, engagement events and a review of Wales Violence Prevention Unit documents.

The evaluation found that the Wales Violence Prevention Unit has begun to create system-level changes in violence prevention, encouraging organisations to focus on violence prevention as a public health issue. This demonstrates how the work delivered by us and our partners is starting to transform the landscape of violence prevention in Wales.

Importantly, the evaluation also set out key recommendations for how we can build on what has been a successful first year, including:

**Widen and deepen collaboration:** To strengthen the whole systems approach, explore opportunities to include wider stakeholders.

**Develop community consensus:** To develop further opportunities to work with practitioners who can develop trust with people who are hard to engage.

**Monitoring and data analysis:** Our partners described the need to develop a standardised approach to evidence impact. The Evaluation recommended further exploration of governance structures and barriers to data sharing, as well as increasing awareness of the benefits of sharing individual and population level data across multiple agencies to enable identification of patterns of violence in specific areas.

**Evaluation:** Embed ongoing process and outcome evaluation to explore if and how the VPU is making a difference in implementing violence prevention measures across Wales, and in achieving the intended outcomes.

**VPU branding:** Provide clear information about which interventions have received VPU funding. This will help increase awareness of the 'brand' but also ensure transparency, both internally and externally to the VPU.

"We've grasped the Home Office violence reduction initiative with enthusiasm, to focus on tackling violence in key areas of South Wales especially Cardiff and Swansea. This focussed action is making a real difference and I welcome the One Year Evaluation as an endorsement of the strong partnership working, innovation and evidence based approach which are already the established hallmarks of the Wales Violence Prevention Unit."

**Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales, Alun Michael**



# A Look Towards our Future

**To be successful in realising our vision of a Wales free from violence, there must be systemic change in how violence is understood: violence is not inevitable, it is preventable, like any other health problem.**

The Wales Violence Prevention Unit can be seen as a catalyst for this change to occur. Through promoting a public health approach to violence prevention, co-ordinating efforts of partner prevention and response agencies, and developing the evidence base for what works in violence prevention, we believe we will begin to see real change in how violence is viewed, responded to and prevented in Wales.

Our focus next year will be on embedding our multi-agency approach into more programmes and activity, to support this process becoming the norm for violence prevention agencies in Wales.

We will continue to develop the evidence base for interventions, and work with commissioners to ensure funding is allocated using an evidence based approach. To this end, we will continue to evaluate and offer evaluation support to the providers we commission, to ensure our funding is delivering for the people of Wales.

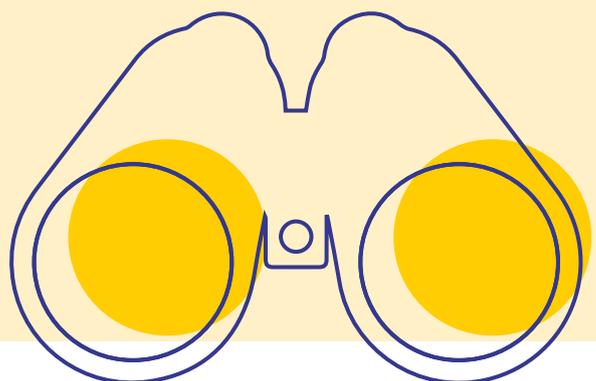
We will be taking the recommendations from our Year One Evaluation forward with relevant partners, to ensure we are delivering a whole system, multi-agency approach for violence prevention in Wales.

## Short term goals (1-2 years) -

- 1. Widen and deepen collaboration:** To strengthen the whole systems approach.
- 2. Develop community consensus:** Identify further opportunities to work with practitioners who can develop trust with people who are hard to engage.
- 3. Develop co-production:** Build on the work integrated into the Unit to date and develop this further with other organisations.
- 4. Monitoring and data analysis:** Continue to develop the Violence Intelligence for Prevention Hub and resolve barriers to data sharing, and continue to build the evidence base for what works to prevent violence.
- 5. VPU branding:** Continue to deliver against our Communications and Engagement Strategy to increase awareness of the 'brand' and secure the Unit's place as a centre for expertise on violence prevention in Wales and beyond.
- 6. Evaluation:** Continue to evaluate our work and support services with evaluation to inform the work and future direction of the Unit.

## Long term ambitions (3-10 years) -

- 1. Violence prevention in all policies:** Ensure violence prevention is reflected in the Welsh Government and local government priorities and policies, and increase investment in prevention by partners.
- 2. Develop an All-Wales Service:** Secure long-term and sustainable funding to enable us to deliver an all-Wales service.
- 3. Secure the role of the VPU in informing the wider system:** Ensure we are strategically positioned to influence decisions made by other funding bodies and organisations to implement violence prevention activities in Wales.





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