

NEATH PORT TALBOT

Healthy Relationships For Stronger Communities Strategy

May 2017



The human and emotional costs of violence in domestic and public spheres can be huge, not just for the victims, but for families, children, communities and society as a whole. That's why this strategy is 'everyone's business'.

The NPT strategy sets out what key organisations in the area will do to tackle all forms of violence in the county borough.

It has been developed with the involvement of survivors and considers what can be done to:

1

meet the growing demand for support from specialists

2

reduce harm

3

improve the lives of those affected

4

offer consistent, effective services to victims

5

bring all offenders to justice

"Violence Against Women" refers to a range of crimes that are mainly, but not always, experienced by women and girls.

Therefore, the strategy also covers:

abuse towards men and boys or other groups and individuals who experience these forms of violence

acts of violence carried out by women

This document is a summary of the strategy. The full version can be found on the Council's website at www.npt.gov.uk

Objectives

The Strategy will help to ensure that the Council and ABMU Health Board meet the requirements of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.

The objectives within the NPT strategy reflect those in the National VAWDASV Strategy recently published by the Welsh Government.

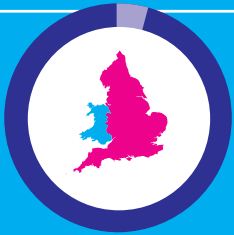
Having similar objectives within Neath Port Talbot will enable us to demonstrate how we will support the Welsh Government in achieving its policy objectives regarding VAWDASV.

PREVALENCE OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

WITHIN NEATH PORT TALBOT

2.1 MILLION

NUMBER OF
PEOPLE ACROSS
ENGLAND & WALES
AFFECTED BY
DOMESTIC ABUSE



NEATH
PORT TALBOT
HAS A RESIDENT
POPULATION

139,800
OF

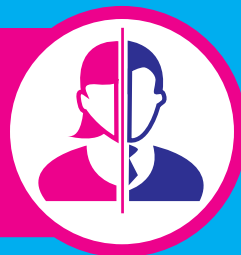
18,174

OF RESIDENTS

COULD BE EXPERIENCING
SOME FORM OF
DOMESTIC ABUSE

11,883

WOMEN



6,291 MEN

1186

ACCORDING TO
LOCAL
POLICE DATA

REPORTED
CRIMES IN
2015
2016

877

PEOPLE RECEIVED
SUPPORT
FROM SPECIALIST
SERVICES

DEPENDENTS

340

+ 316

Developing Our Strategy

A range of means were put in place to allow survivors of Domestic Abuse and local partners to advise us of their views, gaps in provision and areas for improvement.

The information obtained has been used to inform our local strategy, in particular the actions we need to take in order to improve our responses to victims.

Extensive research was undertaken to understand what current provision looks like within Neath Port Talbot, including the funding that supports this.

Objective

1

Increase awareness and challenge attitudes of Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in NPT

Actions

- Develop a Communications Plan to publicise key messages, using all relevant media channels
- Develop a list of available services within the borough and incorporate this information into the developing Information, Advice & Assistance Service
- Involve local survivors in the work of the group, to ensure their views and experiences are taken into account when planning future campaigns
- Encourage local employers to implement strategies on Domestic Abuse



Objective

2

Increased awareness in children and young people of the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships and that abusive behaviour is always wrong

Actions


- Ensure all schools adopt a suitable programme, adhering to the WG statutory guidance on creating a 'whole school approach' to preventing Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence
- Ensure all school aged children have participated in a programme that addresses the sensitive and challenging issues of violence to develop the resilience of children and young people to sustain healthy relationships
- Promote the Home Office campaign 'Disrespect Nobody' to challenge abuse in teenage relationships
- Working in Partnership with Schools, Youth Service & Youth Justice Service to deliver on these Actions

Objective

3

Increased focus on holding perpetrators to account and provide opportunities to change their behaviour based around victim safety

Actions

- Identify perpetrator programmes that can be implemented in the NPT area, that meet the needs of people who pose a low, medium or high risk.
 - Develop funding and appropriate implementation plans for the chosen accredited perpetrator programme
 - Ensure we have a suitable referral pathway, to encourage referrals, use and attendance of the programme
- 

Objective

4

Make early intervention and prevention a priority

Actions

- Develop an Early Intervention and Prevention service model to enable us to be more effective in our prevention work
- Work with Supporting People, Area Planning Board, Community Safety & Families First commissioners to refocus funding in line with the new service model
- Seek out further funding opportunities to support the expansion of early intervention and prevention interventions
- Conduct research to identify unidentified need

Objective

5

Relevant professionals are trained to provide effective, timely and appropriate responses to victims and survivors

Actions

- Develop and implement a Training programme that will secure compliance with the National Training Framework
- Develop and publish referral pathways to enable professionals to respond effectively to any disclosures or identification of Domestic Abuse
- Complete the 'Ask & Act' project being piloted by the ABMU Health Board and increase the number of people identified and referred by health workers

Objective

6

Provide victims with equal access to appropriately resourced, high quality, needs led, strength based, gender responsive services across Neath Port Talbot

Actions

- Ensure commissioning activity is better informed, more joined up and value for money
- Develop a new service model which enables earlier intervention, whilst also delivering a saving of 10% of the current budget.
- Submit a bid to the Home office for Transformation Funding that can extend safe disclosure and access to specialist services from the town centres, to those living in valley communities
- Work in partnership to ensure housing allocations appropriately consider victims of Domestic Abuse
- Further develop links with specialist providers who can meet the needs of people affected by sexual violence and other forms of violence such as FGM

Objective

7

Increase focus on improving the recognition of, and responses to, VAWDASV in all Criminal Justice proceedings

Actions

- Finalise the review of High Risk Victim support services to further improve outcomes; and to identify how we can intervene effectively much earlier
- Maximise the use of the remote evidence facility at the OSS
- Further strengthen our partnership to ensure wider CJS and Youth Justice partners participate in the development and delivery of this strategy
- Monitor the use of protection orders for a range of VAWDASV offences to promote wider take up and better enforcement of breaches
- Working in partnership with the Police & Courts, identify what needs to change to better support victims
- Increase awareness with local solicitors and legal reps of the importance of recognising Domestic Abuse and providing appropriate responses in family court situations

Leadership and Governance

The Leadership Group will establish annual priorities, drawn down from the strategy that will be progressed through clearly agreed actions plans. Those action plans will enable the following;

