

National Strategy on Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Consultation response from



Email - paul@fnf-bpm.org.uk

Telephone – 07947135864

Address – 61 Cowbridge Rd East, Cardiff, CF11 9AE

ABOUT THE CHARITY

1. FNF Both Parents Matter Cymru is a children's rights charity supporting parents and grandparents who are facing exclusion from the lives of the children they care about. Our work is underpinned by the UNCRC – specifically Articles 9.3 and 18.1
2. Our charity runs a telephone Helpline for parents and grandparents with child contact problems – receiving around 1000 calls per annum. We also help people at our monthly face to face support meetings that take place in 11 different locations across Wales from Bangor to Newport and Carmarthen to Queensferry attended by around 1100 people attend each year.
3. All of our meetings are registered with the Law Society's charity Law Works Cymru as Legal Advice Clinics where attendees can meet with a family law solicitor on a one to one basis to receive free specialist legal advice.
4. The charity also provides the Secretariat to the newly formed Cross Party Group on Fathers and Fatherhood in the Welsh Assembly.
5. In response to the needs of our service users the charity has launched a new service to support male victims of domestic violence and abuse on a pilot basis in the Ely area of Cardiff.
6. We have met with the National Adviser on Ending Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence on two separate occasions. She has attended our Cardiff support meeting in August 2016 where she was joined by 18 male and 19 female service users and volunteers for the charity. She also attended the meeting of the Cross Party Assembly Group on fathers and fatherhood on the 11th September in Ty Hywel where Erin Pizzey, founder of the world's first refuge spoke on the subject 'Are Fathers Disposable?' Our charity has great respect on a personal and professional basis for Rhian Bowen-Davies and remains ready to work collaboratively with her and others to achieve the ultimate aim of moving to a society where everybody is able to live fear free.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

7. Our charity has contributed to all of the consultations undertaken by Welsh Government and by the Assembly. We attended each of the public consultations organised by the VAWG team in Welsh Government.
8. We have seen the Welsh Government's consistent statements throughout the process including in this strategy document :
9. *'The Act covers all forms of 'gender based violence' in recognition that both men and women are victims of violence.....'*
10. Sadly this reference in the Introduction is one of the few examples of a recognition of a gender inclusive response in the Strategy.
11. In the foreword by the Cabinet Secretary we see the importance of the 'Ask and Act' agenda. This policy will, inadvertently, add significantly to the problems faced by male victims of abuse. Without a clear message to front line practitioners to ensure that they apply this agenda proportionately to male victims we will see a further marginalisation of their experience. While services adopt a gender prejudiced view towards the experience of men there will be no justice in Wales. No greater example of this gender prejudice could be found than the practice adopted by domestic abuse services in Wales of 'screening' male callers ONLY. Until this practice is prohibited by Welsh Government – possibly by requiring services funded by the state not to breach the Equality Act 2010 – discrimination and unfair treatment will be the inevitable consequence of this strategy.
12. The importance of listening to the voice of survivors of abuse is rightly at the centre of the strategy. Sadly however the work commissioned by Welsh Government from Welsh Women's Aid cannot possibly claim to be representative, nor is it a safe basis upon which to build this strategy. *'Are you listening and am I being heard'* is a powerful document capturing the experience of 65 women and ONE man – perhaps the embodiment of the expression 'Token male'. It is impossible to square the building of a National Strategy upon a document that fails to even remotely capture the picture of a large number of victims who are currently being further victimised by the response of the State to their misfortune.
13. The six Objectives in the strategy set out on p17 & 18 are laudable. We do not disagree with the rhetoric. Talk of healthy relationships and gender equality (Objective 2) or challenging perpetrators (Objective 3) are unlikely to be realised within such a gender exclusive framework of action. Objective 5 is perhaps the greatest hope and the worst disappointment of all – stating that victims will be provided with equal access to appropriately resourced, high quality, needs led, gender responsive services. The reality is a millions miles away from these empty words if you are a man and face the prospect of being re-victimised by statutory and third sector services. Your position is even worse if you face being

falsely accused as a perpetrator. If you are a man in Wales there will be no justice.

14. We have drawn the Welsh Government's attention to these issues time and time again. We have clearly failed, so a new approach is needed. In that vein we make the following proposals:

- **Separate support services for female and male victims of abuse – so that women can access and be supported to access gender exclusive support – but so too can men.**
- **Ban the discrimination currently practiced against men by DV support services that 'screen' only men to determine whether they are 'genuine' victims and without their knowledge or consent pass on their details to other services that further victimise them.**
- **Resource appropriately, NOT EQUALLY, services for men run by men unconstrained by a feminist ideology that sees men as perpetrators that provide training, support, awareness raising and other important services in an appropriate way.**

15. Fundamentally we ask the Welsh Government to recognise that services for men cannot be commissioned from organisations that have developed from a feminist ideology of domestic violence. These organisations and individuals perform excellent work to safeguard and support women facing the reality of male violence and abuse. It is unfair to expect them also to support male victims effectively. Of course it is even more unreasonable to expect men who suffer abuse at the hands of female partners and ex-partners to be represented and supported by these feminised services.

Question 1 - Do you agree with the priorities under prevention? Do you have any further suggestions? Please include any evidence (data, research or anecdotal).

16. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Nam nibh. Nunc varius facilisis eros. Sed erat. In in velit quis arcu ornare laoreet. Curabitur adipiscing luctus massa. Integer ut purus ac augue commodo commodo. Nunc nec mi eu justo tempor consectetur. Etiam vitae nisl. In dignissim lacus ut ante. Cras elit lectus, bibendum a, adipiscing vitae, commodo et, dui. Ut tincidunt tortor. Donec nonummy, enim in lacinia pulvinar, velit tellus scelerisque augue, ac posuere libero urna eget neque. Cras ipsum. Vestibulum pretium, lectus nec venenatis volutpat, purus lectus ultrices risus, a condimentum risus mi et quam. Pellentesque auctor fringilla neque. Duis eu massa ut lorem iaculis vestibulum. Maecenas facilisis elit sed justo. Quisque volutpat malesuada velit.

17. Nunc at velit quis lectus nonummy eleifend. Curabitur eros. Aenean ligula dolor, gravida auctor, auctor et, suscipit in, erat. Sed malesuada, enim ut congue pharetra, massa elit convallis pede, ornare scelerisque libero neque ut neque. In at libero. Curabitur molestie. Sed vel neque. Proin et dolor ac ipsum elementum

malesuada. Praesent id orci. Donec hendrerit. In hac habitasse platea dictumst. Aenean sit amet arcu a turpis posuere pretium.

18. Nulla mauris odio, ibendum in, condimentum sit amet, tempus id, metus. Donec at nisi sit amet felis blandit posuere. Aliquam erat volutpat. Cras lobortis orci in quam porttitor cursus. Aenean dignissim. Curabitur facilisis sem at nisi laoreet placerat. Duis sed ipsum ac nibh mattis feugiat. Proin sed purus. Vivamus lectus ipsum, rhoncus sed, scelerisque sit amet, ultrices in, dolor. Aliquam vel magna non nunc ornare ibendum. Sed libero. Maecenas at est. Vivamus ornare, felis et luctus dapibus, lacus leo convallis diam, eget dapibus augue arcu eget arcu. The text above has been inserted deliberately.

Question 2 – Do you agree with the priorities under protection? Do you have any further suggestions? Please include any evidence (data, research or anecdotal).

19. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Nam nibh. Nunc varius facilisis eros. Sed erat. In in velit quis arcu ornare laoreet. Curabitur adipiscing luctus massa. Integer ut purus ac augue commodo commodo. Nunc nec mi eu justo tempor consectetur. Etiam vitae nisl. In dignissim lacus ut ante. Cras elit lectus, bibendum a, adipiscing vitae, commodo et, dui. Ut tincidunt tortor. Donec nonummy, enim in lacinia pulvinar, velit tellus scelerisque augue, ac posuere libero urna eget neque. Cras ipsum. Vestibulum pretium, lectus nec venenatis volutpat, purus lectus ultrices risus, a condimentum risus mi et quam. Pellentesque auctor fringilla neque. Duis eu massa ut lorem iaculis vestibulum. Maecenas facilisis elit sed justo. Quisque volutpat malesuada velit.
20. Nunc at velit quis lectus nonummy eleifend. Curabitur eros. Aenean ligula dolor, gravida auctor, auctor et, suscipit in, erat. Sed malesuada, enim ut congue pharetra, massa elit convallis pede, ornare scelerisque libero neque ut neque. In at libero. Curabitur molestie. Sed vel neque. Proin et dolor ac ipsum elementum malesuada. Praesent id orci. Donec hendrerit. In hac habitasse platea dictumst. Aenean sit amet arcu a turpis posuere pretium.
21. Nulla mauris odio, vehicula in, condimentum sit amet, tempus id, metus. Donec at nisi sit amet felis blandit posuere. Aliquam erat volutpat. Cras lobortis orci in quam porttitor cursus. Aenean dignissim. Curabitur facilisis sem at nisi laoreet placerat. Duis sed ipsum ac nibh mattis feugiat. Proin sed purus. Vivamus lectus ipsum, rhoncus sed, scelerisque sit amet, ultrices in, dolor. Aliquam vel magna non nunc ornare bibendum. Sed libero. Maecenas at est. Vivamus ornare, felis et luctus dapibus, lacus leo convallis diam, eget dapibus augue arcu eget arcu. The text above has been inserted deliberately

Question 3 - Do you agree with the priorities under support? Do you have any further suggestions? Please include any evidence (data, research or anecdotal).

22. Duis imperdiet diam pharetra nisi. Fusce accumsan. Fusce adipiscing, felis non ornare egestas, risus elit placerat mauris, in mollis ante erat quis nisi. Quisque sed ipsum. Nulla facilisi. Donec arcu erat, sodales quis, cursus eget, posuere eget, tellus. Vestibulum eu risus. Curabitur adipiscing, odio in pretium feugiat, nulla magna vehicula lorem, at placerat tortor nisl eget velit. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Suspendisse mollis fermentum massa.
23. Pellentesque vulputate bibendum lorem. Nunc lobortis. Vestibulum aliquam fringilla mauris. Vivamus dolor est, eleifend id, varius id, suscipit at, felis. Nulla mattis cursus neque. Nam lobortis mi vitae sem vehicula accumsan. Integer vitae odio in felis facilisis cursus. Sed bibendum mauris a justo. Integer ut mi. Maecenas quis mauris. Integer non lectus at magna elementum posuere.
24. Vestibulum et urna. Aliquam pretium, urna nec dapibus vehicula, tellus nulla pretium dolor, vitae gravida massa erat non mauris. Aenean non erat. Nam non leo. Fusce sed erat. Maecenas id odio vehicula eros elementum congue. Donec feugiat orci in lectus. Vestibulum mattis justo eget justo. Aenean eu nisl. Phasellus non ipsum non nisi fringilla cursus. Integer condimentum porta arcu. Quisque faucibus. Quisque mattis, tellus eu auctor pulvinar, nulla dui sagittis elit, vel ultricies mauris lectus tempus magna. Donec auctor facilisis lorem. Ut pharetra pellentesque nulla. Phasellus libero metus, commodo sit amet, ullamcorper sit amet, euismod et, tortor. Sed nec arcu et felis vulputate venenatis.
25. Praesent sagittis, justo id malesuada tincidunt, ipsum leo elementum risus, at pulvinar ante urna et sem. Proin posuere metus sed tellus. Class aptent taciti sociosqu ad litora torquent per conubia nostra, per inceptos hymenaeos. Vivamus eros. Mauris tincidunt congue nunc. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas. Aenean porttitor ante vitae ligula. Duis mattis diam id mi. Nulla sed mi ut elit bibendum pharetra. Aenean eu nunc. Integer lacus sem, feugiat nec, lacinia non, adipiscing sit amet, odio. Etiam odio. Maecenas placerat placerat libero. Donec ultricies erat vitae tellus volutpat fringilla. Phasellus urna est, tincidunt at, porta vitae, viverra ut, lacus. Class aptent taciti sociosqu ad litora torquent per conubia nostra, per inceptos hymenaeos. Cras non odio viverra libero eleifend sagittis.
26. Aliquam dictum lectus. Morbi pulvinar lacus et diam. Maecenas nunc massa, ultrices eget, nonummy nec, condimentum et, risus. Proin convallis dapibus nisi. Maecenas porta, augue quis porttitor consectetur, felis odio blandit orci, in elementum pede lacus egestas mi. Etiam auctor, mauris eget lobortis blandit, tellus nisl convallis turpis, non auctor ante nisl eget eros. Donec rhoncus purus nec nunc. Suspendisse eros. Fusce et nisl.

27. Morbi condimentum enim sed ipsum. Aliquam mi. Duis sit amet sapien. Nullam sed purus. Aliquam fringilla sagittis neque. Fusce eget risus. Donec bibendum, purus id bibendum sagittis, mauris est tincidunt risus, nec fermentum diam velit pellentesque dolor. Vestibulum quis libero eget arcu vestibulum auctor. Donec sit amet erat. Maecenas sit amet ipsum. Pellentesque sapien pede, mollis a, consectetur sit amet, consectetur nec, tellus. The text above has been inserted deliberately.

Question 4 - Do you think the priorities will have a positive / negative impact on protected characteristics? If so, which and why/why not? Are there further opportunities not covered by the priorities to promote equality? Please include any evidence (data, research or anecdotal).

28. Duis ac est rutrum urna venenatis auctor. Sed quis ante. Nullam urna lorem, tempus eget, sollicitudin vitae, porta pharetra, eros. Aliquam sit amet eros. Curabitur ultricies imperdiet elit. Aenean lectus justo, eleifend bibendum, convallis eu, fermentum eu, magna. Class aptent taciti sociosqu ad litora torquent per conubia nostra, per inceptos hymenaeos. In odio leo, adipiscing a, pellentesque ac, aliquam sed, diam. Cras convallis rhoncus metus. Cum sociis natoque penatibus et magnis dis parturient montes, nascetur ridiculus mus. Morbi convallis massa quis justo. Nam sollicitudin ipsum eu justo. Suspendisse libero risus, ornare non, ultricies ac, mattis eget, dolor. In dignissim orci ut lectus.
29. Aliquam tincidunt justo tempor enim. Phasellus ac urna. Phasellus tortor. Morbi sit amet nibh. Pellentesque rutrum. Duis metus sem, posuere eget, feugiat ac, nonummy in, magna. Aliquam sit amet leo in nunc laoreet laoreet. Aenean ultrices. Donec tellus diam, sodales lacinia, facilisis vel, accumsan vel, sapien. Aliquam erat volutpat. Cras augue. Donec facilisis lorem ac ligula. Phasellus sed magna vitae nulla nonummy feugiat. Aenean et erat. Nulla sollicitudin interdum nibh.
30. Vestibulum ante ipsum primis in faucibus orci luctus et ultrices posuere cubilia Curae; Etiam ultricies justo non leo venenatis accumsan. Sed eget leo. Etiam vel odio quis ligula imperdiet viverra. Fusce congue orci nec leo. Morbi pede sem, facilisis a, egestas nec, faucibus a, quam. Praesent lacus. Sed vel urna. Vestibulum tincidunt libero in justo. Donec non velit eget felis consequat congue. Donec id urna. Fusce dapibus consectetur velit.
31. Ut metus. Maecenas dapibus nibh eu est. Proin faucibus pharetra nibh. Integer aliquet tellus in felis. Quisque mi pede, imperdiet a, dapibus vel, bibendum rhoncus, nulla. Sed eu velit. Maecenas molestie, ipsum nec nonummy mattis, ipsum lectus imperdiet nibh, sit amet accumsan nunc nunc et lorem. Quisque at augue. Donec elit ligula, pellentesque id, feugiat sed, malesuada a, turpis. Donec nunc quam, commodo ut, venenatis ut, feugiat quis, tortor. Nunc id risus vestibulum turpis facilisis fringilla. Pellentesque turpis ipsum, ultrices at,

consequat sit amet, sollicitudin at, pede. Suspendisse potenti. Fusce eu ante sit amet lacus cursus tempor. Donec bibendum, metus nec tristique mollis, metus felis pellentesque sapien, eu mattis turpis lorem quis quam. In ligula nibh, varius quis, elementum sed, pellentesque vel, lectus. Praesent erat orci, hendrerit bibendum, tristique et, consectetur eget, elit. Mauris vel mi at dui commodo elementum.

32. Cras ut ante et est elementum tristique. Curabitur pulvinar massa in tellus. Nullam eu massa. Etiam nulla. Sed in dui. Curabitur eleifend leo sit amet lorem vehicula venenatis. Mauris suscipit purus vitae dui. Suspendisse augue nunc, pellentesque id, euismod nec, elementum ut, arcu. Etiam ipsum. Cum sociis natoque penatibus et magnis dis parturient montes, nascetur ridiculus mus. Maecenas a est sed justo porttitor fringilla. Pellentesque facilisis. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.
33. Morbi lectus quam, sollicitudin eget, pretium nec, consectetur posuere, tellus. Nullam et diam. Mauris aliquam mollis est. Nullam egestas odio in sapien. Etiam leo tellus, vulputate sed, imperdiet vitae, faucibus vitae, sem. In ut elit non ante volutpat fermentum. Sed tempor sapien quis arcu. Praesent in lectus ultricies massa scelerisque convallis. Suspendisse a ante. Cras commodo, sem ac ullamcorper ornare, nibh diam placerat turpis, vitae faucibus dui orci ac ante. Curabitur orci ipsum, luctus at, scelerisque id, ultrices tempus, augue. Ut ut metus. Vivamus sed quam. Quisque augue nibh, rutrum quis, adipiscing quis, tincidunt ac, ligula. Integer vel pede sit amet nulla cursus ultricies.
34. Vestibulum tincidunt. Nam varius. Cras eros. Suspendisse vestibulum, leo eu tincidunt faucibus, nibh turpis cursus dui, eget mollis dui lacus quis diam. Quisque ultrices vehicula felis. Vivamus nec felis dapibus eros ultricies volutpat. Curabitur enim nisi, lobortis a, imperdiet ac, imperdiet quis, purus. Donec rhoncus lorem at eros. Nulla placerat nibh. Duis commodo odio a nunc. Donec congue. Phasellus quam magna, eleifend sed, pharetra non, vehicula eget, leo. Morbi vitae est id erat blandit fringilla. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The above text has been inserted deliberately.

Question 5 - What opportunities does this strategy give to promote the use of the Welsh Language? Do you have concerns that this strategy could have an adverse effect on opportunities to use the Welsh language?

35. Aenean eget justo eget mi facilisis tempor. Aliquam libero quam, facilisis eu, eleifend nec, congue in, turpis. Nulla vestibulum, est et commodo dapibus, eros risus pulvinar diam, sed accumsan dolor pede porta diam. Vivamus iaculis metus. Cum sociis natoque penatibus et magnis dis parturient montes, nascetur ridiculus mus. Sed lacus. Sed vel mi. Vestibulum eget massa. Pellentesque libero justo, consequat nec, sodales vel, fringilla semper, diam. Donec at est. Cras dictum enim posuere tellus. Integer pharetra nulla non sapien. Maecenas sem velit, feugiat at, fermentum nec, pretium ac, lorem. Duis luctus, risus non

sollicitudin gravida, felis quam pharetra tellus, in pellentesque dui ante at magna. Cras non diam et tortor ultricies pharetra. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas. Aenean rutrum mauris et dolor. Etiam turpis sapien, fermentum et, auctor vel, elementum eu, leo.

36. Proin at ipsum tincidunt odio faucibus rutrum. Vestibulum tincidunt magna ut est. Mauris sollicitudin dignissim ligula. Quisque tortor orci, ullamcorper sit amet, rhoncus a, ultricies nec, nunc. Mauris molestie nunc vitae neque. Integer nulla. Proin vel eros. Suspendisse sed mi. Sed bibendum, sem in vehicula pellentesque, nulla leo tempus enim, at fringilla orci lacus in lorem. Vestibulum ante felis, pretium ut, condimentum sed, condimentum sagittis, libero. Curabitur vehicula. Aenean iaculis, ipsum quis ullamcorper facilisis, justo nisl sodales felis, eu dictum felis metus quis nunc. Cras imperdiet pede sed mi.. The above text has been inserted deliberately.

Question 6 - We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them.

37. Ut metus. Maecenas dapibus nibh eu est. Proin faucibus pharetra nibh. Integer aliquet tellus in felis. Quisque mi pede, imperdiet a, dapibus vel, bibendum rhoncus, nulla. Sed eu velit. Maecenas molestie, ipsum nec nonummy mattis, ipsum lectus imperdiet nibh, sit amet accumsan nunc nunc et lorem. Quisque at augue. Donec elit ligula, pellentesque id, feugiat sed, malesuada a, turpis. Donec nunc quam, commodo ut, venenatis ut, feugiat quis, tortor. Nunc id risus vestibulum turpis facilisis fringilla. Pellentesque turpis ipsum, ultrices at, consequat sit amet, sollicitudin at, pede. Suspendisse potenti. Fusce eu ante sit amet lacus cursus tempor. Donec bibendum, metus nec tristique mollis, metus felis pellentesque sapien, eu mattis turpis lorem quis quam. In ligula nibh, varius quis, elementum sed, pellentesque vel, lectus. Praesent erat orci, hendrerit bibendum, tristique et, consectetur eget, elit. Mauris vel mi at dui commodo elementum.
38. Cras ut ante et est elementum tristique. Curabitur pulvinar massa in tellus. Nullam eu massa. Etiam nulla. Sed in dui. Curabitur eleifend leo sit amet lorem vehicula venenatis. Mauris suscipit purus vitae dui. Suspendisse augue nunc, pellentesque id, euismod nec, elementum ut, arcu. Etiam ipsum. Cum sociis natoque penatibus et magnis dis parturient montes, nascetur ridiculus mus. Maecenas a est sed justo porttitor fringilla. Pellentesque facilisis. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.
39. Morbi lectus quam, sollicitudin eget, pretium nec, consectetur posuere, tellus. Nullam et diam. Mauris aliquam mollis est. Nullam egestas odio in sapien. Etiam leo tellus, vulputate sed, imperdiet vitae, faucibus vitae, sem. The above text has been inserted deliberately.

CONCLUSION

Following many years of engagement with Welsh Government on the domestic abuse agenda our volunteers and service users have the very clear impression that their voices are not being heard and that the Welsh Government is not listening: a terrible irony in view of the title given to the Survivor's Stories that inform and underpin this strategy. That reality is central to the understanding of our answers to the specific questions above. The settled view of those we seek to represent is that whatever we say about male victims will not be heard.

We have drawn attention to the impossible imbalance in resources provided by Welsh Government to organisations that support men compared with women in this media report <http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/politics/wales-gives-77-times-much-11780326> where a Welsh Government spokesman is reported as saying that:

'Many of the organisations cited in this list also support men's issues. Welsh Women's Aid, for example, receives funding from us to deliver the Live Fear Free helpline – a 24 hour help and advice service for both men and women.'

We believe that this approach is a cause and a consequence of gender discrimination in domestic abuse and seriously undermines the National Strategy.

We agree with much reported by the Western Mail from Eleri Butler, CEO of Welsh Women's Aid on 20th September. We have enormous respect for the achievements of the organisation and the individual. Eleri said:

'The fact that domestic abuse is gendered is supported by research and crime data...'

We agree

'The fact that domestic abuse is gendered underpins our work to end domestic abuse and all forms of violence against women.'

We agree

'Women and their children are much more likely to need lifesaving support like refuge services. This does not mean that men don't experience domestic abuse or don't need support..... It means that safe, separate and different kinds of support are needed, which respond to the different needs of all victims.'

We couldn't have put it better ourselves.

Paul Apreda, National Manager, FNF Both Parents Matter Cymru

paul@fnf-bpm.org.uk / 07947135864