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| SUBJECT: | DRAFT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE STRATEGY (VAWDASV) |
| MEETING: | CABINET |
| DATE: | 29TH MARCH 2018 |
| DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: | ALL |

NON-PUBLICATION

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.0 To present the draft Gwent Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Strategy to Cabinet prior to adoption across Gwent.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Cabinet consider and agree to adopt the draft Gwent VAWDASV Strategy (Appendix A) as part of the Gwent regional collaboration in delivering the VAWDASV Act (2015).
- 2.1 That Cabinet agree to adopt the draft Strategy on the basis that the final copy will include recommendations from across the 4 other Local Authority scrutiny committees and Gwent partner scrutiny boards. The draft Strategy was taken to Monmouthshire County Council's Strong Communities Select committee on the 29th March, whereby the following recommendations were made:
- Inclusion of the national Live Fear Free helpline number and website/social media information
 - That project specific information and location details be included for those readers who may not be familiar with the landscape

The Strong Communities Select committee welcomed the strategy and felt it was a positive way forward.

3. BACKGROUND:

- 3.1 The Gwent VAWDASV Strategy is required under the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 which calls for the public sector in Wales to work together in a consistent and cohesive way to improve the outcomes for individuals and their families subjected to VAWDASV.
- 3.2 The Gwent Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Board has been established to meet the requirements of the Act. The public and third sector partners that make up the Gwent board are: the five local authorities in Gwent, Gwent Police, and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Welsh Ambulance Service, Probation Services, Registered Social Landlords,

Supporting People Regional Collaborative Committee, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Gwent Adult and Children Safeguarding Boards, VAWDASV specialist sector partners and voluntary sector organisations.

- 3.3 The Gwent VAWDASV Strategy contributes to the National Strategy on Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence – 2016 – 2021. The Gwent VAWDASV Strategy has been prepared by the Gwent VAWDASV Partnership Board of which the Monmouthshire County Council is a member

4. STRATEGY AIMS

4.1 The main aims of the Act are to:

- Improve the public sector's response to Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Give public authorities (Councils and Health Boards) a strategic focus on the issue
- Ensure the consistent provision of preventative, protective and supportive services

4.2 The draft Strategy (included in Appendix A) addresses the following areas:

- The Gwent VAWDASV Partnership Board and its Vision
- Current Provision across the region
- Needs assessment data and information
- Survivors as experts
- Engagement findings
- How we will act together to tackle VAWDASV: Our Strategic Priorities
- How we will monitor our progress: Our Strategic Delivery Plan

5. RECCOMENDATIONS

5.1 Cabinet are asked agree and adopt the draft strategy as the Gwent VAWDASV Strategy which will be delivered by all Gwent partners via the regional VAWDASV Partnership Board, under the governance of individual PSB's.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct financial or personal implications associated with this report.

7. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

7.1 The proposed Gwent VAWDASV Strategy contributes to the Wellbeing Goals set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Act is relevant to the prevention of Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence and support of survivors. The Act puts in place a "sustainable development principle" which requires public bodies to follow five ways of working to ensure they work collaboratively with people and communities, avoid repeating past mistakes and to tackle some of the long term challenges. The five ways of working in the context of VAWDASV are:

- Prevention: Understanding and preventing the occurrence of VAWDASV and preventing poor outcomes for victims, survivors and their families.
- Integration: Integrating activity across the statutory and third sector and ensuring the coordination of programmes of work such that they achieve the maximum benefit.
- Collaboration: Collaborating through the Gwent VAWDASV Partnership Board, the Strategic Delivery Group and Sub-groups and between the partner bodies.
- Involvement: Listening to victims and survivors to understand their experiences of the support offered to them to continually review and make improvements in responses. Involving all agencies that are able to make an impact on VAWDASV.
- Long Term: Considering the long term outcomes for victims, survivors and their families and in particular any children and young people exposed to VAWDASV.

7.2 The Strategy will have a positive impact across all the protected characteristics. The purpose of this strategy is to address inequalities inherent in all forms of Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. There are no identified inequality implications either intended or unintended as a result of this strategy. The strategy has been made available in Welsh throughout consultation. All required partner organisations will be responsible for their obligations under the Welsh Language Measure. Through on-going monitoring, evaluation and review the VAWDASV Partnership board will ensure issues around equality are consistently raised and delivery of the strategy adapted.

8. **CONSULTEES:**

- 8.1 The Strategy was promoted widely across the region as part of the statutory period of public and partner consultation.
- 8.2 The Strategy was also taken to Monmouthshire County Council Strong Communities Select on 29th March for consideration and for recommendations to be made to the strategy.

9. **BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

National Strategy on Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence – 2016 – 2021

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