



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# Key Themes Emerging from the Consultation and Welsh Government Response

Guidance for the Commissioning of violence against women,  
domestic abuse and sexual violence services in Wales

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg. This document is also available in Welsh.

## Key Themes Emerging from the Consultation and Welsh Government Response

N°	Key Themes	Comments	Welsh Government Response
1	Prescription / direction versus flexibility	Opinion was divided over whether the guidance should be more prescriptive with stronger language and clear sanctions, or whether to allow greater flexibility to build on existing good practice and working in ways that play to different strengths.	Some of the language will be strengthened to convey clear messages about expectations and ensure greater consistency. Flexibility, however, will be allowed where this has clear benefits. It is not possible to be more directive in all areas, for example in relation to the make up of regional commissioning boards where invited participants represent non-devolved statutory bodies.
2	Practical guidance on implementation and ideas for innovation	Some respondents wanted clear, practical guidance on how to implement regional commissioning and ideas for innovation.	The Lloyds Toolkit and other documents referenced in the guidance provide practical approaches. Innovation comes from those working on the ground and Welsh Government welcomes new ideas and opportunities to share these across Wales.
3	Governance and funding structures	Governance and funding structures across regions, across grant regimes and across different organisations, and between devolved and non-devolved delivery adds complexity and creates barriers.	We recognise the complexities this causes. We aim to reduce complexity associated with funding regimes through, for example, merging grants as with the Early Intervention, Prevention and Support (EIPS) grant to reduce reporting requirements and standardise outcomes.

4	Differentiation of service users	There needs to be greater emphasis on the needs of different service users, such as domestic violence / sexual violence / male victims / BME service users / children / LGBT+. Some respondents felt that we must ensure the needs analysis really does inform commissioning	We will more clearly highlight the needs to address the needs of different user groups, particularly those with protected characteristics in accordance with the Equality Act, 2010. We will strengthen the links between conducting the needs analysis and commissioning services to meet these needs.
5	Funding:	Co-ordinating work across regions is not cost-neutral. There were different views about how these costs should be met.	Local authorities use their VAWDASV grant to fund regional co-ordinators. The savings from working across regions will also support these costs. Regions are free to make other arrangements, within reason, to further support this work.
6	Small Specialist Providers	Nearly all respondents were concerned that the expertise and experience of small, sometimes local, specialist providers could be lost.	The guidance steers commissioners to protect small specialist providers where appropriate. We will further highlight the need to ensure this happens.
7	Time to achieve:	Most respondents did not believe that full regional commissioning was achievable within the timeframes.	We recognise that different regions are at different points on the path to full regionalisation. We do not expect this to be achieved by April 2019 but will expect good progress towards this. We will allow flexibility in achieving time frames but will monitor this to ensure the momentum is maintained.