

Welsh Government Welsh Language Impact Assessment

Consultation on the 2022-2026 National Strategy for Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

Welsh Language Impact Assessment reference number: 01/12/2021

Does the proposal demonstrate a clear link with the Welsh Government's strategy for the Welsh language ([Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers](#))?

The draft Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) National Strategy sets out our proposals to permanently change the culture and response to VAWDASV in Wales, improve support for survivors and their children, and to prevent offending and reoffending.

Whilst our proposals do not have a direct impact on the Welsh language, they will be supportive of Theme 2: Increasing the use of Welsh, and Theme 3: Creating favourable conditions (infrastructure and context) of Cymraeg 2050.

We are advocating a whole Wales approach, bringing together public, private and third sector organisations, as well as devolved and non-devolved bodies. For Theme 2, we will encourage increasing the use of Welsh through the potential to deliver more services in Welsh where they are identified as being necessary via a needs assessment process.

We will work towards a position where there are no barriers to receiving services in Welsh and where such services are offered proactively, as we appreciate that provision of Welsh-language services can in of itself lead to greater demand for such services.

Our public sector partners are already covered by the Welsh Language Standards. For our private and third sector partners, we will encourage the increased use of Welsh in their workplaces and in the services they deliver that are commissioned in relation to the VAWDASV Strategy.

During the public consultation, we will be working with partners to engage with survivors and perpetrators to understand what they think of the draft Strategy. We will welcome evidence in support of our proposals, or alternative suggestions, including evidence related to the potential impact of our proposals on the Welsh language. We will update out impact assessments as necessary prior to publishing the final Strategy in 2022.

Our proposals will have an effect on public, private and third sector bodies, as well as individuals. The groups most likely to be affected by the proposals in our Strategy are:

- Victims / survivors
- Perpetrators / alleged perpetrators
- Police / Police and Crime Commissioners / Judiciary / Prison and Probation services
- VAWDASV support services / representative groups (public, private and third sector).

The public sector bodies affected by our proposals are all subject to the Welsh Language Standards and we would expect them to promote the Welsh language and its

use throughout their duties. We will encourage private and third sector bodies to take account of the Welsh language and promote its use where possible. This will include through the use of needs assessments for services and the commissioning process.

Describe and explain the impact of the proposal on the Welsh language, and explain how you will address these impacts in order to improve outcomes for the Welsh language. How will the proposal affect Welsh speakers of all ages (both positive and/or adverse effects)?

The draft VAWDASV National Strategy is a strategy for everyone in Wales. VAWDASV can affect anyone regardless of age, background, race, religion, ability or language. Therefore, all groups within the general public have an interest in the VAWDASV agenda.

The draft National Strategy extends to all victims and survivors of VAWDASV. All the measures proposed for preventing VAWDASV and supporting survivors will apply whether delivered through the English, Welsh or any other language. We have not identified any negative impacts on the Welsh language.

The draft VAWDASV Strategy will not provide opportunities to promote the Welsh language. However, we will encourage partners to ensure that people who use Welsh as their first language have access to bilingual information, services and support. For public sector partners, the Welsh Language Standards will apply in relation to service delivery in the medium of Welsh.

The key principle of Cymraeg 2050 were embedded in the strategic framework 'More than just words...' which aimed to strengthen Welsh language services in health and social care services during the period 2019-22. We anticipate relevant bodies will continue to build on the progress achieved during that period.

The draft strategy should not affect the use of the Welsh language, numbers of Welsh speakers or the sustainability of Welsh speaking communities.

We do not anticipate any impact on Welsh medium education. However, the target in Cymraeg 2050 to increase the number of teachers who can teach in Welsh will aid in delivering on one of our Strategy's objectives. Objective 2 is to increase awareness in children, young people and adults of the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships and empowering them to positive personal choices. One aspect of delivering on this objective is through the delivery of the new curriculum so more teachers able to teach through the medium of Welsh will be helpful.

We will require services and commissioners to understand the importance of promoting the Welsh language, providing services through the Welsh language and ensuring service users are aware that Welsh language services are available.

During the development of the draft Strategy, we have listened to evidence from our partners based at locations across Wales. We will be providing engagement sessions during the consultation process and ensure that bilingual presentations are available. As

part of the consultation process, we will welcome any evidence to support the impact our proposals are likely to have on the Welsh language and will update this impact assessment as appropriate.

Our principle aim is to reduce the rate of VAWDASV in Wales. As part of the work relating to the National Strategy, we will monitor progress via a set of National Indicators.

One of the proposed actions included in the draft Strategy is the creation of a 'central repository of knowledge' to co-ordinate and disseminate what and known about VAWDASV and to shape future research. We will ask the Repository to consider available evidence in relation to the Welsh language.