

# An investigation into the needs of men experiencing domestic abuse and current service provision (Wales)

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**Background** – Our knowledge of men experiencing domestic abuse is limited due to the sparse amount of research and available literature that explores men’s experiences and perspectives. Furthermore, there is no explicit resource available that provides information on the number of specialist services that support men and the type of support provided. In Wales, Robinson & Rowlands (2006) identified a distinct lack of available services/provision of support for men. More recently, a review of domestic abuse services in Wales identified a need for more research with survivors and recent service users to understand their evaluations of services (Berry *et al*, 2014). The review further recognised a failure to match provision to need and one of the specific groups identified included male victims.

**Aims** - To identify the needs of men who experience domestic abuse from an intimate partner and determine whether current services in Wales have the provision to meet those needs.

**Ethics** - Ethical approval obtained via the University of South Wales Ethics Committee. Following guidance provided by ADSS Cymru, Directors and Heads of Social Services within each of the 22 local authorities in Wales were contacted to seek their permission to approach domestic abuse services within their local authority area.

## Research Design and Methods

A mixed method multi-strand design using elements of both parallel and sequential design. In addition a full review of available literature using both primary and secondary material.

- **Phase one:** Distribution of Service description and Data questionnaire via the Bristol Online Survey.
- **Phase two:** Distribution of second questionnaire via the Bristol Online Survey. In-depth interviews with men using Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis (IPA).
- **Phase three:** Semi-structured interviews with service managers – data from phase one and two will directly inform the semi-structured interview guide.

**Results** - 48 identified services providing specialist support via either a male only or gender neutral service. Responses from services across Wales has been low. Additional support has been gained from Mr Leighton Andrews AM and the Violence Against Women Team at Welsh Government, Welsh Women's Aid and Police and Crime Commissioners in distributing the link and encouraging participation. .

**To Date** - 25 Services have completed the first questionnaire. Data from which has informed the development of a service map of Wales. Information includes; service name, location, contact details, type of support provided and opening hours. 11 Services have completed the second questionnaire. 3 in-depth interviews have been undertaken with a further 4 planned.

**Future work** - Phase one and two of the research is on-going, responses are still being received from services. Analysis of both sets of data continues. Semi-structured interviews with service managers are expected to commence by November 2015.



**Conclusion** - The structure and organisation of specialist services for men appears to lack consistency in terms of the type of support provided, and how services are funded. There is no consistent approach to data collection within services across Wales.

Interim results from In-depth interviews indicate some themes emerging centre on masculinity and ‘male pride’ as barriers to help-seeking and talking or disclosing abuse experienced.

SERVICE DESCRIPTION

SERVICE DATA

SPECIFIC SERVICE INFORMATION

IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS

SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS

## References

- Berry, V., Stanley, N., Radford, L., McCarty, M., & Larkins, C. (2014). *Building Effective Responses. An Independent Review of Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Services in Wales*. University of Central Lancashire, Welsh Government. Available: <http://swales.gov.uk/docs/raewd/research/2014/140430-violence-against-women-domestic-abuse-sexual-violence-services-en.pdf>. (Accessed 4th June 2014).
- Robinson, A. & Rowlands, J. (2006). *The Dyn Project: Supporting Men Experiencing Domestic Abuse: Final Evaluation Report*. Available: [http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/socsi/resources/Dyn\\_Final\\_Evaluation\\_Report.pdf](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/socsi/resources/Dyn_Final_Evaluation_Report.pdf). (Accessed 3rd March 2014).

## Further information

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