



Wales Violence Prevention Unit **e-Bulletin** | September 2024



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Violence Prevention Unit

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WELCOME

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the Wales Violence Prevention Unit e-Bulletin.

We are committed to bringing partners together to ensure a coordinated approach to violence prevention, advocating for co-designed solutions to violence both between organisations and with communities, and children and young people. It is our ambition to work with partners toward a Wales free from violence whilst still ensuring it is responded to effectively and safely when it does occur.

This issue also provides an update on key areas of our work related to this ambition. We share details of our commissioned interventions, including any highlights from the past quarter, as well as updates on new publications including the Engaging Men and Boys in Violence Prevention Toolkit.

As I am sure most of you are aware, the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioners are developing their Police and Crime Plans, which set out their areas of focus and priorities for policing. South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner Emma Wools is currently consulting on what should be included in the Plan for South Wales. I would be grateful if our partners in South Wales could complete the consultation and share details with the communities you work with so everyone has a chance to have their say. In addition to the survey, the Commissioner is running a small grants scheme, 'Tell Emma', providing up to £500 for grass roots organisations to facilitate feedback sessions within their communities. You can find out more about the survey and the small grants scheme on the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner's website:

[Click here to access the consultation survey.](#)

[Click here to learn more about 'Tell Emma'](#)

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions about our work or how we can support you.

Dan Jones

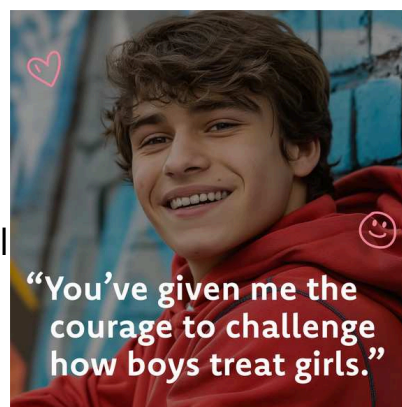
Head of the Wales Violence Prevention Unit

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUARTER

New Publication: Engaging Men and Boys in Violence Prevention Toolkit

Vital research by the Wales Violence Prevention Unit (VPU) sets out considerations on how to best engage men and boys in violence prevention.

Violence is a societal issue, often rooted in harmful social norms and stereotypes that sustain inequality. These norms and stereotypes are damaging to everyone, and everyone has a role in changing the narrative. However, historically, initiatives to prevent violence have largely neglected the vital role men and boys can play as allies and ambassadors.



Recognising the importance of involving everyone in the solution, the VPU has launched the 'Engaging Men and Boys in Violence Prevention Toolkit', in partnership with Plan International UK. This Toolkit brings together academic evidence and professional expertise to support the development of inclusive, accessible and engaging programmes for men and boys. At this stage, the Toolkit consists of two reports and an infographic:

- "You've given me the courage to challenge how boys treat girls" Key Findings from 'Test and Learn' Projects in Wales- this report shares findings from focus groups with Plan International UK's Test and Learn projects. Primarily, it explores evidence from practice and from literature on enablers and barriers to engaging men and boys in violence prevention.
- Investing in allies and ambassadors- Engaging men and boys in violence prevention: A Review of Programmes in Wales- this report showcases Welsh programmes that aim to engage men and boys in violence prevention. These programmes were identified by professionals as part of a survey, and this report provides considerations for practitioners, researchers, policy makers and commissioners on project development, including evaluation, and project delivery.

- An infographic which draws out the key considerations from both reports for designing and delivering programmes to engage men and boys in preventing violence.

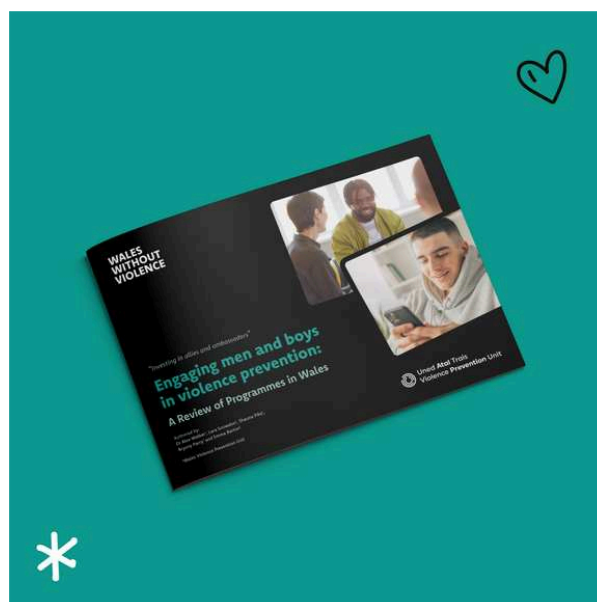
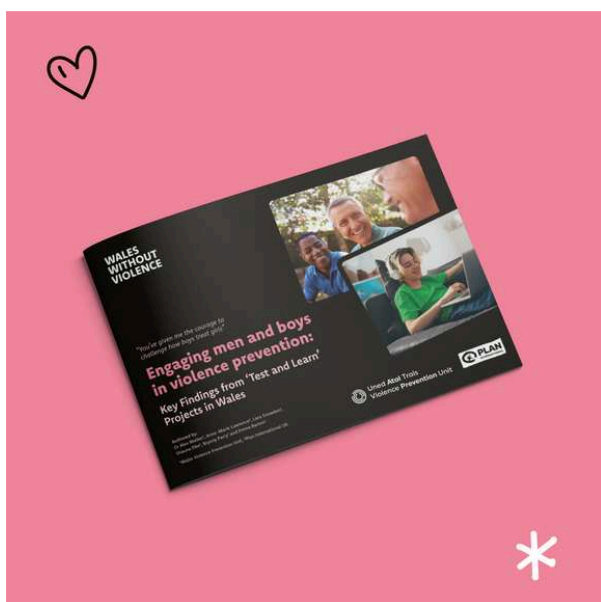


As part of the implementation of the Wales Without Violence Framework, the Toolkit will continue to develop to provide a range of accessible information for understanding, supporting, and critically assessing the role that programmes designed to specifically support men and boys can play in preventing violence.

[Click here to explore the Toolkit on the Wales Without Violence website](#)

[Click here to download graphics to help share the report \(this link will take you to Google Drive\)](#).

If you are unable to access Google Drive but would like the graphics to share the report, please email PHW.ViolencePreventionUnit@wales.nhs.uk



New Briefing: 'Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Experienced by Women Residing in Wales'

Every year, the Wales Violence Prevention Unit compiles the 'Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Experienced by Women Residing in Wales' report, utilising the data collected through the All-Wales FGM clinical pathway.

The report for 2023/2024 is now available. This yearly report looks to:

- Provide an overview of the current level and trends in reporting of FGM experienced by women residing in Wales
- Understand the usefulness of data being collected and try to identify any additional data points that would be useful to know.

The report can be accessed on the repository on the Wales Violence Prevention Portal. The Portal is a digital platform that holds anonymised data allowing users to understand violence trends in Wales for operational and strategic practice.

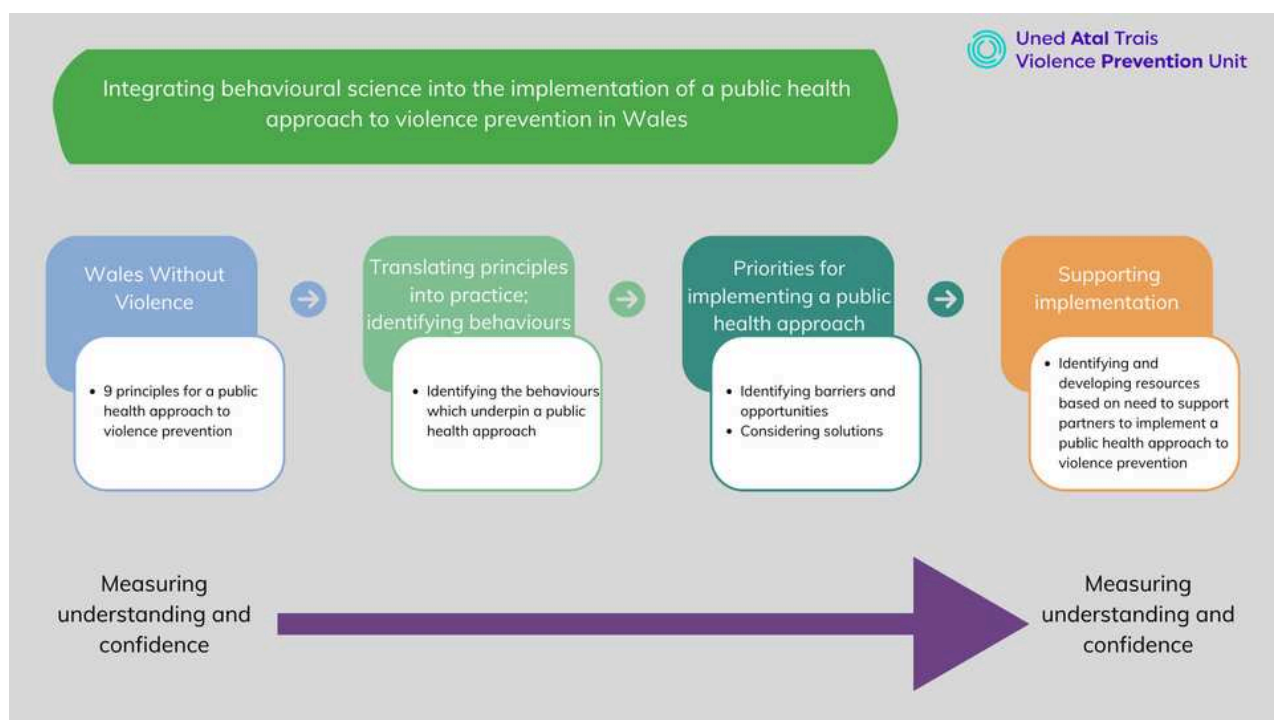
[Click here to request a Portal account.](#) The Portal is not publicly available and is only available to sign up via organisational email addresses.

If you are unable to register for the Portal but would like access to the report, please email PHW.ViolencePreventionUnit@Wales.nhs.uk

Building a Wales Without Violence Summer Roundtable Series

I understand the approach better and I feel more confident implementing it. I enjoyed the discussions and has given me lots of food for thought.
-PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

In June and July, the Wales Violence Prevention Unit (VPU) hosted **two** Roundtable discussions with multi-agency partners from across Wales. The Roundtables, which were delivered in partnership with the Behavioural Science Unit from Public Health Wales, explored the possibility of integrating behavioural science into the adoption of the nine violence prevention principles from the Wales Without Violence Framework.



The Framework's violence prevention principles are evidence-based and coproduced with professionals, children and young people in Wales and provide a basis for everyone to consider what the implementation of a public health approach looks like for Wales.

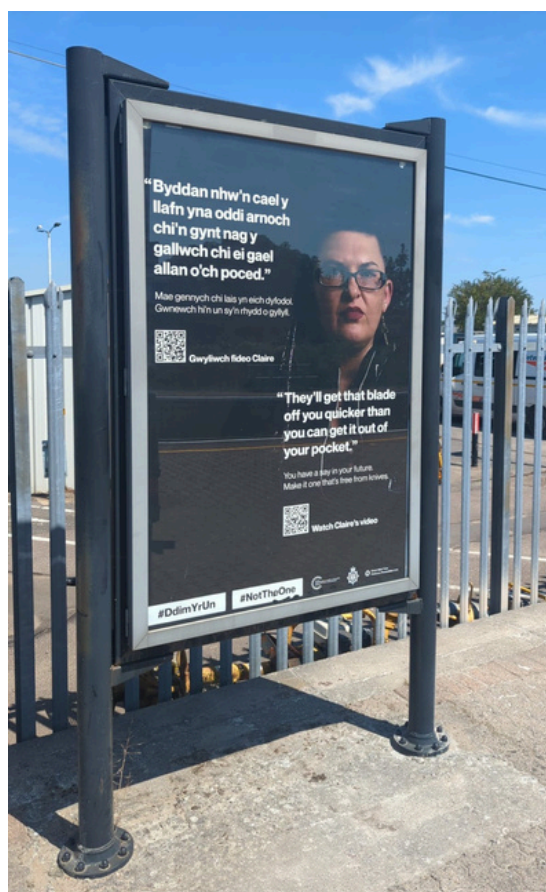
In session one, the VPU introduced how behavioural science can be used

to understand the different barriers and opportunities to adopting a public health approach, bringing in expertise from the Behavioural Science Unit, Public Health Wales. Participants then worked through what behaviours/practices are needed to implement the nine violence prevention principles. Session two focused on identifying the barriers and facilitators for developing the core behaviours identified in session one, before exploring what support and resources are needed to further embed a public health approach to violence prevention activity in Wales.

The findings from these sessions will support the development of the Wales Without Violence implementation plan. This plan will detail the support the VPU will offer our partners over the next year, to support a public health approach to violence prevention in Wales.

[A report on the findings will be available soon, so stay tuned!](#)

#NotTheOne Summer Ad Campaign



You may have spotted the #NotTheOne knife crime prevention campaign out and about during the summer holidays.

#NotTheOne takes an early intervention approach to knife-crime prevention, supporting trusted adults, including parents, teachers, police officers and youth workers, in educating 11-16-year-olds on the dangers and consequences of carrying a knife. New resources launched in April 2024, and have since been downloaded from the website over 1,000 times.

Throughout July and August, the campaign was also shared with children

and young people via social media, on Snapchat and Tiktok, as well as in places like railway stations and on buses. Whilst the campaign resources are primarily used by trusted adults to start a conversation with young people about knife crime, the Wales Violence Prevention Unit and South Wales Police wanted to ensure children and young people and their parents were aware of the support available to them during the school holidays.

All of the ads direct people to the #NotTheOne website, where they can download resources, watch video interviews of people who have been affected by knife crime and access information on support services.



We are awaiting the results of a post-campaign poll which surveyed 250 16–24-year-olds in South Wales on their perceptions of knife crime and the #NotTheOne campaign.

Topline analysis of the social media ads show that overall, we reached just over 100,000 16 and 17-year-olds in South Wales, and the campaign website received 4,901 visits from the Snapchat ads and 6,217 from TikTok.

Visit www.nottheone.co.uk to check out the campaign!

Peer Action Collective Cymru and Wales Violence Prevention Unit plan for the year ahead!



In August, the Wales Violence Prevention Unit (VPU) team met with peer researchers and leads from Peer Action Collective Cymru (PAC) to plan our partnership for the year ahead.

It was a fantastic day, culminating in plans to work together across lots of exciting research and engagement projects.

Stay tuned for more info!

The VPU also [interviewed](#) the PAC peer researchers on how they were able to support professionals and children and young people to learn from one another.

PAC Peer Researchers: Bridging the Gap between Children and Young People, and Professionals

I became a peer researcher because I didn't see enough representation of young people in positions of influence. I felt that young people's experiences are downplayed a lot when they talk about their experiences to professionals

-MUNA

I joined the team because I wanted to share my experiences and ensure that young people are heard

-ANASTASIIA

I am part of a LGBTQ+ youth group called GWIR and the then-head of the group knew how I was interested in social action and change for young people, and she told me about PAC peer researchers and here I am!

-TESNI

Muna (18), **Tesni** (17) and **Anastasiia** (20) are **PAC Cymru** peer researchers. PAC Cymru, funded by Youth Endowment Fund, is a network of young people dedicated to creating a positive change in their communities by conducting innovative research and taking proactive action to address issues surrounding violence among children and young people. As PAC peer researchers, they've worked with various multi-agency partners such as the **Police**, **Cardiff University's Children's Social Care Research and Development Centre (CASCADE)** and the **VPU** on a wide range of topics, including understanding the causes of violence among children and young people and exploring the role of trusted adults.

This group of young researchers play an important role in ensuring the voices of children and young people are heard and their work bridges the gap between children, young people and professionals.

“Even though we are young people ourselves, we don’t know what every single young person is going through. We meet people from different cultures, ethnicities- each one of them can have different experiences, so we are always learning new things from the young people we talk to. We are always learning and broadening our perspectives,” remarked Muna.

The team are conscious of creating a safe and inclusive space for young people to feel comfortable opening up and talking to them. Their approach in creating a safe space includes meeting them in places they are comfortable, adapting questions, ensuring there is access to support if needed. Their approach of communicating and connecting with children and young people has received positive feedback from parents and youth workers as well as the young people involved. Tesni remarked that the peer researchers being a diverse group and being young people themselves, made them relatable and made it more comfortable for children and young people to reach out. “We listen to everything. Every single random, nuanced and oddly specific thing- we listen to their voice and make sure they are heard. We don’t see children and young people as tick boxes for research, but see them as people with different experiences,” shared Tesni.

Along with creating a safe space for young people to talk to them, the group also ensures that they continue working with children and young people and strengthening their bond with them. “We stay connected with the young people, and make sure they know they could reach out to us later if needed. We network with them and invite them to our events as we also conduct workshops and focus groups,” shared Anastasiia. Some of these events are influenced by their research and what they’ve heard from young people.

The peer researchers also highlighted that they work with professionals, ensuring that young people’s experiences influence work in policy and decision-making especially relating to violence among children and young people, thereby supporting the creation of a Wales without violence.

PRESENTATION

Dr Alex Walker, Violence Prevention Outcomes Officer, presented her work on **‘Violence Against Older People in Wales’** at the UKPRP VISION Consortium’s Annual Conference in June 2024, supporting the VISION Consortium in developing academic research on violence.

In her presentation, Dr Walker analysed data from a variety of sources to better understand the prevalence of violence against older people in Wales. Data sources included Police, Health and third sector, for violence against the person, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Findings from the report highlights that violence against older people remains a significant issue in Wales. The report is renewed annually, with the next iteration due to be shared in October 2024.

All health and police data used within the report are available on the Wales Without Violence Portal. You can register for access [here](#).



INTERVENTIONS

The Wales Violence Prevention Unit fund a number of interventions in South Wales, as part of the Violence Reduction Unit Grant allocated to the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner. These interventions are focused on supporting children and young people who have experience or are at risk of experiencing violence.

Below, you can read the latest updates from each intervention, including the number of people they have helped.

The figures for each intervention detailed below cover the period between 01.04.2024 - 30.06.2024

NHS Violence Prevention Team

The NHS Violence Prevention Team (VPT) operates within the Emergency Departments of University Hospital of Wales (CAVUHB), Cardiff and Morriston Hospital, Swansea (SBUHB). Both teams are supervised by their respective Head of Safeguarding. The team consists of a qualified nurse and an advocate. Their work focusses on delivering advice, support and guidance to patients of any age who have experienced violence with injury, with the aim of engaging with those injured whilst they are in hospital to help break the cycle of violence at the point of crisis.

In Cardiff, the team recently launched Cyfannol- the first Safeguarding and Wellbeing service based within the Emergency Department in Wales. This service includes a variety of health speciality service professionals including VPTs, domestic abuse, mental health and frequent attenders to provide a more holistic, person-centred approach to patient care.

In Swansea, the team has produced leaflets with contact information for the VPT which has been distributed across different departments in the Health Board to share it when relevant. This has resulted in more patients accepting VPT's support as they're aware of the service and support provided by the VPT. The leaflets have also been received positively by the different departments, and the team is exploring the process of having pens and keyrings printed with contact information for networking purposes.

CAVUHB VPT:

- No. of individuals who have been in contact with the intervention:
 - 24 and under: 117
 - 25 and above: 154
- No. of professionals trained by this intervention: 788

SBUHB VPT:

- No. of individuals who have been in contact with the intervention:
 - 24 and under: 132
 - 25 and above: 158
- No. of professionals trained by this intervention: 352

Action for Children

The Action for Children Youth Practitioner team is made up of dedicated individuals who receive referrals from the NHS Violence Prevention Team in Cardiff. With a response time of 48 hours, the team offer targeted support based on the needs of the individual, promoting opportunities for diversion, training, and employment. Action for Children have a close bond with a number of youth services in the area. The team uses a service user (children and young people)-led approach and positive impact teaching to provide tailored support plans which has had positive feedback from service users as they mentioned they felt heard and it encouraged structure in their lives.

Some of the tailored support they offer include advocating for more appropriate housing conditions for their service users, support them in their journey in exploring intimate relationships by having conversations about consent and signposting them to sexual health clinics for check ups and contraceptives and providing support to their service users by bridging with other specialist agencies when necessary. The team also attends court sessions, visits their service users in prison and write supporting letters to the courts.

- No. of individuals who have been in contact with the intervention (the service is for children and young people between the ages of 11-30):
 - 24 and under: 14
 - 25 and above: 0

Hospital Support Practitioner, Swansea

A dedicated full time support practitioner employed by Media Academy Cymru (MAC) receives referrals from the NHS Violence Prevention Team in Swansea. This service offers support for young people who attend the Morriston Hospital Emergency Department and Neath Port Talbot Minor Injuries Unit following any serious violence or assault incident. A bespoke safety plan is completed with the young person and suitable support is provided including referrals made to organisations/ programmes that meet the needs of the young person. Alongside this, the service also offers support for its service users in applying for jobs and in creating a safe environment for the service user by ensuring correct support is in place in their school, home and even in their communities.

In this quarter, the service has identified the need for mental health and youth work training with the options for training being currently explored.

- No. of individuals who have been in contact with the intervention (the service is for children and young people between the ages of 11-30):
 - 24 and under: 28
 - 25 and above: 3

Parallel Lives

The Parallel Lives programme, made up of a committed group of case managers under the programme coordinator's leadership, helps families experiencing Adolescent to Parent/Carer Violence and Abuse (APVA) and is based in Cardiff, Swansea, and Merthyr Tydfil.

Parallel Lives supports entire families through their experiences of APVA by educating on the causes and impacts of such violence, as well as providing guidance and support on how to manage and work through issues. The intervention is delivered by case managers using a strength-based approach to build relationships within the families and encourage young people to make positive behavioural changes.

The programme also runs a four-tiered Base, Build, Boost and Beyond service- the evaluation of which will be available in the next quarter. The first Boost workshop was conducted in partnership with the Cardiff Council Foster Team to help parents/carers who have adopted young people.

- No. of individuals who have been in contact with the intervention:
 - 24 and under: 40 (Young People)
 - 25 and above: 17 (Parents/Guardians/Carers)

Fearless

Fearless for Crimestoppers is made up of a compassionate team of dedicated youth workers who target identified hotspot areas across South Wales, identifying and responding to opportunities to deliver sessions on child criminal exploitation/county lines, drugs and anti-social behaviour, knife crime, toxic masculinity and hate crime to children and young people within both educational and community settings. Fearless also facilitates training for professionals in identifying signs of violence and responding to disclosures from children and young people.

In their workshops on knife crime, Fearless utilised the #NotTheOne material including the new resources that were launched last quarter. Using the new resources, Fearless aims to enhance engagement by incorporating examples that resonate with young people as the case studies and campaign video reflect the current challenges they face.

Sessions this quarter were held across North and West Cardiff and were customised to meet the specific needs and capabilities of the group including adapting the session to cater for those with learning disabilities and social anxiety. Specialised sessions were also tailored according to genders with a session for girls including awareness on issues such as association, sexual exploitation and role of boyfriends in gang involvement. The work of this quarter has highlighted the importance of adapting sessions to address the different needs of each group to enhance their understanding and engagement with Fearless.

- No. of children and young people who have been in contact with the intervention- 6,509
- No. of professionals who have fully engaged with the intervention- 155

Braver Choices

Braver Choices is a programme of work designed to ensure that all children and young people in Cardiff and Swansea who are using or on the periphery of using knives and other weapons will have a bespoke, strengths-based and child-centred intervention with a qualified youth worker.

When an individual is referred, their needs are identified to inform a mutually agreed, tailor made action plan. Throughout the programme, this plan is reviewed to help ensure that the goals set are appropriate and relevant, and that the individual is on track to meet those goals.

Braver Choices caseworkers have reached over 1,000 children and young people in South Wales and Gwent policing areas across 52 workshops on weapons awareness and criminal exploitation. The caseworkers have also trained 20 Children at Risk of Missing, Exploitation and Trafficking (CMET) partnership professionals in Swansea on how to respond to violence using guidance and best approaches from the Wales Without Violence Framework.

It has also been identified that the Programme receives a high number of referrals for children and young people who have additional needs therefore the option of having autism awareness training for case workers is being explored for the next quarter. The case workers are also currently working on producing a facilitator's guide for the programme to make it easier for professionals to deliver workshops.

- No. of individuals who have been in contact with the intervention (the service is for children and young people between the ages of 10-18)- 43
- No. of individuals reached through workshops- 1,400
- No of professionals who have fully engaged with the intervention- 20

Early Intervention and Prevention Coordinators

The VPU commission two Early Intervention and Prevention Coordinators who are based in Cardiff Council and Swansea Council. The Cardiff Coordinator oversees the Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan region, coordinating specialist interventions within the context of Safeguarding Adolescents from Exploitation (SAFE) partnership. The Swansea Coordinator oversees the Swansea and Neath Port Talbot region, coordinating specialist interventions within the context of the Children at Risk of Missing, Exploitation and Trafficking (CMET) partnership. Working within a wider team, this role enables young people to be diverted from exploitation, violence and serious organised crime at the earliest opportunity by ensuring a clear referral pathway to specialist interventions, identifying gaps in provision and working with partners to develop new interventions that are evidence-based and data-led.

The Cardiff SAFE Coordinator has supported the team in Cardiff to:

- Launch a guidance document for using the police information form. This guidance document has been shared with partner services including third sector, health, education and children's services.
- Deliver online learning sessions to support referrals to specialist agencies.
- Deliver the in-person 'Think Safe' training, which guides professionals through referral processes in relation to exploitation.

The Swansea CMET Coordinator has supported the team in Swansea to:

- Set up the Transition Project with the aim of supporting young people at transition age (primary to secondary school), who have been identified as most at risk of extra familial harm (child criminal exploitation and violence among children and young people).

- Deliver online safety sessions covering sexual and criminal exploitation, safety planning, emotional health and well-being.
- Develop the CMET United Project, which enables the Coordinator to record and present more specific demographics, ensuring a high quality of data reporting output from this service.

Cardiff SAFE:

- No. of individuals who have been in contact with the intervention- Over 1,500
- No. of professionals who have been directly trained by this intervention- 820

Swansea CMET:

- No. of individuals who have been in contact with the intervention- 355
- No. of professionals who have been directly trained by this intervention- 150

Positive Masculinity Project

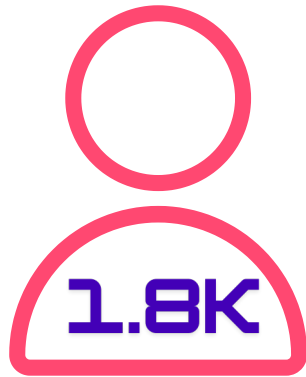
The Positive Masculinity project supports young people by delivering sessions on identity, sexism/misogyny, family & culture, patriarchy, role models, school experiences, mental health and the bystander effect. These sessions are designed to help young people develop a more positive self-identity, form healthy relationships, improve critical thinking, enhance personal safety and understand appropriate behaviours when witnessing toxic actions. The service uses the Wales Without Violence Framework as an evidence-base to develop and deliver effective and informative sessions on positive masculinity.

As the intervention is quite new, it continues to develop its structure to improve engagement and effectiveness, based on feedback from boys and young men who have been a part of the project.

- No. of individuals who have been in contact with the intervention (the service is for boys and young men who are currently in school)- 10

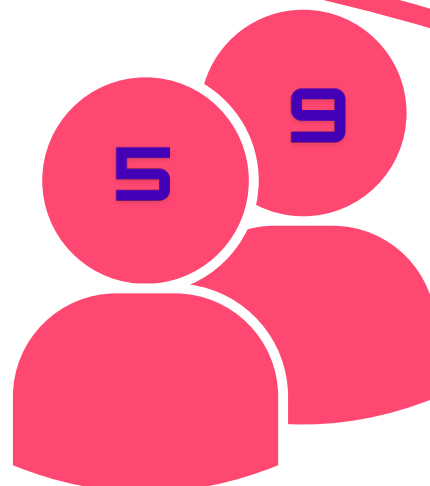
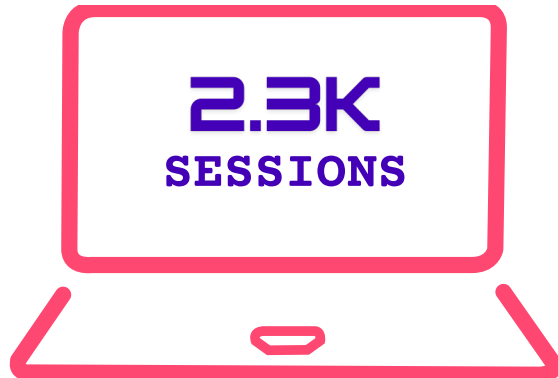
QUARTER IN NUMBERS

June- September 2024



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Wales Violence Prevention Unit Website



**PEOPLE ATTENDED OUR
EVENTS**

If you have resources you would like featured in the e-Bulletin or you were forwarded this newsletter and would like to subscribe, email: phw.violencepreventionunit@wales.nhs.uk

For more information on our work, visit:
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