

South Wales West Regional Committee

SWaWR (2)-03-06 (p.2)

Date: Friday 20 October 2006

Venue: Dylan Thomas Centre, Swansea, Conference Room 1.

Title: Tackling Domestic Abuse: Swansea 'Laying the Foundations'.



**Tackling Domestic Abuse:
Swansea 'Laying the Foundations'**



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1. Aim of Paper

- 1.1 To outline the approaches by the Safer Swansea Partnership between 2004 and 2006 to *Tackling Domestic Abuse: The All Wales National Strategy, A Joint – Agency Approach*.
- 1.2 To introduce the Safer Swansea Domestic Abuse Strategy 2006 – 2008.
- 1.3 To highlight key issues for the Safer Swansea Partnership in taking forward *Tackling Domestic Abuse: The All Wales National Strategy, A Joint – Agency Approach*.

2. Approaches 2004 - 2006

05.04	Community safety partnership domestic abuse coordinator funded via Assembly appointed. The post is located within City and County of Swansea Social Services.
07.04	Swansea Domestic Abuse Forum became the formal sub - group for domestic abuse within the community safety partnership.
08.04	Domestic Abuse Accommodation Awareness Day – a Swansea Conference arising from the identification by the Swansea Homelessness Strategy and Supporting People of domestic abuse as one of the 3 main causes of homelessness in Swansea.
09.04	Swansea Domestic Abuse Forum responded to the Consultation on Draft All Wales Domestic Abuse Strategy.
01.05	City and County of Swansea Social Services Cabinet Advisory Committee held a series of Domestic Abuse ‘Evidence’ sessions and invited presentations by key partners.
04.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of <i>Tackling Domestic Abuse: The All Wales National Strategy, A Joint – Agency Approach</i>. • City and County of Swansea Social Services Cabinet Advisory Committee produced ‘Domestic Abuse: Position Paper’ recommending: 1. That the Safer Swansea Partnership develop a Swansea Domestic Abuse Strategy to take forward the expectations of the All Wales Strategy and based on local needs; 2. That the City and County of Swansea develop a Domestic Abuse Human Resources Policy.
04.05	The Swansea Domestic Abuse Forum resolved to establish Groups themed upon the Principles of the All Wales Strategy (Prevention, Protection and Support, and Perpetrator Accountability) to develop the content for the Safer Swansea Domestic Abuse Strategy. 2 additional groups were established: a Strategy Monitoring Group (including the brief for Equality) and an Accommodation and Support Group to link the Domestic Abuse Strategy and Homelessness Strategy.
09.05	People Are Dying for a Change: Approaches to Partnership Working – a conference hosted by City and County of Swansea Social Services to engage all agencies in the process of developing the Strategy.
01.06	Home Office and Assembly Violent Crimes visit to Swansea. The Safer Swansea Partnership was highlighted for the strength of its joint working and police performance for domestic abuse.

01 – 03.06	Pilot of 'Spotlight on Suspect' via Home Office funded DVEC (Domestic Violence Enforcement Campaign).
02.06	Consultation on the (Draft) Safer Swansea Domestic Abuse Strategy 2006 – 2008. Views were sought on its Action Plan in particular.
03.06	Swansea Chief Superintendent and Police Domestic Abuse Coordinator presentation on 'Spotlight on Suspect' to the Assembly Working Group on Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women.
03.06	Swansea represented at Home Office Domestic Violence Conference 'Developing a Coordinated Community Response'.
04.06	Swansea Domestic Abuse Strategy Action Plan 2006 – 2008 began to be implemented via the quarterly themed task group meetings.
09.06	Notification received of successful bid to Home Office for a Swansea Specialist Domestic Violence Court and Independent Domestic Violence Advisers.
09.06	Safer Swansea Domestic Abuse Strategy 2006 – 2008 became Policy of the City and County of Swansea by unanimous Member support.
09.06	Accommodation and Support Group coordinated a Swansea response to the Assembly Supporting People Domestic Abuse Guidance Consultation.
11.06	White Ribbon Campaign to be held comprising formal Launch of the Safer Swansea Domestic Abuse Strategy 2006 – 2008.

3. Safer Swansea Domestic Abuse Strategy 2006 – 2008

The Draft Strategy can presently be viewed on Safer Swansea Partnership website at http://www.safer Swansea.org.uk/violence_domestic.asp (Please note the under slash i.e.: ' _ ' between 'violence' and 'domestic'.)

4. Key Issues for the Safer Swansea Partnership

- 4.1 *Tackling Domestic Abuse: The All Wales National Strategy, A Joint – Agency Approach* provides an essential framework for community safety partnerships and requires additional resources to implement its expectations.
- 4.2 Swansea is trying to deal with Public Protection as an agenda and is striving to develop the joint – agency approaches to risk identification, assessment and management. In the period 2005 – 2006 Swansea Domestic Abuse Unit received 3263 reports (of which 1879 were verbal) of domestic abuse. 3.9% of these incidents involved repeat victims. An 81% arrest rate was achieved for this period.
- 4.3 In a letter of response to the Draft Safer Swansea Domestic Abuse Strategy Consultation Mrs Edwina Hart, Assembly Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration, stated her belief that the Swansea Strategy "will be a valuable resource on a regional level". A response to the Consultation by the Assembly Working Group on Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women also identified that the Strategy Action Plan's approach to tackling domestic abuse within BME communities required strengthening. An outcome - focused South Wales BME Domestic

Abuse Conference (open to representation from across Wales) is therefore being cross regionally planned and will be hosted by Swansea on 21st September 2007. Support for this exercise will be sought from the Assembly.

Appendices

i. Swansea – A Joint Agency Approach

ii. The Swansea Domestic Abuse Strategy and its relationship with the broader Public Protection Agenda