

SAFEGUARDING

Cardiff Council

RISE-Cardiff (Recovery, Information, Safety, Empowerment)

In response to the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015, Cardiff Council has commissioned a truly holistic and fit-for-purpose service for female victims. This has included taking a flexible approach to the previous role of the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate and combining this with that of Support Worker to deliver a team of Independent Personal Advocates who can provide both practical and psychological support to victims and their children.

RISE brings together the expertise of a range of specialist agencies in the city – Cardiff Women's Aid is the lead provider, working collaboratively with Bawso (an all-Wales voluntary organisation, supporting BME people in Wales experiencing abuse) and Llamau (Wales' leading charity for young people & women facing homelessness) in a consortium. Together they deliver a range of support services to assist victims (and their children) of any form of violence against women, domestic abuse and/or sexual violence (VAWDASV):

A One-Stop Shop offering:

- Advice, information and a full triage assessment to consider needs and risk;
- Management of referrals from victims, friends, family and professionals;
- Signposting as necessary to other specialist/ non-specialist services;
- Management of all police referrals (PPNs), both adult victims and any children affected and making initial contact to offer services;
- Access to other co-located partner support services such as solicitors and the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Accommodation-Based Support including:

- Access to appropriate safe accommodation via the VAWDASV Gateway online system (provided by the Council);
- An intake and assessment facility to undertake fuller assessments of need, or for respite whilst target hardening or other activity takes place;
- A range of crisis/ refuge accommodation across the city;
- A range of step-down supported accommodation.

Community-Based Support including:

- Dedicated advocacy and support through the Criminal Justice System and civil justice processes;
- Access to psychological counselling and recovery toolkits for victims and children;
- Housing-related support to prevent loss of, or to establish new tenancies and reintegration into the community;
- Self-help interventions, either on a 1:1 or group basis;
- Dedicated services for pregnant women and for those with children aged under five;
- Provision of training to professionals to understand the signs of VAWDASV.

Using a needs-led, strengths-based and trauma-informed approach, RISE is focussed on early intervention, always mindful of putting the safety of victims and their children at the centre of service delivery. Support is innovative, flexible, victim-centred and works in tandem with South Wales Police, Council and Health colleagues through the local Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub.



For further information contact:

Natalie Southgate

Improvement Project Manager – Gender Specific Services, Cardiff Council

NSouthgate@cardiff.gov.uk | Tel: 029 2053 7277

www.cardiff.gov.uk