



Wales Violence Prevention Unit Coronavirus (Covid-19) response

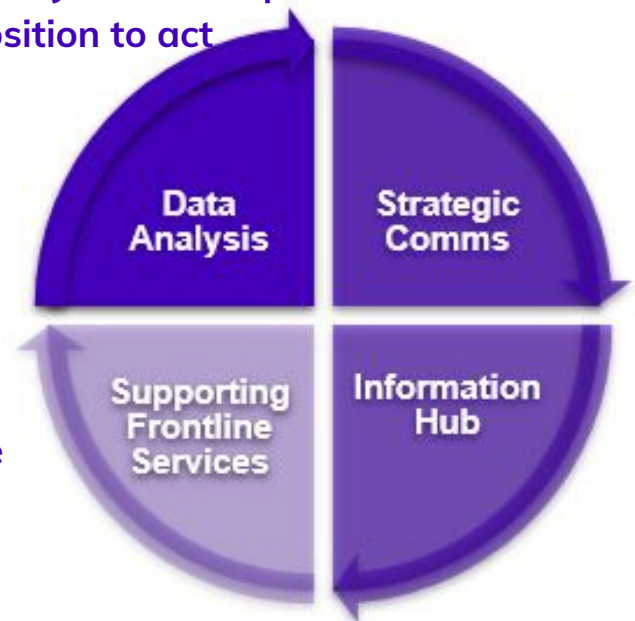
The Wales Violence Prevention Unit/ Uned Atal Trais (VPU) is a partnership of passionate people from an alliance of organisations working together to prevent all forms of violence across Wales through a public health approach.

Collective expertise from our partner agencies in the voluntary sector and emergency services suggest that the response to the current Covid-19 pandemic is likely to be having an adverse impact on the scale, nature and impact of violence, particularly experienced in the home.

As a new multi-agency unit, supported by a team of public health analysts, we are in a unique position to act during this difficult time.

Our response covers four areas of action:

- (1) data analysis
- (2) strategic communications
- (3) support and advocacy for frontline services
- (4) information hub for guidance, evidence and resources



Impact of Covid-19 measures on Violence

Whilst many factors contribute to violence, it is likely that a combination of risk factors during this period – namely quarantine, stress and mental health concerns, changes to working patterns and unemployment, closure of schools and other support services moving online, alcohol and drug abuse - are having a significant impact on the risk of violence occurring, specifically in the home.



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Possible impacts on violence may be:



**Increase in
domestic
violence and
abuse**



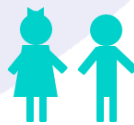
**Increase in
domestic
homicide**



**Increase in
sexual
violence and
abuse**



**Increase in
elder abuse**



**Increase in
child abuse**



**Increase in
online violence
and abuse**



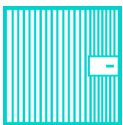
**Increase in
self-harm
and suicide**



**Violence to
and by emergency
service workers
and other key
workers**



**Increased risk
and harm to
vulnerable
groups**



**Changes to
custodial and
community
sentencing**



**Changes to
patterns of
offending and
reoffending**



**Changes to
violence relating
to county lines
and serious
organised crime**



**Increases in
adverse childhood
experiences
and trauma**



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In addition to the above, it is also important to consider the potential impacts to violence when the current UK 'lockdown' is lifted, particularly if there are considerable social and economic changes as a consequence of 'lockdown' measures that increase unemployment, poverty, or inequality. These could include:



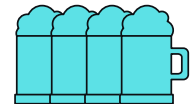
Civil unrest



Hate crime



Changes to violence relating to county lines and serious organised crime



Increases in night time economy violence

Our approach

Data analysis



Bringing partnership data together through our violence surveillance system will enable us to analyse and monitor the scale, nature, and impact of violence and identify any trends, patterns, and hotspots emerging during the outbreak. This dynamic risk assessment will be communicated weekly with partners to enable data-led prevention and response measures by our partners, and add to the evidence base for future events.

Strategic communications

As a collaborative, multi-agency team, the Wales Violence Prevention Unit will work with partners to shape and align evidence-informed communications. We will share intelligence gathered through our data analysis and the violence prevention evidence base to ensure partners have the most up-to-date knowledge to inform their communication.





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Supporting frontline services

Frontline services may be experiencing unprecedented levels of change in demand during this period, changes to capacity of staff, or limitation to regular service delivery. The Wales Violence Prevention Unit is uniquely placed to listen to our multiagency partners and provide support and advocacy to address these gaps, where appropriate. For services commissioned by the Wales Violence Prevention Unit, most intervention work has moved online, with providers working tirelessly to prevent violence and protect those at risk.



Information, guidance and evidence

The Wales Violence Prevention Unit will act as an information hub for guidance, information and evidence relating to violence prevention. We will issue e-Bulletins, share resources and guidance and web content to provide up to date information and guidance to our partners.



Contact us

For more information on our work contact Bryony Parry,
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If you have data from your organisation that you are able to share,
contact Emma Barton, Violence Prevention Outcomes Manager /
Research Lead: Emma.Barton@wales.nhs.uk

Visit our website www.violencepreventionwales.co.uk

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