



Rhwydwaith
CYMNEDAU MWY DIOGEL CYMRU
WALES SAFER COMMUNITIES
Network

Understanding and Preventing Violence with Children and Young People

Spring/ Summer Seminar Series 2023

Tuesday 02 May 2023, 14:00-15:30

FAQs

Q: If you could do one thing to prevent violence or reduce violence the most, what would it be?

A: There is no easy answer because what is actually needed, which was a theme throughout the presentations of the seminar, is that we need to bring all workstreams together to make communities that work. Bringing all the successful and brilliant things that happen into one place so that there is a framework that can deliver.

There must be a whole system approach that is coherent and comprehensive. As professionals and practitioners, it's important to know the local needs and perspectives of those you are working for and with, in order to ensure partners are delivering sustainable services that are needed/ wanted.

In addition, there must be a long-term approach. As highlighted during the presentations, tackling violence prevention and reduction is not just about funding, it is about supporting a child's journey, which takes time and commitment. The system needs to consider a child's entire journey into adulthood, and there will be points where each different service will have the opportunity to intervene along this journey. Additionally, there is a need to look at poverty, housing and employment that are underlying contributing factors throughout that child's life.

Q: How are young people's expectations being managed, especially if they are requesting a long list of activities/ service provisions etc.?

A: The range of issues that are worked on allow the opportunity to not just focus on one area and/or one demand, i.e. relationships with the Police, free bus travel to school (to help encourage attendance but also ensure they arrive safely). It was shared that the training and the process isn't just about activities, it's about the journey; helping them to understand what is needed to make things better and how their views can be put forward to influence decisions that will benefit the lives of themselves and other young people.

It was stated that the key is being pragmatic, helping them to understand that there may be a need to compromise; but the aim of a life without violence remains the same. It was explained that it is the job of the organiser to help the young person to understand what a successful outcome may look like when meeting with different decision makers.

Through the VPU's engagement with children and young people, they had not been met by a list of demands but recognised the importance of building relationships and actually working with them on the solutions. They found that doing this allowed the young people to understand the limitations, whilst still helping them to feel visible. It was recognised that relatively small changes, for example, local youth groups opening at different times, had relatively low financial opportunities.

Q: What is happening to tackle intergenerational offending and violence with young people?

A: Intergenerational patterns to violence are addressed in a number of areas within the [Framework](#) and it was fully recognised that there is not just one solution.

Some of the key areas where it is covered within the Framework were identified, including within the support for families, early years, parenting and care givers and also support to children and young people who were victims of domestic abuse. It was acknowledged that holistic support to help tackle intergenerational links and patterns of violence is really important. Other areas include employment and training, schools and education, and also systems change level measures, such as reducing poverty, inequality and discrimination. In short, there is no one easy answer.

There is a need for a holistic approach. The importance of understanding the interconnections of how services tie together and offer trauma informed service delivery is essential.

It was highlighted that there is currently a lot of work taking place between Welsh Government, HMPPS and the criminal justice partnership landscape, with a focus on improving family ties for people incarcerated within the justice system.

Q: Is there a “hotspot” map that identifies areas of greatest need following on from the need to consider issues across governmental departments (i.e. economic, health, housing, social care etc)? Does it link into the aims and recommendations for the Youth Work Strategy for Wales?

These questions echo conversations taking place whilst developing the Welsh Government's Violence Prevention Framework. The work of the VPU focused on the serious violence space, whilst Welsh Government will focus on the Youth Justice Blueprint and the specific work and learning that feeds into that space. With an aim of trying to understand how it can be replicated across the system more broadly to clients, so that preventive work is embedded into everything that we do.

It was recognised that the mass of services involved in this is vast and trying to understand what's available in different parts of Wales, in a hotspot format, is very much the goal. However, currently there is a focus on trying to understand how

things should look and what provision should be in place in each space, before we then work with partners to understand what's there.

It was explained that Welsh Government really want to work together with partners to build a collective view of what's out there, what should be out there, and to take forward those conversations that should be happening in spaces like youth work; speech, language and communication; mental health; housing and substance misuse etc. in order to make sure that there's a really aligned sense at all levels on how to progress. It was recognised that this is a large piece of work that's going to take time but there is optimism that it can be done.

It was highlighted in the chat bar that consideration needs to be made to how the frameworks interlink in order to identify gaps. A specific mention to Youth Work Strategy, Community Focus schools, YEP framework which provides a positive outlook on the value of multiagency working and a real understanding on how to prevent children and young people falling between the gaps.

Q: Is there any help available for people to access baseline information and evidence so that they can get an understanding of what is happening in their area or across Wales?

The VPU has recently launched a tool called the Wales Violence Prevention Portal. Whilst the Portal is still being developed, it has been launched and is useable. The Portal is a data sharing hub for sources of violence prevention data across Wales, including data from the police, ambulance, accident and emergency (admission and attendance data for violence with injury).

The idea being that the Portal will enable you to identify hotspot areas of greatest need in Wales regarding violence. Please note that whilst the Portal includes all of the data for south Wales, sharing agreements in north Wales are still being finalised.

HELPFUL LINKS

- Wales Safer Communities Network website – [Safer Communities for Wales - Wales Safer Communities](#)
- Sign up to receive the Wales Safer Communities Network fortnightly newsletter, BRIFF, by emailing safertools@wlga.gov.uk
- Wales Violence Prevention Unit website - [Violence Prevention Unit \(violencepreventionwales.co.uk\)](http://violencepreventionwales.co.uk)
- Wales Without Violence website – [Wales Without Violence](#)
- Wales Without Violence film – [Wales Without Violence - YouTube](#)
- Wales Violence Prevention Portal – [Log in - TIIG \(ljmu.ac.uk\)](#) (please register with an organisational email address)