



Specialist VAWDASV Support Provision for Older People in Wales

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Live Fear Free Helpline
Llinell Gymorth Byw Heb Ofn

Providing confidential support and information on domestic abuse, sexual violence and violence against women in Wales
Darparu gwybodaeth a chefnogaeth cyfrinachol yngnylich trais domestig, trais rhywiol a thrais yn erbyn merched yng Nghymru

0808 80 10 800

What We Know

- Total Number of Older people supported by member services in 2016/2017 – 241 (6.4%)
- Refuge – 50 (5.4%)
- Community – 191 (6.7%)



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Barriers to Accessing Support

- Lack of specific/appropriate support for older people
- Older victims typically live with abuse for many years before getting help.
- Honour/ Shame
- Complex needs such as dementia or use alcohol as a coping mechanism.
- Perpetrator may be viewed as vulnerable and not capable of serious harm.
- Perpetrator may be the victim's adult child or grandchild
- Lack of financial independence.
- Confusion over the distinction between 'domestic violence' and 'elder abuse'



What we Can do to Help

- Be flexible in where and how you provide support
- Meet face-to-face with the older person whenever possible
- Respect your client's autonomy and their right to make decisions in their own life.
- Be aware of local specialist services available to older people
- Older victims might require specially adapted homes to help them live independently.
- Respect your client's autonomy and their right to make decisions in their own life.
- Explore options like befriending services, local activities and day/community centres to help address isolation.



Way Forward

- Innovative approaches to support provision
- Outreach support provision
- Specialist older people's outreach workers
- Drop-in community activities and groups are popular with older women.
- Specific information and training for non-specialist staff (i.e. refuge workers) on how to work effectively with older women.
- Policy Guidance
- Financial Resource Investment



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