

Appendix 1: Separate Additional Information.

Police statistics

In the year 2009/10 the police received 2,912 domestic abuse incident reports. Of those 217 were repeat incidents. In the year 2010/11 there was 884 incidents and 154 repeats. The reduction is due to a change in the way data is collated in that verbal arguments are no longer included in the statistics.

The repeat level in Bridgend County currently stands at 17.4%, that's almost the same as the Vale of Glamorgan that has a similar demographic. In the Vale of Glamorgan the repeat rate for 2010/11 stands at 17% whilst in the larger area of Rhondda Cynon Taff, it currently stands at 38%.

Low repeat levels within Bridgend County could indicate that current support mechanisms are working, however it may also indicate a low level of confidence in the public domain preventing victims coming forward and reporting repeat incidents. Research shows that a woman is assaulted on average 36 times before she reports it to the Police. Therefore, 'first time reporting' to the Police doesn't necessarily mean that it isn't a repeat incident.

Women's Aid- refuge provision and outreach services.

Women's Aid received 228 referrals for refuge in 2009/10 and was only able to accommodate 87. In 2010/11 they received 171 and were only able to accommodate 79.

In 2009/10 Women's Aid received 123 referrals for adult outreach services, but they only had the capacity to support 56.

In 2010/11 they received a further 132 referrals for outreach and they were only able to support 48.

Hafan Cymru -supported housing

Hafan Cymru provides supported housing to vulnerable women and children in Bridgend. They currently have a 5 bed scheme. During the year 2009/10 they processed 22 referrals, of which 5 women, (and children where applicable), were offered supported housing. In 2010/11, 7 families were supported.

Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA)

During the financial year 2010/11 the IDVA received a total of 237 referrals for support. The IDVA in Bridgend County only accepts referrals via the MARAC process due to oversubscribing to the service. The total number of female clients was 234 and the total number of male clients was 3.

The total number of clients that actually engaged with IDVA was 96 which is close to the CAADA maximum capacity of 100 per year.

Further Findings

Recent research completed by the Local Service Board - Neighbourhood Network team has revealed some important findings across the north of the county borough particularly in our valley communities. These are outlined below.

- Reported Domestic Violence makes up 59% of crime for the region
- There are a large number of repeat victims.
- There are difficulties around bringing victims/witnesses to court
- Victims often withdraw their statements
- There is improved evidence gathering through police use of head cameras when attending domestic calls to gather evidence of damage and disturbance
- Links are being made with South Wales Fire & Rescue Service through their recent appointment of a domestic abuse coordinator.