



ExChange VAWDASV Conference

Biographies



Nazir Afzal OBE | National Advisor, VAWDASV

Keynote Speaker: 'Enough is Enough'

Nazir Afzal OBE, was Chief Crown Prosecutor for NW England and formerly Director in London. Most recently, he was Chief Executive of the country's Police & Crime Commissioners. During a 24 year career, he has prosecuted some of the most high profile cases in the country, advised on many others and led nationally on several legal topics including violence against women & girls, child sexual abuse, and honour based violence. He had responsibility for more than 100,000 other prosecutions each year. His prosecutions of the so called Rochdale grooming gang, BBC presenter Stuart Hall and hundreds of others were ground-breaking and drove the work that has changed the landscape of child protection. He is the Chair of Hopwood Hall and was appointed to the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). He is also National Adviser on Gender Based Violence to the Welsh Government. Most recently he joined the advisory board of Google's Innovation Fund for counter-extremism.

Nazir is a tutor for several leadership programmes in the public and private sector. He has made presentations to dozens of diverse organisations in this country and abroad. He is on the European Union and Council of Europe list of expert speakers and has given hundreds of interviews in all forms of media. Nazir gives a considerable amount of time to charitable work and is trustee & Patron of several NGOs. He is an Honorary Fellow of the University of Central Lancashire, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Law by the University of Birmingham and this year an Honorary Doctorate by Manchester University. He assists the UN on rule of law, for example, he has chaired conferences in New York, Madrid, Norway and Geneva on various justice topics.

Nazir's has received many accolades, in 2005 he was awarded an OBE by the Queen for his work with the CPS and involvement with local communities. He has also had the honour of being the only lawyer to ever prosecute a case before the Queen.



Christine Grimshaw | Head of VAWDASV, Welsh Government

Conference Chair

Christine Grimshaw is Head of Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence at the Welsh Government, where she has responsibility for developing and delivering policy to implement the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.

Christine has held a number of posts across Welsh Government, including leading on childcare and play policy, tackling the impact of deprivation on educational attainment, safeguarding in education and improving educational outcomes for minority ethnic and Gypsy and Traveller pupils. She joined Welsh Government when the post-16 education and training body, ELWa, was merged into Welsh Government in 2006.

Her career has spanned the public, private and voluntary sector, having worked as a fundraiser for two national charities, and as a director of a practice offering management consultancy, running educational awards programmes and developing European-funded projects in collaboration with FE and HE institutions.



Jill Henery | C2C Practitioner, Relate Cymru

Keynote Speaker: 'Choose2Change Relate - Perpetrator Services'

Jill has worked as a Drug & Alcohol worker in a Rehabilitation centre, a Social Worker and then joined the Probation Service 1989, rising to Senior Probation Officer. During her time as Probation Officer she covered many facets of the work but in her latter days she focused on group work as she felt this was where the real intervention was possible. She retired from the Probation Service in 2008 and after working as a self employed Practitioner for the Service, she joined Choose 2 Change as a facilitator on the DVPP. She has been with the C2C for 10 years during which time she has been a



Rachael Eagles | CEO, Calan DVS

Panellist: Prevention

Rachael Eagles is the CEO of Calan DVS, the South Wales based domestic violence charity formed in 2012. She has more than 10 years' experience working at a strategic, senior level for both voluntary and private sector organisations across the UK. Rachael has also been a trustee of Welsh Women's Aid since 2015. Whilst at West Wales Domestic Abuse Services, Rachael was responsible for the merger of two pre-existing charities including the re-scoping and aligning of the new organisation to create a pro-active and robust domestic abuse charity. As a result of this strategy, the charity became a voice on the national stage putting the organisation in a position to positively influence policy makers and stakeholders. In her role as Calan's CEO, Rachael provides strategic direction and leadership to the organisation to ensure that it provides professional and appropriate services for individuals, families and communities across Wales. Driven by her passion for equality and women's rights, she takes pride in delivering ground breaking services to the sector with a collaborative approach which has won many accolades, trust and respect.



Dr Jo Roberts | Senior Research Assistant, Public Health Wales

Panellist: Prevention

Dr Jo Roberts is a Senior Research Assistant at Public Health Wales researching ACE/trauma informed approaches to policing that enable early intervention and root cause prevention. As part of her role, Jo has also been examining how ACEs link into the VAWDASV agenda. Jo previously worked as Domestic and Sexual Violence Co-ordinator for Cardiff and has researched risk-led policing of domestic abuse during her time as a Research Associate for Cardiff University. Jo completed her PhD at the University of Leicester where her study established that women's involvement in crime can occur as a by-product of their attempts to cope with/survive domestic abuse victimisation.



Anne Dann | Manager, Hafan Cymru's Spectrum Project

Panellist: Prevention

Ann Dann (Annie) is an experienced teacher/trainer/project manager who has worked in a variety of roles in the education, public and third sectors in both England and Wales. Educated to degree level, qualifications include Diploma in Professional Education Studies, Cert Ed., Youth Justice Certificate of Effective Practice (Distinction), NOCN Level 3 Certificate in Preventing and Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse/Violence (QCF). Currently studying towards ILM Level 3, Annie is currently one of the managers for Hafan Cymru's Spectrum Project and also delivers training on such topics as Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding for Hafan Cymru's Training Services Department. Previous roles include Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator for Wrexham CBC and North Wales Regional Development Officer for Supporting People.



Vivienne Laing | Public Affairs Manager, NSPCC

Panellist: Prevention

Vivienne Laing is the Policy and Public Affairs Manager for the NSPCC in Wales. A former maths teacher, she has gained more than 20 years' experience in education, community work and children's social care working for both local authorities and third sector organisations. Her local authority experience includes establishing a Children and Young People's Partnership and a multi-agency strategic planning framework that developed integrated services and strategies to improve outcomes for children and young people. She was seconded into the Welsh Assembly Government to assist with the statutory guidance 'Shared Planning for Better Outcomes' for local authorities and their partners to produce Children and Young People Plans as set out in Section 26 of the Children Act 2004. For the last 7 years she has been leading the policy and public affairs team for the NSPCC in Wales to influence policy and legislation to end child cruelty. This includes policy areas such as campaigning for equal protection under the law on assault, improved healthy relationship education and measures to improve online safety. Her professional experience is supported by her personal experience as a mother of four.



Dr Cerys Miles | Chartered Forensic Psychologist, Welsh Government

Panellist: Prevention

Dr Cerys Miles is a Chartered Forensic Psychologist employed for over 15 years by Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) in Wales. She has extensive experience working with high risk individuals with a history of violent and sexual offending across a range of settings, as well as training and supervising others undertaking this work. She provides consultancy services and engages in ongoing research to inform ongoing developments in forensic psychological practice. Cerys is currently working as Head of Perpetrator Policy for Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) via a collaborative working agreement between HMPPS and the Welsh Government. She is supporting the sector to develop a shared understanding of 'what works' in VAWDASV perpetrator services and to continue to establish effective practice that reduces risk, addresses needs, and protects victims and survivors



Sarah Wydall | Senior Research Fellow and Joint Principal Investigator, Dewis Choice Project

Keynote Speaker: 'Older People and Domestic Abuse: The Dewis Choice Project'

Sarah Wydall is a Senior Research Fellow and Joint Principal Investigator on the Dewis Choice Project at Aberystwyth University. Dewis Choice is a Big Lottery funded project worth £1.3 M that works with people aged 60 years and over, to deliver services for older adults experiencing domestic abuse and/or care-giver stress. In 2016, Sarah was awarded two National awards - The Welsh Crucible Award for Research Leadership and 'The Audrey Jones Memorial Award for Feminist Scholarship in Wales' for her research on domestic abuse and older women. Sarah is Vice Chair at Hafan Cymru (Housing and Domestic Abuse Service provider) and Sarah is also on the Board of the Consortium for Innovative Sexuality Studies hosted by Swansea University.



Rebecca Zerk | Doctoral Researcher, Dewis Choice Project

Keynote Speaker: 'Older People and Domestic Abuse: The Dewis Choice Project'

Rebecca Zerk is a Doctoral Researcher at Aberystwyth University and was awarded a PhD scholarship by the Welsh Centre for Crime and Social Justice. Rebecca is currently completing her PhD in the area of older people and domestic abuse, looking specifically at help-seeking behaviours in later life. Rebecca has a keen interest in the area of victimology, working on six research projects relating to domestic abuse. She was awarded a prize for the 'victims' module during her undergraduate degree. Rebecca is currently a researcher on a Big Lottery funded Dewis Choice Project. For more information about the Dewis Choice Project please see: <http://choice.aber.ac.uk/>



Liz Baker | Assistant Director , Barnardos

Keynote Speaker: 'Putting Research into Practice; Assessing the Psychological Impact of Domestic Abuse on Children'

Panellist: Support

Liz Baker is the Barnardo's Assistant Director for Gwent managing a varied portfolio of services including young carers, family support, domestic abuse and children with disabilities. Starting her career in acute mental health, Liz completed a psychology degree in 1993 and worked in residential and community settings with adults. Qualifying as a Social Worker in 2000, Liz was employed in RCT youth offending service for eight years before moving to Barnardo's as a manager.

Liz's portfolio includes the Newport Collaborative Partnership with a strong focus on both early intervention and acute edge of care services for families with complex needs, which has been positively evaluated by IPC. Liz managed the development of the Reflect Service, for women who have had one or more children removed through care proceedings, since its pilot in Newport through to its recent rollout in Wales. She has developed an outcomes assessment tool for children affected by parental conflict/domestic abuse (B-CAWAC) in partnership with Professor Gordon Harold, Cardiff University.



Claire Burns | Implementation Manager, NSPCC

Keynote Speaker: 'NSPCC's Journey to Develop Evidence Based Services to Prevent, Protect and Support Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse'

Panellist: Support

Claire is an Implementation Manager with the NSPCC's Children's Services Directorate. She manages the dissemination and implementation of evidence-based programmes across the UK, with a focus on domestic abuse and substance misuse.

Claire's experience and interests lie in partnership working within children's services. Most recently she developed and managed a support service for women and children experiencing domestic abuse in partnership between a Scottish children's charity and a leading UK Housing and Homelessness charity. This partnership saw her lead the locality delivery of Scotland's Equally Safe strategy in conjunction with the NHS.

Claire has a keen interest in how multi-agency and multi-disciplinary approaches deliver the best outcomes for children and young people; and how these can be effectively implemented at scale.



Diane Hunter | Development and Impact Manager, NSPCC

Keynote Speaker: 'NSPCC's Journey to Develop Evidence Based Services to Prevent, Protect and Support Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse'

Panellist: Support

Diane Hunter is a social worker with over twenty-five years' experience of working within a range of children and family settings at operational and strategic levels. Diane is currently a Development and Impact Manager in the NSPCC's Children's Services Directorate. Taking a key role in developing and testing new services that aim to improve outcomes for children and afford a greater understanding about what works best to influence wider change. In that role, she has taken a lead developing DART, a group programme for children and their mothers, that aims to help children overcome the adverse effects of domestic abuse by building and developing the mother/child relationship.



Natalie Blakeborough | Project Manager, Welsh Women's Aid

Keynote Speaker: 'Change that Lasts Model'

Natalie has 8 years' managerial and project management experience in the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence sector in Wales. Until recently she has been the National Services Development Manager for Welsh Women's Aid, leading on collaborating with VAWDASV services to deliver improved responses for women, men, children and young people impacted by abuse. She has also managed the Welsh Women's Aid national quality service standards for member services, and projects aimed at maximising capacity of specialist services to respond to commissioning environments. Prior to joining Welsh Women's Aid, Natalie worked in direct specialist services provision at Newport Women's Aid as both Interim Director and Operations Manager as well as previously working for Cardiff Women's Aid and Newport Youth Service. Natalie has expertise in working with children and young people who were affected by domestic abuse.



Catherine Phillips | Public Affairs Officer, Welsh Women's Aid

Panellist: Prevention

Catherine Phillips is the Children and Young People Public Affairs Officer at Welsh Women's Aid. She graduated from The University of the West of England (UWE) in 2016 with a Master of Arts in Human Rights with Distinction, during which she interned at UN Women in New York for her placement module. Prior to working at Welsh Women's Aid, Catherine participated in the development of a Gender Positive Intervention to challenge restrictive gender norms as a Research Associate at UWE, which she delivered to students over a period of six months at a pilot secondary school. Catherine is passionate about the need to educate children on violence against women and girls as a cause and consequence of gender inequality, and support teachers with the right training and access to specialist services.

Paula Telford | Development and Impact Manager, NSPCC

Panellist: Support

Paula is a qualified social worker coming up to 42 years; 19 in statutory social work. She has worked in child protection throughout.

In 1995, Paula came to NSPCC as a practitioner in team for children who have harmful sexual behaviour. From there she became a manager and then moved to the developmental role in 2008.