



## **Evidence review of the safeguarding roles and responsibilities for professionals working with older people experiencing Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)**

### **Summary**

This is an exciting opportunity to do a work placement on a project for the Welsh Government. The focus of the project is an evidence review of the relevant statutory legislation and guidance in Wales and the UK related to the safeguarding, care and support roles and responsibilities for professionals working with older people. The review will focus on prevention and support for older people experiencing [Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence](#) (VAWDASV). The successful applicant will work closely with Welsh Government officials and other stakeholders to develop research outputs and support Welsh Government in their research process. The applicant will have the opportunity to apply research skills in a policy environment, further develop generic skills and to enhance their knowledge of research outside academia.

### **The Organisation**

The Welsh Government is the devolved Government for Wales with responsibility for the economy, education, health and the Welsh NHS, business, public services and the environment of Wales.

Specifically, the internship will be based within the Communities, Social Justice and Early Years Evidence Unit, which is part of Knowledge and Analytic services (KAS) based in the Communities and Social Justice directorate. KAS provides the collection, analysis and presentation of research and data for policymakers and the general public in keeping with professional standards. They offer independent evidence to understand, develop, implement, monitor and evaluate government policies. KAS also supports policy colleagues with policy development, implementation and delivery.

### **The Internship**

The internship will provide an exciting opportunity to undertake research to inform policy design and implementation across Welsh Government. The research area is cross-cutting but will involve work particularly beneficial in the VAWDASV policy area, supporting policy development in the delivery of the [VAWDASV Blueprint action plan](#) and the [National Action Plan for Preventing the Abuse of Older People](#). The internship will require working closely with policy officials and researchers and will provide an opportunity to apply research skills in a policy environment, further develop generic skills (such as report writing or making presentations), and to enhance policy knowledge.

The successful candidate will benefit from development opportunities offered centrally by the Welsh Government, potentially including mentoring, shadowing, peer support and training. Interns will benefit from the experience of working closely with the Welsh Government:

- Gaining a better understanding of the world outside of academia and increasing employability, using their knowledge and skills to contribute to the work of the Welsh Government.
- The intern's colleagues at the Welsh Government can offer an insight into the intern's PhD project that can contribute to the success of their thesis', as well as networking opportunities within the policy arena linked to their research area
- Transferable skills and knowledge
- Time management skills
- Report writing skills

## **The Project**

### **A review of the statutory safeguarding, care and support roles and responsibilities for professionals working with older people experiencing Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)**

#### *Background*

Preventing, protecting and supporting older people from abuse requires a Wales-wide, whole systems approach across a variety of sectors. Ensuring there is clarity and cohesion for professionals in their roles and responsibilities supports the workforce to safeguard older people (over 60 years old) from abuse and provide access to the support and services they need. This includes all forms of violence recognised under VAWDASV. We know that older people represent a significant proportion of victims and survivors of sexual violence and domestic abuse, and that they face a number of barriers in accessing support services e.g., lack of awareness of available services, stereotyping and stigma, lack of financial resource. By collating and assessing the relevant legislation and statutory guidance for safeguarding older people, the research will provide a clear picture of the safeguarding, care and support roles and referral pathways across services in Wales.

#### *Anticipated project outcomes:*

The main project outcome is a literature review of the safeguarding, care and support roles and responsibilities for professionals working with older people, including within the context of VAWDASV. The project may also include mapping of the current referral pathways of services intended to support older people who are either at risk of or have experienced abuse. This will be predominantly desk-based (reviews of published legislation, research and policy documents, as well as existing data sets) but may include interviews with officials in Welsh Government or representatives from a variety of public services (e.g., health and social services). We anticipate that this research will:

1. Provide an up-to-date summary of the statutory safeguarding and care duties for professionals across services
2. Examine how any statutory roles and responsibilities intersect with VAWDASV in the context of older people's needs
3. Map out the referral pathways and mechanisms for older people to access support and services across different sectors

This work would result in a full report synthesising the evidence, including an executive summary and presentation of the findings to policy and analytical officials in Welsh Government. The work may also include developing visual outputs based on the mapping exercise of referral pathways.

## Internship responsibilities and requirements

The internship will last for a maximum of 3 months. Full time students are expected to step back from their PhD to focus on the placement for its duration in line with ESRC guidelines ([ESRC Postgraduate Funding Guide](#) p. 27). Applications are encouraged from part-time students.

It is anticipated that the successful applicant will work in a hybrid way between home and a Welsh Government office during their internship. This may change depending on Welsh Government policy. Any changes to working arrangements will be discussed with successful applicants.

The internship will last for a period of 3 months full-time or the part-time equivalent. For students registered on a part-time studentship, this internship is available on a part-time basis over a longer time frame (no fewer than three days a working week), this would be negotiated between the WG and the successful applicant. If you would like to be considered on a part-time basis, please specify your preferred working hours on the application form.

### Student specification

The student must have:

- the ability to search, synthesise and critically appraise qualitative data;
- awareness of legislative procedures and the ability to understand legal documentation
- qualitative interviewing skills
- the ability to collaborate with others to meet the research needs and develop the research design
- report writing and presentation skills;
- project design and management skills;

### Start date of internship

January / February 2026 (exact date to be negotiated). There may be some flexibility dependent on individual circumstances.

### Funding and costs

Reasonable travel costs for students not normally based in Cardiff can be met. Requests should be consistent with Wales Graduate School for the Social Sciences (WGSSS) guidelines. Applications from students requiring additional funding for travel and accommodation will not be treated less favourably. For any queries on this please contact Katy Marrin [Katy.Marrin001@gov.wales](mailto:Katy.Marrin001@gov.wales) and Jo Coates [Joanne.Coates@gov.wales](mailto:Joanne.Coates@gov.wales).

### Security

The Welsh Government's vetting procedures (which apply to temporary as well as permanent staff) involve the completion of a Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) application form and a Security Questionnaire for the purpose of security vetting.

This process requires the applicant to produce in person three original forms of identification documents, one of which should be photographic (passport, new driving license), one document showing their current address, plus one of: a utility bill, birth certificate, P45 or P60.

## **Nationality requirements**

Eligibility for taking up an internship on this scheme is dependent on meeting the [Civil Service Nationality rules](#). Please check that you are eligible before applying. Those who do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be able to take up a placement opportunity.

## **Queries**

Any queries relating to the post or application process should be directed Nerys Owens ([nerys.owens@gov.wales](mailto:nerys.owens@gov.wales))

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