# Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) – Stakeholder Engagement

# Summary

This is an exciting opportunity to do a paid work placement on a project for the Welsh Government. This project involves undertaking some engagement with stakeholder organisations, and possibly with survivors of VAWDASV, to understand the best approaches to encourage marginalised groups to participate in a survivor engagement panel. The successful applicant will work closely with Welsh Government officials and stakeholders to research and develop a varied range of research outputs, and support the Welsh Government in their research process. The applicant will have the opportunity to apply research skills in a policy environment, further develop generic skills (such as report writing or making presentations), 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 Knowledge and Analytical services (KAS). 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 intern will be working with researchers in the Internal Research Programme (IRP), a small team undertaking cross-policy in-house research and evaluation. The internship will provide an exciting opportunity to work at the heart of Welsh Government. 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

The Welsh Government set out a commitment in the National Strategy on Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) 2016-2021 to develop a sustainable national survivor engagement framework. The purpose of the National Survivor Engagement Framework is to ensure that the needs and experiences of survivors, including the most marginalised survivors of gender-based violence and those who face multiple disadvantages in accessing help and support are understood. The Welsh Government also recognises the importance of ensuring that survivors have a voice and influence over the development of policy regarding those who have experienced and the services that support those who have experienced gender-based violence.

In 2019, the VAWDASV policy team requested the help of the IRP in setting up and evaluating a pilot survivor panel. The aim of the pilot was to understand whether the panel could operate given the resources available, specifically to test;

* processes of recruitment;
* facilitation of panel sessions;
* the content of the sessions and what the discussions would contribute to, and;
* how the panel would interact with officials, ministers and stakeholders.

The pilot was advertised widely with stakeholders and aimed to represent all survivors, particularly marginalised groups. The evaluation found overall that the panel was received positively and should be implemented on a permanent basis. However, the recruitment approach was not effective in attracting a diverse group of survivors, and recommended further engagement with stakeholder groups and the survivors they support to raise awareness of the panel.

The internship will therefore focus on providing an in-depth understanding of effective ways of engaging marginalised groups, and some engagement with stakeholders and survivors to raise awareness of the Welsh Government’s survivor engagement work, identifying any barriers or concerns to participation raised by groups with protected characteristics.

This work contributes to an ongoing programme of support provided by KAS for VAWDASV policy colleagues, with the aim of achieving the objectives of the National Strategy and ultimately reducing gender-based violence whilst offering survivors the right support and opportunities to engage.

Anticipated project outcomes:

* Analysis of relevant policy and academic literature;
* A literature review covering barriers and approaches to engaging marginalised / vulnerable groups in government. The review should explore how these barriers and approaches may be different for each protected group;
* A methodology for engaging stakeholder groups and the survivors they support, which will address current issues engaging with government and how participation in a permanent survivor panel could be encouraged;
* A final report drawing together the literature review and analysis of the findings, including recommendations for recruitment to the survivor panel.
* Potential presentation to policy officials / external stakeholders on the findings (optional).

# Internship responsibilities and requirements

The internship will last for six months, with the option of extension, during which time the students PhD project will be paused by their home institution. The student will be paid the equivalent of their stipend during their internship. Over and above leave policies, time for existing PhD commitments can be arranged on discussion with line managers. E.g. research groups meetings and conference presentations. Applications are encouraged from part-time students.

It is anticipated that the successful applicant will be working from home during their internship. This is based on our current understanding of the situation and what is possible in terms of research work. This may change as the Covid-19 situation develops. Should the Covid-19 situation develop and allow for a return for a phased return to offices this will be discussed with successful applicants.

The internship will last for a period of six 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

It will be beneficial for the applicant to have knowledge of the broad issues relating to the VAWDASV policy area, either in Wales or at UK level and/or an appreciation of the impact of having protected characteristics on accessing services and engaging with government. Support will be provided by researchers in the IRP and policy officials regarding the evolving policy and research context.

## The student must have:

* Strong qualitative research skills, including experience in qualitative interviewing and/or focus groups;
* Experience in designing and administering surveys, ideally on an online platform, such as SmartSurvey;
* Strong qualitative analytical skills, ideally with experience of using software to code qualitative data;
* An understanding of theory based approaches to evaluation;
* The ability to write concise but informative reports, picking out the key findings, making clear recommendations that are supported by the data, and communicate the implications of these recommendations to policy officials.

# Start date of internship

March 2021 (exact date to be negotiated). There may be some flexibility dependent on individual circumstances.

# Funding and costs

Reasonable travel and accommodation costs for students not normally based in Cardiff can be met. Requests should be consistent with Wales DTP guidelines. Applications from students requiring additional funding for travel and accommodation will not be treated less favourably. For any queries on this please contact Carole Baker at the Wales DTP on: enquiries@walesdtp.ac.uk

# 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 should showing their current address, plus one of: a utility bill, birth certificate, P45 or P60.

# Queries

Any queries relating to the post or application process should be directed to Jo Coates, Senior Research Officer (joanne.coates@gov.wales).