



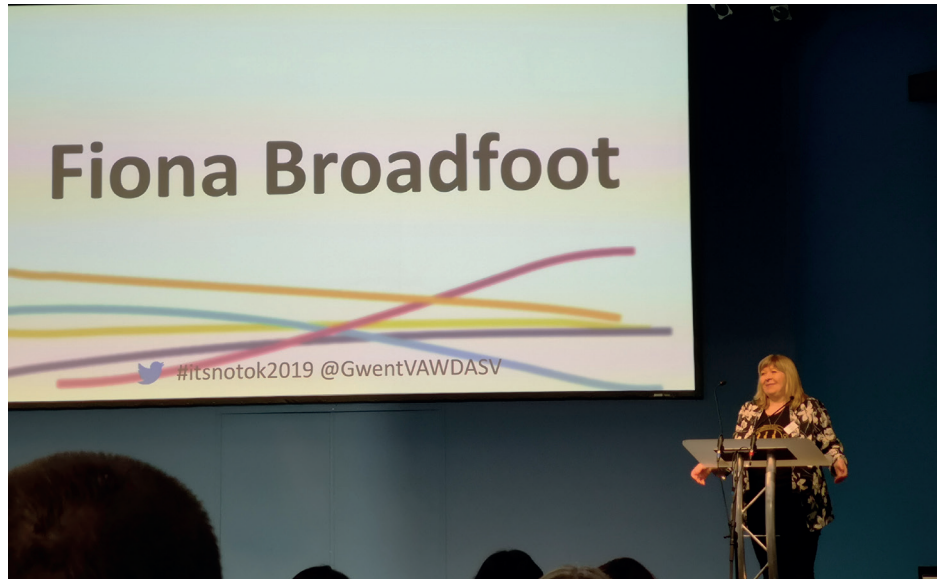
VAWDASV Gwent Newsletter

Inspiring for Change

On 6 February, approximately 150 professionals from across Gwent and wider Wales joined us for our second annual conference.

This year's conference, 'Inspiring for Change', had a focus on Sexual Violence and Exploitation.

After an opening speech from councillor Debbie Wilcox, Leader of Newport City Council, Deputy Minister Jane Hutt took the floor to stress the Welsh Government's commitment to ending all forms of Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.



Our first key note speaker, Fiona Broadfoot, set the scene for the day with her emotional and inspiring account of being exploited by the sex industry.

Fiona took the room on an emotional rollercoaster, as she shared her journey in an honest and open way.

We were lucky enough to hear from Fiona a couple of times through the day, as she also led two workshop sessions about her Build a Girl project. This provides a safe and therapeutic environment for girls and young women to 'build a unique self' by raising aspirations and self esteem.

Dr Emma Williamson drew our morning speakers to a close, detailing results of research carried out by the School for

Policy Studies at University of Bristol. This is an important piece of research looking at 'Rape, Inequality and the Criminal Justice Response' and certainly gave people in the room some food for thought.

Before and after lunch, delegates had the opportunity to choose from seven informative workshops, which took place around the fantastic venue of the Christchurch Centre, Newport.

In addition to Fiona's Build a Girl sessions, the workshops focused on areas such as diversity, perpetrator interventions, justice from a survivor's perspective, dealing with disclosures, working with trauma and the Sexual Recovery Toolkit.

Positive feedback was received from all workshops, which is testament to the agencies and individuals who facilitated these during the day.

Lunch time gave the opportunity for networking and to visit stalls kindly supported by agencies and representatives from the sector. This added fantastic value to the day.

Thanks go to all of those involved in making this area such a useful part of the conference.

The afternoon key note speakers began with Debbie Rogers, Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor for the Crown Prosecution Service, Wales.

Debbie gave an impassioned account of the role of the CPS and how all agencies can work together to support those individuals who wish to choose the Criminal Justice route.

This was followed by a passionate presentation from Dr Helen Mills on the work of the St Mary's SARC in Manchester. This included some excellent examples of best practice and the value of integrated services.

Philomena Jordon-Patrikios kindly closed the day with a well-needed session focused on resilience, with a practical session that many people found useful.

We would like to end this edition of the newsletter by thanking the following people and organisations who helped make it such a success:

- The Christchurch Centre Team for hosting

- Sally Jenkins for leading the day
- Councillor Debbie Wilcox
- Jane Hutt AM
- Fiona Broadfoot
- Dr Emma Williamson
- Deborah Rogers
- Dr Helen Mills
- Philomena Jordon-Patrikios
- Nick Lewis
- Dr Jayne Williams
- Madeline Smyth
- Sally Howells
- Debbie Woodruffe
- Nicola Fitzpatrick
- BAWSO
- Connect Gwent
- Umbrella Cymru
- Cyfannol Women's Aid
- Newport Women's Aid
- Gwent Drug and Alcohol Service
- Gwent Missing Persons Team
- Hafan Cymru
- New Pathways
- Llamau



- The Truth Project
- Phoenix Domestic Abuse Services
- Welsh Women's Aid
- The Go-Girls and The Brothers
- Free From Fear Housing Project
- Gwent PCC
- Gwent Supporting People
- ACEs Hub, Wales
- Everybody who took time out of their day to attend and support the day.

