WELSH WOMENS AID • CYMORTH I FENYWOD • NO EXCUSES DIM ESGUS

lloches refuge

Summer 2005 cylchlythyr cymorth i fenywod cymru welsh women's aid newsletter

Strategy for Tackling Domestic Abuse

The Welsh Assembly Government's recently launched national strategy on Tackling Domestic Abuse provides a framework for developing domestic abuse policy in Wales.

Described as the **backbone for facilitating local policy development over the next three years,** the strategy lays great emphasis on **strengthening joint-agency working** and establishing strong local service networks through existing **Community Safety Partnerships.**

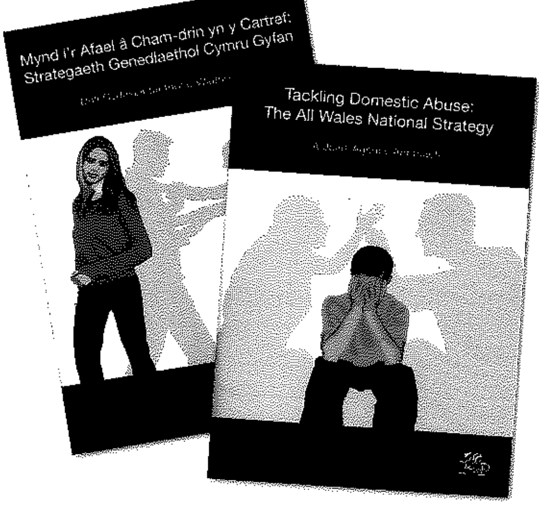
Assembly Government Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration, Edwina Hart, said at the launch of the strategy that more **detailed policies for implementing the Strategy** are to be **incorporated in to each Partnership's Community Safety Plan.**

Welsh Women's Aid is represented on the Assembly Government's Working Group on Domestic Violence and Violence against Women, which was involved in drawing-up the strategy.

For our member groups' interests to be represented in each community's Safety Plan, and for Welsh Women's Aid is to be consulted in drawing up detailed policies stemming from the strategy, our groups need to **develop and maintain close links with relevant agencies** and be **represented on Community Safety Partnerships.**

Key Points

- Three year framework for developing domestic abuse policy
- Emphasis on local partnership and multi-agency working
- Responsibility of Community Safety Partnerships to develop local working practices from the Strategy
- Strengthening links with Domestic Abuse Forum Co-ordinators
- Welsh Women's Aid to inform implementation of the Strategy with robust data gathered from the Datagate database package



Tackling Domestic Abuse: The All Wales National Strategy includes a wide, gender-neutral definition of domestic abuse and asserts that the main underlying principles are protection and support for victims of domestic abuse, perpetrator accountability and prevention of harm.

Welsh Women's Aid's new Director, Elen Pierce, says: "This is a **key publication** for our organisation, as it maps out the Welsh Assembly Government's priorities for developing domestic abuse policy over the next three years. As Wales' leading support network for women and children experiencing abuse, this strategy will be our principle guide and main focus for service development and partnership working.

"To inform the implementation of the Strategy, Welsh Women's Aid must be in a position to access robust, accurate and up to date statistics and data on our groups and the women and children being supported by them, which is why the use of the Datagate database package by local Women's Aid groups in Wales will be greatly welcomed".

Pobol y Cwm consults Welsh Women's Aid

Lisa Victoria plays Sheryl, who is being abused by her partner

Welsh-language soap opera, Pobol y Cwm, is addressing the issue of domestic violence and abuse in a current storyline.

Researchers on the programme consulted Welsh Women's Aid, and actress Lisa Victoria, who plays Sheryl who is being abused by her partner Garry, was put in contact with a woman who was supported by Vale of Glamorgan Women's Aid.

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WALES DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE
LLINELL GYMORTH CAMDRINIAETH YN Y CARTREF CYMRU
0808 80 10 800

Welsh Womens Aid
38-48 Crwys Road
Cardiff CF24 4NN
Tel: 029 2039 0874

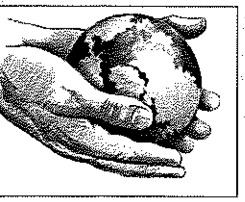
New additions to the Welsh Women's Aid Team

Welsh Women's Aid's New Director, Elen Pierce

Welsh Women's Aid's newly appointed Director is Elen Pierce. Elen, who is from Caernarfon, joins the national team after 10 years as a fundraising manager with Childline Cymru. She is a fluent Welsh speaker and now lives in Swansea. She says: "I'm still settling in to my new role and identifying areas of work that need to be prioritised, and I'm looking forward to meeting many of you at Welsh Women's Aid's Annual Conference at the University of Glamorgan in September."

Also new to the national team is the Wales Domestic Abuse Helpline's Manager, Tracey Jones. Also a Welsh speaker, Tracey, who is from Llanddaniel Fab on Anglesey was most recently employed by Ynys Mon Women's Aid. She says: "The Wales Domestic Abuse Helpline was a year old in March, and I'm really happy to be joining such an essential service that's growing from strength to strength. The Helpline will soon be undergoing an evaluation by the Welsh Assembly Government and I'm confident that we'll be successful in getting continued funding."

Need for robust data on services to women and children



All Welsh Women's Aid member groups are now trained to use the Datagate database package. Using the tried and tested system will enable Welsh Women's Aid to collate statistics coherently, as all the information will be supplied to is in the same format.

For Welsh Women's Aid to be in a strong position to inform the implementation of the All Wales National Strategy on Tackling Domestic Abuse we need to have **robust, accurate and up to date statistics** on the work of our member groups and the women and children being supported.

The All Wales National Strategy (see front page) stresses that reliable statistics are needed to realistically assess the scale of domestic abuse and the effectiveness of services for women and children.

Using Datagate will also benefit Women's Aid groups at a local level by standardising the way data is collated.

It would be wonderful to have everybody familiar with and confident using Datagate before the end of the year, as we're **planning for it to be live and up and running in April 2006.**

Any difficulties with using Datagate should be addressed to Gill Edwards at Welsh Women's Aid's Cardiff office, or flagged up with Gill during the Autumn training programme.

Congratulations...

...to Amman Valley Women's Aid for being awarded £80,000 from the Assembly's Community Safety Unit. The funding will go towards the cost of buying a property, which will be the base for administration and their floating support/outreach service. Known at the 'Amman Valley Women's Aid Joint Strength – Cyswllt Cryf', the property will also have space for other agencies to run surgeries for women and children affected by domestic abuse, the aim being to provide a more holistic service. With support from police, social services, health, local councillors and the Domestic Abuse Forum, a bid to the One Fund for the rest of the funding is currently being put together. Amman Valley should know by September if they're successful, and we'll update on progress. We wish you luck with your bid.

News Flash

The transfer of Supporting People (SPRG) funding to local authority control has been delayed from April 2006 to April 2008.

WDAH Update

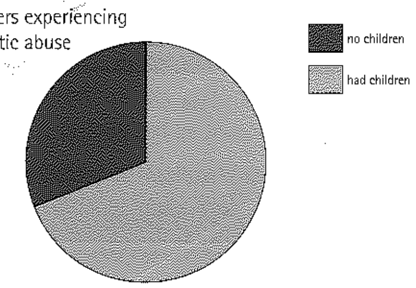
Calls to the Wales Domestic Abuse Helpline (WDAH) have increased five-fold during its first year in operation.

The service, which will mark the first anniversary of its national launch in September, is now receiving on average over 800 calls a month. The majority of calls are from people experiencing domestic violence and abuse – 55% of all calls during its first year in operation.

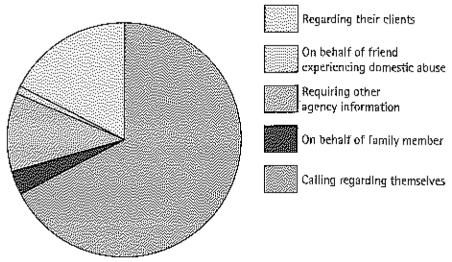
The Helpline is updating the way statistics are collated. The new Client Link package, which will be used in conjunction with Datagate, has been live since 1 June and allows for more efficient data gathering. For example, the number of callers referred to each refuge can be recorded, which should be invaluable for our member groups when presenting statistics for funding purposes.

More comprehensive statistics and robust data will also enable the Helpline and Welsh Women's Aid to better represent affiliated member groups and inform policy makers (see article above).

Children
of callers experiencing domestic abuse



Nature of call



CAFCASS Memorandum of Understanding

gcclbt cymru cafcass

An agreement for closer partnership working between Welsh Women's Aid and the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in Wales (CAFCASS Cymru) is now in place.

The main aim of the Memorandum of Understanding is to encourage better communication between Welsh Women's Aid member groups and CAFCASS Cymru, and to address and attempt to avoid unhelpful tension between both organisations.

The need for an agreement was highlighted after several of our member groups raised concerns about the apparent lack of domestic abuse awareness amongst CAFCASS practitioners and fears for the safety of children and their mothers in respect of contact orders with abusive fathers.

Emphasis is laid on proactive local communication between Women's Aid and CAFCASS Cymru staff, and meetings of Domestic Abuse Forums are seen as an opportunity for ongoing contact and information sharing. The Memorandum of Understanding also envisages reciprocal training and team visits for both organisations.

A complaints procedure is also provided, specifying that in the first instance problems should be dealt at a local level. If they cannot be resolved they should be referred to a national Welsh Women's Aid worker and/or a CAFCASS member of staff, who will endeavour to find a way forward.

The Memorandum of Understanding will be circulated to Welsh Women's Aid member groups in due course.

Children's Page

New Resource

THE HIDEOUT
www.thehideout.org.uk
until children are safe

Women's Aid Federation of England's (WAFE) new website is an excellent resource for children and young people living in fear of domestic abuse, or those who may want to help a friend. It's called 'The Hideout' (www.thehideout.org.uk), and it uses language, graphics, check lists, quizzes and interactive games to help children explore issues surrounding domestic abuse, and provides information on safety planning and routes to help. A link to the site is included on the Welsh Women's Aid website (See also www.notyourfault.org for Carmarthenshire Domestic Abuse Forum's website for children).

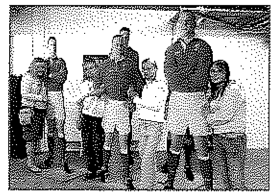
In terms of our own website (www.welshwomensaid.org), the content is to be reviewed, and the possibility of setting up a Members' Area for affiliated groups is being explored.

Children Still Matter!

Welsh Women's Aid's Children's Group has continued to be well attended and I personally look forward to these meetings as an opportunity to have the face-to-face contact with child workers that is so essential to my post.

Over the past few meetings we have had contributions from Victim Support's Vulnerable Witness Service, Family Planning Association Youth Project workers, and most recently, specialist play workers who highlighted the significance of the newly designed Playwork principles to our field of work. They also gave practical play ideas for the summer. It is important not to lose sight of just how important play is to children as a means of learning, healing and self-expression.

The Spring training on Communicating with Children was well attended and received positive feedback. In response to requests from groups we have been working with external specialists to provide Autumn training on record keeping, data protection and information, which is something I know is an area of concern. We also aim to put on certificated training in Managing Challenging Behaviour and Physical Intervention in the early 2006.



Welsh Women's Aid was invited by the Children's Commissioner to send representatives to a consultation event in the Millennium Stadium. We were represented by six youth delegates aged between 13 and 17, coming from 4 of our member groups, and their feedback included **'a great experience' ..... 'awesome!' .....'educational' ... 'OK' ..... 'good to be listened to' .... 'a good day out'.**

Claire Sharp, Children and Young People's Issues Worker

Briefing - CHILDREN AND ADOPTION BILL, 2005

One of the main aims of the Bill, introduced into Parliament in June, is to give the courts new powers when dealing with contact arrangements for children following relationship breakdown.

It will **allow the courts to instruct parents to take part in activities which "promote contact"** when they are considering whether to make, change or discharge a contact order, and will **provide a wider range of options to enforce compliance than is currently available.**

Contact activities can be information and advice sessions about making contact arrangements, or programmes, classes, counselling or guidance sessions that help to establish, maintain or improve contact with a child. These can include perpetrator programmes where domestic violence is an issue.

When **orders are breached**, the courts will be **able to impose a community service order** on the non-compliant parent or **order them to pay financial compensation** for any losses caused by withholding access, **unless the person breaching the order has a "reasonable excuse".**

Compulsory mediation is specifically excluded from "contact activities" and the proposal earlier in the year to impose curfews on parents denying contact, monitored through electronic tagging, has been dropped.

These are welcome omissions where domestic violence is an issue, but less welcome is the **failure to include measures to require the courts to assess risk systematically and ensure that contact is safe for all concerned.** The government continues to rely on ad hoc judgements in the courts to decide what is safe even though experience has shown these to be an inadequate tool for preventing harm to both mothers and children through contact arrangements.

[The Bill and its explanatory notes can be read on the Parliamentary website: www.parliament.uk, as can the debates on the Bill.]

Gwenda Williams, Legal Issues Worker

Routine Enquiry in to domestic abuse in Pregnancy rolled out throughout Wales

Every pregnant woman in Wales receiving antenatal care will be routinely asked about domestic abuse by the end of this year.

The Antenatal Care Pathway on Routine Enquiry into Domestic Abuse will aid midwives and health visitors to 'ask the question' to a woman when she's alone, and help them to become competent and confident in dealing with disclosures.

Training for NHS staff throughout Wales is currently being rolled out, and will be well under way by September.

When the Care Pathway is fully operational, all pregnant women will be given an information card outlining support services available to them, including details of local Women's Aid groups. With her consent, details of women at high risk will be addressed to local Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC), or equivalent, and any child protection issues will be referred to relevant statutory authorities (consent not required).

The All Wales National Strategy on Tackling Domestic Abuse encourages the use of the Care Pathway as best practice during pregnancy.

Glamorgan NHS Trust Midwife, Suzanne Hardacre, who was seconded to the Welsh Assembly to draw up the Care Pathway, said: "It is well documented that domestic abuse often starts or intensifies during pregnancy. The training for midwives and health visitors on using the Care Pathway will enable them to ask the necessary questions and to effectively deal with disclosure."

The CPS and Witness Summonses

Welsh Women's Aid was recently contacted by the media and asked to respond to new Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) figures, which suggest a rise in the use of witness summonses for women ordered to testify against abusive partners in domestic violence cases. Here, Ian Griffiths of the CPS, who leads the Saff project in Caerphilly, explains the circumstances under which witness summonses will be ordered, and the work of the Saff project team .....

The Crown Prosecution Service must satisfy the two stage test within the Code for Crown Prosecutors before a prosecution can be brought. Stage one requires that there is sufficient evidence to bring the prosecution. Stage two requires that the prosecution be in the "public interest".

The question of whether it is in the "public interest" to proceed is a very difficult question in cases of domestic violence (DV) where the complainant/survivor withdraws their support for the prosecution. In all DV cases, the safety of the survivor and any children must be paramount even though this may conflict with the complainant's wishes regarding giving evidence. Where a complainant withdraws support the CPS may use a "witness summons" to compel the survivor to attend court. This is not a device which is used lightly because it has the potential for punishing the survivor if they fail to comply with the summons.

However, many survivors prefer to be witness summoned because it allows them to distance themselves from the decision-making process and maintain that their attendance at court as a witness for the prosecution is a matter beyond their control. The attendance of such witness is often the crucial factor which leads to a change of plea from "not guilty" to "guilty", thus saving the survivor from actually having to give evidence.

Project Saff Caerphilly is designed to assist the victim/survivor throughout the prosecution process and particularly to provide advice and support to those who may be considering withdrawal and thereby reduce the necessity for witness summonses. The Saff team comprises a lay advocate and two dedicated police officers together with a specialist CPS lawyer and caseworker.

The recent final independent evaluation of Project Saff has shown a statistically significant increase in the number of guilty pleas and, more importantly, the sensitive use of witness summonses coupled with the work of the Saff team has increased victim satisfaction in the criminal justice system.

Ian Griffiths, Saff Project Leader, CPS Gwent

Training Update

Autumn promises to be a busy time as we seek to design and deliver a relevant programme of courses, matching Women's Aid groups' needs to the availability of both trainers and venues. We will be offering courses dealing with different aspects of housing, law and children's work, intermediate levels for courses previously offered at basic level, introducing new topics to cover areas requested by groups, and looking to implement a full and diverse training programme.

During the next few months we will also be looking at accreditation, and how it is achievable for some of the training we currently offer. Investigation of the accredited training that's already available for workers from groups to access in their relevant fields will be undertaken, and we are already checking out the NVQs on offer, as these are largely work-based qualifications. Information will be made available to groups once we have examined it in depth and collated it. If any group already holds information on accredited training, please let Gill Edwards in Welsh Women's Aid's Cardiff office have details, so that they can be included.

Gill Edwards,
Training and Development Worker

Information Leaflets

The Community Safety Unit of the Welsh Assembly Government has produced information leaflets in ten languages, including Welsh, Urdu, Arabic and Somali, which detail services available for women and children experiencing domestic abuse in Wales. For copies, or more details on the Living Safely in Wales leaflet, contact Angharad Jones at Welsh Women's Aid's Cardiff office.

Oaklands

The Oaklands trust fund is to be wound up shortly and proceeds will be divided equally between Welsh Women's Aid affiliated member groups. The property, in Glasbury on Wye in Powys, was given to Women's Aid in 1991 by Emily de Winton, and was used as a holiday centre for women and children affected by domestic abuse.

Annual Conference

Don't forget Welsh Women's Aid's AGM and conference, which will take place at the University of Glamorgan on September 9. Confirmed speakers include Joy Kent, Director of Supported Housing Partnership 'Cymorth', and Kate Bennett, Director of the Equal Opportunities Commission. Delegate forms are available from Eleri Shaw at Welsh Women's Aid's Cardiff office.

Last Resort Fund

Welsh Women's Aid affiliated member groups are advised that the Home Office has granted £5,000 for 2005/2006 to WWA for groups supporting women with no recourse to public funds. Contact: Sally Shepherd, WWA Cardiff Office.

Anything to Contribute? ...

If you've got ideas for content for the next edition of Welsh Women's Aid's Lloches Newsletter - contact Angharad Jones at Welsh Women's Aid's Cardiff Office.

Self Defence Training

Workers form Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Women's Aid being given self-defence and assertiveness training by Conflict Solutions consultancy. For further information on training courses see www.conflictsolutions.co.uk

Cwasanaeth Erlyn y Coron a Cwysion Tystion

Cysylltodd y cyfryngau yn ddiweddar gyda Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru a gofyn iddynt ymateb i ffigurau newydd Gwasanaeth Erlyn y Goron sy'n awgrymu cynnydd yn nefnydd gwysion tystion ar gyfer menywod y gorchmynnwyd iddynt dystio yn erbyn partneriaid sy'n cam-drin mewn achosion camdriniaeth yn y cartref. Yma, mae Ian Griffiths o Wasanaeth Erlyn y Goron, sy'n arwain y prosiect Saff yng Nghaerffili, yn esbonio ym mha amgylchiadau y gorchmynnir gwysion tystion a gwaith tîm prosiect Saff ...

Rhaid i Wasanaeth Erlyn y Goron fodloni prawf dau gam o fewn y Cod ar gyfer Erlynwyr y Goron cyn y medrir dod ag erlyniad. Mae'r cam cyntaf yn galw am dystiolaeth ddigonol i ddod â'r erlyniad. Mae'r ail gam yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i'r erlyniad fod "yn y budd cyhoeddus".

Mae'r cwestiwn p'un ai yw "yn y budd cyhoeddus" i ddod ag achos yn gwestiwn anodd iawn mewn achosion o gam-drin yn y cartref lle mae'r achwynydd/goroesydd yn dileu eu cefnogaeth i'r erlyniad. Ym mhob achos o gam-drin yn y cartref, rhaid i ddiogelwch y goroesydd ac unrhyw blentyn fod yn bennaf er y gall hyn wrthdaro gyda dymuniadau'r achwynydd parthed rhoi tystiolaeth. Lle mae achwynydd yn dileu eu cefnogaeth, gall Gwasanaeth Erlyn y Goron ddefnyddio "gŵys tyst" i orfodi'r goroesydd i fynychu llys. Nid yw hon yn ddyfais i'w defnyddio'n ysgafn oherwydd bod ganddi'r potensial i gosbi'r goroesydd os ydynt yn methu cydymffurfio gyda'r ŵys.

Fodd bynnag, weithiau mae'n well gan lawer o oroeswyr gael gŵys tyst oherwydd eu bod yn eu galluogi i ymbellhau o'r broses penderfynu a dweud fod presenoldeb yn y llys fel tyst ar gyfer yr erlyniad yn fater tu hwnt i'w rheolaeth. Mae presenoldeb tyst o'r fath yn aml yn ffactor hollbwysig sy'n arwain at newid ple o "dim yn euog" i "euog", gan felly arbed y goroesydd rhag gorfod rhai tystiolaeth.

Cynlluniwyd Prosiect Saff Caerffili i gynorthwyo'r goroesydd drwy'r broses erlyn ac yn arbennig i roi cyngor a chefnogaeth i rai a all fod yn ystyried tynnu'n ôl ac felly ostwng y rheidrwydd ar gyfer gwysion tystion. Mae tîm Saff yn cynnwys adfocat lleyg a dau swyddog heddlu penodol ynghyd â chyfreithiwr arbenigol y CPS a gweithiwr achos.

Mae'r gwerthusiad annibynnol terfynol diweddar o Brosiect Saff wedi dangos cynnydd ystadegol sylweddol yn y nifer sy'n pledio'n euog ac yn fwy pwysig, mae defnydd sensitif gwysion tyst ynghyd â gwaith y tîm Saff wedi arwain at fwy o fodlonrwydd ymhlith dioddefwyr am y system cyfiawnder troseddol.

Ian Griffiths, Arweinydd Prosiect Saff, CPS Gwent

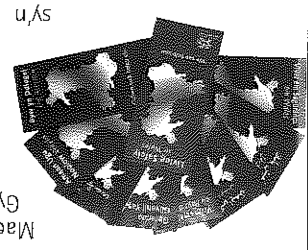
Newyddion Hyfforddiant

Mae'r hydref yn argoeli bod yn amser pwysig wrth i ni fynd ati i gynllunio a chyflwyno rhaglen berthnasol o gyrsiau, gan gyfateb anghenion grwpiau Cymorth i Fenywod gydag argaeledd hyfforddwyr a mannau cyfarfod. Byddwn yn cynnig cyrsiau yn delio gyda gwahanol agweddau tai, cyfraith a gwaith plant, lefelau canolig ar gyfer cyrsiau yr arferid eu cynnig ar lefel sylfaenol, gan gyflwyno pynciau newydd ar gyfer meysydd y gwneir cais amdanynt gan y grwpiau ac edrych ar weithredu rhaglen hyfforddiant lawn ac amrywiol.

Yn ystod yr ychydig fisoedd nesaf byddwn hefyd yn edrych ar achredu, a sut y medrir ei gyflawni ar gyfer peth o'r hyfforddiant a gynigiwn ar hyn o bryd. Cynhelir ymchwiliad o'r hyfforddiant achrededig sydd eisoes ar gael ar gyfer grwpiau yn eu meysydd perthnasol, ac rydym eisoes yn edrych ar yr NVQ sydd ar gael, gan eu bod hwy i raddau helaeth yn gymwysterau seiliedig ar waith. Bydd gwybodaeth ar gael i grwpiau unwaith y byddwn wedi edrych yn fanwl arno a'i gywain. Os oes gan unrhyw grŵp wybodaeth ar hyfforddiant achredig, byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe medrech roi manylion i Cymorth i Fenywod Caerdydd fel y medrir eu cynnwys.

Gill Edwards,
Gweithwraig Hyfforddiant a Datblygu

Taflenni Gwybodaeth



Mae Uned Gwybodaeth Gymunedol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi cynhyrchu taflenni gwybodaeth mewn deg iaith yn cynnwys Cymraeg, Urdu, Arabeg a Somaleg, sy'n rhoi manylion gwasanaethau sydd ar gael i fenywod a phlant sy'n profi camdriniaeth yn y cartref yng Nghymru. I gael copïau neu fanylion pellach ar y daflen Byw'n Ddiogel yng Nghymru, cysyllter ag Angharad Jones yn swyddfa Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru yng Nghaerdydd.

Oaklands

Deuir â chronfa ymddiriedolaeth The Oaklands i ben yn fuan a chaiff y derbyniadau eu rhannu rhwng grwpiau sy'n aelodau o Gymorth i Fenywod Cymru. Rhoddwyd yr adeilad, yn y Clas ar Wy ym Mhowys i Cymorth yn Fenywod gan Emily de Winton yn 1991 ac fe'i defnyddiwyd fel canolfan wyliau ar gyfer menywod a phlant yr oedd camdriniaeth yn y cartref wedi effeithio arnynt.

Cynhadledd Flynyddol

Peidiwch anghofio am Gyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol a chynhadledd Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru a gynhelir ym Mhrifysgol Morgannwg ar 9 Medi. Mae'r siaradwyr a gadarnhawyd yn cynnwys Joy Kent, Cyfarwyddydd 'Cymorth', y Bartneriaeth Tai â Chymorth, a Kate Bennett, Cyfarwyddydd y Comisiwn Cyfle Cyfartal. Mae ffurflenni cynrychiolwyr ar gael gan Eleri Shaw yn swyddfa Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru yng Nghaerdydd.

Cronfa Calw Olaf

Hysbysir grwpiau sy'n aelodau o Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru fod y Swyddfa Gartref wedi dyfarnu £5,000 ar gyfer 2005/2006 i Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru ar gyfer grwpiau yn cefnogi menywod heb fynediad i gronfeydd cyhoeddus. Cyswllt: Sally Shepherd, Swyddfa Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru yng Nghaerdydd.

Rhywbeth i'w Cyfrannu?

Cysylltwch ag Angharad Jones yn Swyddfa Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru yng Nghaerdydd os oes gennych syniadau am gynnwys ar gyfer rhifyn nesaf Cylchlythyr Lloches Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru os gwelwch yn dda.

Hyfforddiant Hunan Amddiffyn

Mae cwmni Conflict Solutions yn rhoi hyfforddiant hunanamddiffyn a hyder i weithwyr Cymorth i Fenywod Caerdydd a Bro Morgannwg. I gael gwybodaeth bellach ar gyrsiau hyfforddiant gweler www.conflictsolutions.co.uk .

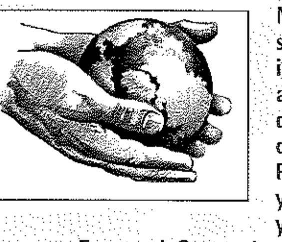
Aelodau newydd Tîm Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru

Elen Pierce, Cyfarwyddydd newydd Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru

Cyfarwyddwraig newydd Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru yw Elen Pierce. Mae Elen yn hanu o Gaernarfon, ac wedi ymgartrefu yn Abertawe ers rhai blynyddoedd. Mae'n ymuno â thîm cenedlaethol Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru ar ôl 10 mlynedd fel rheolydd codi arian gyda Chidlline Cymru. Dywedodd: "Rwy'n dal i setlo i mewn i fy rôl newydd ac wrthi'n dynodi meysydd gwaith sydd angen eu blaenori. Rwy'n edrych ymlaen at gwrdd â llawer ohonoch yng Nghynhadledd Flynyddol Cymorth i Fenywod ym Mhrifysgol Morgannwg ym mis Medi.

Hefyd yn ymuno â'r tîm cenedlaethol mae Tracey Jones, Rheolydd Llinell Gymorth Camdriniaeth yn y Cartref Cymru. Daw Tracey o Llanddaniel Fab, Ynys Môn ac roedd ei swydd ddiweddaraf gyda Chymorth i Ferched Ynys Môn. Dywedodd "Roedd Llinell Gymorth Camdriniaeth yn y Cartref Cymru yn flwydd oed ym mis Mawrth ac rwy'n hapus iawn i fod yn ymuno â gwasanaeth mor hanfodol sy'n mynd o nerth i nerth. Bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cynnal gwerthusiad ar y Llinell Gymorth yn fuan ac rwy'n hyderus y byddwn yn llwyddiannus wrth sicrhau cyllid parhaol."

Angen data cadarn ar wasanaethau i fenywod a phlant



Mae'r holl grwpiau sy'n aelodau o Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru yn awr wedi eu hyfforddi i ddefnyddio pecyn cronfa ddata Datagate. Profwyd fod y system yn llwyddiannus, a bydd yn galluogi Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru i gasglu ystadegau mewn modd cydlynol gan y cedwir yr holl wybodaeth yn yr un fformat.

Mae angen i ni gael **ystadegau cadarn, cywir a chyfoes** ar waith ein haelod grwpiau a'r menywod a'r plant sy'n cael eu cefnogi er mwyn i Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru fod mewn sefyllfa gref i hyrwyddo gweithredu Strategaeth Genedlaethol Cymru ar Fynd i'r Afael â Cham-drin yn y Cartref.

Mae'r Strategaeth Genedlaethol (gweler y dudalen gyntaf) yn pwysleisio fod angen ystadegau dibynadwy i asesu nifer yr achosion o gam-drin yn y cartref ac effeithlonrwydd gwasanaethau ar gyfer plant a menywod.

Bydd defnyddio Datagate hefyd o fudd i grwpiau Cymorth i Fenywod ar lefel leol drwy safoni'r ffordd y cesglir data.

Byddai'n wych sichrau fod pawb yn gyfarwydd ac yn hyderus wrth ddefnyddio Datagate cyn diwedd y flwyddyn gan **ein bod yn bwriadu iddi fod ar waith yn Ebrill 2006.**

Dylid codi unrhyw anawsterau wrth ddefnyddio Datagate gyda Gill Edwards yn swyddfa Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru yng Nghaerdydd, neu sôn wrth Gill amdanynt yn ystod y rhaglen hyfforddiant yn yr Hydref.

Llongyfarchiadau ...

...i Cymorth i Fenywod Dyffryn Aman am sicrhau £80,000 o Uned Diogelwch Cymunedol y Cynulliad. Aiff y cyllid tuag at gost prynu adeilad a fydd yn sail ar gyfer gweinyddiaeth a'u gwasanaeth cefnogaeth fel y bo angen/allestyn. Gelwir yr adeilad yn 'Cyswllt Cryf - Joint Strength i Fenywod Dyffryn Aman, bydd ganddo hefyd le ar gyfer asiantaethau eraill i gynnal cymorthfeydd i fenywod a phlant y mae cam-drin cartref yn effeithio arnynt, gyda'r nod o ddarparu gwasanaeth mwy cyfannol. Gyda chefnogaeth gan yr heddlu, gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, iechyd, cynghorwyr lleol a'r Fforwm Cam-drin yn y Cartref, mae cynnig i gronfa One am weddill y cyllid yn cael ei lunio ar hyn o bryd. Dylai Dyffryn Aman wybod erbyn mis Medi os ydynt yn llwyddiannus a rhoddwn y newyddion diweddaraf i chi ar gynnydd. Pob hwyl gyda'ch cynnig.

CAFCASS Memorandwm Dealltwriaeth

gcclbt cymru cafcass

Mae cytundeb ar gyfer gweithio partneriaeth agosach rhwng Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru a'r Gwasanaeth Cynghori a Chynorthwyo Llys i Blant a Theuluoedd (CAFCASS Cymru) ar waith erbyn hyn.

Prif nod y Memorandwm Dealltwriaeth yw annog gwell cyfathrebu rhwng y grwpiau sy'n aelodau o Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru a CAFCASS Cymru, ac i fynd i'r afael a cheisio osgoi tensiwn rhwng y ddau sefydliad.

Dangoswyd yr angen am gytundeb ar ôl i nifer o'n aelod-grwpiau godi pryderon am y diffyg tebygol o ymwybyddiaeth o gam-drin yn y cartref ymysg ymarferwyr CAFCASS ac ofnau am ddiogelwch plant a'u mamau yng nghyswllt gorchmynion cyswllt gyda thadau yn cam-drin.

Dodir pwyslais ar gyfathrebu lleol rhagweithiol rhwng staff Cymorth i Fenywod a CAFCASS Cymru, ac ystyrir fod cyfarfodydd Fforymau Cam-drin yn y Cartref yn gyfle ar gyfer cyswllt a rhannu gwybodaeth ar sail barhaol. Mae'r Memorandwm Dealltwriaeth hefyd yn rhagweld hyfforddiant cilyddol ac ymweliadau tîm gan y ddau sefydliad.

Darperir gweithdrefn gwynion hefyd, yn nodi yn y lle cyntaf y dylai problemau gael eu trin ar lefel leol. Os na fedrir eu datrys, dylid eu cyfeirio at weithwraig genedlaethol Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru a/neu aelod o staff CAFCASS a fydd yn ymdrechu i ganfod ffordd ymlaen.

Cylchredir y Memorandwm Dealltwriaeth i aelod-grwpiau Cymorth i Fenywod maes o law.

Newyddion Diweddaraf

Gohiriwyd trosglwyddo cyllid Cefnogi Pobl (SPRG) i reolaeth awdurdodau lleol o Ebrill 2006 i Ebrill 2008

Diweddariad ar y Llinell Cymorth

Mae galwadau i Linell Gymorth Camdriniaeth yn y Cartref Cymru wedi cynyddu bum gwaith drosodd yn ystod ei blwyddyn gyntaf.

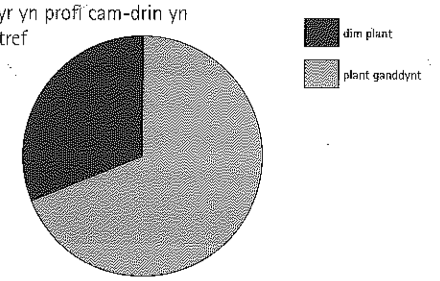
Mae'r gwasanaeth, a fydd yn nodi pen-blwydd cyntaf ei lansiad cenedlaethol ym mis Medi, yn awr yn derbyn 800 galwad y mis ar gyfartaledd. Daw mwyafrif y galwadau gan bobl yn profi trais a chamdriniaeth yn y cartref - 55% o'r holl alwadau a dderbyniwyd yn ei flwyddyn gyntaf.

Mae'r Llinell Gymorth yn diweddaru'r ffordd y caiff ystadegau eu casglu. Bu'r pecyn Cyswllt Cleient newydd a ddefnyddir mewn cysylltiad â Datagate, yn fyw ers 1 Mehefin ac mae'n caniatáu casglu data mwy effeithiol. Er enghraifft, medrir cofnodi'r nifer o alwyr a gyfeiriwyd at bob lloches, a ddylai fod yn werthfawr tu hwnt ar gyfer ein haelodau wrth gyflwyno ystadegau ar gyfer dibenion cyllido.

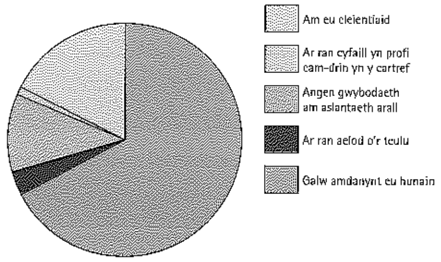
Bydd ystadegau mwy cynhwysfawr a data cadarn hefyd yn galluogi'r Llinell Gymorth a Chymorth i Fenywod Cymru i gynrychioli aelod-grwpiau yn well ac i hysbysu gwneuthurwyr polisi (gweler yr erthygl uchod).

Plant

galwyr yn profi cam-drin yn y cartref



Natur yr alwad



Tudalen Plant

Adnodd Newydd

THE HIDEOUT www.thehideout.org.uk until children are safe

Mae gwefan newydd Ffederasiwn Cymorth i Fenywod Lloegr (WAFE) yn adnodd ardderchog ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc yn byw mewn ofn cam-drin yn y cartref, neu rai sydd eisiau medru helpu cyfaill. Enw'r wefan yw 'The Hideout' (www.thehideout.org.uk) ac mae'n defnyddio iaith, graffeg, rhestrau gwirio, cwisiau a gemau rhyngweithiol i helpu plant i ymchwilio materion yn ymwneud â cham-drin domestig ac yn darparu gwybodaeth ar gynllunio diogelwch a llwybrau i helpu. Mae cysylltyn i'r safle ar wefan Cymorth i Fenywod (gweler hefyd www.notyourfault.org ar gyfer gwefan Fforwm Cam-drin yn y Cartref Sir Gaerfyrddin ar gyfer plant).

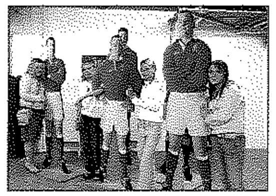
Yn nhermau ein gwefan ein hunain (www.welshwomensaid.org), caiff y cynnwys ei adolygu ac ymchwilir y posibilrwydd o sefydlu Ardal Aelodau ar gyfer grwpiau cysylltiedig.

Plant dal yn Bwysig!

Mae nifer dda yn dal i fynychu Grŵp Plant Cymorth i Fenywod ac rwy'n bersonol yn edrych ymlaen at y cyfarfodydd hyn fel cyfle i gael y cyswllt wyneb-i-wyneb gyda gweithwyr plant sydd mor hanfodol i fy swydd.

Dros yr ychydig gyfarfodydd diwethaf cawsom gyfraniadau gan Wasanaeth Tystion Bregus Cefnogaeth Dioddefwyr, gweithwyr Prosiect Ieuenctid y Gymdeithas Cynllunio Teulu ac yn fwyaf diweddar, weithwyr chwarae arbenigol a soniodd am arwyddocâd yr egwyddorion gwaith chwarae newydd i'n maes gwaith. Cafwyd hefyd syniadau chwarae ymarferol ar gyfer yr haf. Mae'n bwysig peidio colli golwg ar yn union pa mor bwysig yw chwarae i blant fel dull o ddysgu, iachau a hunanfynegiant.

Cafwyd presenoldeb da yn hyfforddiant y Gwanwyn ar Gyfathrebu gyda Phlant a chafwyd adborth cadarnhaol. Mewn ymateb i geisiadau gan grwpiau buom yn gweithio gydag arbenigwyr allanol i ddarparu hyfforddiant yn yr Hydref ar gadw cofnodion, diogelu data a gwybodaeth, y gwn sy'n faes o gonsyrn. Anelwn hefyd gynnal hyfforddiant ardystiedig ar Reoli Ymddygiad Heriol ac Ymyriad Corfforol ddechrau 2006.



Gwahoddwyd Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru gan y Comisiynydd Plant i anfon cynrychiolwyr i ddigwyddiad ymgynghori yn Stadiwm y Mileniwm. Cawsom ein cynrychioli gan chwe chynrychiolydd ifanc rhwng 13 a 17 oed, yn dod o 4 o'n aelod-grwpiau ac roedd eu hadborth yn cynnwys **'profiad mawr ' ... 'gwych!'... 'addysgiadol' ... 'iawn' ... 'da cael rhywun i wrando' ... 'diwrnod allan da'.**

Claire Sharp, Gweithwraig Materion Plant a Phobl Ifanc

Briffiad - MESUR PLANT A MABWYSIADU 2005

Un o brif amcanion y Mesur, a gyflwynwyd i'r Senedd ym mis Mehefin, yw rhoi pwerau newydd i'r llysoedd wrth ddelio gyda threfniadau cyswllt ar gyfer plant yn dilyn chwalfa perthynas.

Bydd yn **galluogi'r llysoedd i gyfarwyddo rhieni i gymryd rhan mewn gweithgareddau sy'n "hyrwyddo cyswllt"** pan maent yn ystyried p'un ai i wneud, newid neu ollwng gorchymyn cyswllt a bydd yn **darparu amrediad ehangach o opsiynau i sicrhau cydymffurfiaeth nag sydd ar gael ar hyn o bryd.**

Gall gweithgareddau cyswllt fod yn sesiynau gwybodaeth a chyngor am wneud trefniadau cyswllt neu raglenni, dosbarthiadau, cwnsela neu sesiynau arweiniad sy'n helpu i sefydlu, cynnal neu wella cyswllt gyda phlentyn. Gall hyn gynnwys rhaglenni troseddwyr lle mae cam-drin yn y cartref yn ystyriaeth.

Pan gaiff **gorchmynion eu torri**, gall **llysoedd orfodi gorchymyn gwasanaeth cymunedol** ar y rhiant nad yw'n cydymffurfio neu eu gorchymyn i dalu iawndal ariannol am unrhyw golledion a achosir drwy wrthod mynediad, os nad oes "esgus rhesymol" gan y person sy'n torri'r gorchymyn .

Caiff **cyfryngu gorfodol ei eithrio'n benodol** o "gweithgareddau cyswllt" a rhoddwyd y gorau i'r cynnig yn gynharach yn y flwyddyn i osod cyrffiw ar rieni yn gwrthod cyswllt, wedi ei fonitro drwy dagio electronig.

Croesewir yr eithriadau hyn yng nghyswllt cam-drin yn y cartref, ond mae llai o groeso i'r **methiant i gynnwys mesurau i'w gwneud yn ofynnol i'r llysoedd asesu risg yn systemataidd a sicrhau fod cyswllt yn ddiogel i bawb.** Mae'r llywodraeth yn parhau i ddibynnu ar ddyfarniadau ad hoc yn y llysoedd i benderfynu ar yr hyn sy'n ddiogel er y dangosodd profiad fod y rhain yn ddyfais annigonol i atal anaf i famau a phlant drwy drefniadau cyswllt.

[Medrir darllen y Mesur a'i nodiadau esboniadol ar wefan y Senedd: www.parliament.uk. megis y trafodaethau ar y Mesur.]

Gwenda Williams, Gweithwraig Materion Cyfreithiol

Ymestyn ymchwiliad ar gam-drin yn ystod beichiogrwydd

Bydd pob menyw feichiog yng Nghymru sy'n derbyn gofal cyn-enedigol yn cael eu holi am gam-drin yn y cartref erbyn diwedd eleni.

Nod yr Ymholiad Llwybr Gofal Cyn-enedigol ar Gam-drin yn y Cartref yw cynorthwyo bydwragedd ac ymwelwyr iechyd i 'ofyn y cwestiwn' i fenyw pan fydd ar ben ei hun, a'u helpu i ddod yn gymwys a hyderus wrth ddelio gyda datgeliadau.

Mae'r hyfforddiant ar gyfer staff GIG yn cael ei ymestyn ledled Cymru a bydd llawer wedi'i gynnal erbyn mis Medi.

Pan fydd y Llwybr Gofal yn hollol weithredol, bydd pob menyw feichiog yn cael cerdyn gwybodaeth yn amlinellu'r gwasanaethau cefnogaeth sydd ar gael iddynt, yn cynnwys manylion grŵpiau Cymorth i Fenywod lleol. Gyda'u caniatâd, rhoddir manylion menywod mewn risg uchel i Gynadleddau Asesu Risg Aml-asiantaeth lleol (MARAC) neu gyffelyb, a chyfeirir unrhyw faterion amddiffyn plant at yr awdurdodau statudol perthnasol (nid yw'n rhaid cael cydsyniad).

Mae Strategaeth Genedlaethol Cymru ar Fynd i'r Afael â Cham-drin yn y Cartref yn annog defnyddio'r Llwybr Gofal fel arfer gorau yn ystod beichiogrwydd.

Dywedodd Suzanne Hardacre, Bydwraig Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Morgannwg a secondiwyd i'r Cynulliad i lunio'r Llwybr Gofal: "Mae'n hysbys iawn fod camdriniaeth ddomestig yn aml yn dechrau neu'n cynyddu yn ystod beichiogrwydd. Bydd yr hyfforddiant i fydwragedd ac ymwelwyr iechyd ar ddefnyddio'r Llwybr Gofal yn eu galluogi i ofyn y cwestiynau angenrheidiol ac i ddelio'n effeithiol gyda'r dadleniad."

lloches refuge
Haf 2005 cylchlythyr cymorth i fenywod cymru welsh women's aid newsletter

Mynd i'r Afael â Cham-drin yn y Cartref

Mae strategaeth genedlaethol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar fynd i'r afael â cham-drin yn y cartref a gyhoeddwyd yn ddiweddar yn rhoi fframwaith ar gyfer datblygu polisi cam-drin yn y cartref yng Nghymru.

Disgrifiwyd y strategaeth fel **asgwrn cefn ar gyfer hwyluso datblygiad polisi lleol dros y tair blynedd nesaf**, ac mae'n dodi pwyslais mawr ar **gryfhau gweithio cyd-asiantaeth** a sefydlu rhwydweithiau gwasanaeth lleol cryf drwy'r **Partneriaethau Diogelwch Cymunedol** presennol.

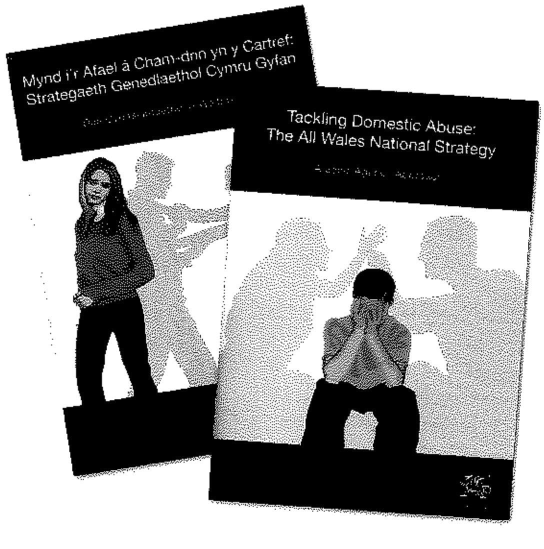
Wrth lansio'r strategaeth, dywedodd Edwina Hart, Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio Llywodraeth y Cynulliad fod **polisïau manwl ar gyfer gweithredu'r strategaeth i'w cynnwys yng Nghynllun Diogelwch Cymunedol pob Partneriaeth.**

Cynrychiolir Cymorth i Fenywod ar Weithgor Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar Gam-drin yn y Cartref a Thrais yn erbyn Menywod a fu ynglŷn â llunio'r strategaeth.

Er mwyn cynrychioli diddordebau ein haelodau yng Nghynllun Diogelwch pob cymuned, ac er mwyn ymgynghori â Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru ar lunio polisïau manwl yn deillio o'r strategaeth, mae angen i'n grwpiau **ddatblygu a chynnal cysylltiadau agos gyda'r asiantaethau perthnasol a chael eu cynrychioli ar Bartneriaethau Diogelwch Cymunedol.**

Pwyntiau Allweddol

- Fframwaith tair-blynedd ar gyfer datblygu polisi ar gam-drin yn y cartref
- Pwyslais ar bartneriaethau lleol a gweithio aml-asiantaeth
- Cyfrifoldeb Partneriaethau Diogelwch Cymunedol i ddatblygu arferion gwaith lleol o'r Strategaeth
- Cryfhau cysylltiadau gyda Chydlynwyr Fforymau Cam-drin yn y Cartref
- Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru i hyrwyddo gweithrediad y Strategaeth gyda data cadarn o becyn cronfa ddata Datagate



Mae Mynd i'r Afael â Cham-drin yn y Cartref: Strategaeth Genedlaethol Cymru Gyfan yn cynnwys diffiniad niwtral o ran y rhywiau o gam-drin yn y cartref ac yn dweud mai'r prif egwyddorion sylfaenol yw diogelu a chefnogi rhai sy'n dioddef o gam-drin yn y cartref, atebolrwydd y sawl sy'n cyflawni'r drosedd ac atal anaf.

Dywedodd Elen Pierce, Cyfarwyddydd newydd Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru: "Mae hwn yn **gyhoeddiad allweddol** i'n sefydliad, gan ei fod yn mapio blaenoriaethau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer datblygu polisi cam-drin yn y cartref dros y tair blynedd nesaf. Fel prif rwydwaith Cymru ar gyfer cefnogi menywod a phlant sy'n cael eu cam-drin, y strategaeth hon fydd ein prif ganllaw a'n ffocws pennaf ar gyfer datblygu gwasanaeth a gweithio partneriaeth.

"I hyrwyddo gweithrediad y Strategaeth, rhaid i Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru fod mewn sefyllfa i gael mynediad i ystadegau a data cadarn, cywir a chyfoes ar ein grwpiau a'r menywod a'r plant a gefnogir ynddynt, a dyna pam y croesewir yn fawr ddefnyddio pecyn cronfa ddata Datagate gan grwpiau Cymorth i Fenywod Lleol yng Nghymru."

Pobol y Cwm yn ymgynghori â Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru

Lisa Victoria sy'n cymryd rhan Sheryl, sy'n cael ei cham-drin gan ei phartner.

Mae opera sebon Pobol y Cwm yn trafod mater trais a cham-drin yn y cartref mewn stori bresennol.

Ymgynghorodd ymchwilwyr y rhaglen â Cymorth i Fenywod, a bu Lisa Victoria, yr actor sy'n chwarae Sheryl sy'n cael ei cham-drin gan ei phartner Garry, mewn cyswllt gyda menywod a gefnogir gan Cymorth i Fenywod Bro Morgannwg.

www.welshwomensaid.org **Llinell Cymorth:** Rhadffôn 0808 80 10 800 (8am - 2pm a 8pm - 2am bob dydd)

Y Tu Mewn.....

t2 Cronfa Ddata Datagate
t2 Diweddariad Llinell Gymorth
t3 Mae Plant yn Bwysig!
t3 Mesur Plant a Mabwysiadu
t4 Prosiect Saff GEG
t4 Diweddariad Hyfforddiant

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