



Powys Citizens' Panel

Welcome to the 4th Dyfed-Powys Police Powys Citizens' Panel Newsletter

This was the fourth occasion where Dyfed-Powys Police and Powys County Council have worked together through the Council's Citizens' Panel. We are thankful for the opportunity afforded to us to consult with local residents about the policing issues which matter to them and their community.

Dyfed-Powys Police would like to extend a big thank you to those of you who completed our survey, because without your responses and feedback, we would not be able to work towards improving our services in a way that meets your needs and expectations.

Our survey was sent out to seven hundred and thirty nine Panel members, and the two subject matters on which we wanted your opinions were New Pathways' Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) and the All Wales Police Force's Rape Awareness Campaign which took place in the summer of 2009.

The Sexual Abuse Referral Centre is a specialist facility designed for victims of sexual assault. This is staffed by specially-trained, experienced professionals who can give medical advice, one to one counselling, practical emotional support, and advice relating to pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. It also provides a confidential service whereby victims can attend the centre directly without the involvement of the Police. The SARC is based within the grounds of West Wales General Hospital, Carmarthen and is staffed between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Thursday. An out of hours helpline is also available.

Dyfed-Powys Police, in partnership with the other Welsh police forces and Sexual Assault Referral Centres, launched a Rape Awareness Campaign. The campaign took place across Wales between 22nd June and 13th July 2009 and was aimed at encouraging victims to come forward, sending a message to perpetrators they would be arrested and brought to justice.

This newsletter aims to give you an overview of the results obtained from this survey. If you would like a copy of the complete report, please contact our Freedom of Information Team on 101 (ask for the Freedom of Information Department), alternatively you could email foi@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk.

Survey 4 Results

Seven hundred and thirty nine surveys were sent out to Panel members; three hundred and five surveys were returned giving an overall response rate of 41%.

Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)

94% of you had not heard of SARC; 6% had. 5 of you had heard about the SARC through your work, and 4 through the media e.g. newspapers, TV and radio, while one of you had heard of SARC from the police, and one from a relative.

Do you have any suggestions you would like to make about the SARC service?

46 of you highlighted the distance you would have to travel to Carmarthen to use the service. This was viewed as a serious issue and disadvantage of the service. You suggested that more services, and possibly mobile units, should be available across Wales.

26 of you suggested that wider publicity of the service was required, while 10 of you complimented the service, putting forward positive comments about the SARC and the work that it does.

7 of you believed that the Centre's opening hours needed to be extended, in order to make the service more widely available. 2 of you highlighted the need for support for those with learning difficulties and mental health issues, and a further 2 of you referred to the importance of claims being investigated fully.

What services do you think should be available for victims of sexual abuse?

38 of you spoke of counselling and 'being listened to' as being the most important services which should be made available to victims of sexual abuse. 21 of you again felt that the service should be available closer to home, while 20 of you believed the services already being provided to be sufficient.

17 of you suggested that both counselling and medical services should be provided side by side, 14 of you simply suggested that victims should be provided with every service they require, 10 of you highlighted the importance of the availability of a confidential service, and 8 noted the importance of long term support.

6 of you felt that a safe house and protection would be beneficial to the victim; a further 6 of you suggested legal advice, and an additional 6 recommended greater police involvement. 4 referred to each of the following; a 24 hour service, justice for victims, and easily available information. 4 of you questioned what services were available to children, and 2 noted the importance of medical services for the victims of sexual abuse.

Rape Awareness Campaign

89% of you had not heard of the 2009 Rape Awareness Campaign; 11% of you had. Of those of you who had heard of the Campaign, 13 had seen advertisements on the television, 6 had read of it in the newspaper, 5 had heard about it on the radio, and 3 had read of the Campaign on the internet.

Did you think that the Campaign was an effective way of making rape and sexual assault issues known to the public?

27 of you believed that the Campaign was an effective way of making rape and sexual assault issues known to the public; 3 of you did not.

Where do you think the Dyfed-Powys Rape Awareness Campaign should be advertised?

The most popular locations where you thought the Rape Awareness Campaign should be advertised were in GP surgeries (88%), Community Centres (71%), pharmacies (69%), and newspapers (68%).

Where would you go for information on rape and sexual assault and help/support services if you were affected?

75% of you would contact the police, 55% your GP, 35% a confidential counselling service, 19% a hospital, and 10% would contact Social Services.

Have you looked at the Rape and Sexual Assault web page on the Dyfed-Powys Police website?

276 of you had not looked at the website; 22 of you had.

If you have accessed the Rape and Sexual Assault web page, how do you rate the information on the website?

10 of you who had accessed the web page rated the information available as fairly good, 8 rated it as very good, 1 as average, 1 as fairly poor, and the remaining 1 as very poor.

Dyfed-Powys Police Update

New Pathways: Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) and Dyfed-Powys Police's Rape Awareness Campaign

Detective Inspector Owain Richards would like to thank Panel members for their feedback adding, *"Your responses have been used to evaluate the effectiveness of the services we provide to the public, and in particular how we market these services to ensure the most vulnerable people in our community have access to the services. The information you have provided has also been shared with statutory and voluntary agencies as a way of taking a more joined up approach to protecting vulnerable people."*