

# New advice to protect older people from abuse

Information and Guidance on Domestic Abuse: Safeguarding Older People in Wales was developed in partnership with the Older People's Commissioner for Wales.

The guidance offers practical advice to professionals to ensure that older people who are experiencing or have experienced abuse, have access to the best support and advice available.

It also aims to raise awareness of the issue and aid understanding of the complexities of working with older people who require care and support as a result of domestic abuse.

The Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children said:

"Some older victims experience abuse for twice as long as younger people before seeking help, and this cannot continue. It is not acceptable for older people to suffer alone without the help of exceptional support that can be provided to them by our specialist services.

"I'm committed to working closely with partners to protect victims of domestic abuse, and I'm pleased this guidance offers practical advice to help professionals to work effectively with older people.

"Since the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act came into force, we have built strong foundations to create a stronger, more resilient sector to support individuals and families who are either at risk, or are struggling with the consequences of abuse, and we will continue to do so."

Older People's Commissioner for Wales, Sarah Rochira, said:

"I am pleased to have worked in collaboration with the Welsh Government to produce this much needed guidance on protecting older people from domestic abuse.

"The guidance will assist front-line professionals working across health, social care and housing to better identify, and respond effectively to, domestic abuse against older people, which affects a significant number of people every year.

"The guidance will contribute to a greater understanding of the issues faced by older people when they are the victims of domestic abuse, which is essential to ensure that the right services and

support are available to them at such a traumatic time in their lives."