

## Appendix B2

Comments by Gwyneth Williams, Gorwel Manager, Domestic Abuse South Gwynedd

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### How are children affected by domestic abuse/violence?

1. The majority of children witness violence that is taking place, and in 90% of cases they are in the same or next room.
2. They may be witness to domestic abuse in a number of ways..
3. They may be caught in the middle of an incident in an effort to make the violence stop.
4. They may be in the room next door and hear the abuse or see their mother's physical injuries following an incident of violence.
5. They may be forced to stay in a room or may not be allowed to play.
6. They may be forced to witness sexual abuse or they may be forced to take part in verbally abusing a victim.
7. All children witnessing domestic abuse/violence are being emotionally abused

### Are the effects the same for every child?

8. Children's responses to the trauma of witnessing domestic abuse may vary according to a multitude of factors including age, race, sex and stage of development.
9. Children are individuals and may respond to witnessing abuse in different ways.
10. A thorough investigation of a child's situation is vital.

### What does the Gwynedd Council funding enable you to do?

11. The only service that employs specialist officers to support children and young people who are effected by domestic abuse in Gwynedd.
12. Listen to the voice of the child/young person.
13. Hold one to one sessions and group work (where appropriate)
14. Develop their skills to understand the situation, and how to keep themselves safe.
15. Build confidence.
16. Opportunity to meet other children and young people who are in a similar situation.

### What else does the funding enable you to do?,

17. Receiving the core funding has enabled us to attract additional funding e.g. a grant from Lloyds TSB for our Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop in Dolgellau.
18. Without this core funding there will be no opportunity to attract or maintain additional funding for the service.

### How many use the service?

19. 82 children and young people have received support in the six months from 1st April 2014 to 30th September 2014..
20. Our concern is to who will these cases be referred to if the service is cut.

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