

CARDIFF WOMEN'S AID PARTNERS WITH UK SAYS NO MORE TO CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

Cardiff Women's Aid has partnered with the UK SAYS NO MORE campaign to create Safe Spaces / Mannau Diogel in pharmacies, banks and businesses across Wales. Cicelie Vobe, The Safe Spaces Project Coordinator / Cydlynnydd Prosiect Mannau Diogel, will recruit and train businesses throughout Wales in creating confidential, inclusive and accessible Safe Spaces for anyone affected or experiencing domestic abuse or sexual violence to signpost them to local and national support agencies.

UK SAYS NO MORE is a national campaign to raise awareness of domestic abuse and is already working with Boots UK, Morrisons, Superdrug and Well pharmacies, TSB and HSBC banks and other independent pharmacies across the UK to provide Safe Spaces in their consultation rooms.

Safe Spaces are confidential, private and safe rooms for survivors who are experiencing domestic abuse and sexual violence, where they can access a phone and resources, contact a relative or agency for support and plan their next move. The scheme is facilitated in pharmacies, which were able to remain open during lockdown, and banks; there are now over 50 Safe Spaces within 10 miles of Cardiff.

The Safe Spaces scheme provides tools and resources for individuals and organisations to take action and get involved in ending domestic violence. It is challenging myths and misconceptions around these issues, sharing resources and information, and ultimately working together to make real positive change.

We are excited to announce a 3 nations approach to the scheme and a joint partnership across England, Scotland and Wales. Vobe has already started working in collaboration with her counterparts across the nations to ensure a Welsh lens is being applied to the scheme in Wales.

Vobe is aiming to increase the quantity of Safe Spaces to 180 in Wales over the next 18 months, ensuring full quality assurance and training is provided to all partners of the scheme.

Cicelie Vobe, Safe Spaces Project Coordinator at Cardiff Women's Aid said:

"Tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence is a shared responsibility. We are excited to be partnering with the Safe Spaces Scheme to create more avenues of support for survivors in

Wales to the fantastic local organisations working to eradicate violence and abuse and the Live Fear Free Helpline, run by Welsh Women's Aid. We are looking forward to developing the scheme in a Welsh context and to working closely with our partners across the nations."

- **END OF BLOG POST** -

About Cardiff Women's Aid

Cardiff Women's Aid provides support, advocacy and aftercare services to women and girls who have experienced domestic violence and sexual abuse. Founded in 1974, the Cardiff branch is one of the original Women's Aid branches in Wales and supports on average up to 11,000 women and girls annually from the Cardiff and Vale areas.

For more information on the work of Cardiff Women's Aid, visit www.cardiffwomensaid.org.uk or contact Cardiff Women's Aid Media Team at media@cardiffwomensaid.org.uk

About Hestia & UK SAYS NO MORE

Hestia is one of the largest providers of domestic abuse refuges in London and the South East and is the main organisation supporting victims of modern slavery in the capital. It is the home of domestic abuse and sexual violence campaign UK SAYS NO MORE and developed the Bright Sky domestic abuse app in partnership with Vodafone. Hestia has been providing support to those in crisis through safehouses, refuge accommodation and support.

Safe Spaces was developed as an initiative of the UK SAYS NO MORE campaign in response to the challenges faced by victims of domestic abuse during the COVID-19 lockdown and their inability to access specialist support services. It was first launched in partnership with Boots and is now available in over 6,000 locations across the UK including, including major brands such as Superdrug, Morrisons and Well and local independent pharmacists. Many pharmacy Safe Spaces also now offer the Government's Ask for ANI codeword as a companion to Safe Spaces.

Hestia's Safe Spaces initiative was awarded over £652,000 by Postcode Innovation Trust, a grant making trust funded entirely by players of People's Postcode Lottery.

About People's Postcode Lottery Recovery Fund

People's Postcode Lottery Recovery Fund is supported by Postcode Innovation Trust, a grant giving body, funded entirely by players of People's Postcode Lottery to fund charities delivering highly innovative, impactful, and engaging projects across Britain and further afield. The Postcode Recovery Fund has been created to support charities to develop innovative solutions that address the many issues affecting people as society recovers from the effects of the pandemic.

<https://www.postcodelottery.co.uk/>

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