

£1.5 million funding to support women affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence

Finance Secretary Mark Drakeford and the Leader of the House and Chief Whip, Julie James announced £1.2 million of EU funding, alongside £300,000 directly from the Welsh Government for the £1.7 million Limitless programme during a visit to Welsh Women's Aid in Cardiff.

Led by Threshold DAS, an organisation, which helps people who have been affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence, the Limitless programme will work with women to help them take the next step to build a brighter future.

It will provide tailored support, from confidence building to helping them gain formal and accredited qualifications, developed with the Welsh Government's Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence team.

Limitless will also help women who are considering setting up a business and becoming self-employed to achieve their goals.

Professor Drakeford said:

"1 in 5 women have experienced sexual violence and 1 in 4 women have experienced domestic violence – this cannot be allowed to continue.

"The Welsh Government, working with partners, is fully committed to tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence and helping women who have been affected by these crimes to build a better future with more economic independence.

"I am pleased that on White Ribbon Day I can announce new funding for Threshold DAS, which will provide invaluable support to help women develop confidence and skills to build their careers."

Ms James added:

"I am humbled to meet the many brave women here today who have been affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence and have been able to turn their lives around for the better.

"The Limitless programme will build on the excellent work Threshold DAS is already doing, helping women to rebuild their confidence and lead independent lives. This is another step in the right direction – working towards a Wales where everybody can live fear free."

Victoria Pedicini, chief executive officer of Threshold DAS, said:

“Domestic violence is widespread and deeply ingrained and has a serious impact on the health and wellbeing of women.

“It’s our mission not only to help individuals survive but also to grow and thrive and build a life free from domestic abuse and sexual violence, breaking this devastating cycle.

“We are thrilled to have secured European funding for the Limitless project, which presents an opportunity to build on our educational provision to up skill women currently in employment. It will provide an avenue for a change in career path or pave the way to a brighter future.

“Many women who have experienced domestic abuse or sexual violence often want to give back after receiving support and help others in similar positions. Our new qualification is designed to provide learners with the skills to offer safe and effective support, while building their confidence and self-esteem.

“We are looking forward to working with the Welsh Government and other partners in the sector, to develop the qualification and hope that in time the project will be replicated throughout the whole of Wales.”