

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.”

Construction under way on Qioptiq's new £3.7m facility expansion will ensure £82m MoD contract will be delivered on time.

The start of work was officially launched today (Thursday June 22) at a ground breaking event with Economy Secretary Ken Skates, Qioptiq MD Peter White and representatives from Read Construction which secured the design and build contract.

The Welsh Government is investing £1.7m to build the 24,900 sq. ft. secure facility on land it owns adjacent to Qioptiq's existing premises on St Asaph Business Park. The development is due to be completed by the end of the year when Qioptiq will lease the building and invest c£2m in fit out, security and IT systems, bringing the total investment to £3.7m.

Ken Skates said:

“Winning this key contract was a huge coup for the company and for Wales and reflects the expertise of its highly skilled workforce. It's great to see work is now underway as this expansion will create on-going economic benefits for the region and secure the long term sustainable future of this advanced manufacturing company in Wales.

“Excelitas' Qioptiq is a key Anchor company, a major employer in North Wales and one of the most innovative and dynamic businesses in Wales. The Welsh Government supported Qioptiq's successful bid from the early pre-qualification stage and our continued support and investment in these new facilities will ensure the company has the capacity it needs to deliver such a significant contract.”

Under the six year MoD contract Qioptiq will be the sole strategic supplier for the MoD's entire fleet of Surveillance and Target Acquisition equipment – it will supply and maintain more than 280,000 items of highly sensitive optical equipment.

Qioptiq MD Peter White said

“A contract like this provides security and allows us to invest in the infrastructure and our people because we can take a long-term view. This in turn helps the local economy and our supply chain.”

He went on to say:

“Sometimes you can take for granted the sense of community that we have at Qioptiq. When customers visit, they always comment on the passion and dedication that the workforce shows and that is an important factor in winning contracts such as this.”

Read Construction aim to ensure maximum spend within the local area through the appointment of local design team members, suppliers and subcontractors and will also be providing training opportunities for local people.

Dauid Cloete, Construction Director, said:

“We are delighted to be delivering this significant project for the region, in conjunction with Welsh Government and Qioptiq. Throughout the project we will endeavour to promote local employment opportunities and deliver added value through the employment of a local supply chain.”

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Child poverty still on Welsh Government agenda

Addressing Children in Wales's Child Poverty Conference, the Cabinet Secretary reaffirmed the Welsh Government's commitment to eradicating child poverty.

He said the focus on employability, early years and empowerment has put far greater emphasis on those areas which support children to have the best start in life.

This approach has seen increasing investment in initiatives which are key to preventing and reducing poverty, delivering a more equal and prosperous Wales.

While recognising that more needed to be done the Cabinet Secretary said the Welsh Government is making progress towards achieving its child poverty objectives in a number of areas.

Carl Sargeant said:

“Employment in Wales is close to a record high and the number of children living in workless households is at an all time low. We have reduced the gap in educational attainment between pupils eligible for Free School Meals and those who are not, exceeding our target for pupils achieving the expected level at Foundation Phase.”

The Cabinet Secretary said early childhood experiences are important for a child's long-term development and their achievements in later life which is why a focus on early intervention and prevention is important, particularly in respect of Adverse Childhood Experiences.

Carl Sargeant added:

“Tackling poverty is the responsibility of every Cabinet Secretary and every Minister. While we do not underestimate the scale of our challenge, we must also recognise the opportunities available.”

Big budget US comedy Show Dogs spent £4.7m filming in Wales – Hollywood producer is keen to return after ‘a great experience’

Riverstone Pictures, founded by Deepak Nayar and Nik Bower, has just completed filming in Wales where the majority of principal photography for Show Dogs was carried out at Pinewood Studio Wales, and locations in Wales doubling for the US.

Deepak, who produced with Philip von Alvensleben, said:

“Principal photography is now complete and we’re really happy with how it went and have high expectations for Show Dogs.

“We had a great time in Wales and I was delighted with the Welsh crews we worked with – they were thoroughly professional, very accommodating, welcoming and friendly. We couldn’t have asked for more.

“It’s been a great experience and one I’d like to repeat as I’m very keen to carry out more projects in Wales – so watch this space.”

The production which was supported by business finance from the Welsh Government as well as the Media Investment Budget, advised by Pinewood Pictures, spent more than £4.7m on Welsh goods and services in the region.

It also offered work and development opportunities for Welsh crew with the majority of principal photography filmed at a variety of Welsh locations.

Welsh Government Economy Secretary Ken Skates said:

“We promote Wales as being an excellent location for feature films and TV productions so it’s particularly good to hear that a producer of Deepak Nayar’s standing not only had a great experience filming in Wales but is keen to return with more projects. That’s a great testimonial and we couldn’t ask for a better endorsement.”

Show dogs is a family comedy starring Will Arnett and Natasha Lyonne and features a cast of talking dogs using computer-generated visual effects to animate and manipulate the faces of the live dog characters.

The film centres on Max, a rugged, lone-wolf Rottweiler NYPD police dog

partnered with Arnett. The two investigate the kidnapping of a baby panda by an underground network of illegal animal traders and a tip that they plan to sell the panda at the prestigious Canini Invitational Dog Show. The dog must undergo a makeover with the help of a seasoned trainer (Lyonne) – mud baths, ballet lessons, a Brazilian waxing to go undercover in order to thwart the plot.

Show Dogs is directed by Raja Gosnell, whose credits include Scooby-Doo, The Smurfs and Beverly Hills Chihuahua. Sales are being handled by Open Road International which has pre-sold it into various international territories with a US release scheduled for January 2018.