

**Credwch
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Believe in
children**



**Barnardo's
Cymru**

We are very pleased to announce that Barnardo's Cymru Taith Service is one of five projects across Wales to share in more than £1 million awarded by the Big Lottery Fund this week. The grant was announced under the first round of the BIG Innovation Programme, which aims to specifically support projects that test new ways of tackling emerging and existing social problems.

The grant award of £265,572 to Barnardo's will be used to manage a 3 year project to develop our work with girls who have engaged in sexually harmful behaviour towards others. The project, which will formally commence on 1 April 2012, will help develop the following:

- standardised assessment tools for girls and young women who have engaged in sexually harmful behaviour toward others**
- a treatment manual for professionals, allowing these girls to reduce any risks they pose to others and allow them to move toward healthy adult relationships.**
- enhance public and professional awareness of this group of young women via training, articles and academic debate.**

We know that around one third of sexual abuse in the UK is carried out by young people. While the majority of abuse is carried out by males, girls and young women also sexually abuse. We believe the Taith Service is well placed to complete this research and development work, not before undertaken in the UK. We need to better understand the psychological profile of young women who sexually assault others, so that we can better address their specific needs.

This project will represent a significant step forward in our understanding and allow professionals, for the first time in the UK, to offer informed assessments of girls' treatment needs and offer the most suitable interventions. This will reduce ongoing risk to others in the community and improve the likelihood that these young women will go on to develop safe and healthy relationships.