

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

7 November 2018

Title:	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2018 – 2022
Report of the Director of People and Resilience	
Open Report	For Information
Wards Affected: ALL	Key Decision: No
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Sponsor: Elaine Allegretti, Director of People and Resilience, LBBD	
Summary: <p>The four-year Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2018 - 2022 has been presented at the Violence Against Women and Girls sub group of the Community Safety Partnership, and the Community Safety Partnership for consultation, and their comments have been incorporated. It has been developed through stakeholder workshops, survivor engagement and testimony and supported by the Delivery Unit who undertook a priority review specific to domestic abuse.</p> <p>The strategy content has been agreed by the Corporate Strategy Group with status as an interim strategy considering the developing Health and Wellbeing Strategy.</p> <p>The Strategy is now being presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board, who are invited to comment further and to recommend the Strategy for final approval.</p>	
Recommendation(s) <p>The Health and Wellbeing Board is invited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Comment on the strategy;(ii) Recommend the adoption of the strategy subject to any amendments requested; and(iii) Recommend that partner organisations also take the steps necessary to formally adopt the strategy through their organisational arrangements.	
Reason(s) <p>The Strategy sets out four priorities that have been agreed following consultation with local stakeholders including statutory services, voluntary and community sector groups, and with survivors. Delivery of these priorities would support the Borough Manifesto, Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Corporate Plan in their vision to tackle domestic abuse.</p>	

1 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Domestic and sexual violence is so widespread and prevalent that it can affect any person from any background.
- 1.2 The London Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021 sets VAWG as a clear priority and a refreshed London VAWG strategy was published in early 2018. The level of recorded violence against women and girls in London is increasing with 1 in 10 crimes recorded by the Metropolitan Police being domestic abuse related.
- 1.3 Key stakeholders expressed the need to move to a Violence Against Women and Girls approach which acknowledges how crimes such as domestic and sexual abuse affect women and girls disproportionately.
- 1.4 Domestic violence and abuse have been a longstanding problem for Barking and Dagenham. According to figures from the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), Barking and Dagenham has consistently had the highest recorded rate of domestic abuse for the last 10 years compared to other London boroughs. Prevalence is reportedly 23 incidents per 1000 of the population.
- 1.5 During 2017/18 there were over 1700 referrals to children's social care for domestic abuse alone. There were 390 referrals for other forms of violence against women and girls such as female genital mutilation, forced marriage, stalking, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.
- 1.6 Of reported domestic abuse incidents to the local police, 76% are reported by women and 24% by men. Many victims who are men are still experiencing violence from another man or men, for example in gay relationships or from male family members.
- 1.7 The Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy has been presented at the Corporate Strategy Group and the Community Safety Partnership Board. Following Health & Wellbeing Board approval the strategy will be published.

2 Proposal and issues

- 2.1 The strategy highlights four priorities which have been agreed through various consultations. They are:
 - Support Survivors
 - Educate and Communicate
 - Challenge Abusive Behaviours
 - Include Lived Experiences
- 2.2 The purpose of the strategy is to ensure that continued investment in domestic abuse support services continues in order for provision to be the most effective and relevant it can be.
- 2.3 The strategy requires investment from across the council and the local partnership in order for it to be effective and influence change.
- 2.4 An action plan, which will dictate future work in this area, will be monitored at the

VAWG Sub Group of the Community Safety Partnership.

3 Mandatory Implications

3.1 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

The strategy compliments the identification of need and the priorities for future action described in the JSNA, specifically section 3.5.8 Domestic Abuse. The JSNA highlights the need to commit to taking a family-based approach to deal with domestic violence, abuse and child sexual exploitation. It also demonstrates the link between Adverse Childhood Experiences such as abuse or domestic violence and multiple health risk factors and poor health outcomes in adulthood.

3.2 Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The VAWG strategy supports the 3 priorities from the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, namely to ensure the best start in life, early diagnosis and intervention and resilience. The VAWG commissioning plan will incorporate the priorities to ensure that support services embrace local intentions.

3.3 Integration

The strategy encourages the integrated approach to commissioning and planning of domestic abuse support provision, that incorporates a whole system approach across the partnership within the borough. It also sets out aims around bringing together sources of intelligence which will enable joint decision-making around VAWG interventions, based on wide-ranging evidence.

4 Financial Implications

Implications completed by Olufunke Adediran, Group Accountant:

- 4.1 This report is mainly for information and sets out to assist the Health and Wellbeing Board to make relevant recommendations for the adoption of the Council's 'Ending Violence Against Women and Girls' Strategy. As such there are no financial implications arising directly from the report.

5 Legal Implications

Implications completed by Dr. Paul Feild, Senior Governance Solicitor

- 5.1 It is a key role of the Health and Well-Being Board function to ensure that the providers of health and social care services work in their delivery in an integrated manner. There is close working with the Barking and Dagenham Community Safety Partnership which has a strategic priority sub-group (VAWG) sub-group set up to take action to prevent violence against women and girls. This strategy, and its commitments will be the responsibility of the sub-group which will also link with the Health and Wellbeing Board and the safeguarding boards to ensure that the response to violence against women and girls is robust, representative of need and well understood across all other priority areas. The VAWG sub group is Chaired by the Borough Director for NELFT.
- 5.2 There has been several significant legal measures taken to tackle the scourge of

VAWG, both criminal and civil. Civil having a lower burden of proof and of use where there is difficulty in obtaining evidence from victims. Domestic Violence Protection Orders are a civil order that fills a “gap” in providing protection to victims by enabling the police and magistrates’ courts to put in place protective measures in the immediate aftermath of a domestic violence incident where there is insufficient evidence to charge a perpetrator and provide protection to a victim via bail conditions.

- 5.3 Significant new criminal legislation is now in place including specific offences of stalking, forced marriage, failure to protect from Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and revenge pornography, as well as the new domestic abuse offence to capture coercive or controlling behaviour in an intimate or family relationship. Furthermore, there is are FGM Protection Orders and an FGM mandatory reporting duty. In 2015 the Government introduced the Modern Slavery Act and rolled out (DVPOs) and the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) nationally and strengthened measures to manage sex offenders or those who pose a risk of sexual harm.

6 Risk Management

- 6.1 Through approaches to service commissioning, there are mechanisms for ensuring that the risks around individuals who have experienced domestic abuse in any form are managed, jointly as necessary with the systems in place for perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- 6.2 In terms of the delivery of the Strategy and its action plan which is to follow, the VAWG CSP sub group will have in place a risk management system to ensure that delivery remains on track and remedial action can be taken as necessary.

7 Patient / Service User Impact

- 7.1 The strategy sets out clear commitment to work with residents directly to improve accessibility and visibility of services. Survivor voice is a key element to improving the experiences of service users through specialist commissioned services. The impact of this strategy should be positive, with an emphasis put on working with survivors holistically and through an understanding of the importance of their identity.
- 7.2 The focus on community led campaigns will ensure that early help seeking with friends and family is validated, and that survivors are able to come forwards earlier in their experiences.
- 7.3 A zero-tolerance approach to perpetrators of abuse, and a recognition that in order to impact change we need to work with people who are using violence should help tackle repeat victimisation specifically, having a further positive impact on service users.
- 7.4 The priorities in the strategy are designed to raise the profile of violence and abuse, empower communities to identify and respond to it early on and to see improvements in the support provided to service users.

8 Non-mandatory Implications

Crime and Disorder

- 8.1 Domestic and sexual violence impacts on many other types of crime and is correlative with all types of violent crime, anti-social behaviour and offending. There are clear correlations with child sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation and youth violence.
- 8.2 Under the Community Safety Partnership work is taking place to design preventative approaches to tackling violent crime, including domestic and sexual violence which is underpinned by trauma informed ways of working, and recognising the damaging impacts of childhood adversity.
- 8.3 These implications have been extensively reviewed by the Community Safety Partnership in their approval of the strategy.

9 Safeguarding

- 9.1 Domestic and sexual violence presents a range of behaviours that pose a risk to the individuals themselves and others around them and can give rise to a range of safeguarding concerns.
- 9.2 The strategy recognises the impacts of domestic violence on children in the home and recommends working closely to support the victim to safeguard their children, whilst tackling the risk: the perpetrator. Working with the whole family provides a framework to reduce risk, reduce the use of abusive behaviours, and to address trauma experienced by the victim and children.
- 9.3 The borough's systems for reporting and investigating both adult and child safeguarding concerns have established links to specialist support services, and the Strategy recognises the need for commissioning interventions to continue to foster these links and provide training for those involved in safeguarding.

Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report: None

List of Appendices:

Appendix A Barking and Dagenham Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, 2018 – 2022