

# COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

## REPORT

**Subject:** Domestic Abuse Improvement Programme,

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LBB

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**Security:** RESTRICTED

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### 1. Purpose of Presenting the Report and Decisions Required

- 1.1 This report provides an outline of the Domestic Abuse Improvement Programme (DAIP), which sets out to address the findings and deliver the agreed recommendations of the Domestic Abuse Commission (DAC), and other key identified priorities.
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### 2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Community Safety Partnership Board:
- Note the work of the DAIP so far, and provide any strategic direction required. Note the expectations of delivery across the council and partners, including through the Barking and Dagenham Community Safety Partnership (BDCSP).
  - Agree to re-establish the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Group (VAWGSG) as the key driver for delivery of the DAIP, and the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Steering Group (MARACSG), providing key strategic input as required.

### 3. Main Text

#### Introduction and Background

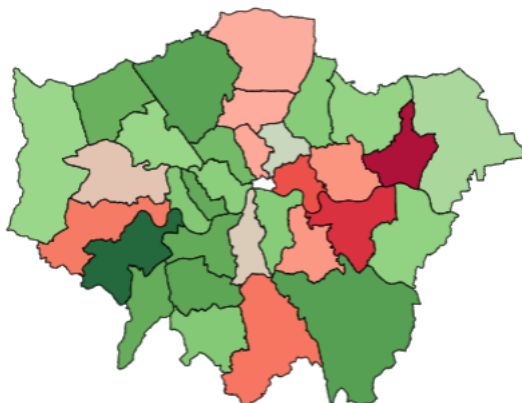
- 3.1 The Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health Integration launched the Domestic Abuse Commission in February 2020. The Commission brought together 12 national experts to look consider domestic abuse in LBB, and the partnership response to it.

- 3.2 The Commission undertook significant engagement work with residents and stakeholders across the system and presented its findings in a final report. There were seven key priorities:
- Domestic abuse should be everyone's business
  - Healthy relationships learning for children and young people
  - Trauma informed services
  - Community awareness
  - Challenging perpetrators abusive behaviours
  - Safe community spaces for groups
  - Specific interventions for children and young people
- 3.3 A Cabinet report on the Council's response to the Domestic Abuse Commission report was considered on 25 May 2021. The findings of the report were accepted in large, and it was recognised there were significant areas of progress to be undertaken over the next five years.

### **Current position**

- 3.4 Several achievements have been made since the adoption of the DAC, including:
- The ReMove Abuse perpetrator programme pilot has been taking place, and funding to continue the pilot throughout 2022/23 has been identified
  - DA Ambassadors have been created – supportive points of contact for employees experiencing domestic abuse
  - Additional funding to ensure effective domestic abuse and parental/couple conflict interventions within the Early Help target operating model
  - A communications campaign on domestic abuse has been delivered
  - Progress has been made against the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance framework
- 3.5 A domestic abuse improvement programme (DAIP) lead has been temporarily secured. The DAIP lead was tasked to review at a high level the domestic abuse system across statutory partnerships, adding value to the DAC findings and ensuring we deliver a domestic abuse system that works for all in Barking and Dagenham – survivors/victims, children and young people survivor/victims, perpetrators, the community, statutory service providers and the voluntary and community sector.
- 3.6 This has allowed for the consideration of changing expectations and duties nationally and regionally – including the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act and other key statutory guidance (including the Home Office's Domestic Abuse Plan, the Domestic Abuse National Statement of Commissioning Expectations, and the Mayor's draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy).
- 3.7 It has also allowed for consideration of the latest data surrounding domestic abuse, and of the latest pressures, gaps, and concerns in a post Covid environment. An end-to-end review was conducted.
- 3.8 Barking and Dagenham still has one of the highest rates of domestic abuse per 1,000 population in the country, and the highest in London, as shown in the below heat map (most recent 12-month period).

*Rates of domestic abuse per 1,000 population heat map:*

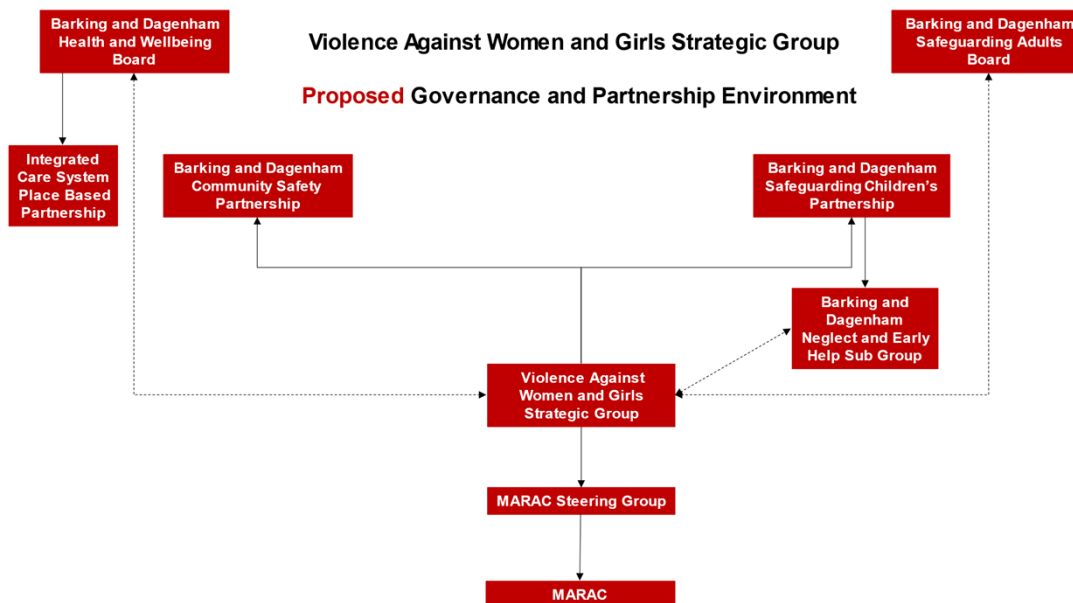


- 3.9 The DAIP lead has met with many relevant internal council service leads, as well as across statutory partners, commissioned providers, the voluntary and community sector, and survivors to understand their views. Strategic input is ongoing.
- 3.10 The DAIP programme plan has been developed as a result of the end to end review. It aims to enable effective delivery of the Domestic Abuse Commission outcomes and other required activity. It has been framed over a five-year delivery period, as agreed by Cabinet in May 2021. The 2022/23 is therefore effectively year two of the five-year plan, with highlighted achievements from year one already described above.
- 3.11 The development of the programme plan is necessary to ensure action is delivered across partners. As outlined in the plan, several the actions phased in the medium term will be subject to reviews and option appraisals to ensure the decisions made are in line with strategic visions and system development.

### **Strategic oversight**

- 2.9 The Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children's Partnership Neglect and Early Help Group has taken oversight of the work so far, but it is important to note that the domestic abuse system cuts across statutory partnerships and will need broader, shared oversight in the future.
- 2.10 The DAIP plan proposes the re-establishment of the BDCSP Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Group (VAWGSG) within the Barking and Dagenham Community Safety Partnership (BDCSP). The re-establishment will bring the VAWG area of work in line with structures to deliver other BDCSP priorities. In line with other BDCSP strategic groups, there will be a dotted reporting line to the BDCSP. The VAWG strategic group will take responsibility for the implementation of the DAIP as a key priority.
- 2.11 A Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference Steering Group (MARACSG) is also proposed to be established, reporting to the VAWG strategic group. The MARACSG will take responsibility for the elements within the DAIP relating to the MARAC, including the development of a predatory offender approach. The MARACSG will be Chaired by a senior Police partner. The MARAC will report directly to the MARAC steering group.

2.12 The proposed governance structure for approval is shown below:



2.15 Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for both the VAWGSG and the MARACSG have been attached to this report (please see Appendices 1 and 2). Strategic input is sought from the BDCSP Board on the ToR, particularly membership. Officers will then finalise documents and organise meetings as quickly as possible.

2.16 It should be noted there are tri-borough conversations ongoing relating to how the MARACSG might be delivered on a cross border basis. In this case, the draft ToR will be used to provide the basis for any tri-borough meeting.

## Resources

2.27 The DAIP includes both strategic and operational activities, ranging from system wide to service specific. The action contained for delivery in future years is high level and will need further development and decision making at the appropriate time. There are projects within the DAIP which require decision on how and if they are progressed, for example:

- Learning and development across the council and partners – ranging from awareness to specific approaches e.g. Safe and Together
- Communications and behavioural change campaigns
- Working with the voluntary and community sector to enhance the universal offer

2.28 At the VAWGSG there will need to be discussion on the shared ownership of domestic abuse and how resources are allocated to tackle domestic abuse on an ongoing basis.

2.2 It is proposed the finalisation of programme activity will be led through the governance structures outlined in the report e.g., the VAWGSG. It is also proposed that the VAWGSG prepares a report annually for agreement by CSG and CSP, which will include sign off of the next year's activity and related budget implications to ensure ongoing corporate / partner oversight.