Barking & Dagenham Partnership



Together Against Violence A Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategy for Barking and Dagenham

2012-15

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Foreword



The prevention of domestic and sexual violence is a key priority for Barking and Dagenham Community Safety Partnership. Domestic and Sexual Violence not only damages the lives of those people who are abused and their families, but it also breeds harmful attitudes that impact on the wider community. Furthermore, the financial costs incurred by agencies responding to violence in the Borough are estimated to be in the tens of millions of pounds each year.

Understanding how and why domestic and sexual violence occurs has been crucial in developing this strategy. We know that most abusers are known to their victims and most will adopt more than one type of violence; we know that no one is immune to being victimised, and that it is very important for support to be in place for everyone. However, we also know from research and local data that some people within the community are more vulnerable. Domestic and sexual violence mostly affects women and girls, but other characteristics such as disability, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, substance misuse, pregnancy, and immigration status may increase both the likelihood and also the barriers faced in seeking help.

Men and boys are also victims, so whilst this strategy focuses primarily on addressing issues of violence against women, particularly those who are most vulnerable, at the same time it ensures that where men and boys are victims they will also be able to access safety and justice. Domestic and sexual violence is not a new phenomenon – it has been a feature of lives throughout recorded history – but as advances are made, different forms of abuse have emerged through, for example, social networking sites and mobile phone SMS ('sex-ting') which, as a Partnership, we need to recognise and respond to.

I am very pleased to witness the advances marked by the development of this joint strategy. The strategy sees the Partnership applying the knowledge we have gained in responding to domestic violence to drive forward progress against wider sexual violence issues. This strategy also provides a platform to bring together the various strands of work that the Partnership has begun in relation to sexual exploitation, serious youth violence, safeguarding children and adults and hate crime, and I am confident that we will have made significant progress by 2015.

Jome Bristan

Chair of the Barking and Dagenham Community Safety Partnership

Introduction

Barking and Dagenham Council has three clear aims in its work for the Borough's residents:

• Raising household incomes

Improvements will be made to employment and skills levels by providing proactive support that helps local people back into work or training, and promotes the area to businesses and developers.

 Improving standards in school and post-16 education Services will focus continually on improving aspirations and

achievement to deliver improved skills and employment outcomes for residents of all ages.

• Housing and estate renewal

The Housing Strategy for 2012-2017 focuses on delivering a range of improvements including investing in new ways to deliver affordable housing, Council housing, decent homes and regeneration.

These aims are underpinned by the Council's *Policy House*, which envisions 'a Borough that safeguards children, young people, and vulnerable adults.' Research shows that Domestic and Sexual Violence affect all outcomes for children, families, and adults. By agreeing to tackle domestic and sexual violence, the Partnership will work towards this commitment.

Domestic and sexual violence includes domestic violence, sexual violence and rape, harassment and stalking, harmful practice (such as forced marriage, female genital mutilation, and honour violence) trafficking and prostitution.

In Barking and Dagenham, the majority of domestic and sexual violence that takes place is not committed by strangers on the streets. Instead, it is committed by people who are well known to their victims, either as partners or family members. The Partnership vision is therefore to ensure that the partnership has an effective and co-ordinated community response to domestic and sexual violence.

The Government and the Mayor of London use the term 'Violence against Women and Girls' (VAWG hereafter). VAWG refers to 'any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.'

The Partnership accepts that women and girls are more likely to be victims of domestic and sexual violence and men are more likely to be perpetrators. However, the Partnership also recognises that men and boys can also be victims of these crimes, and so this strategy will help to ensure that **all** victims, regardless of their gender, are treated with dignity, respect and sensitivity.

In Barking and Dagenham our objectives will be to :

- 1. **PREVENT** domestic and sexual violence from happening in the first place.
- 2. **PROVIDE SUPPORT** to victims where violence does occur.
- 3. **REDUCE THE RISK** and **BRING PERPETRATORS TO** JUSTICE.
- 4. **WORK IN PARTNERSHIP** locally to achieve the best outcomes for victims

Over the last six years, Barking and Dagenham Partnership has made good progress in refining its response to domestic violence. Achievements include jointly commissioned specialist domestic abuse services for victims and perpetrators, dedicated posts within key organisations, public awareness raising campaigns, public information campaigns and multi-agency training. We are now looking to apply this learning to the domestic and sexual violence agenda.

The previous work in the Borough has tended to focus on improving the responses of the criminal justice system (police and courts). While this is an important part of the managing domestic and sexual violence, the Partnership realises that on its own this will not make victims safer. Rather, the aim is to prevent violence from happening in the first place by continuing to work with the community to change the attitudes which underpin these types of crimes. While these changes in attitude can be difficult to measure, it is hoped that the success of the strategy will be demonstrated by an increase in the number or victims and friends and family coming forward.

The aim of this strategy is to provide a vision of what the Partnership wants to achieve for the local community in relation to all types of domestic and sexual violence. It then sets out the plan of action for how it will be achieved over the next three years.

This strategy uses the term domestic and sexual violence rather than domestic and sexual abuse. While recognising and understanding that domestic and sexual violence is a range of behaviours (not just physical violence), the term 'violence' more accurately describes the serious nature of the behaviours involved and the impact they have on victims. Domestic and sexual violence are not commonly raised as doorstep issues with councillors. But that does not mean that they are not happening or that we should not act. I am proud that, as a Partnership, we will be tackling these often hidden yet hugely destructive issues head-on.

Cllr. Jeanne Alexander Cabinet Member for Crime, Justice, and Communities

Domestic and sexual violence are key public health issues which can affect both the physical and mental well-being of survivors and those closest to them.

> Helen Davenport Deputy Director Safeguarding NHS Outer North East London & City

Barking and Dagenham Metropolitan Police take domestic and sexual violence very seriously and are committed to working with the Community Safety Partnership to increase victim safety and hold perpetrators to account.

Chief Supt Andy Ewing Borough Commander Barking and Dagenham Metropolitan Police

Outcomes

Our Vision and Overarching Outcome	To ensure that the Partnership has an effective co-ordinated community response to domestic and sexual violence.
Our Drivnith Oblighting	Outcomes
Our Priority Objectives	By 2015 we aim to have achieved the following:
 To PREVENT domestic and sexual violence from happening in the first place. 	 A suitably trained universal services workforce, able to appropriately recognise, refer and support survivors to safely exit all forms of domestic and sexual violence. Health Services (Maternity, Sexual Health, GPs) to increase the early identification of women and girls who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing FGM by 10% year on year. A reduction of 2% of repeat domestic violence incidents reported to the MARAC.
2. To PROVIDE SUPPORT to victims where violence does occur.	 All victims attending court are offered active advocacy support at Court. The development of a joint Health and Social Care Commissioning Framework to ensure that victims have regional access to specialist domestic and sexual violence services. Schools and colleges to ensure that staff are aware of how violence may affect young people's behaviour and what action they should take if they suspect that it is.
3. To REDUCE THE RISK and BRING PERPETRATORS TO JUSTICE.	 An increase in the sanction detection rate of domestic and sexual violence incidents. A reduction in the number of 'ineffective'¹ domestic and sexual violence cases through the courts.
4. To WORK IN PARTNERSHIP locally to achieve the best outcomes for victims.	 An increase in the Partnership's local understanding of the prevalence of the different strands of domestic and sexual violence through improved data recording and monitoring. The development and implementation of an operational plan for responding to the impact of criminal gangs and serious youth violence on women and girls.

Ineffective trial: on the trial date the expected progress is not made due to action or inaction by one or more of the prosecution, the defence or the court and a further listing for trial is required

Definitions What does this strategy address?

The forms of violence covered by this strategy are:

Domestic violence is defined as a pattern of coercive control between those aged 16 or over, which can include physical, sexual, psychological and/or financial abuse, by a current or former partner or family members

Sexual violence is defined as any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic directed against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting. It includes rape, stalking, sexual harassment, prostitution and trafficking:

- Rape forced sexual intercourse²
- **Stalking** repeated harassment causing fear, alarm, or distress. Can include threatening phone calls, texts, letters, damaging property, and spying on or following the victim.
- **Sexual harassment** unwanted verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. This can take place anywhere and includes flashing, obscene and threatening calls, and online harassment.
- **Prostitution** is addressed within the strategy because of its gendered and often forced nature. This strategy recognises prostitution as a victim-centred crime, and recognises that those who are coerced, abused and exploited into prostitution require holistic support.
- **Trafficking** the recruitment and transportation of people using force, coercion, abuse of power, or deception for the purposes of exploitation, including prostitution, sexual exploitation and forced labour.

Harmful Practices are defined as forms of violence that have been committed, predominantly against women, in certain communities and societies for so long that they are considered part of accepted practice.

- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) the complete or partial removal or alteration of the external genitalia of a female for non-medical reasons. FGM is based on ancient beliefs surrounding the need to control women's fertility and sexuality. FGM is not a requirement of any religion.
- 'Honour' based violence violence committed to protect or defend the 'honour' of a family or community. Victims, often young girls, are perceived to have acted outside community boundaries or perceived acceptable behaviour, especially in relation to sexual matters.
- Forced Marriage a marriage conducted without the valid consent of one or both parties, where duress is a factor.



Rape includes penetration either by body part or an object and also includes forced oral sex.

National Context What does the data tell us?

Domestic Violence

National research reveals that under half of all domestic violence incidents are reported to the police, but, even at this level of suspected under-reporting, domestic violence would still account for a quarter of violent crime reported to the police. One of the key facts from the body of research into domestic violence is that it can affect anyone however gender, disability, substance misuse, ethnicity, sexual orientation and age can impact upon the likelihood of victimisation and the types of abuse experienced. Research also confirms that those living in households where domestic violence occurs will be, at least, emotionally harmed by what they witness.

Sexual Violence

It is estimated that there are 190,000 incidents of serious sexual assault each year in the UK; although just 13% of rape and sexual violence is reported to the police and of those reported only 6% result in a successful conviction. Anyone can be a victim of rape or sexual violence. Nevertheless, research indicated that females, those with a disability, substances misuse issue or those who are young or elderly are at increased risk. Certain ethnic groups are also likely to face increased risk from some harmful practices which result in sexual violence (for example, a forced marriage which results in the rape of the individual).Rape and sexual violence is most likely to be committed by someone known to the victim; most commonly a partner.

Stalking

Stalking is one of the most common types of intimate violence: according to the British Crime Survey 2010/11, 18% of women and 9% of men have experienced it. Recent advances in social media mean that cyber-stalking is now more common than physical harassment.

Prostitution

Women involved in street prostitution are 18 times more likely to be murdered than other women in the UK, and it is estimated that 63% of women in prostitution experience violence. Black and minority ethnic women are affected disproportionately. Research indicates that sex workers are also especially vulnerable to substance misuse, and frequently have histories of childhood sexual abuse, poverty and or trafficking.

Teenage Relationship Abuse

Teenage girls aged between 16 and 19 are statistically most at risk of domestic violence. Research carried out by the NSPCC in 2011 revealed that 2 in 3 girls and 1 in 3 boys reported emotional violence in their relationships. As with other age groups, pregnancy also significantly heightens the risk of domestic abuse within this age bracket.

Trafficking

The Home Office estimate that between 1,000 and 10,000 women and girls are trafficked into the UK for sexual exploitation annually. The majority of victims are between 18 and 24 years of age.

Harmful Practice

The Home Office estimate that 23,000 girls in the UK are at risk of Female Genital Mutilation. A 2010 freedom of information request to all police forces in the UK revealed 2,823 incidents of honour based violence. In 2010, there were 1,735 reported incidents of forced marriage. Of these, 86% of victims were female: and those with learning disabilities were thought to be particularly vulnerable.

Local Context What does the data tell us?

Domestic Violence

Barking and Dagenham has the highest rate of offences reported per head across the whole of the Metropolitan Police Service. It is estimated that 24,000 females (1 in 4) and 15,000 males (1 in 6), living in Barking and Dagenham will experience domestic abuse at some stage during their lifetime. Domestic violence is estimated to cost Barking and Dagenham £19.1 million a year (this estimate does not including human and emotional costs). In 2010/11 39% of all Barking and Dagenham domestic violence court cases resulted in an unsuccessful prosecution, the 8th lowest in London. The 2011 Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment for Barking and Dagenham identified that victims who report are generally white, female, aged in their 20s and suspects are generally white, male and aged 20 - 30. Local data also reveals that a quarter of domestic violence assault offences in Barking and Dagenham involve young people as victims. In addition, each time the police attend an address to respond to a domestic violence report they are required to complete a referral for children's social services. In the last year the police have raised 1218 referrals about Barking and Dagenham children.

Stalking

It is estimated that in Barking and Dagenham 1,761 men and 2,368 women (aged 16-59) experienced stalking in the last year. It is estimated that the number of women and girls stalked in 2020 will be 5338.

Trafficking

These figures are not currently collected, but work will be undertaken with colleagues across agencies to establish a baseline moving forward.

Prostitution

Barking and Dagenham Police received 28 reports about brothels between January and August 2012. Street prostitution appears to be limited to one area within the Borough.

Rape and Sexual Violence

Between April 2011 and March 2012, 275 sexual offences (including rape) were reported to Barking and Dagenham Metropolitan Police. Between 1st April and 31st July 2012, 24 sexual abuse allegations were raised in relation to children and in 2010/11 there were 29 sexual abuse investigations involving adults at risk.

Harmful Practice

In 2009/10, 14 women from Barking and Dagenham attended the African Well Women's for FGM related treatment. In 2010/2011 the Borough's MARAC discussed 4 cases of honour-based violence. Between December 2008 to April 2012, 366 Forced Marriage incidents were reported to the Metropolitan Police Service.



Links to National/Regional Strategies/Plans

There are a number of national and regional documents which have influenced the development of the Partnership's Domestic and Sexual Violence strategy. The key ones are:

National Policy and Strategy Documents	Regional Policies, Strategies and Plans
 Call to End Violence against Women and Girls The Coalition Government's strategic vision is set out under 4 themes: Prevent violence in the first place. Provide support when it happens. Partnership-work to get the best outcomes. Reduce risk and bring perpetrators to justice. Call to End Violence against Women and Girls – Action Plan There are now 100 government actions to implement its strategic vision. The list includes: Teenage relationship violence campaign; Bailey review of sexualisation and commercialisation of childhood; Continued provision of funding for MARACs, ISVAs and IDVAs; Implementation of DV Homicide reviews; Introduction of 2 new offences of stalking; Provide funding for initiatives to support male victims of DV; Fund a national 'Ugly Mug' scheme to protect sex workers from violent customers; and 	 The Way Forward: A call for action to end violence against women The Mayor of London published his strategy in April 2009. The strategy is built on five objectives with an emphasis on prevention, provision, protection and prosecution. These are: to reduce the prevalence of VAWG over time through prevention; to improve access to support for victims; to address the health, social and economic consequences of violence; to protect women at risk; and
DFES Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan National action plan published in November 2011 to tackle child sexual exploitation.	 to get tough with perpetrators.

Links to Local Strategies/ Plans

Policies, Strategies and Practices	Summary
Barking and Dagenham Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment of Crime and Community Safety Partnership Plan 2012-2015	The Community Safety Partnership conducts an annual strategic assessment of crime from which its priorities are drawn for the following 3 years. These are published in the Community Safety Partnership Plan. Domestic Violence has been a local priority for over 10 years and the 2012 Assessment widens this out to include all violence against women as well as serious youth violence which often includes sexual violence and exploitation.
Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy - Barking and Dagenham Health and Wellbeing Board	The Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) is the means by which the Health and Wellbeing Board set the priorities for collective action for meeting the needs identified in Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). Taken together JSNA and JHWS will be the pillars of local decision-making, focussing leaders on the priorities for action and providing the evidence base for decisions about local services.
Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women and Children: Strategy and Action Plan 2010-2013 – Barking and Dagenham NHS	This document focuses on the role played by the NHS in helping victims of domestic and sexual violence. Actions cover prevention of violence before it happens, providing care to victims and educating staff and patients about the issue.
Children and Young People's Plan (Children's Trust)	Barking and Dagenham Children's Trust is working together to improve the lives of children, young people and their families. The Children and Young People's plan is the Children's Trust's key strategic document in setting out how all the organisations in Barking and Dagenham will work together to make services better and improve the lives of children and young people, and to help them achieve their ambitions and to promote better life chances. The plan has five priorities and domestic violence fits into 'Ensuring Children and Young People are Safe'. Under this priority are four top objectives one of which is to 'Reduce the risk and impact of domestic violence, parental mental health and ensure families are supported'.

Policies, Strategies and Practices	Summary
Community Cohesion Strategy (Barking and Dagenham Partnership)	'Together': A Community Cohesion Strategy for Barking and Dagenham aims to make Barking and Dagenham a place where people respect one another and enjoy safe and peaceful lives; where there are opportunities to meet together and look forward to the future, and to be a united community who will get fair access to services. The six community cohesion priorities will contribute to the prevention of domestic and sexual violence.
Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report	The Local Safeguarding Children Board publishes an annual report which identifies the priority areas for action. Priorities include aiding young people in identifying child exploitation, which is a cornerstone of the Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategy.
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment	The JSNA provides an annual assessment of the health needs of the local population.
Alcohol Strategy 2013- 2016	In Barking and Dagenham, we recognise that the impact of alcohol misuse can be varied. The Alcohol Strategy 2013-16 sets out its aims to tackle all manner of alcohol related issues faced by communities, families, and individuals locally. This strategy outlines a plan for the next 3 years that will see a reduction in alcohol related hospital admissions and violent crime, whilst increasing access to treatment and positive outcomes for service users
Older People's Strategy (LBBD)	As people grow older, issues such as finance, housing, quality of life, and personal well-being, impact upon their lives. The Older People's Strategy 2011-13 sets out a vision for older people living in Barking and Dagenham that sees the Council working with partners to address these issues, and promote health, independence, well-being and mobility for older people.
Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy	This strategy sets out the Partnership response in relation to Safeguarding Adults at Risk from abuse and neglect. The strategic objectives include: Empowerment – Presumption of person led decisions and informed consent; Protection – Support and representation for those in greatest need; Prevention – it is better to take action before harm occurs; Proportionality – Proportionate and least intrusive response appropriate to the risk; Partnership – local solutions through services
Housing Strategy 2012-17	Barking and Dagenham is situated in the Thames Gateway growth area with the potential to develop significant numbers of new homes over the next 10 years largely concentrated in Barking Town Centre and an expansion of the Borough at Barking Riverside. To assist in the achievement of this aim, the LBBD Housing Strategy outlines plans to provide new homes; improve the environment, condition and quality of our existing housing stock; link to programmes to tackle low skills and joblessness; provide good quality supported housing and services; promote choice and independent living; and tackle affordable warmth and climate change.

Local Provisions

Below are some examples of schemes available to local residents: all services are accessible for men and women (with the exception of the women-only refuge and Women's Trust provisions).

Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy (IDSVA)	The Local IDSVA Service is provided by Refuge. It consists of community based advocates and also three maternity based advocates. The advocates offer independent advice and support to the boroughs highest risk victims.
Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)	The MARAC model has been widely rolled out across the country. The model combines the best that specialist services have to offer in terms of working with victims, together with the resources and authority of a range of statutory agencies. The Barking and Dagenham MARAC meets each month to consider the highest risk victims.
Sanctuary Scheme	The Sanctuary Scheme is an innovative approach to homelessness prevention. It provides professionally installed security measures to allow those experiencing abuse to remain in their own homes, where it is safe for them to do so and where they choose to do so. The Sanctuary Scheme is managed by Barking and Dagenham Victim Support.
Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme	There are two types of perpetrator programme: those run by the Probation Service (IDAP), for convicted offenders, and community-based programmes run by the voluntary sector where perpetrators who have not been convicted can receive help and support.
Domestic Violence Refuge and Floating Support	The Borough is home to two domestic violence refuges. The refuge also runs a floating support service which aims to support survivors living in the Borough to access support.
Domestic Violence Homicide Reviews	Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) came into force on 13 April 2011 under Section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act. It requires the Community Safety Partnership to decide whether a Domestic Homicide Review should take place in the event of the death of a person aged 16 or over where the person responsible is related to the victim, has had a relationship with the victim or is a member of the same household.

Finding The Words	Following the success of ARC Theatre's 'Girl E' and 'Girls Have Their Say', Finding The Words is a new two-year public-speaking and media programme giving young women in Barking and Dagenham a confident and credible voice in the debate around gangs and youth violence, and a platform for developing positive lifestyles and healthy relationships.
East London Rape Crisis Centre	The East London RCC provides counselling and support to people who have experienced rape and sexual abuse. The crisis service covers the boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Hackney, Havering, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest. It caters for both men and women for those aged 14 and over.
The Haven Whitechapel	The Haven Whitechapel is a Sexual Assault Referral Centre offering medical care and practical and emotional support for victims of sexual assault across London. The confidential service includes specially trained NHS doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals including counsellors and psychologists. It offers forensic examinations and full aftercare services for women, children and men. People can use the Haven's services when they choose to report an assault to police.
Women's Trust	The Women's Trust is a registered charity providing independent, confidential, women-only services to women who have been or are affected by domestic violence in London and the local area.
Daniel Project	The Serious Youth Violence Partnership commissioned the Daniel Project to work with young people identified as being at risk of exploitation in gangs.
Mental Health First Aid http://www.mhfaengland.org/	An innovative training course to support staff to be more aware of the risks of female exploitation within gangs. It is built upon the idea of physical first aid, e.g. if someone hurts themselves, we deliver first aid to mitigate injury until the ambulance arrives. The training aims to support staff to better assist young women in crisis; while they await mental health interventions.

Safeguarding Adults and Children 10

Individuals are likely to be the best judge of the risks that they face and how best to manage them, however there are two groups of individuals for whom the state has a duty to take action to safeguard: children and adults at risk. Given that abuse often affects the whole household, the Partnership often has to work holistically, adopting a 'Think Family' approach.

An adult at risk is defined by whether, because of mental or other disability, age, or illness, an adult is unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation. Where it is suspected that an adult at risk is experiencing abuse or neglect, the Local Authority has the lead role in co-ordinating the multi-agency approach. This approach is set out within 'Protecting adults at risk: London multi- agency policy and procedures to safeguard adults from abuse' (www.scie.org.uk/publications/reports/report39.pdf). If a child is deemed to be experiencing abuse and neglect the Children Act 1989 provides the legislative framework for agencies to take action. The London Child Protection Procedures (Apr 2011) cover all agencies and can be accessed at http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/procedures.	Investigating concerns	Strategic Safeguarding
both of these boards to ensure communication.	disability, age, or illness, an adult is unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation. Where it is suspected that an adult at risk is experiencing abuse or neglect, the Local Authority has the lead role in co-ordinating the multi-agency approach. This approach is set out within 'Protecting adults at risk: London multi- agency policy and procedures to safeguard adults from abuse' (www.scie.org.uk/publications/reports/report39.pdf). If a child is deemed to be experiencing abuse and neglect the Children Act 1989 provides the legislative framework for agencies to take action. The London Child Protection Procedures (Apr 2011) cover all agencies and can be accessed at	 across the Partnership, review practice, facilitate joint training, disseminate information, and monitor and review progress within its area. These functions are delivered through the Safeguarding Adults Board, which meets quarterly, and is attended by senior representatives from across the partnership; its Chair is Independent. In the next twelve months legislation is expected to be introduced to place the Safeguarding Adults Boards onto a statutory footing. Similarly the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) co-ordinates local safeguarding activity and drives improvement to safeguard and promote the welfare of children more effectively. Its role, functions, governance and operation are set out in Chapter 3 of the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguarding Children'; it also has an independent Chair. The Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategic Board is represented on

Key Objectives

This new Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategy replaces a domestic violence strategy that was agreed in 2008. The previous strategy centred around six objectives and had a number of actions. The Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategic Group in Barking and Dagenham has agreed to mirror the four objectives in the Government's Call to End Violence against Women and Girls.

Therefore the 4 key objectives for this strategy are:

To **PREVENT** domestic and sexual violence from happening in the first place. This will be achieved by challenging the attitudes and behaviour that foster it locally and by intervening early through work with children and families.

To **PROVIDE SUPPORT** to victims where violence does occur. This will be done by providing specialist, generic and practical services that meet the needs of all victims in both the short and the long term. These services will be located across all partner agencies and within the statutory and the voluntary sector.

To **REDUCE THE RISK** and **BRING PERPETRATORS TO JUSTICE.** This will be done by working proactively to protect victims and by challenging the behaviour of perpetrators through the courts or other mechanisms.

To **WORK IN PARTNERSHIP** locally to achieve the best outcomes for victims. This will be done by working across all sectors – health, criminal justice, children's and adults social care services, commissioning, housing – to achieve a local and integrated response to domestic and sexual violence.



Process How we compiled our delivery plan

The initial step in deciding what the local priorities should be was examining data from the Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment 2011 and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2011.

Following analysis of these data, the members of the Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategic Group held a workshop to discuss and plan the new strategy.

They spent time exploring their own and organisational values in relation to domestic and sexual violence. From this work the shared vision in this strategy has been developed.

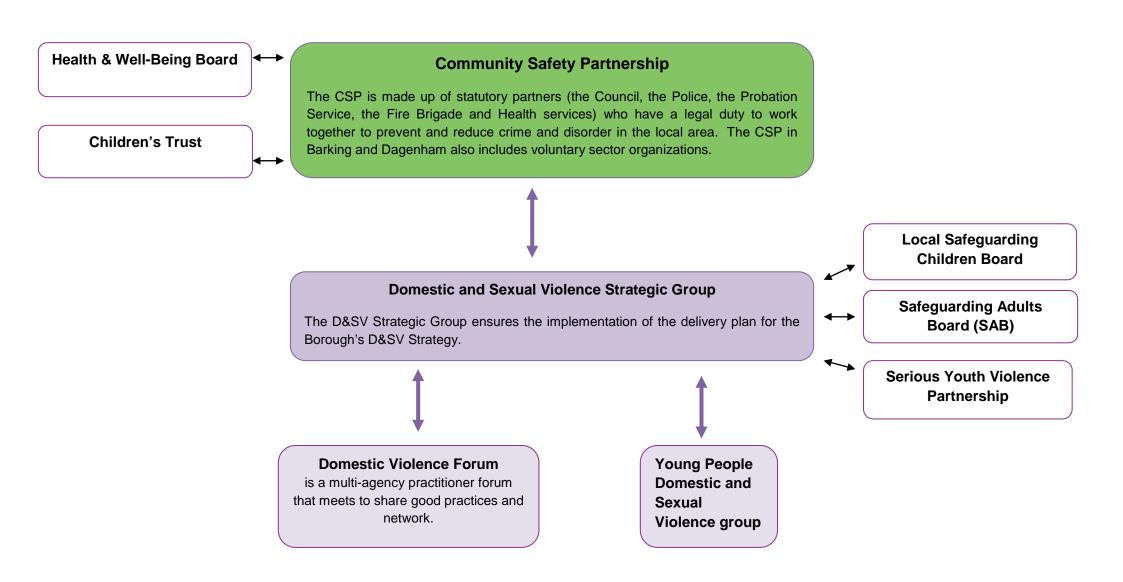
A session on governance explored the expectations of members of the Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategic Group. The cross cutting nature of domestic and sexual violence was also recognised the links to other partnerships and meetings were clarified.

The group then considered the range of services in response to domestic and sexual violence that were already being provided and identified gaps. The Delivery Plan for this strategy is based on these discussions.

A second draft of this strategy was then produced and circulated for consultation across the Partnership.

An Equality Impact Assessment was also conducted to explore the different needs of groups living in the Borough.

Governance Arrangements



Monitoring, Evaluation and Review 14

Like all strategies, success depends on regular and robust monitoring and review to ensure that the intended outcomes are being achieved and action is taken to address service failings, or any other problems that arise.

Throughout the life of this strategy the monitoring, evaluation, and review will be undertaken by the Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategic Group, which is accountable to the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). However the Group will also advise and work with the Children's Trust, the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Health and Well-Being Board as these Boards have also prioritised domestic and sexual violence.

Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategic Group

The group's role is to drive, develop and monitor the Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategy and its associated delivery plans. The group meets every three months and will share its updates on the Delivery Plan with the public on the Partnership website. www.barkingdagenhampartnership.org.uk.

The membership of the Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategic Group is drawn from across the Partnership and includes representation from the Council, the Police, Safeguarding, Crown Prosecution Service, Victim Support, North-East London Foundation Trust (NELFT), the NHS, and Probation Service.

To ensure that the strategy's delivery plan remains appropriate, it will be reviewed by the CSP Board in 2013-14.



Equality and Diversity

An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out to help the partnership to identify the priority actions required to meet the needs of the Borough's diverse communities.

The assessment provided an opportunity to reflect and ensure that services which respond to domestic and sexual violence are equally accessible to all sections of the community. **The findings of the assessment have been embedded into the delivery plan** and are summarised below:

Ethnicity

- There is lower confidence among Black Minority Ethnic & Refugee (BMER) groups in reporting domestic and sexual violence to services.
- Partnership-work must be undertaken with specialist BMER grass route groups to understand and respond to harmful practices facing BMER groups, e.g. Jan Project, Newham Asian Women's Project.
- Local data in relation to harmful practice is inadequate: there is a need to map services and to address underreporting.
- BMER women are nationally overrepresented within prostitution.

- National conviction rate for rape against **Age** BMER women are lower.
- There needs to be greater understanding of the links between asylum, forced marriage, and FGM as a precursor or consequence of trafficking.

Gender

- Women and girls are more likely to be victims of all types of domestic and sexual violence but men and boys are also victims.
- There is an inadequacy of data on trafficking.

Substance Misuse

• There are heightened risks and barriers associated with victims who misuse substances.

Disability

- Disabled women are twice as likely to experience domestic and sexual violence: awareness needs to be raised
- Partnership must ensure that victims with physical and learning disabilities have access to all services.

- There is an inadequacy of data and research
- Younger and older women are most likely to be victims of abuse.
- Service provision and public information may be inappropriate for different age groups.
- Assumptions made by agencies about age may lead to failures to recognise and respond appropriately.
- Gaps with links with age specific service providers.

Sexual Orientation

• Suspected high levels of underreporting among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community.

Pregnancy

- Pregnancy triggers a risk for domestic and sexual violence.
- Miscarriage and still births may be linked to domestic and sexual violence.

Carers

• Carers need to be supported as potential victims and abusers.

Domestic & Sexual Violence

Delivery Plan 2012- 2015

The actions to be taken by Barking and Dagenham Partnership are set out within the separate Delivery Plan. This plan will be reviewed in 2013-14.

For a copy please visit http://www.barkingdagenhampartnership.org.uk/Pages/partnershiphome.aspx

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Glossary of Acronyms

Please see below for a list of explained acronyms that have been used in this Strategy, for ease of reference:

Acronym or Term	Meaning or Definition
BMER	Black Minority Ethnic & Refugee
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
D&SV	Domestic and Sexual Violence
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review
East London RCC	East London Rape Crisis Centre
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
IDAP	Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (run by the Probation Service)
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advocate
IDSVA	Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy
ISVA	Independent Sexual Violence Advocate
JHWS	Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
NELFT	North East London Foundation Trust
VAWG	Violence against Women and Girls

Appendix 1: Data Factsheet

National Data

Domestic Violence

- Every minute in the UK an incident of domestic violence is reported to police.
- Less than 40% of domestic violence crime is reported to the policeⁱ
- It is estimated that on average 1 in 4 womenⁱⁱ and 1 in 6 men^{*iii} will experience domestic violence at some stage in their lifetime. (However men are less likely to have been repeat victims, less likely to be seriously injured, and less likely to report feeling fearful).
- 64 per cent of women and 94 per cent of men subject to domestic abuse did not think that what had happened to them was a crime^{iv}
- Nationally it is estimated that domestic violence accounts for one quarter of all reported violent crime^v
- At least **750,000** children a year witness domestic violence
- Nearly three quarters of children on the 'at risk' register live in households where domestic violence occurs^{vi}
- In 40 70% of cases where women are being abused, the children are also being directly abused^{vii}
- 1 in 5 people think it would be acceptable for a man to hit or slap his female partner if she is dressed in sexy clothing in public^{viii}
- It is estimated that 227,000 older people were neglected or abused in the past year, by family members, partners, carers or close friends. 94% of those experiencing abuse were women^{ix}
- 30% of domestic violence starts in pregnancy^x and domestic violence is identified as a prime cause of miscarriage or still-birth^{xi}
- Disabled women are twice as likely to experience domestic violence as non-disabled women. They are also
 likely to experience it over a longer period of time and suffer more severe injuries as a result^{xii}
- On average 2 women a week are killed by a male partner or former partner in England and Wales: this constitutes around one-third of all female murder victims^{xili}.
- Domestic violence is the most prevalent cause of depression and other mental health difficulties in women^{xiv}
- Abused women are five times more likely to attempt suicide^{xv}
- 40% of Asian women who seek treatment for alcohol misuse are experiencing domestic violence^{xvi}
- Women experience an average of 35 incidents of domestic violence before they report to the police^{xvii}
- 80% of transgender people experience emotionally, sexually or physically abusive behaviour from a partner or expartner^{xviii}

Stalking

- **Stalking** is one of the **most common types** of intimate violence. The 2010/11 British Crime Survey showed **18%** of women and **9%** of men saying that they have experienced stalking since they were 16.
- 4.1% of women aged 16 to 59 and 3.2% of men aged 16 to 59 experienced stalking in the previous year^{xix}
- The most common perpetrator in incidents of stalking is a partner or ex-partner (39%)^{xx}
- 33% of victims said they had lost their job or relationship or have been forced to move because of the stalking^{xxi}
- In 2010, proceedings were taken against 10,990 individuals under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, (which covers stalking offences) of which 8,487 were found guilty
- Cyber stalking is now more common than physical harassment, with many victims finding themselves pursued by complete strangers^{xxii}

Trafficking

- In 2009 the Home Office estimated that there were about 5,000 trafficking victims in the UK
- Between 1,000 and 10,000 women and girls are trafficked into the UK each year for sexual exploitation^{xxiii}
- 4,000 women were trafficked into the UK in 2003^{xxiv}
- The majority of trafficking victims are between 18 and 24 years of age^{xxv}

Prostitution

- Women involved in street prostitution are 18 times more likely to be murdered than other women in the UK^{xxvi}
- Most teenage prostitutes are involved in street prostitution^{xxvii}
- Of the estimated 80,000 people involved in prostitution in the UK, up to 5,000 children may be involved at any one time, with a female to male ratio of four to one xxviii
- 63% of women in prostitution experience violence^{xxix}
- More than 50% of women in prostitution have been raped and or seriously assaulted^{xxx}
- 85% of women in prostitution report experiencing physical abuse by a family member^{xxxi}
- Almost 10% of the adult male population in London is thought to have paid for sex^{xxxii}
- 75% of children abused through prostitution had been missing from school^{xxxi}
- Black women, minority ethnic women suffer disproportionately^{xxxiv}

- Only 19% of women working as prostitutes in flats, parlours and saunas are originally from the UK^{xxxv}
- In 2010 Association of Chief Police Officers estimated that about 2,600 women involved in prostitution in the UK had been trafficked and that a further 9,200 were vulnerable migrants who may have been trafficked
- 74% of women in prostitution identify poverty, the need to pay household expenses and support their children, as primary motivators for being drawn into prostitution^{xxxvi}
- 70% of those involved in street prostitution have a history of Local Authority care. Nearly half report a history of childhood sexual abuse^{xxxvii}
- Up to 95% of women involved in on-street prostitution are problematic drug users^{xxxviii}

Rape and sexual violence Prostitution

- It is also estimated that there are 190,000 incidents of serious sexual assault each year in the UK^{xxxix}
- **3.7 million** women in England and Wales have been sexually assaulted since the age of 16^{xl}
- A woman is more likely to be sexually assaulted than she is to get breast cancer^X
- About 3% of men (1 in 33) have experienced an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime^{xliii}
- 34% of all rapes recorded by the police are committed against children under 16^{xlii}
- The police remain unaware of 87% of serious sexual assault victims^{xliv}
- Only 6% of rapes reported to the police result in a successful conviction^{xiv}.
- Serious sexual violence is most likely to be committed by someone known to the victim. For women who had been victims of serious sexual assault since they were 16, the most common offender was a partner (54%)^{xivi}
- Marital rape was only made a criminal act in 1991
- The majority of perpetrators sexually assault children known to them, with about 80% of offences taking place in the home of either the offender or the victim^{xivii}
- One in three rape victims are subject to repeat victimisation^{xlviii}.
- Research shows that every year in the United Kingdom there will be almost 1,400 new cases of reported sexual abuse of people who have a learning disability^{xlix}
- An estimated 55,000¹ children who have experienced sexual abuse receive no therapeutic support each year because of a shortfall in the availability of therapeutic services
- Of the women who have been subject to serious sexual assault 52% had suffered depression; 5% had attempted suicide and 4% had become pregnant as a result of the rape^{li}
- Women with depression are 6 times more likely to have experienced abuse than non-depressed women^{lii}
- 36% of people in the UK believe that a woman should be held wholly or partly responsible for being sexually assaulted or raped if she is drunk, and 26% if she is wearing sexy or revealing clothes in public¹¹¹¹
- The rate of conviction for cases involving the rape of BME women is significantly lower as compared to majority women^{liv}
- 70% women psychiatric in-patients and 80% of those in secure settings have histories of physical or sexual abuse¹

Teenage Relationship Abuse

- Teenage girls between 16 and 19 are now the group most at risk of domestic violence, closely followed by girls aged 20-24. "Victims of a new generation of abusers who are themselves in their teens and early twenties" in the second sec
- 33% of girls in an intimate relationship aged 13-17 have experienced some form of sexual partner violence lvii
- Research carried out by the NSPCC^[viii] with teenagers in 2011 revealed that 2 in 3 girls and 1 in 3 boys reported emotional violence in their relationships;
- 1 in 2 girls reported some form of sexual violence.
- Approximately half of all girls questioned thought control was an integral aspect of an intimate relationship.
- Teenage pregnancy heightens the risk of domestic abuse (as does all pregnancy generally)
- Social networking sites are increasingly emerging as a mechanism to harass and stalk individuals. A recent NSPCC described them as a "central mechanism for partners to extend their exploitation and control ... to all aspects of young people's lives"
- 'Sex-ting' is where an intimate partner threatens the other using explicit images received via text message.
- Those experiencing intimate violence are up to fifteen times more likely to misuse alcohol and nine times more likely to misuse other drugs than individuals generally^{lix}.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

- The World Health Organisation estimates that globally 100 to 140 million girls and women have undergone some type of FGM
- It is estimated that 23,000 girls under the age of 15 are at risk of FGM in the UK.^{IX} Approximately 66,000 women in the UK have already had their genitals mutilated
- Between 2001 and 2004 471 maternities were to women with Female Genital Mutilation (amounting to 6.08%)^{1xi}
- FGM is most frequently carried out on young girls between infancy and the age of 15

Forced Marriage

- In 2010 1735 incidents of actual or potential forced marriage were referred to the government's Forced Marriage Unit. Of these, 86% of victims were female; 50 were people with learning disabilities; 36 involved victims who identified as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender.
- The majority (c. 65%) of reported cases involve female victims of a South Asian background.
- Around 40% of victims taken out of the UK to be married against their will overseas are school children.
- Whilst boys and men are affected by forced marriage, the issue impacts girls and women in far larger numbers
- In some communities women may also have to undergo female genital mutilation before being able to marry^{lxiii} whilst others may be subject to repeated rape until they become pregnant and ongoing domestic violence from their spouse and/or his family^{lxiv}.
- Up to half of learning disabled victims are male^{lxv}
- **51%** of Pakistani respondents to a 2011 survey, stated they knew someone who had been affected by a Forced Marriage and **29%** were worried that they or someone they knew might be at risk.
- In another study^{lxvi} with Pakistani women across London and Slough, 77% indicated they would not approach police if they suffered a Forced Marriage because they did not want to incriminate their family members.

So-called 'Honour based violence

 There are no official statistics on 'honour based violence'. A freedom of information request to all police forces in the UK in 2010 revealed that 2823 incidents of honour based violence, including forced marriage had been recorded by the 39 forces who responded.

Local Data

Domestic violence

- With the knowledge that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men will experience Domestic Violence, we are able to estimate 24,000 females and 15,000 males, living in Barking and Dagenham will experience domestic abuse at some stage during their lifetime.
- With an incidence of 10.19 offences per 1,000 population, Barking and Dagenham has the highest rate of reporting across the Metropolitan Police Service.
- Nearly half of assault with injury and common assault offences in Barking and Dagenham are related to domestic violence.
- In 2009/2010 the Borough's Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) discussed 212 very high risk domestic violence cases, which involved 293 children.
- The 2011 Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment for Barking and Dagenham identified that domestic violence victims who report are generally white, female, aged in their 20s and suspects are generally white, male and aged 20 30.
- This suggests that there is significant under-reporting amongst 33%^{Ixvii} of the remaining non-white population.
- Over a quarter of domestic violence assault offences in Barking and Dagenham involve young people as victims.
- In 2011/12 15% of Safeguarding Adult incidents were allegedly perpetrated by partners and 22% perpetrated by other family members. This indicates that approximately 37% of safeguarding alerts are domestic violence in nature.
- Between 1st April 2012 and 31st July 2012, there were 668 child safeguarding referrals made in Barking and Dagenham, of which **132** have Domestic Violence as a stated issue, this equates to **19.8%**.
- In 2010/11 39% of all Barking and Dagenham domestic violence court cases resulted in an unsuccessful prosecution, the 8th lowest in London. Victims failing to attend court represent 25% of all unsuccessful outcomes.
- While it is known that alcohol does not cause domestic violence^{lxviii}, 18% of domestic violence offences in Barking and Dagenham are identified by the police as having alcohol as a background feature of the incident.
- It is estimated that domestic violence costs Barking and Dagenham £19.1 million^{lxix} a year (this estimate does not including human and emotional costs).
- In the first 5 months of the IDSVA contract in Barking and Dagenham 134 white British victims and 115 victims from black and minority ethnic communities were referred to the service.

Stalking

- Using the British Crime Survey 2010/2011 finding that 4.1% of women aged 16 to 59 and 3.2% of men aged 16 to 59 experienced stalking in the previous year, it is possible to estimate that 1761 Men and 2368 women (aged 16-59) experiencing stalking in the last year.
- The DV 'ready reckoner' (Borough data from mid-2004) provides estimates on the number of women and girls who
 have been a victim of stalking based on the population size of an area. Based on the projected population of
 Barking and Dagenham in 2020, it estimates that 5338 will be victims of stalking in that year.

Trafficking

These figures are not currently collected, but work will be undertaken with colleagues across agencies to establish a baseline moving forward.

Prostitution

Barking and Dagenham police have received **28** reports about brothels since January 2012. Street prostitution appears to be limited to one area, which police believe is linked to a neighbouring borough.

Rape and sexual violence

- Compared to the rest of the country, London has the lowest percentage of successful outcomes (measured as convictions of prosecuted cases) for violence against women offences (58% were successful). [Crown Prosecution Service (2008) Violence against women Crime Report 2007-2008]
- Between April 2011 and March 2012, 275 sexual offences (including rape) were reported to Barking and Dagenham Metropolitan Police.
- Between 1st April and 31st July, 24 sexual abuse allegations were raised with children services in Barking and Dagenham (3.6%). In addition, of the 230 Child Protection cases, 10 have a sexual abuse category (4.3%).
- Local allegations of sexual abuse against adults at risk: 29 cases were investigated in 2010/11 and 35 cases investigated in 2011/12.

Teenage Relationship Abuse

 Using NSPCC findings, we estimate that 18,000 girls and 9,500 boys will be experiencing emotional violence in their relationships.

Female Genital Mutilation

- In 2009/10 14 women from Barking and Dagenham attended the African Well Women's for FGM related treatment
- Research from Imkaan^{Ixx} shows an increase in the number of births from women with FGM in London from 4238 cases in 2000 to 7000 cases in 2007 2009.
- The Metropolitan Police's Project Azure investigated 46 allegations of female genital mutilation in 2008/09 and 58 in 2009/10. No prosecutions were brought.

So-called 'Honour' based violence

 In 2010/2011 the Borough's Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) discussed 4 cases of honourbased violence.

Forced Marriage

- Between December 2008 to April 2012, 366 Forced Marriage incidents and 110 Forced Marriage offences were
 reported to the Metropolitan Police Service.
- Between April and September 2010, there were 23 prosecutions for forced marriage and 38 for 'honour'-based violence in London, 4 and 13 of which were successful, respectively. (This equates to 17% and 34% success rate)

In 2010-11, the Newham Asian Women's Project had between **16** and **21** new referrals per quarter. About 6 women each quarter reported attempted forced marriage. The majority were South Asian girls aged between 11 and 15 who either self-referred or were referred by schools.

Vii Stark and Flitcraft, 1996; Bowker et al., 1998

Lewis and Drife, 2001,2005 cited McWilliams and McKiernan,1993.

Stark and Flitcraft, 1996; Mullender, 1996

Dodd et al, July 2004; Walby and Allen, 2004; Home Office, 2002

¹ 1 in 4 women experience domestic violence over their lifetimes, and between 6-10% of women suffer domestic violence in a given year. (Council of Europe, 2002).

¹in 6 figure suggests a degree of parity, this conceals that 47% of male victims experienced a single incident with a mean average of seven incidents per victim compared with 28 per cent of female victims experiencing a single incident with a mean average of 20 incidents per victim.

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 ^{ix} O'Kooffe, Madeleine et al. 2007 UK Study of abuse and neg

O'Keeffe, Madeleine et al. 2007 UK Study of abuse and neglect of older people: Prevalence Study Report (National Centre for Social Research – report prepared for Comic Relief and DOH)

^{xi} Mezey, 1997

xii Gill Hague, Ravi K Thiara, Pauline Magowan and Audrey Mullender. Making the Links: Disabled Women and Domestic Violence. Women's Aid: 2008.

xiii Povey, (ed.), 2004, 2005; Home Office, 1999; Department of Health, 2005.

Astbury, 1999; O'Keane, 2000; Humphreys, 2003; Humphreys and Thiara, 2003; Vidgeon, 2003

^{xvi} Shaikh, Zaibby and Nez, Farah (2000) A cultural cocktail: Asian women and alcohol misuse (Hounslow: EACH).

^{xvii} Yearnshaw,1997.

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- lxv Forced Marriage Unit 2010
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