

**Hackney's
Violence Against
Women and Girls
(VAWG) Strategy
2019 - 2022**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is a local, national and global concern. It is widely acknowledged that VAWG is often hidden, underreported and many victims and survivors do not come to the attention of services.



“I was not really aware of what it was until I went through it. The abuser makes you feel low, empty and lost...you feel you are trapped and the only one going through it”

- Survivor

In the last three years in Hackney, we have seen an increase in reporting and accessing support for domestic abuse and sexual violence which correlates with trends across London.

The evidence is not robust enough at this time to hypothesise whether or not this is due to increased awareness and confidence to report, or if violence and abuse is becoming more prevalent. Domestic and sexual violence, and all other types of violence against women and girls, have severe long-lasting and wide-ranging social, health and economic impacts. The costs are high to individuals, families, to our community, and to services.

In 2016, Hackney published the borough's first Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy. The strategy was developed following an external review in 2014-2015 of domestic abuse provision within the borough.

The 2018 Hackney Labour Manifesto is aligned with the Mayor of London Manifesto and sets out the commitment to: continue investment in and development of domestic abuse and independent advice services, working with community partners, so we reach more of those experiencing abuse sooner.

Extensive recommendations were made to develop a comprehensive coordinated multi-agency response in order to address service delivery gaps and to expand the remit from domestic abuse to the wider specific issues and effects of violence against women and girls.

These include:

- Domestic violence and abuse
- Coercive and controlling behaviour
- Sexual violence including rape
- Sexual exploitation
- Sexual harassment
- Stalking
- Prostitution and trafficking
- So called 'honour' based violence
- Forced marriage
- Faith based abuse
- Female genital mutilation (FGM)
- Breast ironing

The three-year strategy has now come to an end and the VAWG Strategic Board have pledged to publish an updated three-year strategy to build on the achievements made over the last three years. VAWG is also one of the four key priorities of the Hackney Community Safety Partnership. The Mayor of London made a commitment in his manifesto to tackle VAWG.

Hackney VAWG partnership embraces the key commitments in the London Mayor's 2016-20 strategy to embed VAWG as 'everyone's business' across agencies, services and the wider public.

In Hackney we will apply a public health approach over the next three years to tackling and reducing VAWG, an approach that has been proven to be successful in tackling causes of violence.

This approach treats VAWG as a preventable public health issue, recognising that VAWG is a consequence of factors such as adverse childhood experiences, harmful attitudes, beliefs and influences held socially or within the community.

From this basis, the updated strategy sets out a whole systems partnership approach, whereby data will be gathered and analysed to identify causes and examine what works and to co-produce solutions.

Our aim is to reduce harm and preserve life, focusing on primary prevention and early intervention through multi-agency systemic approaches. We want Hackney to be a safer place where victims of all types of VAWG are encouraged and have the confidence to come forward and access the support they would like.

The public health model has four steps:

- A problem is identified
- The risks; protective factors; and the causes are established.
- Once this has been done, interventions are developed and evaluated, and finally effective policies and programmes need to be scaled up.
- Once the final step has been reached, the cycle starts again from the beginning, with systematic data collection to identify the problem.

The priorities, objectives and actions for the updated strategy for Hackney, weave in the principles of the public health approach.

The four key priorities were identified and developed in conjunction with professionals from both mainstream and community organisations, and with the public who access services including those who have been victims/survivors of violence and abuse, those who have perpetrated violence and abuse, and young people.

INTRODUCTION

Domestic and sexual violence, and all other types of violence against women and girls, have severe long-lasting and wide-ranging social, health and economic impacts. The costs are high to individuals, families, to our community, and to services.

Children living in homes where there is violence and abuse, are exposed to ongoing trauma which can impact their overall emotional wellbeing, development and life chances. They are at greater risk of developing mental health difficulties, drug and alcohol abuse and are at a higher risk of offending behaviour.

Children exposed to violence and abuse are at risk of developing an unhealthy view of relationships and misogynistic beliefs and behaviour. It is persistent misogyny, conscious and unconscious, that is seen as a deeper cause of VAWG (Mayor of London: The London Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2018-2021).

Violence and abuse affects people regardless of their age, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, class and marital status. Victims and survivors are at the heart of our response to VAWG in Hackney. There is no “one size fits all” approach and many people will experience, and be impacted by, more than one type of abuse.

VAWG also has a range of consequences including homelessness, mental health difficulties, substance and alcohol misuse, child safeguarding issues, adult safeguarding issues, offending behaviour, physical injury and death. We therefore accept that our response should be person-centred and co-ordinated, based on a strong, whole systems, partnership approach.

Hackney acknowledges the gendered nature of the forms of crime and abuse as identified in the VAWG definitions used by the United Nations, UK government and the London Mayor. We endorse

fully the emphasis on the disproportionate and particular types of violence and abuse suffered by women and girls.



**3 in 10 women
(16+) will have
experienced domestic
abuse at some point
in their lives...**

A significant number of men and boys also experience violence and abuse including domestic abuse, all forms of current and historic sexual violence, stalking, so-called ‘honour based’ violence, forced marriage, as well as the risks and harms associated with prostitution and sex work.

Additionally, boys living in homes where they are exposed to power imbalances and abusive behaviour, coupled with socially developed ideals of masculinity, can perpetuate harmful attitudes and beliefs that skew understanding of healthy, equal and respectful relationships.

Such ideals can lead to unhealthy beliefs of entitlement and justify anger, dominance and intimidation whether this is overt or covert. It is these ideals of masculinity that also contribute to the stigma and shame attached to being a victim of domestic abuse, that make it more difficult for boys and men to acknowledge they are victims and access support.

Transgender people experience violence and abuse including domestic abuse, sexual violence, so-called 'honour-based' violence, or forced into marriage to attempt to 'cure' or mask trans identity. Transgender men and boys may have been refused an equal service or made to feel unwelcome because

of their gender expression.

Structural inequalities can discriminate or exclude, explicitly or implicitly, groups of victims and survivors such as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT). Due to real or perceived homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and heterosexism, LGBT victims and survivors can face specific challenges when attempting to access support services. Hackney will align itself to the government's proposed best practice guidance on supporting LGBT victims of VAWG.

“I'd like to see better awareness for everyone to understand that abusive behaviour is more than physical violence”

- Survivor

Walby & Allen's 2004 analysis of the findings relating to domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking, highlights that victims from Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee groups are far less likely to disclose abuse than the general population. Whilst there is no evidence to suggest that one group is at greater risk than another, the way the violence is experienced and services accessed, can differ.

Hackney recognises the additional and often complex barriers faced by BAMER people which can include, but is not exclusive to: language barriers; a fear of reprisal or complete rejection from the community; pressure to remain in a marriage; risks of 'honour' based violence in the context of domestic abuse; risks of other types of harmful practices; vulnerabilities relating to immigration status; and there may be fear of a racist response from services.

Other marginalised groups include older women and women with disabilities, who

experience greater levels of isolation which ultimately impacts their experiences of violence and seeking help (SafeLives, 2013). Older victims experience abuse for twice as long before seeking help as those aged under 61 and nearly half have a disability.

For those over 60, there is also an increase in numbers of male victims and the violence being perpetrated by an adult family member. Yet older clients are hugely underrepresented among domestic abuse services (Safe Later Lives: Older People and Domestic Abuse, SafeLives, 2016).

Disabled people experience higher rates of domestic abuse than non-disabled people. In the year to March 2015 the Crime Survey for England and Wales reported that women and men with a long standing illness or disability were more than twice as likely to experience some form of domestic abuse than women and men with no long standing illness or disability.

SafeLives research found that disabled victims of domestic abuse also suffer more severe and frequent abuse

over longer periods of time than non-disabled victims (Disabled Survivors Too: Disabled People and Domestic Abuse. SafeLives, 2017).

We want to ensure our response to VAWG acknowledges and addresses the barriers faced by all victims of VAWG, and that professionals develop an intersectional approach that recognises the unique experiences of victims and survivors, developing an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the dynamics of gender, racism and discrimination.

VAWG affects all services across Hackney, including children and families services, adult services, police, housing, health, mental health, substance misuse services, probation, civil and criminal courts, and specialist domestic abuse and VAWG services within the local authority and community.

We maintain that addressing VAWG is everyone's responsibility. Through having a whole systems partnership approach, we will ensure that all relevant organisations effectively

**X2 MORE
LIKELY**
to experience
domestic abuse
if living with
a disability

respond to these issues within their own agencies and in collaboration with partners.

This will enable better identification of VAWG, prevent harm, reduce risk and increase immediate and long-term safety, including holding perpetrators to account, whilst offering opportunities to change their behaviour.

Over the coming three years, Hackney will continue to build on our success, address the challenges faced, and strengthen our response to VAWG. This strategy highlights our priorities, and commitments within the multi-agency partnership over the next three years.

PREVALENCE OF VAWG IN HACKNEY

VAWG is a significant issue throughout the world

It is globally and nationally recognised that it is difficult to obtain an accurate statistical picture of how many women and girls are affected by violence as it is widely acknowledged that all strands of VAWG are

hidden and underreported and many victims and survivors do not come to the attention of services.

Coupled with inconsistencies in approaches to data collection across organisations, and a

lack of awareness around individual strands of VAWG, we also do not currently have robust VAWG data in Hackney. When looking at national data for England and Wales, we can estimate the following below.

National Data	Approx Hackney Data
<p>3 in 10 women aged 16+ will have experienced domestic abuse at some point in their lives</p> <p><small>(Office for National Statistics, 2016; World Health Organisation, 2017)</small></p>	<p>34,142 women</p>
<p>1 in 5 women have experienced sexual assault since the age of 16</p> <p><small>(Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), Office for National Statistics, February 2018)</small></p>	<p>20,692 women</p>
<p>1 in 5 children have been exposed to domestic abuse in the home</p> <p><small>(Home Office 2018; NSPCC; Radford et al 2011)</small></p>	<p>5,804 children</p>
<p>12% of women aged 16 to 19 had experienced domestic abuse in the last year.</p> <p><small>(Crime survey for England and Wales, March 2016)</small></p>	<p>643 young women aged 16 -19 years</p>

The highest risk age for all forms of VAWG is those under 24. This age group is also the most likely to normalise violence and abuse and not seek support from services.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

Since Hackney adopted a VAWG strategy, there is evidence of stronger partnership working across both mainstream and community-based sectors.

Over the last three years, the Hackney VAWG partnership has worked closely to deliver and implement the priorities set out in the 2016-2019 strategy. There have been no domestic homicides in Hackney since the review of domestic abuse provision and implementation of the VAWG Strategy, which starkly contrasts with the 5 domestic homicides that occurred between 2012-2014.

We have seen an increase in reporting and accessing support for domestic abuse and sexual violence which correlates with trends across London. The evidence is not robust enough to hypothesise whether or not this is due to increased awareness and confidence to report, or if violence and abuse is becoming more prevalent.

The partnership has worked together to increase awareness and improve the response by professionals through the provision of specialist services,

delivery of comprehensive training, and improved collaborative working.

Together they have supported a greater level of public awareness through information made available on-line, in flyers, posters, or through delivering public workshops.

We are committed to working closely with our specialist community based VAWG services, to ensure we understand and address the complex barriers faced by particular groups of people, including BAMER, LGBT+, boys and men, older people, and those with disabilities.

The Hackney VAWG Operational Group meets quarterly to review implementation of the strategy, to provide service updates, and to identify where there are gaps in knowledge and support. The bi-annual VAWG Practitioners Forum

is thematic and provides a range of workshops and presentations delivered by the specialist community services.

The Council also partners with specialist services in funding bids for projects and training delivery. Annually, the Council rolls out a campaign for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women with 16 Days of Action; supporting and publicising specialist community based VAWG initiatives and services.

The partnership supports creative ways of working that make it easier for victims and survivors to access specialist services. The Council's Domestic Abuse Intervention Service works with all levels of risk, will identify safe places to meet with victims/survivors tailored to their individual needs, and will work closely with partner agencies to ensure a robust and holistic response to risk and safety.

The types of support on offer range from, but are not exclusive to:

- working with the relevant professional network to ensure a holistic response;
- information and support on legal and housing rights;
- support to go to court;
- help to obtain legal protection;
- support to separate from an abusive partner and/or flee an abusive home;
- remain safely at home through installation of a panic alarm or safety adaptations made to the property under the Sanctuary Scheme;
- advocacy around finance including liaison with agencies such as the Department for Work and Pensions;
- linking up with appropriate services such as counselling, mental health services, or alcohol and drug services.

All victims/survivors will be provided with options about which VAWG service they would like to support them, and there are close referral pathways between community based VAWG services and the Council's Domestic Abuse Intervention Service in order to prevent any delay for a victim or survivor in receiving a service. Victims/survivors are listened to and their safety is assessed.

Hackney has also maintained its commitment to increase the accountability of perpetrators, ensuring they are brought to justice through agencies providing an effective criminal justice response; earlier engagement with children and families services; using mechanisms such as the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) to identify actions where deemed appropriate, to support in the disruption of further abuse by the perpetrator; and providing help to change through programmes including the Behaviour Change Programme delivered through the Domestic Abuse Intervention Service.

The Council, Homerton University Hospital, and the Metropolitan Police, have also embedded domestic abuse staff protocols for their employees and managers, designed to support anyone in the workforce who may be experiencing domestic abuse.

This policy has been shared with the whole professional partnership and business forums, to support in the development of their own policies. In addition, Hackney delivers an annual public campaign that coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and 16 Days of Action.

The young people of Hackney are also being supported to have a better awareness of healthy relationships and respectful behaviour through the delivery of specialist PSHE lessons by the Young Hackney Health and Wellbeing Team and Domestic Abuse Intervention Service, delivered to children and young people aged 8-19.

In 2019 Young Hackney and DAIS will build on this success through co-creating a toolkit with young people, specifically for/about young people and domestic abuse/VAWG. The VAWG Strategy will also support the objectives of the City & Hackney Safeguarding Children's Board (CHSCB) Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy.

Locally, the statistics currently available can only partially contribute to providing an accurate picture of the extent of VAWG in Hackney. A major part of the work to support the strategy over the next three years is to boost reporting and establish a dataset that is monitored by the Strategic Board. This will enable us to better identify trends, analyse demand, performance and effectiveness, and ensure quality assurance processes.

For an overview of the data held by Hackney that shows the current demand for services, please see appendix 1

THE FOUR KEY PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGY ARE:

PRIORITY 1: RECOGNITION, PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

Our ambition is to improve social, economic and health outcomes for children, young people and survivors by having a whole systems approach that works to prevent violence and abuse happening in the first place and to improve the confidence of victims and survivors to seek help earlier through building resilience. In order to build resilience however, individuals should not be expected to be able to cope with violence and abuse on their own.

We will work to increase the internal resources and protective factors of families, communities, and local networks to recognise when abuse is happening, respond appropriately and challenge attitudes that condone or support abusive behaviours.

The Hackney VAWG partnership will work together to develop one voice, where collaboration is key and where VAWG is seen as core-business for all relevant mainstream and community-based agencies. We will also work with the professional partnership and community to raise awareness and challenge attitudes that condone violence and abuse.

PRIORITY 2: PROTECTING, SUPPORTING AND ADDRESSING THE IMPACT

We will aim to ensure that victims are not passed around between services and that the VAWG partnership works together to provide a wrap-around response with individuals being able to swiftly access the right support from the right services. We will work to ensure long-term change through empowering victims/survivors to gain independence from abusive relationships and to reduce the need for long-term dependence on services. We will identify and work together to address gaps in service provision and to enhance existing provision.

We aim to ensure the provision of high quality services that are safe, accessible, flexible and available in a timely way to all victims/survivors, children and young people. This includes tackling the additional barriers faced by boys and men, those from BAMER communities, people with disabilities, older people, the LGBT community, those with no recourse to public funds and those experiencing multiple disadvantage such as homelessness or mental health difficulties.

We will work together to ensure services and interventions offer trauma-informed practical support in order to help victims/survivors make sense of what has been done to them, and to enable them to navigate services and systems such as the criminal justice system, housing, children and families services, and employment. We will also work together to achieve our ambition of fewer children and young people being exposed to or living with violence and abuse, and to ensure that those who are exposed, are supported through a trauma-informed approach.

PRIORITY 3: WHOLE SYSTEMS PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

Through having a whole systems partnership approach, whereby all mainstream and specialist agencies and the community work together, we will ensure a robust vision and plan to prevent and respond to VAWG.

Through having one voice, where VAWG is taken seriously, responded to consistently, and services collaborate, we will strengthen our ability to deliver against our key priorities. We will support and hold to account for best practice, all areas of the professional partnership in order to reach this objective.

We will support community and faith groups to take a key role in challenging and tackling VAWG and enabling long-lasting change, through providing safe spaces for disclosure, developing community-led initiatives that seek to change attitudes and harmful beliefs, and through having male and female role models working with children and young people.

PRIORITY 4: PERPETRATOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND ENABLING CHANGE

For victims who are pursuing a criminal justice route, we will work to ensure that their reports are taken seriously, are properly investigated and action taken against the perpetrator. We want to support victims through the criminal justice process and ensure they have access to the appropriate criminal and civil sanctions.

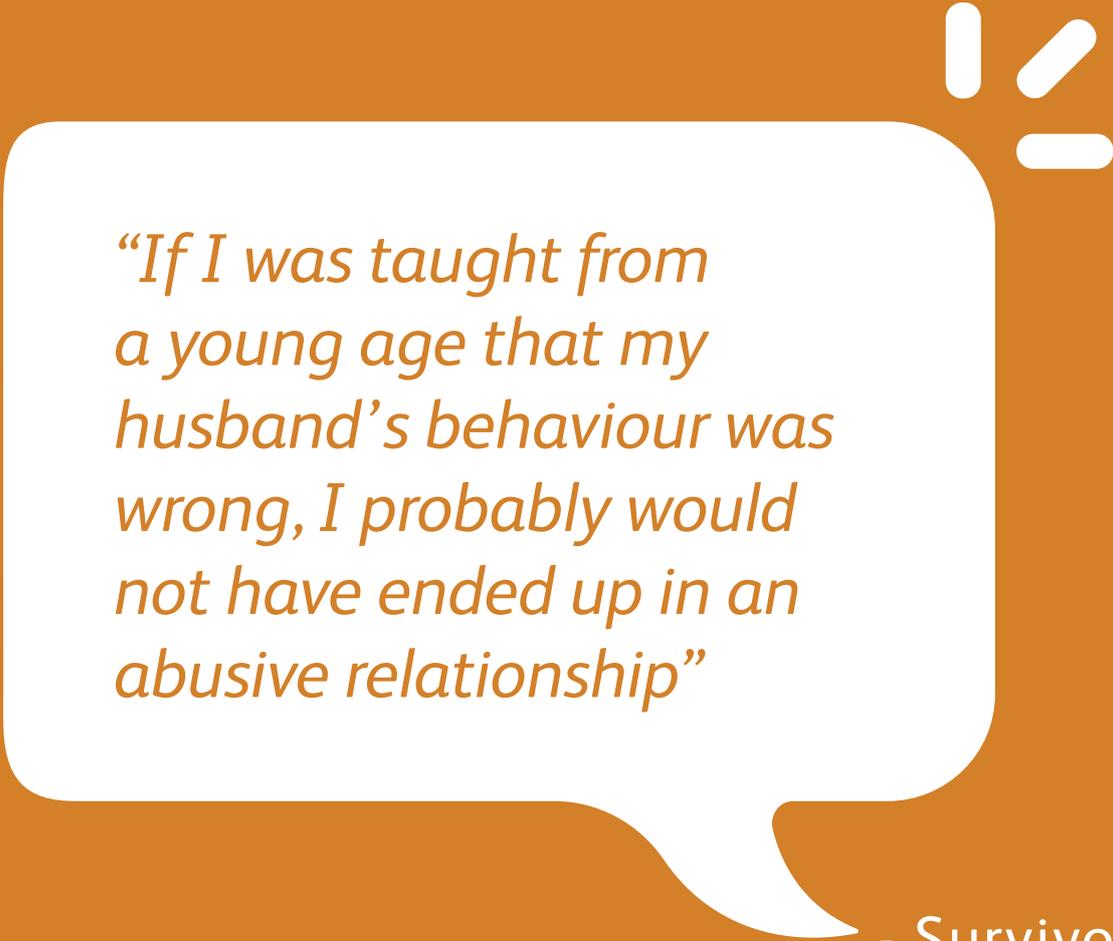
We will simultaneously work to strengthen the relationship between the police, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), courts, prison and probation services to ensure perpetrators are effectively processed, convicted and receive appropriate orders to attend behaviour change programmes, whilst ensuring victims are fully supported.

The development of our work with perpetrators will have an emphasis on early intervention where we will increase opportunities to engage with, challenge and give perpetrators who are not known to the criminal justice system, an opportunity to change their behaviour. There will also be a greater emphasis on the intersectionality of mental health and alcohol and /or substance misuse, associated with those who perpetrate abuse, and the increased risks presented.

PRIORITY 1:

RECOGNITION, PREVENTION & EARLY INTERVENTION

Domestic and sexual violence, and all other types of VAWG, have a considerable negative long-term impact.



“If I was taught from a young age that my husband’s behaviour was wrong, I probably would not have ended up in an abusive relationship”

- Survivor

Awareness-raising and education around forming positive relationships is crucial in addressing harmful attitudes and behaviour, so that children and young people who witness violence and abuse in the home do not come to see this as a normal feature of their lives.

Therapeutic intervention, particularly in early childhood, can also support individuals to be less vulnerable to the long-term impact of the trauma of witnessing domestic abuse.

Our ambition is to improve social, economic and health outcomes for children, young people and survivors by having a whole systems approach

that works to prevent violence and abuse happening in the first place and to improve the confidence of victims and survivors to seek help earlier through building resilience.

In order to build resilience however, individuals should not be expected to be able to cope with violence and abuse on their own.

We will work to increase the internal resources and protective factors of families, communities, and local networks to recognise when abuse is happening, respond appropriately and challenge attitudes that condone or support abusive behaviours.

We want to see everyone, across all services and communities, involved in the identification and prevention of abuse.

The Hackney VAWG partnership will work together to develop one voice, where collaboration is key and where VAWG is seen as core-business for all relevant mainstream and community-based agencies.

We will also work with the professional partnership and community to raise awareness and challenge attitudes that condone violence and abuse.

OUR KEY OBJECTIVES FOR...

PRIORITY 1:

RECOGNITION, PREVENTION & EARLY INTERVENTION

Support in the prevention of violence and abuse against young people and children through high quality relationship education in schools and other youth settings, so that children and young people can be supported to understand what VAWG and healthy relationships are, in order to prevent future abuse.

Co-create a toolkit with young people, specifically targeted at young people, professionals working with young people, and parents/carers, to help them better understand healthy relationships and where/how to access support.

Support existing work being undertaken across the Community Safety Partnership, Safeguarding Boards and Health and Wellbeing Board, CAMHS Alliance and the Integrated Commissioning Workstream, to develop a trauma-informed model and interventions to address adverse experiences of children and young people.

Support professionals and communities to become aware of the risks pertaining to technology which can further increase the risk within a coercive and controlling dynamic, and can be used as a vehicle for on-line abuse, revenge porn, harassment, bullying and stalking.

Coordinate the delivery of a specialist training programme that encompasses all types of VAWG and clearly articulates our zero tolerance approach. This will include training for all professionals to develop the appropriate knowledge and skills to identify those at risk and provide a consistent response to those experiencing domestic abuse and wider VAWG practices.

Ensure that professionals are able to identify girls and women at risk of FGM or those who have already undergone FGM so that they can access the appropriate level of support and intervention to ensure their safety. The current FGM protocol will be revised and training will be rolled out on FGM to ensure professionals and key staff are clear on their legal obligations and how to report cases of FGM.

Improve awareness within all communities through partnership working with grassroots community-based organisations.

We will tailor awareness-raising to the needs of individual communities through a range of channels including training, campaigning, social media and mainstream media.

Support victims/survivors and young people to influence the response to VAWG through having their voices heard in all consultations and service developments.

Proactively participate in campaigning around VAWG including the United Nations International Day and 16 Days of Action, and International Women's Day. Design awareness-raising campaigns in collaboration with community groups and survivors.

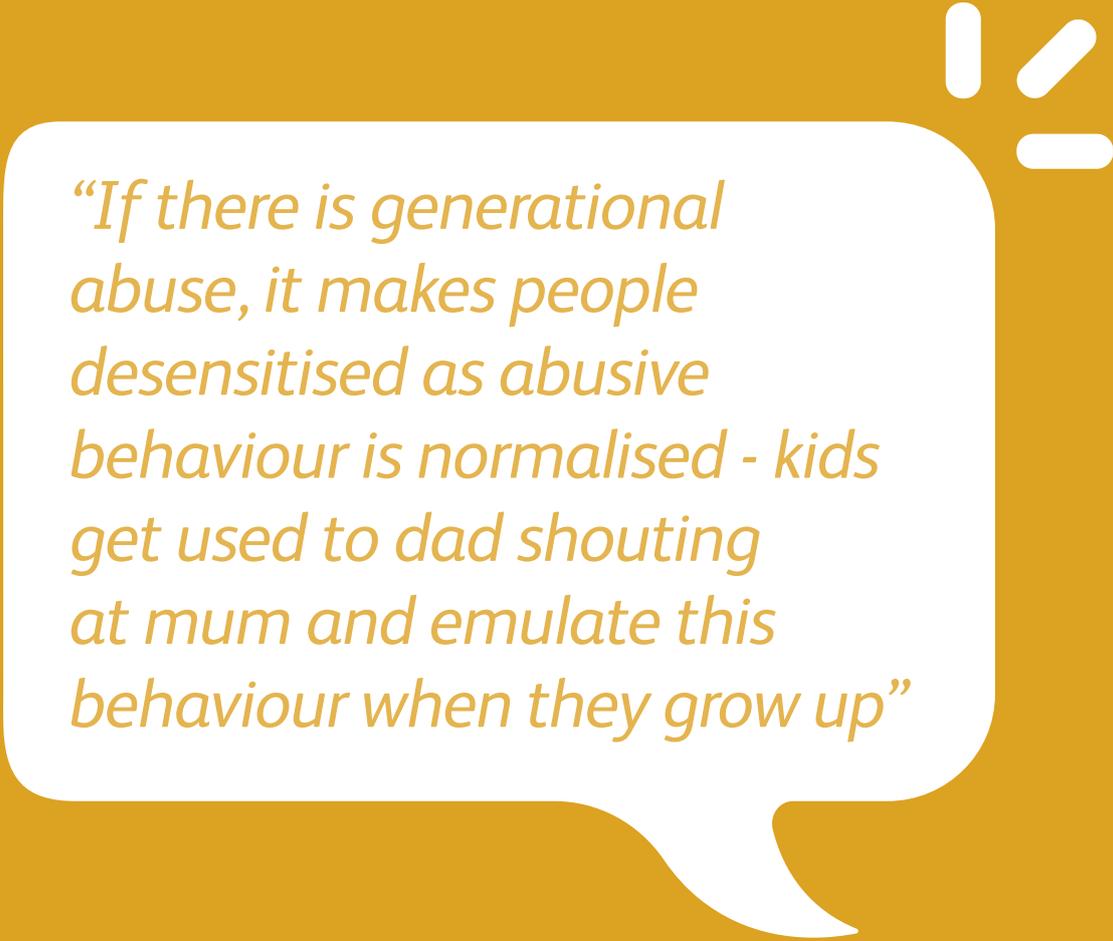
Ensure that information about VAWG is available in a range of languages and at a range of locations both in professional settings such as GP surgeries, schools, housing offices, hospitals and council buildings, and also community settings such as libraries, salons, hairdressers, supermarkets, leisure centres, licensed premises, churches, mosques, synagogues and community venues.

Work with local businesses, British Transport Police, the night-time economy, and community policing teams to raise awareness, respond appropriately, hold perpetrators to account and counter sexual harassment and abuse on transport, streets and in public/private spaces. This will include the creation of a Women's Safety Charter.

PRIORITY 2:

PROTECTING, SUPPORTING & ADDRESSING THE IMPACT

Hackney is a diverse borough, therefore a person-centred approach that recognises the diversity of people's experiences and needs is key to effecting real change.



“If there is generational abuse, it makes people desensitised as abusive behaviour is normalised - kids get used to dad shouting at mum and emulate this behaviour when they grow up”

- Survivor

We know that a one size fits all approach to responding to, protecting and supporting victims/survivors, young people and children will not be effective.

Victims, children and young people caught up in abuse in all its forms, should receive a prompt and appropriate service to support them and their needs.

We will aim to ensure that victims are not passed around between services and that the VAWG partnership works together to provide a wrap-around response with individuals being able to swiftly access the right support from the right services.

We want to ensure long-term change through empowering victims/survivors to gain independence from abusive relationships and to reduce the need for long-term dependence on services. The most effective way of doing so is to support

them in building their own resources, socially, through their networks and through developing their own skills.

We will identify and seek to address gaps in service provision. Where specialist targeted services are not always available due to limitations in resources, as a partnership we will work together to identify what is available and work collaboratively to enhance existing provision.

We will aim to ensure the provision of high quality services that are safe, accessible, flexible and available in a timely way to all victims/survivors, children and young people.

This includes tackling the additional barriers faced by boys and men, those from BAMER communities, people with disabilities, older people, the LGBT community, those with no recourse to public

funds and those experiencing multiple disadvantage such as homelessness, substance or alcohol misuse or mental health difficulties.

We want to ensure a tailored person-centred response where consistency is key. We will work together to ensure services and interventions offer trauma-informed practical support in order to help victims/survivors make sense of what has been done to them, and to enable them to navigate services and systems such as the criminal justice system, housing, children and families services, and employment.

We will also work together to achieve our ambition of fewer children and young people being exposed to or living with violence and abuse, and to ensure that those who are exposed, are supported through a trauma-informed approach.

OUR KEY OBJECTIVES FOR...

PRIORITY 2:

PROTECTING, SUPPORTING & ADDRESSING THE IMPACT

Establish and develop a shared best practice model for working with all victims of domestic abuse, differentiating models for intimate partner violence and 'adult family violence'.

Establish and develop a shared best practice model for working with all other types of VAWG including rape, sexual violence, harmful practices, prostitution and trafficking, stalking and harassment.

Ensure there is choice for victims. Multiple complexities can mean that not all victims will want to be pursued a sanction, may be reluctant to engage in specialist services, nor wish to be separated from the person who is being abusive to them. Victims should be made aware of all the options available to them.

Support victims/survivors to report abuse including that experienced through technology, through raising awareness of new and improved legislation to keep people safe online and ensuring they are aware of initiatives such as the revenge porn helpline, the anonymous voter register, or the online flag that allows police forces to record crimes such as stalking and harassment that takes place online.

Ensure the accessibility of services for women involved in prostitution with the aim of their improving safety.

Ensure that victims of violence who have multiple needs including alcohol misuse, substance misuse and/or mental health difficulties, have access to specialist support.

Have robust systems in place to ensure information about previous domestic abuse offences is shared safely with victims and within the legislative frameworks such as the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare's Law) to allow for informed choices about their relationships.

Support victims/survivors through the criminal justice system. This can be enabled through a robust first response by the police when a report is made, charges being pursued by the Crown Prosecution Service, and for the victim/survivor to be supported from start to end when going through the Specialist Domestic Abuse Court (SDAC).

Improve the response to domestic abuse within children and families services, using the Safe and Together model that has a greater emphasis on working in partnership with the non-abusive parent, whilst holding the perpetrator to account, in order to increase the safety of their children.

Ensure children and young people, who have witnessed violence and abuse in the home, receive a trauma-informed response that supports them to repair any relationship damage that has occurred with the non-abusive parent/carer, and that they have access to specialist support to address the trauma they have experienced.

Improve the response to domestic abuse across the housing partnership, so that victims receive a compassionate and consistent response. This will include supporting victims/survivors to remain safe in their own home through the Sanctuary Scheme which currently has no dedicated funding. Best practice will be supported through working towards the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) Accreditation.

Continue to provide refuge accommodation for women and their children who are fleeing domestic and sexual violence, ensuring that they will be supported to move on (within 18 months), whilst working with MOPAC and the MHCLG to support in the review of whether regional funding for refuge spaces will be possible, which in turn could seek to address the disparity of provision across local authorities.

Improve our understanding of and the response across the partnership to sexual assault and rape cases, to strengthen the support offered in the journey experienced that often leads to victims dropping out of the justice process before it can run its course.

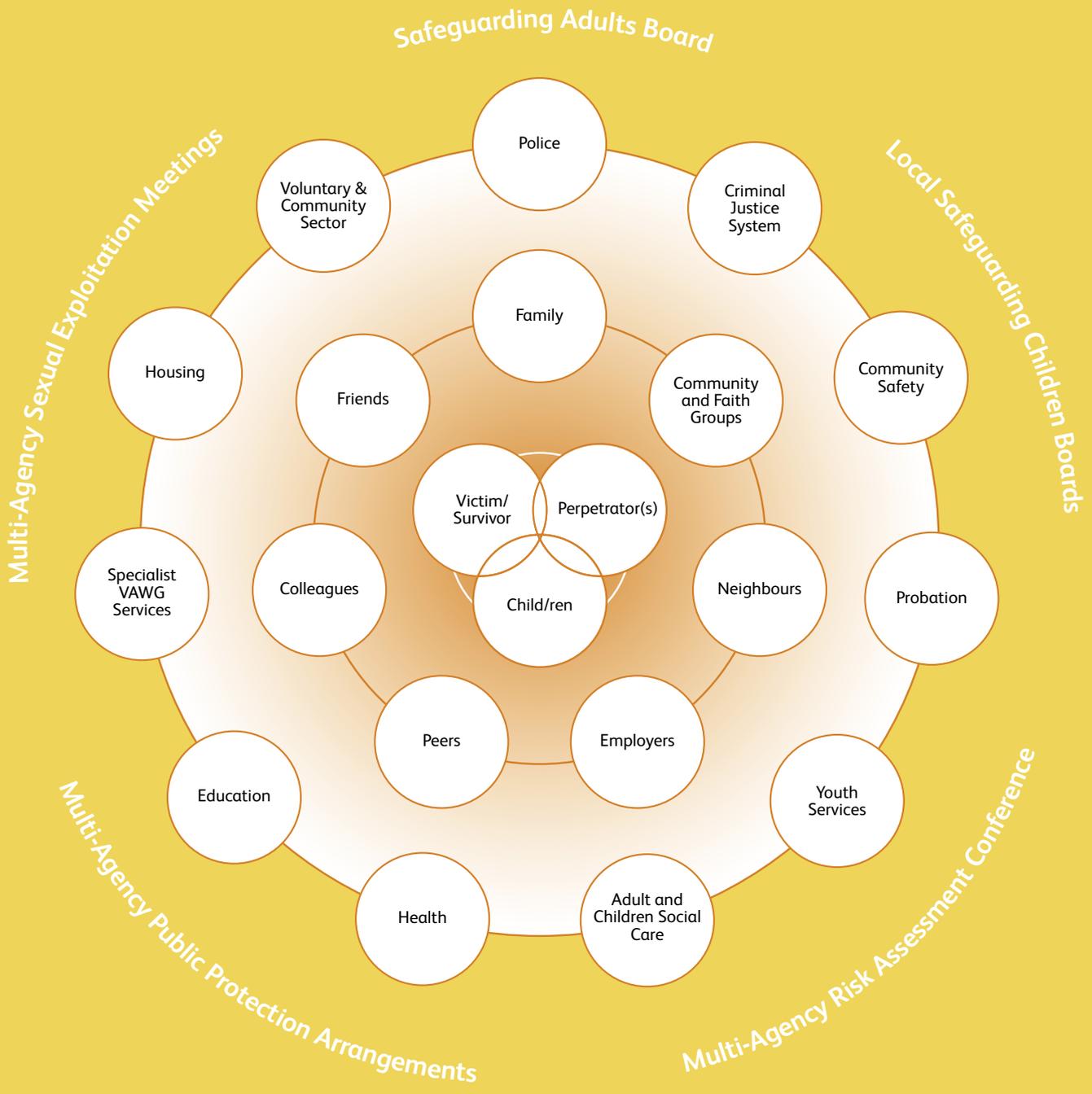
Develop robust support for female offenders, who we know for many have been victims of sexual, physical and emotional abuse.

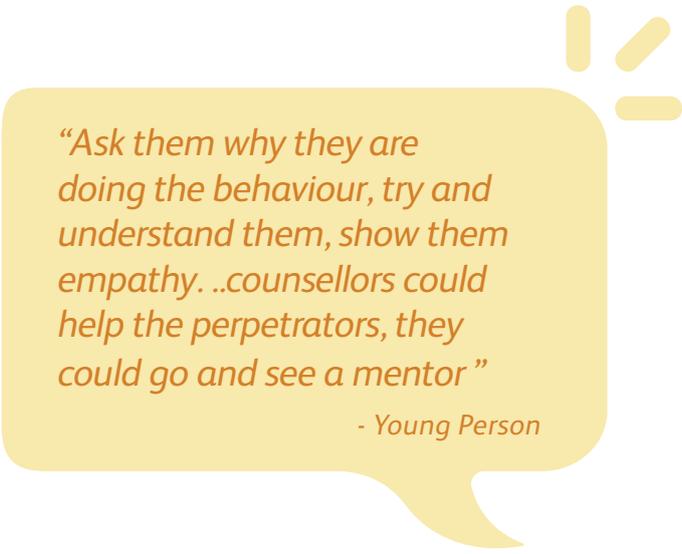
We will review models that are being developed nationally whereby joined-up approaches are used to address the complex needs of female offenders.

Respond to the reported increase in sexual violence and rape through the development of the Hackney Women's Safety Charter.

PRIORITY 3:

WHOLE SYSTEMS PARTNERSHIP APPROACH





“Ask them why they are doing the behaviour, try and understand them, show them empathy. ..counsellors could help the perpetrators, they could go and see a mentor”

- Young Person

No single agency can be responsible for ending violence against women and girls. Through having a whole systems partnership approach, whereby all mainstream and specialist agencies and the community work together, we can ensure a robust vision and plan to prevent and respond to VAWG.

This will enable us to work towards the best possible outcomes for victims/ survivors, children and young people in Hackney.

A whole systems approach will provide a message to residents that they live in a community that does not tolerate VAWG and, in turn, increase the confidence in victims/ survivors to come forward to disclose their experiences of violence and abuse and be connected to specialist support within Hackney.

Our aim is to ensure that professionals across the partnership are consistent in their understanding and response to VAWG. Working together to eradicate VAWG contributes to safeguarding children and adults. All services across the partnership should be aware of their safeguarding responsibilities.

In order to adequately safeguard our community from VAWG, we need to develop a better understanding of the extent of VAWG and our aim is to develop the data and information we hold and share to support and inform our shared approach.

Through having one voice, where VAWG is taken seriously, responded to consistently, and services collaborate, we will strengthen our ability to deliver on each of the key priority areas.

We will support and hold to account for best practice, all areas of the professional partnership in order to reach this objective.

There will also be people within the community with attitudes that condone violence and abuse and who may also be perpetrating abuse in collusion with others, and societal, institutional and cultural norms that means VAWG is carried out with impunity.

Community and faith groups, including their leaders, have a key role in challenging and tackling VAWG and enabling long lasting change, through providing safe spaces for disclosure, developing community-led initiatives that seek to change attitudes and harmful beliefs, and through having male and female role models working with children and young people.

OUR KEY OBJECTIVES FOR...

PRIORITY 3:

WHOLE SYSTEMS PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

Establish a partnership dataset and multi-agency auditing process which all relevant partners will be expected to contribute to. This will enable us to understand better the extent of VAWG in the borough, any trends and patterns, demand on services, and monitor the performance of both specialist and mainstream services to check our progress and inform our work.

Support all agencies to provide a consistent and robust response to VAWG. The multi-agency partnership will lead on the development of good practice guidance for professionals working in Hackney, to increase workforce confidence in identifying and responding to VAWG-related issues, and be equipped to support a victim/survivor to be linked with a specialist support service. We will also work to improve information sharing between partners so that support is holistic and ensures a robust response to risk.

Identify a package of VAWG training to be rolled out by the partnership, available for all practitioners. Continue with a thematic bi-annual VAWG Practitioners forum covering all aspects of VAWG to share and build on best practice across provider services.

We will continue to promote learning across all agencies from the four Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) conducted in Hackney between 2012-2014 and from national research taken from the annual femicide census and reviews from the Home Office.

Establish a network of community-based champions who can lead the way in raising awareness amongst individual communities, and who are able to carry out a 'bystander intervention'.

By raising awareness of domestic and sexual violence and empowering people to take action, bystander intervention initiatives aim to involve the community in changing social attitudes, and reduce pressure on the victim. (Contextual Safeguarding; Public Health England: "A review of evidence for bystander intervention to prevent sexual and domestic violence in universities")

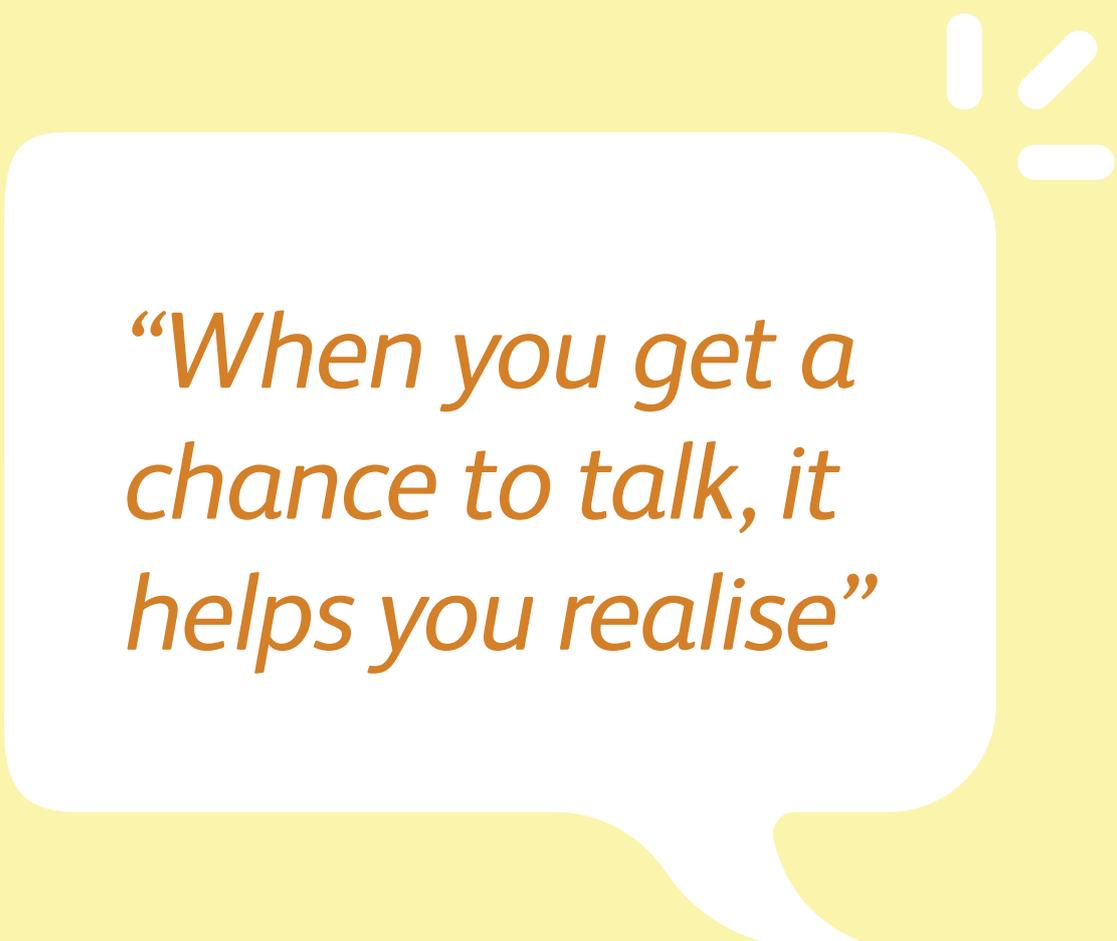
Work with local business forums to raise awareness and improve the response within business settings to staff who are experiencing domestic abuse and other types of VAWG.

Support third party reporting initiatives such as the Crimestoppers helpline where reporting is anonymous and where helpline workers know where to signpost a victim/survivor to the right support services.

PRIORITY 4:

PERPETRATOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND ENABLING CHANGE

Perpetrators of violence and abuse can be intimate partners, wider family members, or, in instances of sexual violence, acquaintances or strangers.



“When you get a chance to talk, it helps you realise”

- Perpetrator

Perpetrators are responsible for their behaviour, it is a chosen intentional behaviour. To keep victims safe, those who are committing violence and abuse against them must be dealt with robustly and effectively but also offered support to change their behaviours.

Women, children, young people and families affected by VAWG should be well informed about the legal and protective measures available to them.

For victims who are pursuing a criminal justice route, we will work to ensure that their reports will be taken seriously, be properly investigated and action will be taken against the perpetrator.

We want to support victims through the criminal justice process and ensure they have access to the appropriate criminal and civil sanctions.

We will simultaneously work to strengthen the relationship between the police, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), courts, prison and

probation services to ensure perpetrators are effectively processed, convicted and receive appropriate orders to attend behaviour change programmes, whilst ensuring victims are fully supported.

We acknowledge however, that all types of VAWG are largely under-reported and therefore not known to criminal justice services.

In cases of domestic abuse, it is estimated that only approximately 20% of perpetrators come to the attention of the criminal justice system, and many perpetrators have been largely invisible to services.

Therefore it is important to have a wider strategy around how the Hackney partnership respond to perpetrators to ensure accountability and long-term change.

We consider that for a wide range of people, with the right approach and support, they would be able to change their attitudes and behaviour.

The development of our work with perpetrators will have an emphasis on early intervention where we will increase opportunities to engage with, challenge and give perpetrators who are not known to the criminal justice system, an opportunity to change their behaviour.

There will also be a greater emphasis on the intersectionality of mental health and alcohol and / or substance misuse, associated with those who perpetrate abuse, and the increased risks presented.

OUR KEY OBJECTIVES FOR...

PRIORITY 4:

PERPETRATOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND ENABLING CHANGE

Review the response to perpetrators across the partnership whilst taking into account resources, capacity and outcomes.

This will look at the enforcement and criminal justice response to perpetrators of all types of VAWG, specialist support for perpetrators through behaviour change programmes including keeping abreast of national and international developments in perpetrator work and the response and confidence within non-specialist settings to identify and challenge perpetrators at the earliest opportunity, ensuring that victims/survivors and children are at the centre of the response.

Provide and/or refer to a range of evidence-based behaviour change interventions for perpetrators that can help to decrease risks to victims and their families.

This includes, but is not exclusive to:

- provision of specialist behaviour change programmes addressing abuse in intimate relationships;
- specialist interventions with young people using violence on family members or in their relationships;
- stop and search groups for buyers of prostitution;
- referring to treatment programmes delivered by the National Stalking Clinic.

Ensure access to specialist services for perpetrators who present with multiple complex needs including mental health issues and substance and/or alcohol misuse. These factors are known to increase risk when they occur with domestic abuse.

In conjunction with licensed venues and premises, we will develop a Women's Safety Charter that tackles the harassment, sexual intimidation and assault of women.

The charter will be based on a set of key principles that ensure all staff working within a licensed premises act in a responsible and supportive manner, taking all reports seriously and for venues to send a clear message that the abusive behaviour will not be tolerated.

Gather information locally and nationally around perpetrators of adult family violence. To identify models of good practice that work to reduce risk and increase behaviour change.

Maximise opportunities to monitor and disrupt individuals who pose an ongoing risk to others through their violent and abusive behaviour. An example of this being the police initiative, Operation Dauntless.

Develop a more robust response to stalking, ensuring that professionals working with perpetrators of stalking work in partnership with the MPS London Centre of Excellence -The Stalking Threat Assessment Centre.

Reduce re-offending from buyers of sex through running targeted operations focusing on kerb crawlers and pimps.

Review and update the existing protocol with the Metropolitan Police Central East Basic Command Unit that targets buyers and diverts women involved in prostitution from the criminal justice system.

Identify models of good practice locally, through sharing statistical and analytical information from initiatives taking place across the partnership. Share knowledge gained from local and national initiatives to prevent violent and abusive offending.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HACKNEY VAWG STRATEGY

“It’s everyone’s responsibility to keep an eye on people, on their friends, family”

- Young person

We will apply the principles of a public health approach to tackling and reducing VAWG.

We will work together within the partnership to agree an annual delivery plan and a set of partnership indicators that will measure success and outcomes against the objectives set out in this strategy.

We will create a three year (2019-2022) action plan that will guide data monitoring and evaluation, that we will review and update annually.

The framework will include key indicators of success, outcomes and outputs, and will explain how data will be collected, when and by whom.

This will help us to observe, measure and validate performance; show whether progress has been made as

planned; and provide early warning signs if things go wrong. Indicators will assist in identifying where changes might need to be made in practice or to the strategy.

We recognise that to create positive and sustainable long-term changes, some short-term indicators may get worse for a period of time. The more work that is done to raise awareness and encourage victims/survivors to seek help and abusers to change, the more likely it is that we will see reporting and service demand increase in the short-term.

In the long-term, it is anticipated that the work undertaken will start to tackle the normalisation of abuse, and the intergenerational transmission of violence leading to a steady decline in reporting and service demand.

In implementing our strategy and action plans, we will explore opportunities to align aspects of our plans and undertake joint initiatives with other local authorities, in particular with the City of London, with whom Hackney already shares a number of strategic partnerships and services.

The VAWG Strategic Board will be responsible for reviewing and implementing the actions in the strategy. The Strategic Board meets quarterly, is chaired by a local authority Executive Director, and is represented by senior managers from statutory, community and voluntary organisations.

The role of the board will be to:

- Promote a multi-agency and whole systems approach, working to ensure VAWG is included in all business areas
- Ensure any new policy, practice or legislation is fully included within the VAWG performance monitoring framework and is embedded in all VAWG work across Hackney
- Ensure the response and service delivered to victims and survivors of VAWG are of the highest quality and responsive to the changing landscape of VAWG
- Ensure learning from local and national Domestic Homicide Reviews, including relevant recommendations, are incorporated into VAWG actions and monitor progress against the VAWG Action Plan. With the support of the associated Operational Groups and Steering Groups, we will assess whether actions and activities are achieving the required outcomes
- Establish overall impact through quality assurance and performance monitoring. The VAWG Board will devise and agree a set of indicators for a performance monitoring framework.
- Report quarterly to the Community Safety Partnership (CSP)
- Report annually to the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board, Adults Board and Health and Wellbeing Board.

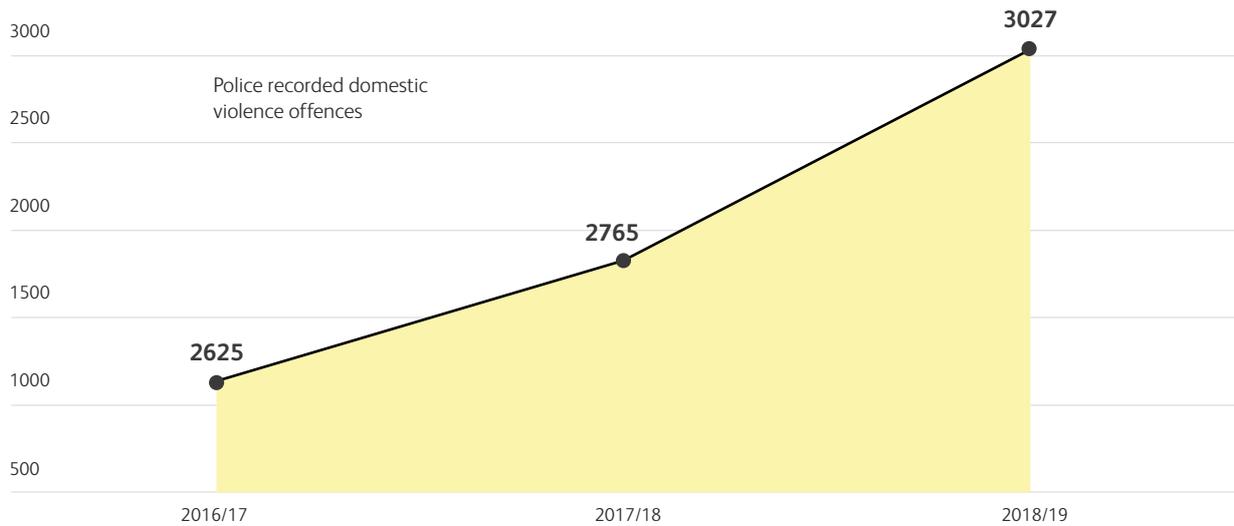
Appendices

- Appendix 1: Hackney data 34-38
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APPENDIX 1:

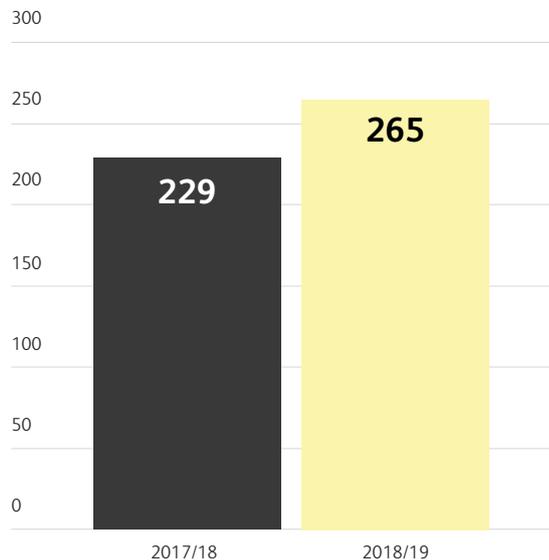
HACKNEY DATA

The following provides a brief overview of the data we hold, showing the number of people experiencing VAWG, who have reported and/or been supported from a variety of services.



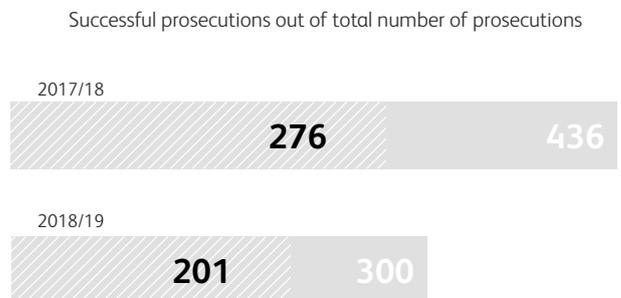
RAPE OFFENCE REPORTING

In Hackney there were 265 reported rapes in 2018/19, which was a 16% increase from 2017/18 (85.4% of victims were female).



SPECIALIST DOMESTIC ABUSE COURT

Hackney is one of four London boroughs that sit in the East London Specialist Domestic Abuse Court (SDAC). The following data shows successful convictions over the last 2 years.

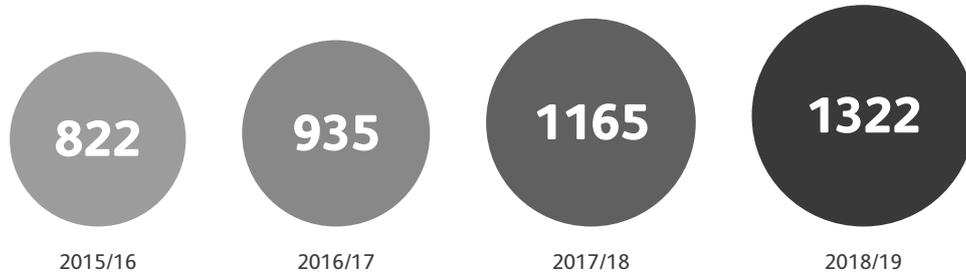


In 2019 MOPAC launched the new Pan London Integrated Victim and Witness Service (IVWS). In East London the IVWS will seek to strengthen the Court process through IDVA provision in the Witness Care Units and the SDAC.

DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION SERVICE (DAIS)

DAIS is the council run domestic abuse service which provides advocacy and support to victims of domestic abuse aged 16 and over; assessment and interventions with perpetrators of domestic abuse; and training for the wider professional and community network.

DAIS also co-locate staff into the Specialist Domestic Abuse Court and into the Children and Families Service. DAIS has seen a year on year increase in referrals into the service since the restructure of the service in 2015.



GALOP

GALOP is the Pan-London specialist LGBT+ anti-violence charity. Galop worked with 626 domestic abuse cases between January 2013 and August 2017.



CLAUDIA JONES ORGANISATION

The Claudia Jones Organisation works with women and girls of African and Caribbean heritage. They have recently been awarded 3 years of Lottery funding to continue the gender-based violence and family support work they had undertaken as part of the Hackney Women's Haven (HWH). HWH ran for 2 years from January 2016, involving a consortium of Claudia Jones Organisation, Hawa Trust, Rise Community Action, Hackney Women's Forum and Hackney CVS.

1100

people provided with FGM & domestic abuse awareness sessions

81

women receiving one to one domestic abuse or FGM support.

HACKNEY MULTI AGENCY RISK ASSESSMENT CONFERENCE (MARAC)

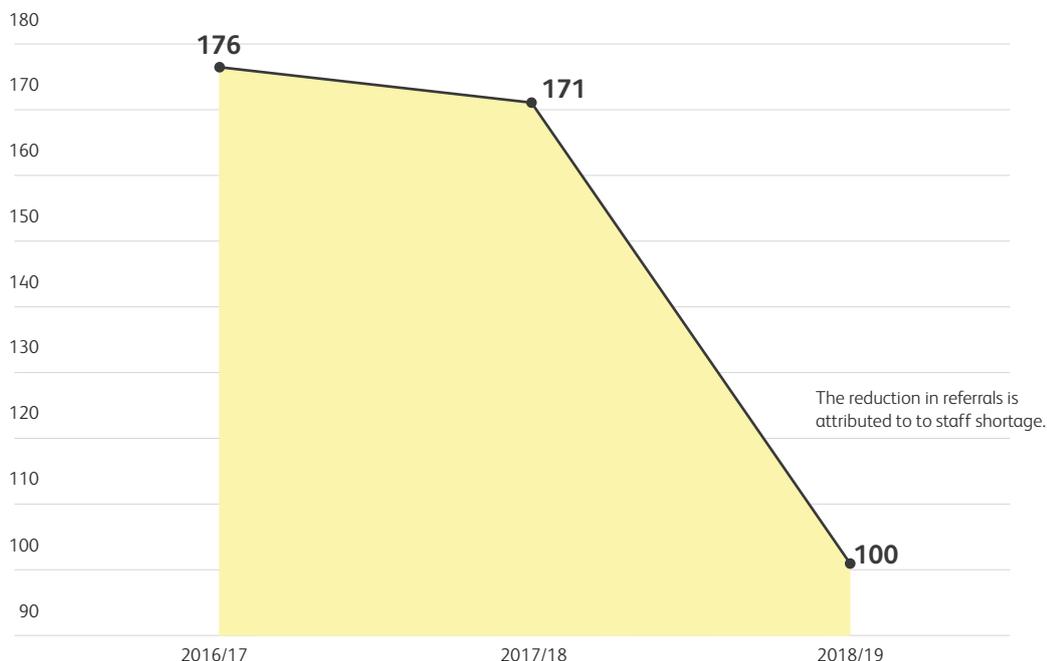
The Hackney MARAC is held fortnightly and consists of a panel who hear the cases of those victims of domestic abuse who have been identified and assessed as high risk of harm or homicide. Referral figures into the MARAC:



Legend: Total no of referrals to MARAC (light orange), Total no of referrals with children in the home (dark orange with diagonal lines)

NIA

Nia deliver the Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS) service. IRIS is a General Practitioner based domestic abuse training support and referral programme. Referral figures have been fairly consistent since it started:



Nia also run the **East London Rape Crisis Service**. East London Rape Crisis receive most referrals from the London Borough of Hackney.

In 2017/18 there were 138 active Hackney cases. In the first 6 months of 2018/19, there had been 31 referrals from Hackney.

The number of victims of domestic abuse Nia provided **Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA)** to:



The reduction in case work is attributed to staff shortage.

WiSER

In 2018 Hackney joined the successful WiSER project delivered through Solace Women’s Aid. This is a specialist trauma-informed service working intensively through assertive outreach, with women experiencing VAWG and multiple disadvantage.

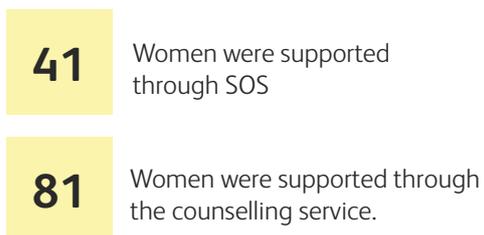
LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN'S AID (LAWA)

LAWA run two refuges for Latin American Women and their children. LAWA offers additional domestic abuse support, available to Hackney women through advice, advocacy and counselling. They also have a children and young people's service providing recovery intervention. LAWA worked with 1,261 people in 2017/18.

IMECE WOMEN’S CENTRE

IMECE provide support to Turkish, Kurdish and Turkish Cypriot women. They offer the Specialist Outreach Safety (SOS) Project, the Pathway to Recovery Project and Ascent Advice and Counselling.

In 2017/18

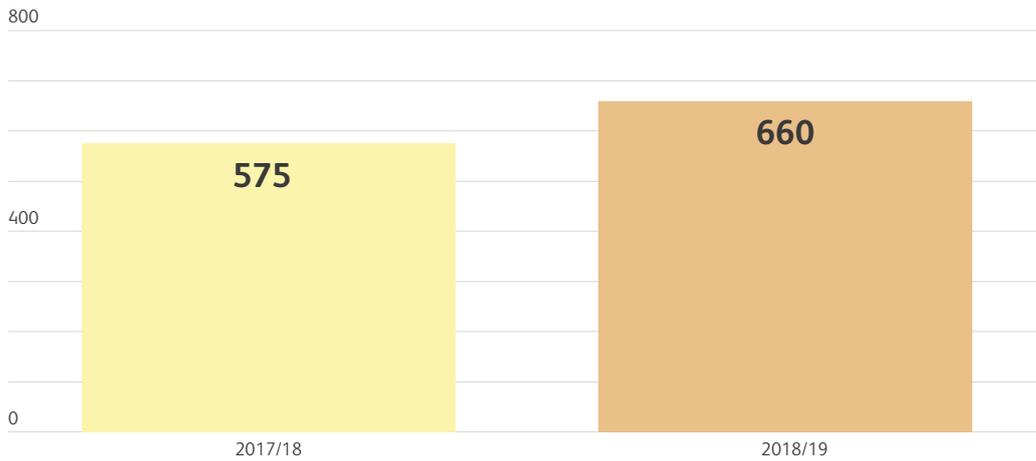


HOMERTON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Homerton University Hospital oversees the Primary Care MARAC liaison Service. Since the service has been in place there has been an increase in referrals from the hospital to the MARAC and Domestic Abuse Services.

In 2019 MOPAC launched the new Pan London Integrated Victim and Witness Service (IVWS) which will be delivered via Victim Support. Victim Support in partnership with Sistah Space Against Domestic Abuse will base 1 full time IDVA and 1 part time IDVA at The Homerton Hospital.

Presentations at the Homerton University Hospital Emergency Department where the person has a history of domestic abuse

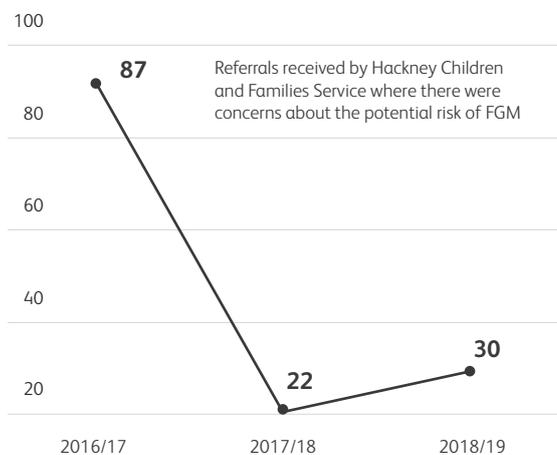
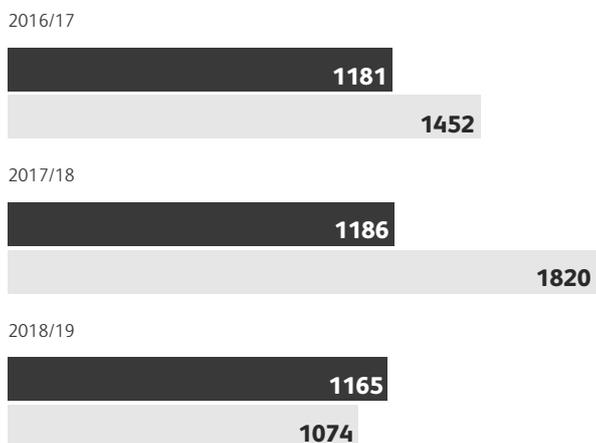


CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

Hackney Children and Families Service has been reviewing the response to domestic abuse from the various points of service provision. In 2019 Hackney will adopt and roll out Safe and Together, a model which is designed to improve practice and working together with families where there is domestic abuse and concerns about children. It helps workers to partner with domestic abuse victims and engage with people who have committed domestic abuse to enhance the safety and well-being of children.

More than 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone FGM in the countries where the practice is concentrated and it is estimated that 3 million girls are at risk every year. Between January 2008 and December 2013, 245 women disclosed a history of FGM when booking in for maternity care at Homerton University Hospital. The hospital undertakes approximately 10 FGM deinfibulations (reversals) per year.

Over the last 3 years, Hackney Children and Families Service:



contacts received with a referral category of domestic abuse

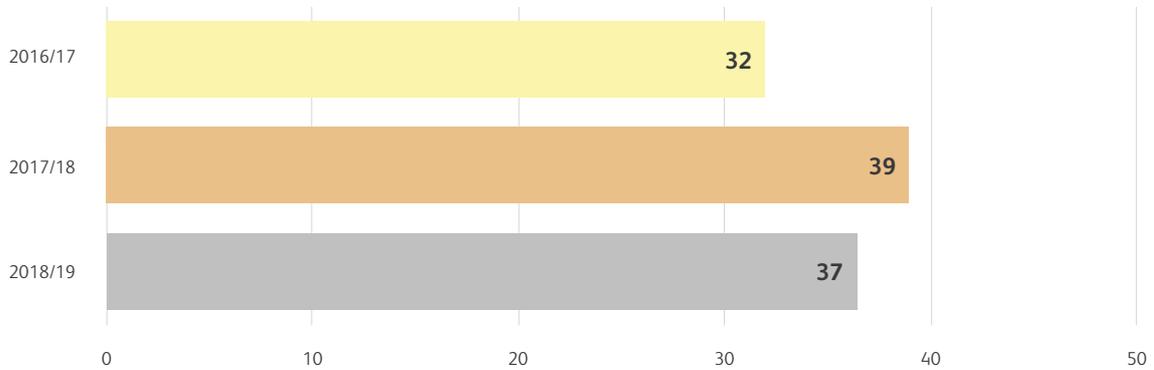
assessments completed where domestic abuse was a factor present

The drop in referrals is attributed to more sophisticated risk assessment and, over time, mothers with multiple children will have previously accessed advice and guidance.

ADULT SAFEGUARDING

Hackney Adult Social Care and Safeguarding, have been working closely with DAIS to review the response to complex cases, in particular where adults are being abused by their adult child. This area of development is a priority in the strategy.

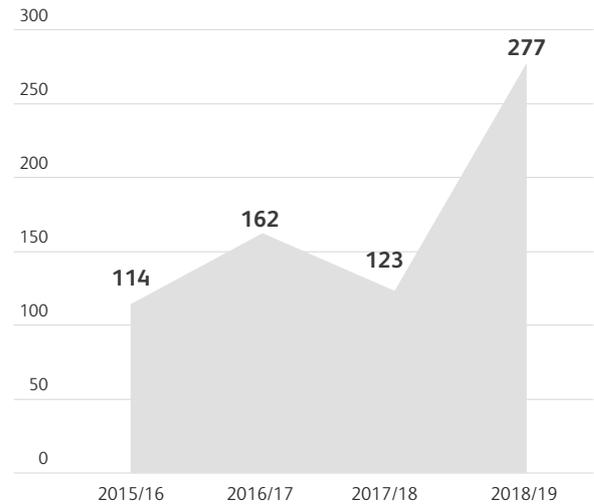
Figures for Hackney Adult Safeguarding show a general increase in notifications where domestic abuse is identified as a concern:



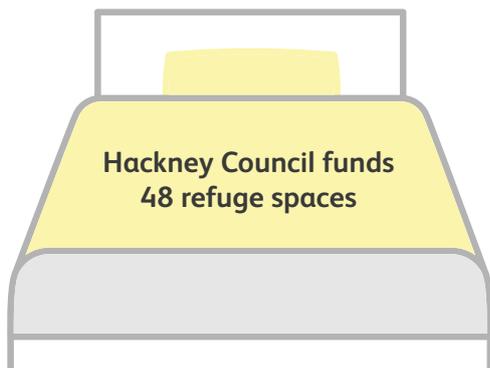
HOUSING

In 2019, Housing and DAIS created a new post that will focus on tightening and improving the response to domestic abuse across the Housing Partnership, which will include working towards the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) Accreditation. The aim of DAHA is to improve consistency across housing partnerships.

Approaches to Housing where domestic abuse is a referral category, have seen a significant increase in 2018/19 following changes to reporting requirements in the Homeless Reduction Act. The increased figure is due to changes in recording/reporting and is for those whose main loss of accommodation is as a result of domestic abuse; this represents 7.5% of all approaches to Housing for 2018/19



Number of domestic abuse referrals to Hackney Housing



Victims can also be supported to remain safe in their own home through installation of Sanctuary Schemes. In 2017/18 there were 23 Sanctuary referrals and 22 Sanctuary referrals in 2016/17.

Hackney Council funds the third highest number of refuge spaces for women and children in London, providing 48 beds across 2 refuge providers.

Hackney Council also commissions 31 bed spaces for single homeless women with complex needs, which includes women experiencing domestic abuse and/or involved in prostitution.

APPENDIX 2:

DEFINITIONS AND TYPES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

GLOBAL

The United Nations defines violence against women as:

“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”

(Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 1993). The United Nations definition is endorsed by the UK Government strategy for “Ending Violence Against Women and Girls 2016-2020”.

NATIONAL

The UK Government 2016-2020 strategy highlights that the cost to individuals impacted by VAWG cannot be measured, but the cost to the economy can be calculated and is considerable. Sylvia Walby’s 2009 report into the cost of domestic violence, estimates that the provision of public services and the loss of economic output, costs the UK £15.8 billion annually.

LOCAL

The Mayor of London 2018-2021 strategy for “Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls” highlights that “Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and the activities that cause it or are associated with it, describe a number of different crimes and forms of abusive behaviour. These crimes happen to women of all ages. They can happen in the home, on the streets, on public transport or online. They can happen at night or during the day”.

“Our vision is that London is a city where every woman and every girl can live in safety - where men and boys don’t think violence against women and girls is acceptable and where women and girls don’t feel it is inevitable.”

- (A Safer City for Women and Girl: The London Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2018-21. Mayor of London).

TYPES OF VAWG

Domestic Abuse, Coercive and Controlling Behaviour:

Domestic abuse is the most prevalent form of VAWG. In 2019 the Government will finalise the Domestic Abuse Bill which seeks to make the definition of domestic abuse statutory.

The current cross-Government definition of domestic abuse is:

“Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.”

This can encompass, but is not limited to the following types of abuse:

- Psychological
- Physical
- Sexual
- Financial
- Emotional

Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish or frighten the victim.

Sexual violence, including rape

A sexual act conducted with someone else without their consent. Anyone can experience sexual violence including: children, teens, adults and elders.

Perpetrators of sexual violence can be acquaintances, family members, trusted individuals or strangers. It can happen anywhere - in the family/ household, workplace, public spaces, social settings, during war/conflict situations.

Sexual exploitation

Involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where someone receives ‘something’ such as food; drugs; alcohol; cigarettes; affection; or protection money, as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.

Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, with exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the person’s limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child abuse, where an individual or group coerces,

deceives or manipulates a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity. Girls involved in, or connected to gangs are at risk of sexual exploitation by gang members.

Sexual harassment

Unwanted verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. It can take place anywhere, including the workplace; schools; the street; public transport; and social situations. It includes flashing, obscene and threatening calls, and online harassment.

Stalking

Repeated harassment causing fear, alarm or distress. It can include threatening phone calls, texts or letters; damaging property; watching and/or following a victim.

Prostitution and trafficking

The exchange of sex for money. This can occur on or off the street. Prostitution has many associated risks to the safety, health and mental health of women and girls. Women and girls can be forced into, coerced or deceived to enter into prostitution and/or to keep them there. Trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation and exploitation of women and children for the purposes of prostitution and domestic servitude across the international borders and within countries.

Harmful Practices:

So called 'honour' based violence (HBV)

Violence committed to protect or defend the "honour" of a family and/or community. Women, especially young women, are the most common targets, often where they have acted outside community boundaries of perceived acceptable feminine/sexual behaviour. In extreme cases, the woman may be killed.

Faith based abuse

Child abuse linked to faith or belief. This includes a belief in concepts of witchcraft and spirit possessions, demons or the devil acting through children or leading them astray (traditionally seen in some Christian beliefs), the evil eye or djinns (traditionally known in some Islamic faith contexts) and dakini (in the Hindu context); ritual or muti murders where the killing of children is believed to produce potent magical remedies; and use of belief in magic or witchcraft to create fear in children to make them more compliant when they are being trafficked for domestic slavery or sexual exploitation.

Female genital mutilation (FGM)

Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

FGM has been classified by the World Health Organisation into 4 main types:

Type 1 – Clitoridectomy: partial or total removal of the clitoris (a small, sensitive and erectile part of the female genitals) and, in very rare cases, only the prepuce (the fold of skin surrounding the clitoris).

Type 2 – Excision: partial or total removal of the clitoris and the labia minora, with or without excision of the labia majora (the labia are the 'lips' that surround the vagina).

Type 3 – Infibulation: narrowing of the vaginal opening through the creation of a covering seal. The seal is formed by cutting and repositioning the inner, or outer, labia, with or without removal of the clitoris.

Type 4 – Other all other harmful procedures to the female genitalia for non-medical purposes, e.g. pricking, piercing, incising, scraping and cauterising the genital area.

Forced marriage

A marriage conducted without the valid consent of one or both parties, where duress is a factor.

Breast ironing

Breast ironing is a practice in which the breasts of pubescent girls are pounded using tools such as spatulas, grinding stones, hot stones, and hammers, as a means of delaying their development and in the belief that it is protecting girls from rape and other types of unwanted male attention.

Acknowledgement of those involved in the public consultation

We would like to thank all those who participated in the public consultation, for their valuable and helpful feedback, reflections and recommendations for this strategy.

The following events were held that supported the public consultation:

- A one day event for professionals from mainstream and community based organisations. This was co-delivered and facilitated by the Chairs of the VAWG Board, City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Board and City & Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board.
- Two focus groups with survivors of domestic abuse, facilitated by Refuge and Hestia women and children's refuges.
- A mixed gender group of young people facilitated by Young Hackney.
- A focus group with perpetrators of domestic abuse, facilitated by the perpetrator programme coordinator for Hackney.

We also want to give special thanks to our specialist community-based violence against women and girls partners:

Claudia Jones Organisation
 DeafHope and Young DeafHope from SignHealth
 East London Rape Crisis
 Galop, the LGBT+ anti-violence charity
 Hawa Trust
 Hestia
 IMECE Turkish Women's Centre
 Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation
 Jewish Women's Aid
 Latin American Women's Aid
 Latin American Women's Rights Service
 London Gypsies and Travellers
 Nia Ending Violence
 Open Doors
 Refuge
 Rise Community Action
 Sistah Space
 Solace Women's Aid
 Stonewall Housing
 Survivors UK, male rape and sexual abuse
 Victim Support
 Woman's Trust

