Public Document Pack

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee Supplementary Agenda

Monday, 26 June 2017
7.00 pm, Committee Room 1
Civic Suite
Lewisham Town Hall
London SE6 4RU

For more information contact: Katie Wood (Tel: 02083149446)

This meeting is an open meeting and all items on the agenda may be audio recorded and/or filmed.

Part 1

ltem		Pages
6.	Draft Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy	1 - 20



Agenda Item 6

Safer, Stronger Select Committee				
Report Title	Violence Against Women A	nd Girls Plan 201	17-21	
Key Decision	No		Item No. 6	
Ward	AII			
Contributors	Contributors Head of Crime Reduction and Supporting People.			
Class	Part 1		Date: 26 June 2017	

1.0 Reason for lateness

1.1 This report is late due to difficulties in accessing the required data. This report is urgent because the plan needs to be agreed as soon as possible as the old plan ran out in April 2017.

2.0 Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 Lewisham Council has a long history of commitment to tackling the Violence against Woman and Girls agenda. This work is supported by a unified and comprehensive approach to tackling violence against women and girls through a systemic refreshed 4 year VAWG Plan.
- 2.3 As with all partnership intelligence development documents it is likely priorities may be revised as further information on all strands of VAWG becomes available. All local partners are committed to dealing with any aspects of VAWG and will be reviewing and reassessing areas annually.
- 2.4 The attached DRAFT plan outlines all strands of VAWG and the focus for the next 4 years, aligning with the Safer Lewisham Plan 17/18 and the London Mayors Offices Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021.

3.0 Recommendations

- For the committee to feedback any comments before the final report is agreed in July 2017.
- To agree that the progress made against the Plan be reported to the Select Committee annually.

4.0 Background

4.1 Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is both a form of discrimination and a violation of human rights. It is both a cause and consequence of gender inequality in society. The United Nations (UN) defines VAWG as "any act of gender-based violence that is directed at a woman because she is a woman, or acts of violence which are

1

suffered disproportionally by women"¹. This definition is also endorsed by the London Mayor's Office on Police and Crime, (MOPAC). The Safer Lewisham Partnership has recognised the significant impact these areas have on females, but also recognises that for some of these strands male victims require focus and greater understanding.

- 4.2 Lewisham launched its first VAWG Plan in 2014. Since then, the VAWG legislative and policy context has developed considerably. A range of new legislative measures have been introduced including specific offences of stalking, forced marriage, failure to protect from Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and revenge pornography, as well as a new specific offence of "coercive control". Other key legislative developments include the introduction of the Modern Slavery Act (2015), the rolling out of Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) and the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS), the introduction of FGM Protection Orders and a revised statutory guidance on Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs). HM Government has released a new national strategy, *Ending Violence Against Women and Girls 2016-20*. The refreshed strategy retains the framework of Prevention, Provision of services, Partnership working and Pursuing perpetrators.
- 4.3 The Safer Lewisham Partnership has committed to a focused response to this issue and has adopted the London Mayors Policing and Crime Plan 2017-2021. In this Plan there is a clear recognition of this issue across London, and is committing to undertaking reviews and funding to support this agenda. Lewisham will play a key role in the London agenda and offer and work collaboratively to ensure that there is a comprehensive offer for residents in Lewisham affected by any strands within VAWG. MOPAC plan a release of their refreshed VAWG Strategy in November 2017, (building on from the Mayoral Strategy on Violence Against Women and Girls 2013-17).
- 4.4 Whilst the partnership acknowledges and supports the VAWG principles held by central Government and London Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime (MOPAC), it is worth noting that Lewisham will include children and young people within the Plan, as well as recognising elder abuse. In Lewisham, domestic violence and abuse is a priority for the Lewisham Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB), and has been flagged as a priority within the Lewisham Safeguarding Children's Board's (LSCB) Neglect Strategy, underpinning work for 2017 and going forward.
- It is acknowledged that **men and boys** will also experience and be affected by the range of issues that encompass the VAWG strands and Lewisham's response includes these. The term violence against women and girls can be accompanied by concern about the exclusion of men and boys from services and a lack of recognition that they can experience these forms of violence and abuse. This does not detract from the clear focus on this agenda affecting women and girls disproportionally, and the approach is tailored accordingly.

¹ 'The Way Forward. Taking Action to end violence against women and girls', Mayor of London 2010-2013

4.6

It is recognised that people may be impacted by more than one type of abuse and that the intersectional nature of each person's identity will frame their experience and how they access support. As such, the partnership is committed to increasing reporting rates and providing support and appropriate services for male and Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender (LGBT) victims. Agencies developing clear pathways to support all victims of all gender-based abuse is crucial.

4.7 The approach:

- Reducing levels of violence and exposure to violence
- De-normalising violence it is unacceptable
- Understanding and addressing the root causes of violence
- Taking a life course approach whereby the benefit is of effective, evidence based interventions accumulate from the beginning of life
- Building on the positive assets of people and their communities
- Ensuring our services are accessible and effective at addressing holistic young people, family and peer group needs

4.8 The Plan sets out the following Priorities:

- Protecting and Educating
- Deliver the right support
- Working together
- Ensure perpetrators are held to account
- Understanding the issues and having an impact

5.0 The Vision for Lewisham to 2021

- Improved safety, health and wellbeing of young people and victims supported by the VAWG services in Lewisham
- Everyone, Family, friends, communities and practitioners, knows about all forms
 of violence against women and girls and how to disclose abuse and get support.
 Everyone knowing how to support victims, including those with care and support
 needs.
- Women, particularly those from different cultural backgrounds, have an increased awareness of violence against women and girls.
- Services take a trauma informed approach to supporting victim/survivors, recognising their range of support needs
- Implementing the learning from tragic Domestic Homicide Reviews
- Increase percentage of crime outcomes rates for all strands of VAWG, if this is what the victim wishes as an outcome
- Increase the number of domestic violence perpetrators engaged in directed programmes

- Improved victim satisfaction within the criminal justice services
- Reduction in the percentage of repeat victimisation.
- More community groups and informal networks are safe spaces for disclosure. All
 victims have the confidence to approach any service and know that they will be
 supported.
- Agencies are working together with community and faith leaders to challenge views that perpetuate violence against women and girls.
- Equality of approach; improved understanding, assessment and recognition about the individual and contextual risks associated with VAWG
- 5.1 This Plan is to be agreed at the SLP in July and will form the basis of focused work by all over the next 4 years.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 The SLP currently monitors the spend and forthcoming resource challenges will need to be considered in line with this agenda and offer.

7.0 Legal & Human Rights Implications

- 7.1 The Council is under a number of statutory obligations to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the Council to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder; the Anti Social Behaviour 2003 requires the Council as a local housing authority to have policies and procedures for dealing with anti-social behaviour and the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 places the Council under a duty to have, when carrying out its functions, due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between persons of different racial groups.
- 7.2 The Local Government Act 1999 places a duty on the local authorities to secure continuous improvement in the way its functions are exercised having regard to the combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 7.3 Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 empowers the local authority to do anything which it considers likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of all or any persons within the local authority's area.
- 7.4 These statutory duties amongst others feed into the Council's Safer Lewisham Strategy.

8.0 Equalities Implications

8.1 Developing safe and secure communities is central to the work of the Council as a whole and in particular to the Community Services directorate. Reducing and preventing crime, reducing fear of crime and supporting vulnerable communities is critical to the well-being of all our citizens.

4

9.0 Crime and Disorder Implications

9.1 Section 17 places a duty on partners to do all they can to reasonably prevent crime and disorder in their area. The level of crime and its impact is influenced by the decisions and activities taken in the day-to-day of local bodies and organisations. The responsible authorities are required to provide a range of services in their community from policing, fire protection, planning, consumer and environmental protection, transport and highways. They each have a key statutory role in providing these services and, in carrying out their core activities, can significantly contribute to reducing crime and improving the quality of life in their area.

10.0 Environmental Implications

10.1 All appropriate services are consulted about on agreed activity before proceeding where Key decisions made may have environmental implications

For further information on this report please contact Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney Head of Crime Reduction & Supporting People, Directorate for Community Services on 020 8 314 9569



Violence Against Woman and Girls Plan 2017-2021

Standing Together to keep people safe;

THE VIOLENCE STOPS NOW.

Safer Lewisham Partnership



Forward

"Value yourself - a good relationship is one where you are not afraid, not told what to do, or harmed in anyway

WHEN DID IT BECOME ACCEPTABLE TO BE

AFRAID, CONTROLLED or HIT IN A RELATIONSHIP – IT ISN'T

A **real relationship**, how it's supposed to be, means someone **loving** you, **caring** for you, **trusting** you, **being there** for you, **missing** you, being **vulnerable** with you, **forgiving** you.

CHOOSE TO GET OUT OF A BAD RELATIONSHIP

Xxxxx	
Xxxxx	

XXXX JANET DABY

Join and sign up to **PLEDGE**:

- I will take a zero tolerance approach to violence
- I will not act in a way that will cause harm or distress to others
- I will talk to a trusted adult if I am concerned, am a victim, know someone who is causing harm to others
- I will think before I press send on social media or photos/ videos
- As a parent, carer or adult I will be alert to signs and seek how I can help others with information or support
- As agencies (police, Local Authority, Voluntary sector) we will work together to help those affected by violence

Contents



Jacqui's story - finding my voice

The first few weeks that I was with Peter were **wonderful**. He was **affectionate**, **considerate**, **fun** to be with and a great boost to my self-esteem. But as soon as I moved in with him the violence began. I was **frightened and shocked** but he was always so sorry for what he had done and **promised never to hurt me again**.

He became very **jealous and possessive**. He kept accusing me of having an affair but I just thought he was feeling insecure. **I felt sorry for him**. I believed I could change him. Then he turned against my family and friends and tried not to let me see them. I broke up with him more than once but he was always so sorry for what he'd done that I took him back.

I thought his attacks must somehow be **my fault**. I found myself asking 'What have I done to deserve this? Why am I making him so mad that he has to treat me this way?' I couldn't bring myself to tell anyone what was happening. I was embarrassed and couldn't help thinking it was my fault.

Peter was cunning. No matter how hard he hit me, he was always careful never to mark my face. My family realised what was happening and wanted me to call the police but I couldn't press charges. I was terrified.

Then one day, Peter stabbed me in the face with a fork. I started screaming and tried to back away but he just kept stabbing me with it. I tried to run away but he followed me and picked up a glass and chucked it at me. I was bleeding and in agony with a shard of glass stuck in my side but Peter just picked up his keys and walked out.

I called an ambulance that took me to the hospital where they stitched me up. This time I did find the strength to go to the police and they put me in touch with Refuge. I knew I had no choice. If I had gone back to Peter, I might not be here today. I finally saw him for what he was — a menace who used violence to control me.

Slowly I am starting to rebuild my life and my confidence. I have left the refuge and moved into my new flat – a place I hope Peter will never find. I still suffer from headaches and I don't sleep well.

I am cautious of everyone, particularly men and it will be hard for me to trust enough to form another relationship. Nothing will change what happened to me but I know that with time I can learn to live again. My life is getting better every day and I know I've done the right thing.

CONTEXT

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is both a form of discrimination and a violation of human rights. It is both a cause and consequence of gender inequality in society. The United Nations (UN) defines VAWG as "any act of gender-based violence that is directed at a woman because she is a woman, or acts of violence which are suffered disproportionally by women". This definition is also endorsed by the London Mayor's Office on Police and Crime, (MOPAC). The Safer Lewisham Partnership has recognised the significant impact these areas have on females, but also recognises that for some of these strands male victims require focus and greater understanding.

Lewisham launched its first VAWG Plan in 2014. Since then, the VAWG legislative and policy context has developed considerably. A range of new legislative measures have been introduced including specific offences of stalking, forced marriage, failure to protect from Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and revenge pornography, as well as a new specific offence of "coercive control". Other key legislative developments include the introduction of the Modern Slavery Act (2015), the rolling out of Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) and the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS), the introduction of FGM Protection Orders and a revised statutory guidance on Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs). HM Government has released a new national strategy, *Ending Violence Against Women and Girls 2016-20*. The refreshed strategy retains the framework of Prevention, Provision of services, Partnership working and Pursuing perpetrators.

The Safer Lewisham Partnership has committed to a focused response to this issue and has adopted the London Mayors Policing and Crime Plan 2017-2021. In this Plan there is a clear recognition of this issue across London, and is committing to undertaking reviews and funding to support this agenda. Lewisham will play a key role in the London agenda and offer and work collaboratively to ensure that there is a comprehensive offer for residents in Lewisham affected by any strands within VAWG. MOPAC plan a release of their refreshed VAWG Strategy in November 2017, (building on from the Mayoral Strategy on Violence Against Women and Girls 2013-17).

Whilst the partnership acknowledges and supports the VAWG principles held by central Government and London Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime (MOPAC), it is worth noting that Lewisham will include children and young people within the Plan, as well as recognising elder abuse. In Lewisham, domestic violence and abuse is a priority for the Lewisham Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB), and has been flagged as a priority within the Lewisham Safeguarding Children's Board's (LSCB) Neglect Strategy, underpinning work for 2017 and going forward.

It is acknowledged that **men and boys** will also experience and be affected by the range of issues that encompass the VAWG strands and Lewisham's response includes these. The term violence against women and girls can be accompanied by concern about the exclusion of men and boys from services and a lack of recognition that they can experience these forms of violence and abuse. This does not detract from the clear focus on this agenda affecting women and girls disproportionally, and the approach is tailored accordingly.

It is recognised that people may be impacted by more than one type of abuse and that the intersectional nature of each person's identity will frame their experience and how they access support. As such, the partnership is committed to increasing reporting rates and providing support and appropriate services for male and Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender (LGBT) victims. Agencies developing clear pathways to support all victims of all gender-based abuse is crucial.

-

¹ 'The Way Forward. Taking Action to end violence against women and girls', Mayor of London 2010-2013

The Lewisham Landscape

It is widely acknowledged that all strands of violence against women and girls are underreported and many victims and survivors do not come to the attention of services. This, coupled with lack of awareness of professionals around individual strands, means that we do not have robust data. Many incidents of VAWG and domestic abuse are hidden and not reported. These issues are compounded by the often high levels of cultural/community acceptance of types of VAWG and domestic abuse.

There are also sometimes corresponding low levels of awareness among communities and relevant professionals about how to identify victims/survivors and perpetrators of VAWG and domestic abuse, or those at risk of becoming victims/survivors or perpetrators, and how to ensure that these individuals and families access support. In addition, the way in which many types of alleged offence are recorded does not always allow easy differentiation between female and male victim/survivors or between categories of VAWG and domestic abuse.

Furthermore, prevalence data does not capture information about people at risk of VAWG or domestic abuse (who may never become victims/survivors). It is also likely to under-estimate the numbers of repeat victims and how often individuals are repeatedly victimised, as well as the numbers of witnesses of VAWG or domestic abuse. Increasing the number of victims that tell services they are experiencing violence or abuse is an important focus.

Athena Service

Since its inception in April 2015, the Athena service has seen a **16% increase** in referrals (1,577 in 2016/2017 compared to 1,324 in 2015/2016). The service has supported on average 550 victims each year, with domestic abuse being the highest presenting need.

Victims of multiple forms of Abuse

Due to better data collection, we are able to see that victims are experiencing and reporting (to Athena) multiple forms of VAWG. For example, a victim can be experiencing domestic violence, stalking, sexual abuse, and honour based violence; all at the same time. **42%** of all victims in 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 reported experiencing at least two or more types of VAWG.

VAWG brings together eight strands of policy under one umbrella (data 2016-2017):

Lewisham: :1 in 31 women or 48 people :2 Domestic Homicides since 2014 : Of all child protection cases 55% involved domestic abuse : MARAC – 13 % increase in referrals (510) : 17% increase since 2015.	Domestic violence and Abuse	London: 1 in 38 women or 1 in 59 people
: 2 Domestic Homicides since 2014 : Of all child protection cases 55% involved domestic abuse : MARAC – 13 % increase in referrals (510) : 17% increase since 2015.		Lewisham:
: Of all child protection cases 55% involved domestic abuse : MARAC – 13 % increase in referrals (510) : 17% increase since 2015.		:1 in 31 women or 48 people
involved domestic abuse : MARAC – 13 % increase in referrals (510) : 17% increase since 2015.		: 2 Domestic Homicides since 2014
: MARAC – 13 % increase in referrals (510) : 17% increase since 2015.		: Of all child protection cases 55%
(510) : 17% increase since 2015.		involved domestic abuse
: 17% increase since 2015.		: MARAC – 13 % increase in referrals
		(510)
. Fourth his host water of warrand of		: 17% increase since 2015.
: Fourth nighest rate of recorded		: Fourth highest rate of recorded
domestic abuse in London.		domestic abuse in London.

Sexual Violence and Rape	London: 1 in 530 people	
	Lewisham: 1 in 447 people : 11 th highest prevalence in London : 20% increase since 2014	

Stalking	London: 695	
	Lewisham: 26	

Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation	London 1
	Lewisham 0

Prostitution	London (still being collated)
	Lewisham (still being collated)

Female Genital Mutilation	London: :		
(FGM)			
	An estimated 3,539 women and girls are affected by		
	female genital mutilation in Lewisham (or 2.9% of the		
	national female population), with 90 victim/survivors		
	reported between April 2015 and March 2016		

Forced Marriage	London (still being collated)
there are high but hidden levels of forced marriage and crimes committed in the name of honour	
11011041	Lewisham (still being collated)

Crimes said to be committed in the name of 'honour.'	London collated)	(still	being
	Lewishan collated)	n (still	being

Lewisham Residents Survey

"Some people think they're worthless without another person.. they get so deluded and wrapped up they don't see it.. they don't just have the balls to get up and leave"

"The person you're most scared of in the world is often also the person you trust most in the world"

A summary from the Residents survey:

- The consultation has shown that the vast majority of people want to see a clearer and concerted focus on healthy relationships in schools. Using more interactive ways to connect with teachers and students to ensure attitudes to VAWG are challenged.
- Visibility was also a significant issue raised. Respondents want to see more messages about zero tolerance to VAWG.
- There is a recognition that there is increased complexity when women experiencing multiple disadvantage (mental health, complex needs, drugs and alcohol, homelessness and No Resource to Public Funds) access services, as well as a marked fear of institution identified.
- The two biggest challenges highlighted by respondents are skills provision providing parents, professionals and community members with the skills to support victims and survivors of VAWG, and;
- The main gap that has been identified is the lack community hubs, where people can go to for advice (3rd party reporting sites). "widely publicise where people in the community can go for advice, if they have concerns"
- Respondents also mentioned having access to a range of service provision (online directory).
- Online bullying/harassment and receiving unwanted sexually explicit messages were the most common negative online experiences for under 25 year olds – how are the online dangers understood by all.

The Strategic vision

In setting the Priorities a number of aspects have been taken into consideration. These include:

- the London Police and Crime Commissioners Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021
- Regional work being undertaken in respect of the London Landscape future projections in respect of harm and vulnerability and any regional and sub-regional commissioning across agencies
- Reviews in respect of disproportionality and cohesion including Baroness Young, MP David Lammy, and Dame Louise Casey
- Inspection outcomes that relate to all partners within the Partnership
- Information from our local strategic needs assessment and local residents survey
- Lewisham's local assessment profiles including Serious Youth Violence, and Child Sexual Exploitation and Domestic abuse for under 25 year olds
- The 17-18 Safer Lewisham Plan

The Borough partners and residents have identified the following as being essential for our collective approach:

- Reduction in harm and vulnerability being critical as part of an overall prevention, intervention and enforcement strategy
- Clear focus on reducing violence in all its forms
- Focusing on redesigning and delivering services that supports and provides a victim centric approach. Seeking to ensure that all contact and outcomes by all agencies puts victims at the forefront. Reducing fear, harm and Re-victimisation is critical.
- Considering contextual analysis and location risks.
- Improving confidence and satisfaction in police, local authorities and public services.

The ecological framework (World Health Organisation) is based on evidence that no single factor can explain why some people or groups are at higher risk of interpersonal violence, while others are more protected from it. This framework views interpersonal violence as the outcome of interaction among many factors at four levels—the individual, the relationship, the community, and the societal.

- At the individual level, personal history and biological factors influence how individuals behave and increase their likelihood of becoming a victim or a perpetrator of violence. Among these factors are being a victim of child maltreatment, psychological or personality disorders, alcohol and/or substance abuse and a history of behaving aggressively or having experienced abuse.
- Personal **relationships** such as family, friends, intimate partners and peers may influence the risks of becoming a victim or perpetrator of violence. For example, having violent friends may influence whether a young person engages in or becomes a victim of violence.
- **Community** contexts in which social relationships occur, such as schools, neighbourhoods and workplaces, also influence violence. Risk factors here may include the level of unemployment, population density, mobility and the existence of a local drug or gun trade.
- Societal factors influence whether violence is encouraged or inhibited. These include
 economic and social policies that maintain socioeconomic inequalities between people, the
 availability of weapons, and social and cultural norms such as those around male dominance
 over women, parental dominance over children and cultural norms that endorse violence as
 an acceptable method to resolve conflicts.

The approach:

- Reducing levels of violence and exposure to violence
- De-normalising violence it is unacceptable
- Understanding and addressing the root causes of violence
- Taking a life course approach whereby the benefit is of effective, evidence based interventions accumulate from the beginning of life
- Building on the positive assets of people and their communities
- Ensuring our services are accessible and effective at addressing holistic young people, family and peer group needs.

The vision and priorities have been produced collectively with our residents, partners, community groups, Councillors and VAWG Forum. Through this process the vision and the four strategic priorities have been agreed for the lifespan of this strategy

The Vision for Lewisham to 2021

- Improved safety, health and wellbeing of young people and victims supported by the VAWG services in Lewisham
- Everyone, Family, friends, communities and practitioners, knows about all forms of violence against women and girls and how to disclose abuse and get support. Everyone knowing how to support victims, including those with care and support needs.
- Women, particularly those from different cultural backgrounds, have an increased awareness of violence against women and girls.
- Services take a trauma informed approach to supporting victim/survivors, recognising their range of support needs
- Implementing the learning from tragic Domestic Homicide Reviews
- Increase percentage of crime outcomes rates for all strands of VAWG, if this is what the victim wishes as an outcome
- Increase the number of domestic violence perpetrators engaged in directed programmes
- Improved victim satisfaction within the criminal justice services
- Reduction in the percentage of repeat victimisation.
- More community groups and informal networks are safe spaces for disclosure. All victims have the confidence to approach any service and know that they will be supported.
- Agencies are working together with community and faith leaders to challenge views that perpetuate violence against women and girls.
- Equality of approach; improved understanding, assessment and recognition about the individual and contextual risks associated with VAWG

Strategic Priorities

Protecting and educating

Prevention of such violence from happening by working with schools, promoting healthy relationships, challenging the attitudes and behaviours which encourage it and intervening early is key to the Safer Lewisham Partnerships' VAWG prevent strategy.

The partnership knows that preventing violence and abuse from happening in the first place will make a significant difference to overall prevalence of these crimes. Continuing to challenge deep-rooted social norms, attitudes and behaviours that discriminate against and limit women and girls across all communities is critical.

Witnessing and being a victim of violence and abuse has a huge negative impact on outcomes later in life. Quicker intervention, particularly in early childhood, can prevent individuals developing a propensity for domestic violence and abuse. We also want to ensure Lewisham victims know where to go to for help, and at the earliest opportunity.

Children are affected by domestic violence and abuse, and that early childhood experiences of living in a family setting where violence and abuse occurs will have negative impact on a young person's wellbeing and development later in life. Lewisham is committed to addressing the links between domestic violence and abuse and trauma in childhood. Continuing work with schools and children's services to address aggressive behaviour in young men to assist them in understanding that domestic violence and abuse is not normalised behaviour will be essential.

- Together with the Home Office and MOPAC, develop and lead on a
 partnership communications campaign strategy; challenging and
 changing views and behaviours that perpetuate violence against
 women and girls. Awareness raising needs to be tailored through a
 range of channels including social media, outreach, and campaigns.
- Imbed a Trauma informed approach across the Children's workforce and wider Economy working with children.
- Work with the Lewisham's Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) and the Adult Safeguarding Board to ensure that messages delivered through training are consistent and support practitioners to make the links between VAWG, safeguarding children and child sexual exploitation, harmful behaviours, peer to peer abuse and vulnerable adults.
- Focus on under 25 year olds peer on peer abuse challenge including CSE, County lines drug dealing, and serious youth violence.
- Everyone knows about all forms of violence against women and girls and how to disclose abuse and get support. Assessing contextual risks, and fully understanding the dynamics and risks associated with adolescence and services approach to these in line with the peer on peer abuse report (Feb 17). Ensuring multi agency confidence in understanding of consent, and recognise the ways in which environments, contexts and relationships can limit the safe choices available to young people

Deliver the right Support

It is important that we deliver and adequate **Provision of Services** and support to all victims and those vulnerable to being victims of violence.

It is vital to provide high quality services to anyone who needs it. Ensuring that all victims and survivors regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation and complex needs are provided with a high quality person centred response.

- Victims should expect to access specialist support quickly, appropriately, fairly and easily. This will be provided through the support of a community based specialist VAWG service, for victims to access directly, and specialist supported accommodation along with integrating pan London and nationally commissioned services, including those funded by the Home Office, MOPAC and London Councils.
- Safe spaces will be created for survivors to disclose abuse, working with key locations across Lewisham.
- Work will be undertaken to address the underreporting by both genders, different ethnic groups and community groups through increased communication between services, ensuring that everyone knows what to do in the case of disclosures.
- Developing a local approach supporting those involved in the sex trade.
- Support will be joined up and can address all risk, harm, needs and vulnerabilities including substance abuse, child sexual exploitation (CSE), housing/homelessness, knife crime, modern slavery and debt.

Working together

Partnership Working with services and communities is important in order to develop a strength based community led response to obtain the best outcome for victims, partners and their families. This partnership working includes involving the victim at all stages in developing this work.

- Strong partnerships need to be developed, that work together to protect those at highest-risk and the most vulnerable, and to deliver the best possible response to victims and perpetrators
- There will be a commitment to ongoing review of service provision and partnership working to ensure that wider outcomes are being delivered.
- Good practice and innovation for professionals will be identified and supported and partners will encourage reflection and learning in service delivery. Develop third party reporting centres where victims of violence against women and girls can disclose and be linked into support services.
- Ensure that our model means that any disclosure of abuse will trigger immediate efforts to support the victim/survivor, including connecting them to community initiatives that can reduce their isolation, increase their confidence and provide them with a supportive network.
- Community led education and awareness raising

Ensure that perpetrators are held to account

All agencies need to take action to reduce the risk to women and girls who are victims of these crimes by ensuring that **Pursuing Perpetrators** until they are brought to justice, is a key focus in all our VAWG plans.

Build on the zero-tolerance approach to VAWG, and take this approach with these perpetrators, who should be held to account for their actions. A feasibility review of, where it is safe to do so, working in a holistic way with all professionals, especially those who work with the whole family, and look at engaging perpetrators in interventions designed to reduce harm and future offending.

- Coordinate, monitor, review and aim to increase the use:
 - Domestic Violence Protection Orders
 - Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare's Law)
 - > FGM Protection Orders
 - Forced Marriage Protection Orders.
 - Stalking Protection Orders
 - Modern Slavery Orders
- Better use of Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) to manage the most serious risk of harm domestic abuse offenders including those with sexual offending within the context of an intimate relationship
- Ensure that perpetrators, and not victims, will have their behaviour (and the causes for their behaviour) challenged
- Proactive approach to trafficking through organised crime
- Undertake a feasibility review of alternative interventions.

Understanding the issues and having an impact

Having a clear understanding about the issues as they affect Lewisham is essential in progressing and shaping the services and actions by all.

- A clear Local Profile against each strand of VAWG will help to deliver on the priorities
- Clear data capture, reporting and identification across all agencies will give a more complete picture
- Commitment to joint analysis to help redesign, recommissioning and testing approaches
- Effective governance through the VAWG steering group and SLP will ensure delivery

Finance and Resources

There have been a number of significant changes in the funding and resourcing for all aspects of the Criminal Justice system both locally and regionally. Mayor of London is the Police and Crime Commissioner, and he delegates this portfolio to Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime - MOPAC. MOPAC not only holds the Met Police to account for delivering its priorities, but it also has overarching responsibilities for crime reduction in the capital and has significant powers to commission services. All partners are committed to working collaboratively and to support funding applications where appropriate to continue the support required to deliver on the areas identified as priorities for 2017-18.

Resources across the partnership have reduced significantly and all agencies are seeing large scale transformation. The changing landscape will impact on deliverability and will need to be reviewed and monitored regularly and closely by the Safer Lewisham Partnership.

To deliver this plan the ability to undertake detailed analytical products is essential. This is a significant risk to the Partnerships ability to review performance regularly and understand the impact of the work.

Further copies of the Plan can be obtained on request to the Crime Reduction and Supporting People Services within the Council.

If you would like the information in the document translated into a different language, provided in large print or in Braille or the spoken word, please contact us on:

Tel No.: 0208 314 9569

Post: Crime Reduction and Supporting People Division

London Borough of Lewisham, Lawrence House, Catford Road, SE6 4RU

In developing this plan, there has been a series of consultation processes as well as collation of data from a range of sources. We would welcome any feedback, suggestions or proposals from individuals or organisations.

For practical advice in relation to community safety and crime prevention, please visit the website:

www.crimereduction.gov.uk

Call Crime Stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 to give information about a crime

For information on your local Safer Neighbourhood Teams please visit:

http://www.met.police.uk/teams/lewisham/index.php

For support on VAWG contact Athena: 0800 112 4052

Lewishamvawg@refuge.org.uk

For full directory of VAWG services please visit:

www.crimereduction.gov.uk