

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee Agenda

Tuesday, 25 February 2014
7.00 pm, Committee Room 1
Civic Suite
Lewisham Town Hall
London SE6 4RU

For more information contact: Timothy Andrew (02083147916)

Part 1

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Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee Members

Members of the committee, listed below, are summoned to attend the meeting to be held on Tuesday, 25 February 2014.

Barry Quirk, Chief Executive
Thursday, 13 February 2014

Councillor Pauline Morrison (Chair)	
Councillor Jim Mallory (Vice-Chair)	
Councillor Olufunke Abidoye	
Councillor Jackie Addison	
Councillor Anne Affiku	
Councillor Paul Bell	
Councillor Duwayne Brooks	
Councillor Patsy Foreman	
Councillor Michael Harris	
Councillor Dan Whittle	
Councillor Alan Hall (ex-Officio)	
Councillor Kevin Bonavia (ex-Officio)	

MINUTES OF THE SAFER STRONGER COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 21 January 2014 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Pauline Morrison (Chair), Jim Mallory (Vice-Chair), Olufunke Abidoye, Jackie Addison, Duwayne Brooks, Patsy Foreman and Michael Harris

APOLOGIES: None

ALSO PRESENT: Paul Aladenika (Head of Policy and Partnership), Timothy Andrew (Scrutiny Manager), Winston Castello (Local Assemblies Team Manager), Liz Dart (Head of Culture and Community Development) and Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney (Head of Crime Reduction and Supporting People)

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2013

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2013 be agreed as a true record.

2. Declaration of interests

Councillor Mallory declared a non-prejudicial interest in relation to item five due to his involvement in Lee Fair Share.

Councillor Morrison declared a non-prejudicial interest in relation to item five due to her involvement in the Ackroyd Community Centre.

3. Response from Mayor and Cabinet on Transforming Rehabilitation

This item was considered after item six.

3.1 Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney introduced the response from Mayor and Cabinet, noting the following key points:

- Both the Mayor and officers shared the concerns raised by the Committee in its referral.
- It was felt that the changes to the probation service were being rushed through, without proper consideration of the potential impact or the risks involved.
- Officers were using every opportunity to raise their concerns about: the new structure of the probation service; the proposed payment mechanisms: the lack of detail available about the management of offenders.
- Meetings had been held with the Ministry of Justice to try to ascertain how risks would be managed in the new structure.
- The probation service had been restructured – and probation colleagues had been assigned to their new roles based on their case loads, rather than through an interview process.
- More information should be available in six weeks, when Council officers would be attending an event about plans for the operation of the new service.

- The new service was due to become operational in October.
- The Ministry of Justice was based in London, which meant it was easier for London authorities to engage with decision makers and raise their concerns.
- Sara Robinson had been appointed as Deputy Director – London for the New National Probation service – which should be positive for Lewisham – because she was a former Assistant Chief Officer in Lewisham and understood Lewisham specific issues.
- The plans that had been made available to date did not clearly demonstrate what the responsibilities of local authorities would be.
- Officers were working to ascertain what role the Council would be required to take in the new structure.
- Officers would also be working to ensure that Lewisham service providers were positioned to sub-contract from the prime provider when this opportunity became available.

4. Promoting a sense of belonging: update

The Committee did not consider this item.

5. Main grants programme 2014-15

This item was considered after item 2.

5.1 Liz Dart (Head of Culture and Community Development) introduced the report, noting the following key points:

- Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts) had agreed to extend the main grants programme for a further year (2014-15) at its meeting on 4 December.
- Mayor and Cabinet had approved the detail of the grant funding allocation, including the funding of rent grants for four organisations.
- A number of organisations had submitted bids to grow their services – which the Council was unable to fund from the resources available.
- Grants for 2013-14 had been adjusted to mirror the salary increase agreed for local government.
- Organisations were able to appeal the grant funding decision – no organisation had chosen to do so.

5.2 In response to questions from the Committee the following key points were noted:

- Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel had requested that officers provide analysis of the main grants programme setting out the geographical spread of provision and the types of provision on offer.
- This would include information about organisations that worked to build links between communities and enhance community cohesion.

Resolved: to note the report.

6. Local assemblies review

This item was considered after item two.

6.1 Winston Castello (Local Assemblies Team Manager) introduced the report and presentation, noting the following key points:

- This was the fifth full year of the assemblies programme.

- Information had been collected about the demographics of attendees as well as the priorities and achievements of the assemblies programme.
- Assemblies had similar priorities but different ways of operating.
- The programme demonstrated that small initiatives involving many people could have a positive impact.
- The Council was reviewing the delivery of its services in the context of reductions to its budget; therefore a number of questions were pertinent to the future direction of the assemblies programme:
 - How the Local Assemblies could best foster community action.
 - How Local Assemblies could jointly develop areas of work which were of mutual interest.
 - How Local Assemblies could continue to engage with communities outside of meetings and maintain a strong and pro-active profile in challenging fiscal times.

6.2 Liz Dart (Head of Culture and Community Development) advised the Committee about recent developments; the following key points were noted:

- Figures in the annual report demonstrated a year on year rise in the number of people attending assemblies; however the most recent figures indicated there had been a drop in people attending meetings.
- Officers continued to work on identifying best practice, working out which things that could be passed between wards and those that worked solely on a ward by ward basis.
- Both she and the Executive Director for Community Services had been visiting assembly coordinating group meetings.
- So far they had visited nine out of the 18 coordinating groups.
- Key points noted by officers as a result of these meetings were:
 - Concerns from residents about the responsiveness of some Council services.
 - Uncertainty on the part of co-ordinating groups about the use of devolved budgets.
 - The need to engage with community development teams from registered social landlords.
 - The interaction between assemblies and Safer Neighbourhood Panels (it was recognised that some panels were working well and some were 'tired').
 - The importance of achieving a balance between assembly focus on physical infrastructure and services as opposed to well-being and health.

6.3 Liz Dart (Head of Culture and Community Development) also provided an update about a new project created through the investment fund; the following key points were noted:

- Using the investment fund – the Council had set up the 'Community Connections' project – which would be working with community groups and individuals to enhance wellbeing.
- Four 'community development workers' would be working with organisations to identify gaps in service provision and develop ways organisations could refer to the project.
- Three 'community support facilitators' would be working with individuals to ensure the people remained connected with their communities.
- The project was split across four areas in Lewisham and linked to time banks in each area.

- Facilitators might help when people were discharged from hospital. They might also assist in setting up projects to create links between communities.
- The project would also engage with assemblies to ensure that local connections and information were fully utilised.

6.4 In response to questions from the Committee, the following key points were noted:

- The Community Connections project should enhance other work happening in the borough by creating connections between services.
- In some local assemblies there was a divide between citizens interested in the regeneration of the borough and citizens interested in social and community projects.
- Officers could bring further information to the Committee about the Community Connections project.
- The project had been running for just over a month. There would be further work to do to ensure that the availability and the aims of the project were communicated to residents.
- The project could also work to create links with the assemblies programme – in order to make best use of the expertise and community involvement already available.
- There might be different things assemblies could do to increase the number of residents attending meetings.

6.5 The Committee also noted its concerns about the integration of the new project with existing activities in the community. Members expressed the expectation that support workers would have a broad remit that included all vulnerable people in need; beyond those that were referred by GPs or requiring care following hospital treatment.

Resolved: to note the report and to receive a further update on Community Connections.

7. **Select Committee work programme**

Members discussed the work programme report and-

Resolved: to add an additional item to the work programme on the Community Connections project - and to receive information about work to reduce violence against women and girls.

8. **Items to be referred to Mayor and Cabinet**

None

The meeting ended at 8.10 pm

Chair:

Date:

MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE AND SAFER STRONGER COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE

Monday, 3 February 2014 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Pauline Morrison, John Paschoud, Jim Mallory, Jackie Addison, Anne Affiku, David Britton, Patsy Foreman, Stella Jeffrey, Jacq Paschoud, Philip Peake, Alan Till and Sharon Archibald

APOLOGIES: Councillors Olufunke Abidoye, Paul Bell, Duwayne Brooks, Marion Nisbet, Monsignor N Rothern, Gail Exon, Lisa Palin, Mark Saunders and Crada Onuegbu

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Joan Millbank (Cabinet Member for the Third Sector), Timothy Andrew (Scrutiny Manager), Aileen Buckton (Executive Director for Community Services), Helen Glass (Principal Lawyer), Andrew Hagger (Scrutiny Manager), Mike Haw (Mayor's Political Assistant), Mervyn Kaye (Youth Services Manager), Salena Mulhere (Overview and Scrutiny Manager), Barrie Neal (Head of Corporate Policy and Governance), Jonathan Slater (Strategic Development Officer - Children and Young People) (Voluntary Action Lewisham), Warwick Tomsett (Head of Targeted Services and Joint Commissioning) and Charly Williams (Children and Young People's Commissioner)

1. Election of the Chair

Andrew Hagger (Scrutiny Manager) opened the meeting and sought nominations for the Chair of the meeting.

Councillor Morrison nominated Councillor John Paschoud and the committees agreed that Councillor Paschoud would chair the meeting.

2. Minutes of the meeting held 6 November 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2014 were agreed as a true record.

3. Declarations of interest

Councillor Mallory declared a non-prejudicial interest under item four as the Chair of Lee Green Lives.

Councillor John Paschoud declared a non-prejudicial interest under item four as a member of the management board of Sydenham and Forest Hill Youth Forum and as a member of the Lewisham Disability Coalition.

Councillor Addison declared a non-prejudicial interest in relation to item four as a member of the board of trustees of Walk in Space youth club.

4. Response from Mayor and Cabinet on matters referred - Reshaping Youth Services

Warwick Tomsett (Head of Targeted Services and Joint Commissioning) introduced the response from Mayor and Cabinet and highlighted the following key points:

- The mapping information requested by the committees had been provided in the report.
- Where possible, officers had been in contact with the young people who had been using Oakridge youth centre.
- Of the previous 30 regular attendees, eight had signed up for other provision and the Council's text message information service.
- A new provider had been found for the Oakridge centre. The organisation had been working with VAL to ensure that after an initial period of three year funding from the Council its services would become self-sustaining.
- Officers planned to align youth service commissioning with the main grant programme, where this was feasible.
- Contracts with providers would be as simple and accessible as possible.

In response to questions from the Committees, the following key points were noted:

- The Council's lawyers were drawing up a contract for commissioned youth provision. This would be available shortly – and would be circulated to chairs and vice-chairs of committees as soon as possible.
- The central element of contracts would remain the same – but each organisation would have a separate service specification and monitoring arrangements.
- The contract was required to contain key legal provisions in full; specifically those relating to child protection, data protection and the right of the Council to terminate. Nonetheless, efforts were being made to ensure that contracts were accessible and comprehensible for small organisations.
- Contracts would be based on those used for the main grants programme – which had been agreed with the community and voluntary sector through the Lewisham Compact. An example was available on the Council's website.
- The provider taking over the Oakridge centre would start running a supplementary school – but the intention was that they would set up universal provision as soon as possible (expected to be within one or two months).

Members of the Committee then-

Resolved: to note the response from Mayor and Cabinet.

5. Commissioned Youth Provision

Warwick Tomsett (Head of Targeted Services and Joint Commissioning) introduced the report; the following key points were noted:

- 151 bids for funding had been received from 97 organisations.
- 73% of organisations were from the community and voluntary sector
- 66% were Lewisham based
- A range of organisations had submitted bids across a broad range of types of provision, geographic spread and term-time/non-term-time delivery.
- Bids for funding totalled £4.5m (significantly more than the £966k available) – with £1.5 in linked funding from other sources.
- Bids were of very high quality. Only 5 organisations from the 151 applying were ineligible for funding.
- Following the scoring and analysis process 37 projects had been put forward for the £966k available.
- 89% of these organisations were from the community and voluntary sector.
- 74% were Lewisham based.
- 68% were to provide universal provision.
- 32% were to provide targeted provision.
- The commissioning process had also enabled organisations to apply for linked funding. This meant that for every £1 allocated in funding £1.87 of services would be delivered.

In response to questions from the committees of Warwick Tomsett and Mervyn Kaye (Youth Services Manager) the following key points were noted:

- The commissioning proposals set out plans for allocation of £856,493 of provision from the £966,000 available. The remaining funding would be used for responsive commissioning of provision throughout the year to meet specific needs as they arose.
- The process for allocating responsive funding was being developed.
- Officers had been working to ensure that there was an even geographic spread of provision – including in the South East of the borough.
- A range of activities had also been proposed to ensure that there was open access to a mix of activities for any young person who was interested.
- The commissioning process had been designed to ensure that membership organisations, such as the Scouts and Brownies, demonstrated how they'd encourage and widen participation. However, these groups would not be asked to alter their membership criteria.
- The main grants programme had been extended by a year to link with funding from the youth service. The aim was to create a mixture of short-term and longer term funding for different activities, as required.
- The youth service would work with commissioned groups to ensure they had plans in place to sustain their services over the longer term.
- Officers were working to ensure the right provision was in place for all young people – this required some organisations to change the way they were working in order to better serve their target populations.
- For some organisations, commissioning would be a continuation of funding.
- The commissioning fund should add greater value - in contrast to what had been delivered through previous funding.

In response to questions from the committees of Aileen Buckton (Executive Director for Community Services) the following key points were noted:

- The Council had committed to providing three year funding through the community and voluntary sector compact.
- The decision to provide one year grant funding in 2014/15 would enable different areas of the Council and the community and voluntary sector to work together.
- All organisations were required to be monitored annually. Their funding only remained in place as long as they continued to perform successfully and produce their required outcomes.
- Community and voluntary sector organisations would be receiving funding for specific projects from different Council services – including public health, support for older people, the main grants programme and commissioned youth services.
- Through the compact steering group the Council had agreed to streamline the performance monitoring information required from funded organisations.
- Organisations would have a single monitoring officer to deal with – and could expect visits from one monitoring officer rather than separate visits from officers about each area of funding.
- Council grant funding was for specific purposes, and could not be used to finance loans or generate interest payments.

Jonathan Slater (Strategic Development Officer – Children and Young People, Voluntary Action Lewisham) addressed the committees; the following key points were noted:

- Overall the commissioning process had been effective.
- VAL had been asked to assess funding applications to determine which organisations they were already working with and to determine whether links could be made; there were very few organisations VAL was not already in contact with.
- VAL was working to maintain the focus on measuring outcomes – using the think/learn/do data indicators.
- The Lewisham Compact (setting out how the Council works with community and voluntary sector organisations) needed to be refreshed.
- VAL would work with officers to review the application process.

Joan Millbank (Cabinet Member for the Third Sector) addressed the committees; the following key points were noted:

- The commissioning process seemed to have been roundly positive for community and voluntary sector organisations.
- She had not received any casework or phone calls as a result of the process.
- The Council was keen to ensure that robust monitoring took place in order to ensure accountability – without burdening organisations with requests for information and monitoring visits.
- It was encouraging that joint working and sharing of information between community and voluntary sector organisations seemed to be taking place.

Resolved: to note the report and to refer the Committees' views to Mayor and Cabinet.

6. Referrals to Mayor and Cabinet

The committees resolved to refer their views with Mayor and Cabinet, as follows:

The Committees raised concerns that youth service provision delivered by traditional membership organisations could be perceived as not being universally accessible. Officers should work with providers to ensure that services are promoted to all.

Further information about funding of organisations should be provided at the earliest opportunity, including:

- Funding that organisations already receive from Lewisham Council
- The current funding that organisations receive from the Council for providing youth services
- The extra capacity and services that will be provided by organisations as a result of the Commissioned Youth Provision

The Committees acknowledged the good work that has been carried out by officers in the Children and Young People Directorate and Community Services Directorate in developing a joined up approach to Commissioned Youth Provision. The Committees stressed the importance of aligning the timetables of the Commissioned Youth Provision and the Main Grants Programme as soon as possible. In particular, they should look to achieving a balance between strategic, longer-term grants and shorter, single issue or activity-based grants.

Officers should continue to build on the work carried out to map services in the borough in order to support the on-going development of a strategic approach to ensure a more balanced provision by location and by type of activity and in ways that enhance partnership working, and the provision of services, with the voluntary sector.

The Mayor and Cabinet and the Children and Young People Select Committee should be provided with information at the earliest opportunity about how the 'Responsive Fund' (the remainder of the commissioning budget reserved for in-year spot purchasing of services for unmet needs) will be administered.

The meeting ended at 8.55 pm

Chair: _____

Date: _____

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Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee			
Title	Declaration of interests		
Contributor	Chief Executive	Item	3
Class	Part 1 (Open)	Date	25 February 2014

Declaration of interests

Members are asked to declare any personal interest they have in any item on the agenda.

1. Personal interests

There are three types of personal interest referred to in the Council's Member Code of Conduct:

- (1) Disclosable pecuniary interests
- (2) Other registerable interests
- (3) Non-registerable interests

2. Disclosable pecuniary interests are defined by regulation as:-

- (a) Employment, trade, profession or vocation of a relevant person* for profit or gain
- (b) Sponsorship –payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than by the Council) within the 12 months prior to giving notice for inclusion in the register in respect of expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member or towards your election expenses (including payment or financial benefit from a Trade Union).
- (c) Undischarged contracts between a relevant person* (or a firm in which they are a partner or a body corporate in which they are a director, or in the securities of which they have a beneficial interest) and the Council for goods, services or works.
- (d) Beneficial interests in land in the borough.
- (e) Licence to occupy land in the borough for one month or more.
- (f) Corporate tenancies – any tenancy, where to the member's knowledge, the Council is landlord and the tenant is a firm in which the relevant person* is a partner, a body corporate in which they are a director, or in the securities of which they have a beneficial interest.
- (g) Beneficial interest in securities of a body where:
 - (a) that body to the member's knowledge has a place of business or land in the borough; and

(b) either

- (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or 1/100 of the total issued share capital of that body; or
- (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person* has a beneficial interest exceeds 1/100 of the total issued share capital of that class.

*A relevant person is the member, their spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom they live as spouse or civil partner.

3. Other registerable interests

The Lewisham Member Code of Conduct requires members also to register the following interests:-

- (a) Membership or position of control or management in a body to which you were appointed or nominated by the Council
- (b) Any body exercising functions of a public nature or directed to charitable purposes, or whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy, including any political party
- (c) Any person from whom you have received a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25

4. Non registerable interests

Occasions may arise when a matter under consideration would or would be likely to affect the wellbeing of a member, their family, friend or close associate more than it would affect the wellbeing of those in the local area generally, but which is not required to be registered in the Register of Members' Interests (for example a matter concerning the closure of a school at which a Member's child attends).

5. Declaration and Impact of interest on members' participation

- (a) Where a member has any registerable interest in a matter and they are present at a meeting at which that matter is to be discussed, they must declare the nature of the interest at the earliest opportunity and in any event before the matter is considered. The declaration will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. If the matter is a disclosable pecuniary interest the member must take not part in consideration of the matter and withdraw from the room before it is considered. They must not seek improperly to influence the decision in any way. **Failure to declare such an interest which has not already been entered in the Register of Members' Interests, or participation where such an interest exists, is liable to prosecution and on conviction carries a fine of up to £5000**
- (b) Where a member has a registerable interest which falls short of a disclosable pecuniary interest they must still declare the nature of the interest to the meeting at the earliest opportunity and in any event before

the matter is considered, but they may stay in the room, participate in consideration of the matter and vote on it unless paragraph (c) below applies.

- (c) Where a member has a registerable interest which falls short of a disclosable pecuniary interest, the member must consider whether a reasonable member of the public in possession of the facts would think that their interest is so significant that it would be likely to impair the member's judgement of the public interest. If so, the member must withdraw and take no part in consideration of the matter nor seek to influence the outcome improperly.
- (d) If a non-registerable interest arises which affects the wellbeing of a member, their, family, friend or close associate more than it would affect those in the local area generally, then the provisions relating to the declarations of interest and withdrawal apply as if it were a registerable interest.
- (e) Decisions relating to declarations of interests are for the member's personal judgement, though in cases of doubt they may wish to seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer.

6. Sensitive information

There are special provisions relating to sensitive interests. These are interests the disclosure of which would be likely to expose the member to risk of violence or intimidation where the Monitoring Officer has agreed that such interest need not be registered. Members with such an interest are referred to the Code and advised to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer in advance.

7. Exempt categories

There are exemptions to these provisions allowing members to participate in decisions notwithstanding interests that would otherwise prevent them doing so. These include:-

- (a) Housing – holding a tenancy or lease with the Council unless the matter relates to your particular tenancy or lease; (subject to arrears exception)
- (b) School meals, school transport and travelling expenses; if you are a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or a school governor unless the matter relates particularly to the school your child attends or of which you are a governor;
- (c) Statutory sick pay; if you are in receipt
- (d) Allowances, payment or indemnity for members
- (e) Ceremonial honours for members
- (f) Setting Council Tax or precept (subject to arrears exception)

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Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee			
Title	Comprehensive Equalities Scheme (CES) Annual Review 2013/14		
Contributor	Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration	Item	4
Class	Part 1 (Open)	Date	25 February 2014

Introduction

1. This report aggregates information on activities and achievements to provide an overarching summary of progress against the five objectives in the Council's Comprehensive Equalities Scheme (CES).

Recommendations

- i) The Committee is invited to note the contents of this report and the attached appendices.

Background

2. There are two national policy frameworks that provide the backdrop for Lewisham's Comprehensive Equalities Scheme. These are the Equality Act 2010 and the Equality Strategy - '*Building a Fairer Britain*'. Further details regarding both of these frameworks are set out in Appendix A.
3. Lewisham's Comprehensive Equalities Scheme 2012-16 describes the Council's commitment to equality for citizens, service users and employees. The CES also shows how business processes including performance management, review, procurement and commissioning will be utilised to monitor progress against the schemes objectives and help deliver successful outcomes, which this review aims to follow through.
4. The five objectives set out within the CES which this review is measured and monitored against are:
 - tackle victimisation, discrimination and harassment;
 - improve access to services;
 - close the gap in outcomes for citizens;
 - increase mutual understanding and respect between communities;
 - increase participation and engagement.

Progress Update

5. Over the last year, the council has been focussing on strengthening the robust base that it already has with regards to equalities, as well as ensuring efficiency and achieving our savings targets. Therefore the following areas have been maintained and updated as part of business as usual:

- Safeguarding the wellbeing of vulnerable adults and children
- Providing social homes for the priority homeless
- Assisting young people to access the labour market through the council's award winning apprenticeship scheme
- Supporting local voluntary and community groups through the council's grant programme
- Supporting citizen engagement through local assemblies
- Taking forward the young mayor scheme into a tenth successive year
- Monitoring our decisions and considering their impact on protected characteristics through Equalities Monitoring and Analysis Assessments
- Profiling our workforce

Going forward

6. For the foreseeable future the issue of budget savings is likely to have a significant impact on the delivery of the CES. Comprehensive and robust Equalities Analysis Assessment's (EAAs) will make the Council aware of the impact on all protected characteristics. These will ensure that where possible adverse or unintended impacts can be mitigated.
7. There is also the issue of financial inclusion, which sits within the broader strategic framework of the CES and towards which the Sustainable Development Select Committee has made a significant contribution. The Scrutiny Team, project managed, a Financial Inclusion Review on behalf of the Sustainable Development Select Committee. The Review sought to identify ways to increase residents' access to financial advice or services and nine key recommendations which were accepted by the Mayor. One of the recommendations was to set up a Financial Inclusion Forum which consists of organisations from across the borough that have a link with the financial wellbeing of our residents. The Forum had it's first meeting back in June 2013 and is exploring key data sets to determine how the success of initiatives might be monitored.
8. By tackling financial exclusion (and promoting financial inclusion), the Council and its partners will make a positive contribution towards the achievement of all five CES objectives, in particular the objective to: *'close the gap in outcomes for our citizens'*.
9. The Review of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) was published back in October 2013. The review concluded that it was too early to make a final judgment about the impact of the PSED and that the publication of equalities information and the monitoring of service users should be appropriate and proportionate.

Conclusion

10. The Council will continue to monitor progress against the objectives outlined in the CES 2012-16 over the next year. A further annual report will be presented to the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee early in 2015 along with proposals for the new CES 2016-2020.

Legal implications

11. The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a new public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
12. In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
 - eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
13. The duty continues to be a “have regard duty”, and the weight to be attached to it is a matter for the Mayor, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations.
14. The Equality and Human Rights Commission has recently issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled “Equality Act 2010 Services, Public Functions & Associations Statutory Code of Practice”. The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty and attention is drawn to Chapter 11 which deals particularly with the equality duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found at <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/equality-act/equality-act-codes-of-practice-and-technical-guidance/>
15. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has previously issued five guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty:
 1. The essential guide to the public sector equality duty
 2. Meeting the equality duty in policy and decision-making
 3. Engagement and the equality duty
 4. Equality objectives and the equality duty
 5. Equality information and the equality duty
16. The essential guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirements including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice. Further information and resources are available at: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-equality-duty/guidance-on-the-equality-duty/>

Financial Implications

17. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

Environmental Implications

18. There are no specific environmental implications arising from this report.

Equalities Implications

19. The Annual Review of the CES has high relevance to equality and diversity. The CES sets out the Council's five equality objectives and the Annual Review provides an overview of progress against these objectives.

20. The Council's Fairness in Pay and Employment Report is prepared annually and presented to the Public Accounts Select Committee. It considers the profile of Council staff across the 9 protected characteristics.

Crime and Disorder Implications

21. Improving service design and delivery to achieve equality of outcomes for local people, (while promoting good relations between different groups in the community) will have a positive impact on matters such as community safety, crime and disorder, and community cohesion.

For further information about this report please contact Lucy Morton (Principal Policy Officer) on 02083143373.

Appendix A – Equalities Legalisation

Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act was passed in April 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty became effective in April 2011. The Act contains a General Duty which sets out that Public Authorities must, in the exercise of its functions have due regard to the need to:

Equality Act 2010: General Duty

- **eliminate** unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- **advance** equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- **foster** good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

The Public Sector Equality Duty, also contains Specific Dutiesⁱ (published in September 2011) which are designed to help public bodies meet the requirements of the General Duty. Under the specific duties Public Authorities must:

Equality Act 2010: Specific Duties

- **publish** information to demonstrate its compliance with the General Duty across its functions by 31 January 2011, and at least annually after that;
- **prepare** and publish equality objectives by 6 April 2012 and at least every four years after that.

Equality Strategy

The Government's Equality Strategy– '*Building a Fairer Britain*', published in December 2010, sets out the Coalition Government's new approach to equality. This strategy supplements the existing legislative framework, the Equality Act 2010. The Equality Strategy focuses on 2 key principles:

Equality Strategy: Overarching principles

- **equal treatment** – it is not right that people are discriminated against because of who they are or what they believe;
- **equal opportunity**– it is not right or fair that the opportunities open to people are not based on their ambition, ability or hard work, but on who their parents are or where they live.

ⁱEquality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011

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Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee			
Title	DRAFT Safer Violence Against Women and Girls Plan 14-17		
Contributors	Executive Director for Community Services. Head of Crime Reduction and Supporting People	Item	5
Class	Part 1 (Open)	Date	25 February 2014

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 Lewisham Council has a long history of commitment to tackling domestic and sexual violence. This work is now supported by a unified and comprehensive approach to tackling violence against women and girls through a systemic Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Plan.
- 1.2 A needs assessment was undertaken in the summer of 2013 to look at the prevalence of VAWG locally and to determine what Lewisham's priorities should be. Officers in Community Services consulted with partners as well as residents and victims of VAWG.
- 1.3 The needs assessment identified gaps in local knowledge in a number of areas, and proposed 3 key strands for local focus and priority:
 - Domestic violence and abuse
 - Rape and sexual violence
 - Sexual exploitation with particular focus on children
- 1.4 As with all partnership intelligence development documents it is likely that priorities will be revised as further information on all strands of VAWG becomes available. All local partners are committed to dealing with all aspects of VAWG and will be reviewing annually the areas for focus.
- 1.5 The DRAFT plan, which is attached to this report as an appendix, outlines all strands of VAWG and details the consultation undertaken to assist with developing a greater understanding of this agenda. There is more work in train in relation to further understanding the local picture, and this will include focus groups with those who responded to the consultation and with others. Additionally a directory of services in this area is being developed. A final plan will be completed in April 2014.

2. Summary

2.1 Objectives and Goals

VAWG is a multi-faceted issue that links to, and impacts on, a range of other social issues including poverty, unemployment, youth crime, homelessness, child

abuse, health, and problematic substance use. A multi-agency integrated approach to tackling these issues is therefore required.¹

2.2 The Plan sets out four important objectives and goals for Lewisham;

1. Develop a better understanding of VAWG and its impact in the borough;
2. Early Intervention and prevention of VAWG
3. Ensure improved access to support and protection for women and girls in the borough;
4. Hold perpetrators to account and give consideration to the provision of rehabilitation

3. **Recommendations**

3.1 Members of the Safer Stronger Select Committee are invited to note the content of the plan and agree to receive an annual update on its progress.

4. **Background**

4.1 What is Violence Against Women and Girls?

Violence against Women and Girls is both a form of discrimination and a violation of human rights. The Council has adopted the United Nations declaration on elimination of violence towards women, which 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 [or girls], including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty’

United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence towards Women (1993, Article 1)

4.2 Lewisham’s Plan links to the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the recent launch of the London Mayor’s “Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls (2011) and the refreshed Plan in 2013.

4.3 VAWG includes violence that is targeted at women or girls because of their gender or affects women and girls disproportionately. The strands of VAWG as outlined by the government are;

- Domestic Violence
- Rape and Sexual Violence
- Prostitution and Trafficking
- Sexual Exploitation
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Forced Marriage
- Honour Based Violence
- Stalking and Harassment

¹ Mayoral Strategy on Violence Against Women and Girls 2013-2017

- 4.4 This Plan is focused on the needs of women and girls and is a deliberate response to the disproportionate impact of VAWG crimes on women and girls.
- 4.5 This does not mean that men are never victims of, for example, rape, forced marriage, or domestic violence, or even that women are not sometimes perpetrators. The Council is equally committed to tackling the needs of men and to addressing all forms of violence and abuse across the borough. We will do this by ensuring the services we commission also provide support to male victims.

4.6 Lewisham's VAWG Plan

Victims are at the forefront of the Council's wider Crime Reduction Plan, and this continues to be the focus within the VAWG Plan. Although domestic violence and abuse have been a key priority for the Safer Lewisham Partnership over the last five years, it is acknowledged that more can be done to address all other strands of VAWG and how they affect each other. Lewisham remains committed to awareness raising programmes on the issue of VAWG as well as training for all professionals in the borough.

- 4.7 The Council aims to ensure that victims of gender-based violence are provided with an effective multi agency approach through the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) conference and other fora.
- 4.8 The Council and partners also aim to continue to work with perpetrators to reduce future harm and all criminal justice partners working together to ensure that responses reduce risk of harm and contributes to victim safety.

5. Principles and Priorities

- 5.1 The Government's approach to ending VAWG involves a number of actions², including, but not limited to:
- widening the definition of domestic violence and abuse following a public consultation, to include coercive control and to cover 16 and 17 year olds
 - publishing a pocket sized declaration opposing female genital mutilation document for girls and women to carry when abroad, explaining the law and potential criminal penalties
 - running the teenage relation abuse and teenage rape prevention campaigns to prevent teenagers from becoming victims and perpetrators of sexual violence and abuse and directing them to places for help and advice
 - providing protection for victims of stalking by introducing two new specific criminal offences, along with additional related police search powers and training for police and prosecutors
 - signing the Council of Europe's convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence - the 'Istanbul Convention'

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/ending-violence-against-women-and-girls-in-the-uk>

5.2 Lewisham's Principles

The Partnership is committed to delivering an integrated provision for VAWG, working to achieve the following goals and objectives:

1. To develop a better understanding of VAWG and its impact in our borough;
2. To ensure improved access to the support and protection of women and girls in our borough;
3. To hold perpetrators to account.

5.3 What The Partnership Wants to Achieve

Within the context of the principles outlined and following the clear commitment set out in the Safer Lewisham Plan 13/14:

- Reduce key crimes with particular reference to VAWG and serious youth violence.
- Ensure all public services work collaboratively and with communities to prevent crime support victims and reduce re-offending and improving confidence across all criminal justice agencies.

5.4 The identified VAWG priorities are:

- Tackling and reducing incidents of domestic violence and abuse year on year.
- Tackling and reducing rape and sexual violence year on year.
- Tackling sexual exploitation with specific focus on children.

6. Public Consultation - The views of stakeholders and local residents

6.1 To help develop this plan, a consultation was undertaken to seek the views of a wide range of partners in the borough between November 2013 and January 2014. This consultation involved the following;

- Consultation with professionals and partners through local violence against women and girls professional networks.
- An on-line consultation with professionals and service users.

Full details can be found in the attached Plan.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 The SLP currently monitors the spend in relation to the MOPAC funding resource allocation for tackling emerging issues, and this data will be reviewed and agreed at the Performance and Delivery Board or the SLP as required.

7.2 Currently external funding is relied upon in the delivery of this agenda.

8 Legal & Human Rights Implications

8.1 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.

8.2 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.

8.3 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.

8.4 These statutory duties amongst others feed into the Council's Safer Lewisham Strategy.

9 Equalities Implications

9.1 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.

10. Crime and Disorder Implications

10.1 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.

11. Environmental Implications

11.1 The Council's lead for this is an advisor to the SLP and makes representations as appropriate in relation to impact. Environmental services are consulted about all agreed activity before proceeding.

12. Conclusion

12.1 The SLP will continue to review its practice and that of the sub groups to ensure that all activity in relation to crime and disorder and drugs and alcohol is in line

with the Sustainable Community Strategy, and the Safer Lewisham Strategy as well as having links to the children's and young persons' board and the health and wellbeing board. This plan will link closely to the London Mayor's recent VAWG plan and continue to investigate and better understand the local Lewisham picture.

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



The Safer Lewisham Partnership's
Reducing Violence Against Women and Girls Plan
2014-2017

DRAFT

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Foreword

Reducing crime is a priority for us all. The Council, the local Police, our public agency partners, and most importantly the residents of Lewisham, all share a deep commitment to prevent and tackle crime while addressing its root causes. We can do this most effectively by working in partnership.

This first Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Plan for Lewisham has been developed as a result of the excellent partnership work over the last few years with individuals, organisations and victims of violence.

The Plan sets out four important objectives for our borough;

- To develop a better understanding of VAWG and its impact in our borough;
- Early intervention and prevention of VAWG
- To ensure an improved access to the support and protection services offered to women and girls in our borough;
- To hold perpetrators to account.

Challenging the attitudes, behaviours and practices that allow VAWG to prevail is also key to this Plan, and this will be done in the context of a local, national and international commitment to eradicating violence against women and girls. Lewisham continues to offer a co-ordinated response to domestic violence and abuse, a strand of VAWG. Our provision of an effective Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) with a dedicated Lewisham Co-ordinator is one example. We will ensure that Lewisham continues to demonstrate strong leadership in tackling violence against women and girls.

In Lewisham, the practice of working together extends well beyond local public authorities. It is embedded in our community and exemplified by the work of the many individuals and groups working tirelessly across the borough.

The role of the Safer Lewisham Partnership remains the same: by working together we will do all we can to tackle crime in our borough – making Lewisham a safe place for all.

Sir Steve Bullock

Executive summary

Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) is both a form of discrimination and a violation of human rights. Locally we adopt the United Nations declaration on elimination of violence towards women, which 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 [or girls], including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty'

United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence towards Women (1993, Article 1)

This Plan is Lewisham's first Violence Against Women and Girls Plan and aims to build on the existing work incorporated in the Council's Domestic and Sexual Violence Action Plan and supports the Mayor of London's Mayoral Strategy on Violence Against Women and Girls 2013-2017, which was launched November 2013 and informs this Plan. This pan-London strategy forms part of the London's Police and Crime Plan which demonstrates the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's commitment to reducing the prevalence of VAWG and improving confidence of victims in London.

DRAFT

Introduction

Lewisham Council has a long history of commitment to tackling domestic and sexual violence. This work is now supported by a unified and comprehensive approach to tackling violence against women and girls through a systemic VAWG Plan.

A needs assessment was undertaken in the summer of 2013 to look at the prevalence of VAWG locally and to determine what our priorities should be. We also consulted with our Council partners as well as residents and victims of VAWG. We now aim to have focus groups with our local resident women and girls, to ascertain wider feedback.

The needs assessment identified gaps in local knowledge in a number of areas; and proposes 3 key strands for local focus and priority:

- Domestic violence and abuse
- Rape and sexual violence
- Sexual exploitation with particular focus on children

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.

The Plan has been drawn up with the following prime considerations:

Maximum Victim Impact

We have listened to the views of our residents and placed victims at the forefront of our plan. This is to ensure the broadest overlap with the Mayoral Strategy on VAWG 2013-2017 and to ensure the priorities chosen are calculated to have sizeable impact and easily understandable to our local residents.

Intelligence Led

Our selection of priority areas is based on a detailed analysis of current crime and disorder trends in the borough has utilised a wide range of data sources.

Strategic Relevance

Our Plan is also designed to take into account key changes in how we commission services, and any wider changes in respect of this agenda.

Objectives and Goals

VAWG is a multi-faceted issue that links to, and impacts on, a range of other social issues including poverty, unemployment, youth crime, homelessness, child abuse, health, and problematic substance use. A multi-agency, integrated approach to tackling these issues is therefore required.¹

The Plan sets out four important objectives and goals for our borough;

1. To develop a better understanding of VAWG and its impact in our borough;
2. Early intervention and prevention of VAWG;
3. To ensure an improved access to the support and protection of women and girls in our borough;
4. To hold perpetrators to account and consideration of rehabilitation provision.

¹ Mayoral Strategy on Violence Against Women and Girls 2013-2017

PART 1

What is Violence Against Women and Girls?

Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) is both a form of discrimination and a violation of human rights. Locally we adopt the United Nations declaration on elimination of violence towards women, which 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 [or girls], including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty’

United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence towards Women (1993, Article 1)

VAWG includes violence that is targeted at women or girls because of their gender or affects women and girls disproportionately. The strands of VAWG as outlined by the government are;

- Domestic Violence
- Rape and Sexual Violence
- Prostitution and Trafficking
- Sexual Exploitation
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Forced Marriage
- Honour Based Violence
- Stalking and Harassment

This Plan is focused on the needs of women and girls and is a deliberate response to the disproportionate impact of VAWG crimes on women and girls.

This does not mean that men are never victims of, for example, rape, forced marriage, or domestic violence, or even that women are not sometimes perpetrators. The Council is equally committed to tackling the needs of men and to addressing all forms of violence and abuse across the borough. We will do this by ensuring the services we commission also provide support to male victims.

National and International basis for a VAWG Plan

The United Nations (UN) has a Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which was adopted by the General Assembly in 1993. This was followed by a resolution of intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women in 2009.

In 2010, the Mayor of London published *'The Way Forward'*, a London-wide plan aimed to end all forms of violence against women in the capital. In 2011 the Coalition Government published its *'Call to End Violence Against Women & Girls'* which outlines the responsibility of Local Authorities to co-ordinate their response to VAWG issues. This strategy supports the vision and the principles set out by the government²

In November 2013, the Mayor of London launched a refreshed Mayoral Strategy on VAWG to ensure that VAWG issues remain a top priority in London. Elements of the Mayor's Plan are incorporated into this VAWG Plan.

Lewisham's VAWG Plan

Victims are at the forefront of the Council's wider Crime Reduction Plan, and this continues to be the focus within the VAWG Plan.

Although domestic violence and abuse has been a key priority for the Safer Lewisham Partnership over the last five years, more can be done to address all other strands of VAWG and how they affect each other.

We will be committed to awareness raising programmes on the issue of VAWG as well as training for all professionals in the borough, with targeted and supportive early intervention approaches.

We aim to ensure that victims of gender-based violence are provided with an effective multi agency approach through the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) conference and other fora.

We also aim to continue to work with perpetrators to reduce future harm and all criminal justice partners working together to ensure that responses reduce risk of harm and contributes to victim safety.

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/ending-violence-against-women-and-girls-in-the-uk>

Good Practice

Annual Victims Day

In November 2013, the Council organised an event, which was hosted by the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Janet Daby and included Lewisham's Mayor and the Chief Executive of Victim Support.

The event showcased the excellent and national-leading projects such as the Youth MARAC, and launched the Victim Manifesto.

A large number of agencies from both the statutory and voluntary sector were involved working together to improve services to victims.

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Prevalence of the strands of VAWG – nationally and locally

Domestic violence and abuse

It is estimated that :

- Nearly one million women in the UK experience at least one incident of domestic violence and abuse each year (British Crime Survey 2009/10)
- At least 750,000 children witness domestic violence and abuse (DoH 2002)
- 54% of victims of serious sexual assault were assaulted by their partners/ex-partners
- Repeat victimization rates for domestic violence and abuse are the highest for any crime type

Definition

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

In extreme cases this could include murder.

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 their victim.

Local Picture

Historically, Lewisham has one of the highest rates of reported domestic violence and abuse incidents in London, with 2007/2008 reporting the highest number of offences in the last 5 years, the highest of any London borough at the time.

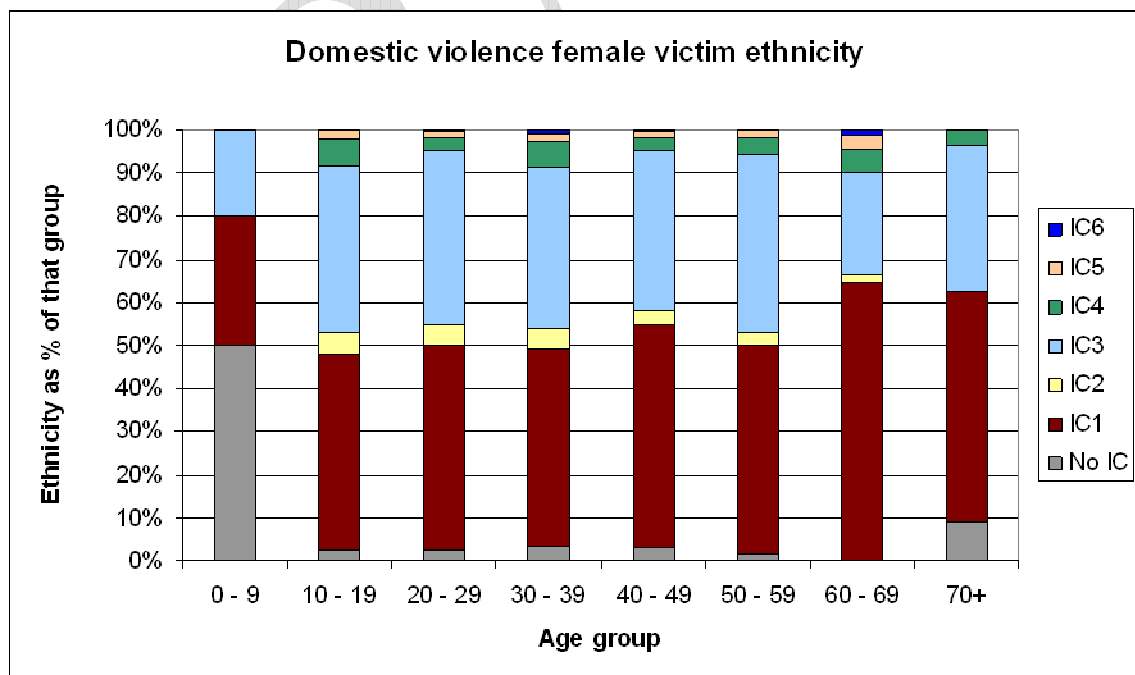
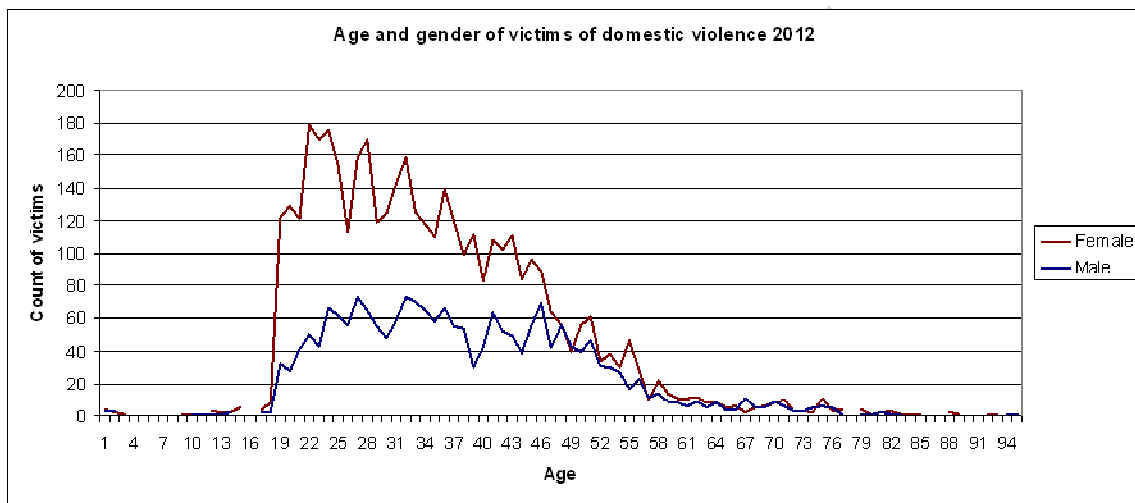
Since the Safer Lewisham Partnership (SLP) made domestic violence and abuse a strategic priority in 2008/2009, there has been continuous and consistent decreases in domestic violence and abuse figures, with the sharpest decrease observed after the 2009/2010 financial year (FY), when there were 593 fewer offences from the previous financial year, or a 19.8% reduction. However, latest figures from the Police show that in the year ending December 2013, rates of domestic violence and abuse increased 11%.

The partnership has invested significant funding and resources into tackling the issue of domestic violence and abuse, across three strands of prevention, provision and

protection and it is assessed that this work has contributed to a reduction in reported levels of domestic violence and abuse.

Victim Analysis

The tables below provide basic demographic information on victims. The victims are broadly representative of the local population. It is important to note that Domestic Violence definition was only extended to 16 and 17 year olds from April 2013 so these age groups are excluded from the analysis. To date the number of domestic violence and abuse offences flagged for this age group has been very low and few reach the MARAC (Multi Agency Referral and Assessment Conference for repeat and highest risk victims of domestic violence and abuse) threshold.



NB: IC codes are used by the British Police for self-defined ethnicity of individuals. **IC1** – White person, northern European type; **IC2** – Mediterranean European/Hispanic; **IC3** – African/Afro-Caribbean person; **IC4** – Indian, Pakistani, Nepalese, Maldivian, Sri Lankan, Bangladeshi, or any other (South) Asian person; **IC5** – Chinese, Japanese, or South-East Asian person; **IC6** – Middle Eastern person; **IC0, IC7 or IC9** – Origin unknown

Rape and Sexual violence

It is estimated that:

- Last year, 435,000 people suffered rape or sexual violence.
- Some 3.2 million women in England and Wales have been sexually assaulted at some point since the age of 16
- 9 in 10 cases of rape go unreported and 38% of serious sexual assault victims tell no one about their experience
- Each adult rape is estimated to cost over £96,000 in its emotional and physical impact on the victims, lost economic output due to convalescence, treatment costs to health services and costs incurred in the criminal justice system
- Overall sexual violence figures in Lewisham declined: between 2012 and 2013 rapes down by 15.6% and Other Serious Sexual Offences down by 7.7%. Sanctioned detection rates rose by 24.3% and 1.6% respectively.

Rape is defined in the Sexual Offences Act as the intentional penetration of the vagina, anus or mouth of another person without their consent and when the perpetrator does not reasonably believe that they consent. The term **sexual violence** encompasses a wider range of sexual assaults and coerced sexual activity

The first joint statistical overview of sexual offending in England and Wales estimates that there are 473,000 victims of sexual offences every year, of which 400,000 are women. This amounts to an average frequency rate of 2.5% for females and 0.5% for males. Within this category of sexual offences 0.5% were for the most serious offences of rape or sexual assault by penetration in the previous twelve months. These figures are based on aggregated data over three years from the Crime Survey for England and Wales and are not dependent on police recorded crime (the Stern Review estimates only 11% of rapes were reported to the police). The analysis adds that 90% of such victims knew the perpetrator.

A key challenge in tackling sexual violence has been to improve victim confidence, and address the particularly high attrition rates in rape cases³. In 2010 the Stern Review made detailed recommendations to improve the response of the criminal justice system to victims of sexual violence and these have informed the government's response and subsequent MOPAC commitments to roll out rape crisis centres in the capital.

³ The official figure of 6% and its unique method of calculation has been the subject of some dispute. The term 'conviction rate' usually describes the percentage of all the cases brought to court that end with the defendant being convicted. In the case of rape this is measured atypically, as the *percentage of all the cases recorded by the police as a rape that end up with someone being convicted of rape*. If the conviction rate for rape is calculated as a proportion of those cases that reach court, then it rises considerably to 58%

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

- Sexual exploitation is child abuse and children and young people who become involved face huge risks to their physical, emotional and psychological health and well-being.
- In Lewisham since January 2013 there have been 37 identified cases of CSE,
- with 35 females and 2 males.
- Young people aged 13 and 14 make up over half of this number.
- Offenders target vulnerable young people and use their power over the child to sexually abuse them.

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of child abuse where victim is given something- food, money, drugs, alcohol, gifts- in exchange for sexual activity with the abuser. Offenders target vulnerable young people and use their power- physical, financial, emotional etc- over the child to sexually abuse them.⁴

The Pan London Child Sexual Exploitation Operating Protocol was published in March 2013 and was produced by the collaboration of the London Safeguarding Children Board, MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs), Barnardos, the NSPCC and the Metropolitan Police Service. It is an extremely useful document and sets out clear guidelines for a multi-agency approach to recognise and deal with CSE.

A common feature of CSE is that the child or young person does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and does not see themselves as a victim of exploitation. This means that they are unlikely to report the abuse so police and partners must be alert to the signs of CSE and actively look for victims. CSE can also occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post images on the internet/ mobile phones without immediate payment or gain.

There is not one type of victim or offender of CSE. CSE can take many forms in many settings. If we look at just one model, such as group or gang CSE, we risk missing other victims who do not fall into that category. There is also a risk that victims don't recognise their abuse as CSE because it doesn't fit a particular model.

Awareness and understanding of CSE has increased a huge amount in the last few years. Agencies have stepped up to face the challenges involved in tackling in CSE and are investing considerable resources to fund major investigations into CSE.

CSE is not an indictable offence but police and prosecutors can charge offenders with rape and other sexual offences as well as kidnapping and trafficking.

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has created a CSE action plan that aims to raise the standards in tackling CSE in all forces so that the police service are providing a consistently strong approach to CSE and protecting vulnerable young people from this crime.

⁴ Pan London Child Sexual Exploitation Operating Protocol (March 2013)

All chief constables have committed to delivering this action plan. The action plan includes all forces creating a problem profile of CSE in their area to tailor their response and guide national strategy and all forces identifying a lead officer for CSE to act as a single point of contact and drive forward the action plan in their area.

How do children and young people become involved?

The reasons can be due to a number of factors. Often vulnerable children and young persons are targeted by perpetrators; however, this is not exclusive to those who are vulnerable. Perpetrators frequently target children and young persons at venues such as hostels, food outlets, taxi ranks and outside schools. Young people who run away from home are recognised as being more at risk. However, statistics show that the majority of CSE victims in London are actually living with their families.

Local Picture

The Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) has been tasked with leading on CSE in the borough. Update on the local CSE action plan and other developments show that on the 37 cases collated since January to May 2013;

- The victims are overwhelmingly female
- Just over 50% of victims of child sexual exploitation are aged between 13 and 14.
- Legal status of victims:
 - 10 out of 37 children are LAC to Lewisham.
 - 6 out of 37 are under a Care Order to London Borough of Lewisham
 - 4 out of 37 children are Looked After under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989
- The majority of referrals are via Children's Social Care and the Police
- The National Treatment Agency (NTA) collates figures on Young People with substance misuse problems. One of their indicators is young people involved in sexual exploitation.

Although this will not be a total for the borough, as it only includes young people engaging with substance misuse services, the figures for 2012/13 show that there were 5 YP who reported this (3% of the caseload), compared to nationally where there were 721 Young people reported (4% of the National total caseload).

Prostitution and Trafficking

- Trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation and exploitation of women and children for the purposes of prostitution and domestic servitude across international borders and within countries
- Peter Sutcliffe and Gary Leon Ridgway initially murdered sex workers before targeting other women

Definition

There is no universally accepted definition of trafficking for sexual exploitation and this has led to some confusion regarding strategic aspects of policy and enforcement.

It is important to note the UK's 2003 Sexual Offences Act²⁹ does not require coercion to be involved and uses the word sex trafficking to describe the movement of all sex workers, *including willing professionals*.

This notwithstanding the stated priority of the Metropolitan Police's specialist unit SCD9⁵ is on coercive trafficking. Given the inherently covert nature of this activity, and the difficulties in defining trafficking, estimates on its prevalence have to be treated with caution. The GLA report *Silence on Violence* raises important questions regarding the re-adjusting the balance between enforcement and supporting the victims.

The Victims

In relation to the profile of the workers themselves it is recognised that there are important distinctions to be drawn between off street and brothel prostitution, and these differences in turn tend to skew assessments of the demographic profile/needs of this population. Being more visible and more likely to come to public attention through complaints of Anti-Social Behaviour much of the policing and NHS led responses have tended to be directed at brothels and here the population profile is markedly different to that of street prostitutes. Also, modern slavery⁶ encompasses human trafficking, as defined in the UN Palermo Protocol and the Council of Europe Convention and as made illegal in UK legislation under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004. It also includes cases of slavery and servitude as made illegal in the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, which criminalises holding a person in slavery or servitude or requiring a person to perform forced or compulsory labour. When referring to modern slavery, it encompasses all of the forms of human trafficking, slavery and servitude that have been defined in national and international laws and agreements.

Local Picture

Borough data on prostitution and on the violence experienced by sex workers is too limited to draw firm conclusions from. In over half the cases ethnicity/nationality was not captured making it difficult to confirm trends.

⁵ SCD9 is the Metropolitan Police Service's 9th Specialist Crime Directorate (SCD), which is the unit investigating trafficking offences.

⁶[http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/UserStorage/pdf/Pdf%20reports/CSJ_Slavery_Full_Report_WEB\(5\).pdf](http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/UserStorage/pdf/Pdf%20reports/CSJ_Slavery_Full_Report_WEB(5).pdf)

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

- Illegal since 1985
- Illegal to take girls abroad from UK for FGM since 2004
- There have been 0 prosecutions under this Act
- 2100 women and girls in Lewisham are at risk of, or have undergone, FGM
- In 2011 there were 320 births to women with FGM, representing 6.5% of live births in Lewisham that year
- There are currently 374 girls in Lewisham schools who may have undergone or are at risk of FGM
- NSPCC launched a helpline in June 2013 to help protect children from FGM

Definition

FGM has been a specific criminal offence since 1985, with the introduction of the Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act 1985. However a 'loophole' was identified in the legislation, in that taking girls who were settled in the UK abroad for FGM was not a criminal offence. It was this 'loophole' that the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 ('the Act') intended to close.

The Act was brought into force on 3 March 2004 by the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (Commencement) Order 2004. The provisions of the Act only apply to offences committed on or after the date of commencement. For offences committed before 3 March 2004 the Prohibition of Female Circumcision 1985, as re-enacted in the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, continues to apply.

The Act affirms that it is illegal for FGM to be performed, and that it is also an offence for UK nationals or permanent UK residents to carry out, or aid, abet, counsel or procure the carrying out of FGM abroad on a UK national or permanent UK resident, even in countries where the practice is legal.

Despite this Act being in place for nearly ten years there have been no prosecutions under it. It is suggested that parents are circumventing legislation, as minors (largely under 10s) are the primary victims of FGM.

Estimate of FGM Prevalence in Lewisham

There is limited data available on FGM in Lewisham, but using methods previously applied nationally we estimate that:

- 2100 women and girls in Lewisham are at risk or have undergone FGM
- In 2011 there were 320 births to women with FGM, representing 6.5% of live births in Lewisham that year
- There are currently 374 girls in Lewisham schools who may have undergone or are at risk of FGM

This figure was derived using three methods, using UK demographic data and international prevalence rates.

Country	Lewisham Female Population 2011 (all ages)	FGM Prevalence (aged 15-49) (%)	Number of Women & Girls Affected or At Risk
Kenya	344	27.1	93
Somalia	549	97.9	537
Ghana	1423	3.8	54
Nigeria	4777	29.6	1414
North Africa	590	0-91	
Other Southern and Eastern Africa	1988	0-93	
Other Western and Central Africa	2181	0-95	
Total			2099

There is evidence to suggest there is high likelihood of some women and girls in Lewisham who have undergone (or are at risk of) FGM. It is estimated that there are about 2000 girls and young women who have or are at risk of undergoing FGM in the borough. Although there are significant limitations with this estimate it is useful to have some idea of the numbers of women affected to guide strategy, interventions and services to tackle FGM in the borough.

Forced Marriage

- In 2012 the Forced Marriage Unit dealt with 1485 cases worldwide
- The youngest victim was 2, the oldest 71
- 13% were under 15
- Within the UK, 21% of cases were in London

Definition

A forced marriage is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning or physical disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used.⁷

An arranged marriage is very different from a forced marriage. In an arranged marriage, both parties enter into the marriage freely. Families of each spouse take a leading role in arranging the marriage and this usually includes the choice of partner. However, the choice of whether or not to accept the arrangements remains with the prospective spouses. In forced marriage, one or both spouses do not (and in the case of some adults with support needs, cannot) consent to the marriage, and duress is involved. Duress can take the form of overt behaviour, for example assault, or more subjective factors which may depend on the victims' perception of the situation.

Forced marriage situations could involve, for example, the specific offences of:

- Kidnap/False imprisonment;
- Common assault, actual/grievous bodily harm;
- Threats to kill;

Data from the Forced Marriage Unit suggests that from January to December 2012:

- The FMU gave advice or support related to a possible forced marriage in 1485 cases.
- Where the age was known, 13% involved victims below 15 years, 22% involved victims aged 16-17, 30% involved victims aged 18-21, 19% involved victims aged 22-25, 8% involved victims aged 26-30, 8% involved victims aged 31+. The oldest victim was 71 and the youngest was 2.
- 82% involved female victims and 18% involved male victims.
- The FMU handled cases involving 60 different countries, including Pakistan
- 114 cases involved victims with disabilities.
- 22 involved victims who identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT)

Local Picture

There has been a low number of cases of known or suspected Forced marriages reported to authorities, however this VAWG Plan will seek to ensure that more agencies are aware of the referral routes of forced marriage cases and record them appropriately.

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/forced-marriage>

Honour Based Violence (HBV)

- There are an estimated 12 honour killings per year in the UK
- 2800 incidents of HBV reported in the UK last year
- By 2010 HBV in London had risen to more than 5x the national average with 495 incidents
- It is estimated that:
 - o 5000 honour killings internationally per year.
 - o 1000 honour killings occur in India
 - o 1000 honour killings occur in Pakistan
 - o 12 honour killings per year in UK
- London has the highest rates for an area in the country

So-called honour based violence is a crime or incident, which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community⁸

It is a collection of practices, which are used to control behaviour within families or other social groups to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. Such violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code. Women are predominantly (but not exclusively) the victims of 'so called honour based violence', which is used to assert male power in order to control female autonomy and sexuality. "Honour Based Violence" can be distinguished from other forms of violence, as it is often committed with some degree of approval and/or collusion from family and/or community members.

Examples may include murder, un-explained death (suicide), fear of or actual forced marriage, controlling sexual activity, domestic abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse), child abuse, rape, kidnapping, false imprisonment, threats to kill, assault, harassment, forced abortion. This list is not exhaustive.

Such crimes cut across all cultures, nationalities, faith groups and communities. They transcend national and international boundaries.

Additionally, honour based crimes could include:

- Attempted murder;
- Manslaughter;
- Procuring an abortion;
- Encouraging or assisting suicide;
- Conspiracy to murder;

Local Picture

By having a streamlined VAWG Plan, all agencies will work together to identify cases and incidents of HBV and work collaboratively to safeguard vulnerable victims.

⁸ http://www.cps.gov.uk/legal/h_to_k/honour_based_violence_and_forced_marriage/#a02

Stalking and Harassment

- Nationally, it is estimated that after reaching the age of 16 stalking affects around one in five women.
- A third of victims said they had lost their job, or relationship or had been forced to leave their home because of stalking
- The most common perpetrator in incidents is an estranged partner
- Most acts of stalking are dealt with by the police using the criminal offence of Harassment

Currently the law relating to stalking⁹ is covered principally by the Protection from Harassment Act, which prohibits harassment, was brought into force on 16 June 1997, and has been amended several times. The legislation was always intended to tackle stalking, but the offences were drafted to tackle any form of persistent conduct which causes another person alarm or distress.

Section 1(1) of the 1997 Act states a person must not pursue a course of conduct:

- which amounts to harassment of another, and
- which he knows or ought to know amounts to harassment of the other

Whilst there is no strict legal definition of 'stalking', section 2A (3) of the PHA 1997 sets out examples of acts or omissions which, in particular circumstances, are ones associated with stalking. These include: physical following; contacting, or attempting to contact a person by any means (this may be through friends, work colleagues, family or technology); or, other intrusions into the victim's privacy such as loitering in a particular place or watching or spying on a person.

Local Picture

Analysis of police data indicates only a comparatively small number of stalking offences, however the picture is not helped by the very broad crime definition of 'Harassment' used in most cases. Over the last twelve months there have been 11 reports relating to incidents of or behaviour conducive to stalking. The majority of these type of allegations are harassment and fall within the definition of domestic violence and abuse where partners/estranged partners make unwanted contact with the individual by telephone, letters or home address visits. As such, there is little evidence to suggest these crimes cannot be targeted as an integral part of DV risk management protocols.

⁹ The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 created two new offences of stalking by inserting new sections 2A and 4A into the PHA 1997. The two offences are in force from 25 November 2012 and provide further options for prosecutors to consider when selecting charges. The Home Office has issued guidelines and this can be accessed via the following link: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/corporate-publications-strategy/home-office-circulars/circulars-2012/018-2012/>.

PART 2

Public Consultation - The views of stakeholders and local residents

To help develop this plan, a consultation was produced to seek the views of a wide range of partners in the borough between November 2013 and January 2014. This consultation involved the following;

1. Consultation with professionals and partners through our local violence against women and girls professional networks.
2. An on-line consultation with professionals and service users.

The key stakeholder organisations and agencies were:

- Members of the Safer Lewisham Partnership
- LBL Children's Social Care
- LBL Adults' Social Care
- Lewisham Children's Safeguarding Board
- Lewisham Adults' Safeguarding Board
- The Metropolitan Police Service
- Public Health Services and The NHS
- LBL Housing Options Centre
- Lewisham Victim Support
- Refuge
- The Lewisham Muslim Centre
- LBL Drug and Alcohol and Supporting People
- The South London Rape Crisis Steering Group
- London Probation Trust
- University Hospital Lewisham
- South London and Maudsley Mental Health Services
- The Cassell Centre
- Registered Social Landlords
- Crown Prosecution Service
- Voluntary Action Lewisham
- Second Wave
- Members of the Lewisham Domestic and Sexual Violence Forum
- LBL Children's Centres
- The Havens
- Sexual Exploitation Group (NSPCC)
- LBL Youth Offending Team
- LBL Youth Services
- LBL Community Safety Team
- Millwall Football Club
- Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group (LCPCG)

Consultation Summary

Lewisham's Crime Reduction Service conducted a consultation with local residents and stakeholders between November 2013 and January 2014 regarding their views on whether shifting to a VAWG strategy would be welcomed in the borough. A total of 79 responses were received with a summary provided below.

The next steps will be to hold a further consultation of this draft plan simultaneously with a series of focus groups held with local residents to examine the experiences and safety concerns of the local population.

The respondents comprised¹⁰:

- 10 male (13%) and 64 female (81%)
- People aged from under 18 to 69, with the majority in the 30 to 59 bracket
- Service users, residents, police, probation, housing providers, community and voluntary sectors, council and faith groups

When asked what the most important issues are, the responses were:

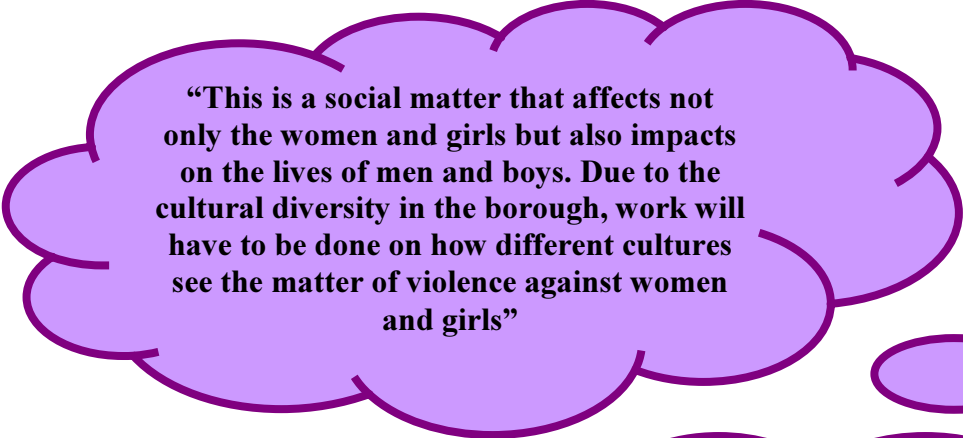
Most important issues	% Total	Count
Domestic violence and abuse	15.07%	74
Rape and sexual violence	14.46%	71
Stalking and harassment	12.42%	61
Sexual exploitation	11.81%	58
Prostitution and trafficking	10.79%	53
Female Genital Mutilation	10.59%	52
Forced Marriage	10.39%	51
Honor Based Violence	10.39%	51

26 people (33%) said that for them other issues were also important and gave examples such as:

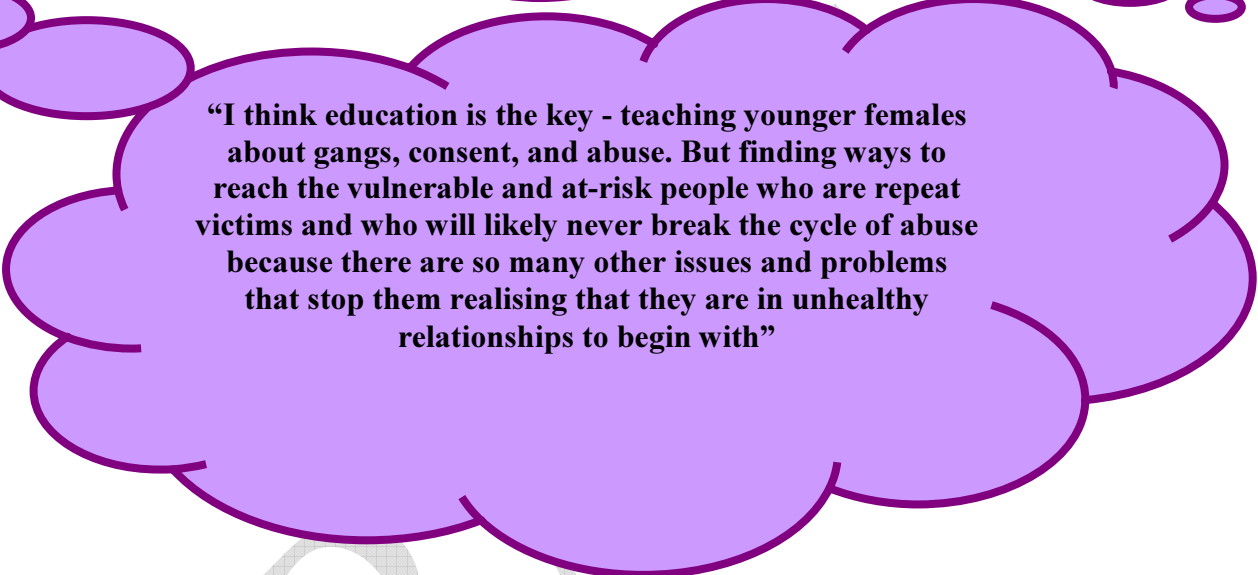
- Gangs
- Murder (domestic)
- Older women and domestic violence and abuse
- Lone working
- Support for male victims of these issues
- Online harassment

'Gangs' was the most commonly suggested topic, with 9 people putting this forward. Murder was mentioned by 2 people.

¹⁰Some respondents did not answer all questions, or answered 'rather not say'.



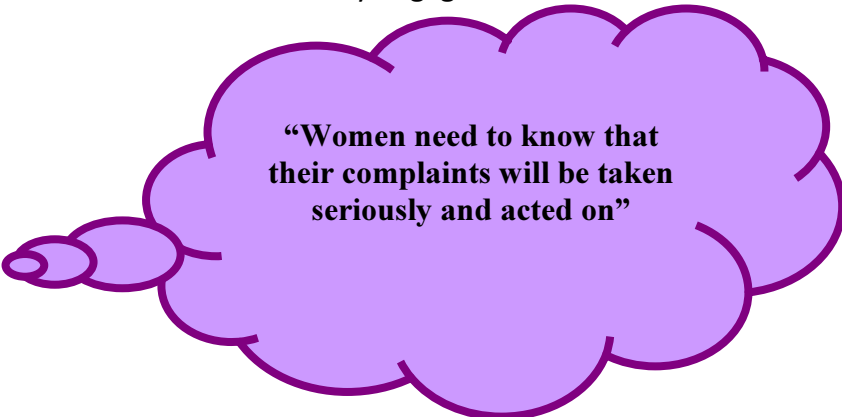
“This is a social matter that affects not only the women and girls but also impacts on the lives of men and boys. Due to the cultural diversity in the borough, work will have to be done on how different cultures see the matter of violence against women and girls”



“I think education is the key - teaching younger females about gangs, consent, and abuse. But finding ways to reach the vulnerable and at-risk people who are repeat victims and who will likely never break the cycle of abuse because there are so many other issues and problems that stop them realising that they are in unhealthy relationships to begin with”

Addressing Issues - How can the Safer Lewisham Partnership work more effectively to address the issues identified above?

- Providing more information
- Extend SLP meetings to other agencies
- Lessons in school e.g. equality, unhealthy relationships
- Advertising e.g. Lewisham Life, safe havens or bus stops
- Multi agency work including training e.g. ‘working with girls’
- Better communication between council departments such as adult social care and crime reduction
- Community engagement



“Women need to know that their complaints will be taken seriously and acted on”

“It seems to be acceptable in so many communities”

“There needs to be another option for people to ring so the male partners don't get arrested but they can still escape it - I think many women still feel too much guilt about giving partners a criminal record”

Better Protection - How can the Safer Lewisham Partnership ensure better protection for women and girls who are at risk from violence?

- Safe havens
- Communication & signposting
- Self esteem workshops
- Free phone help or emergency numbers, and numbers that don't show up on phone bills
- Professionals being aware of cultural issues
- Effective training on DV and diversity issues
- A broader programme for rehabilitating perpetrators
- Prompt police response, outreach by police so that women know it is being taken seriously
- 'Claire's Law' should be adopted

“Underage perpetrators are still children & need help as well”

PART 3

Our Principles and Priorities

The government's approach to ending VAWG involves a number of actions¹¹, including, but not limited to:

- widening the definition of domestic violence and abuse following a public consultation, to include coercive control and to cover 16 and 17 year olds
- publishing a pocket sized declaration opposing female genital mutilation document for girls and women to carry when abroad, explaining the law and potential criminal penalties
- running the teenage relation abuse and teenage rape prevention campaigns to prevent teenagers from becoming victims and perpetrators of sexual violence and abuse and directing them to places for help and advice
- providing protection for victims of stalking by introducing two new specific criminal offences, along with additional related police search powers and training for police and prosecutors
- signing the Council of Europe's convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence - the 'Istanbul Convention'

Lewisham's Principles

The Partnership is committed to delivering an integrated provision for VAWG, working to achieve the following goals and objectives:

1. To develop a better understanding of VAWG and its impact in our borough;
2. To ensure an improved access to the support and protection of women and girls in our borough;
3. To hold perpetrators to account.

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

Within the principles outlined and with a clear commitment as set out in the Safer Lewisham Plan 13/14, we want to achieve the following;

- Reducing key crimes with particular reference to VAWG and serious youth violence.
- Ensuring all public services work collaboratively and with communities to prevent crime support victims and reduce re-offending and improving confidence across all criminal justice agencies.

Our identified VAWG priorities are:

- **Tackling and reducing incidents of domestic violence and abuse year on year.**
- **Tackling and reducing rape and sexual violence year on year.**
- **Tackling sexual exploitation with specific focus on children.**

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/ending-violence-against-women-and-girls-in-the-uk>

PART 4

What will the partnership do?

Leadership

- Work with partners to develop a shared vision, strategic priorities, outcomes and targets for gang-associated women and girls across the partnership and allocate resources accordingly.
- Work with local communities and voluntary sector groups to understand the specific issues in relation to VAWG, develop an open and transparent dialogue about how VAWG impacts against the protected characteristics, specifically gender, race and religion.
- Progress and improve delivery of prevention and education interventions in schools and colleges. This work will be in relation to healthy relationships and violence at home and cover gang-associated women and girls.
- Improving access to VAWG specialist and universal services for victims and their families.
- Continue to develop the work with victims and Health impacts in relation to VAWG
- Ensure that any policies and strategies relating to children and young people also address gang-associated women and girls.

Partnership

- Developing and working with partners to deliver training for professionals in aspects of VAWG; both in terms of early identification, and support for victims, as well as putting in place strategic-level training around gang-associated women and girls for senior staff and members of the CSP to support the partnership in developing an effective approach across all agencies.
- Work with key partners, particularly specialist VAWG sector partners, to risk assess gang-associated women and girls for sexual violence and exploitation, domestic violence and other forms of VAWG including forced marriage and HBV.
- Lewisham Safeguarding Children's board to coordinate/develop training for key frontline professionals on gang-associated women and girls to raise awareness of the risk indicators, how to respond and local referral pathways.

Understanding and mapping the problem

- Ensure that we integrate and address the needs of gang-associated women and girls in local ending gang and youth violence strategies and through service commissioning:
 - Maintain and Develop Girls & Gangs partnership work
 - Maintain links between gang & WAWG boards and professionals, ensuring that there is at least one representative from the gangs sector sitting on VAWG strategic partnership
 - Improving partnership working between the gangs, VAWG, health, education, housing and safeguarding sectors and improve awareness of the issues facing gang-associated women and girls by coordinating networking events, workshops and training for practitioners.

- Develop local information-sharing protocols to enable the safe sharing of information between sexual health, other health services (mental health, GPs and substance misuse) the VCS and statutory agencies.
- consider commissioning a piece of research to address any evidence gaps to better understand the extent, profile and needs of gang-associated girls in Lewisham.
-

Identification, assessment and safeguarding

- Flagging risk within agencies with clear processes for referrals and next steps to safeguard, information sharing protocols and systems in place to share relevant information between relevant risk assessment panels - Multi-agency risk assessment conferences (MARAC) (Multi-agency Public Protections Arrangements (MAPPAs), Multi-agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) and Integrated Offender Management (IOM).
- Continue the zero tolerance approach to VAWG and working closely with CPS and HMCTS in relation to developing areas such as FGM and Forced Marriage.
- Safeguarding, health and community safety partners will work together to put in place specialist training for MASH staff on indicators of gang-associated VAWG and sexual exploitation and which datasets to check to identify any further information about possible risks and dangers faced by gang-associated girls.

DRAFT

Tackling and reducing incidents of domestic violence and abuse

Reducing domestic violence and abuse has been a key strategic priority for the borough for the past 5 years. Whilst analysis of key linked offences involving non-familial forms of violence against females (particularly GBH and Sexual Violence) show declines, the rising number of Domestic Violence offences more than offsets this downward trend.

Given the gravity of crime and its large hidden harm caused to children and families the Partnership has decided to re-prioritise this area and will continue to work with support services such as Refuge and Victim Support. Key policy changes have also shaped this decision. Since March 2013, 16-18 year old young people are now included within the domestic violence and abuse definition. Lewisham has reviewed a number of domestic homicides and lessons learnt from these will need to be considered and changes made where appropriate, which will be overseen by a multi-agency Task and Finish Group.

The success of the partnership's efforts will be evaluated by reductions in the following linked offences;

- Violence against females¹²
- Domestic Violence incidents and offences

GOOD Practice – DV MARAC

The MARAC aims to safeguard the highest risk victims of domestic violence and abuse as well as their children, whilst making links with other public protection arrangements in relation to perpetrators and vulnerable adults and to safeguard agency staff. This is achieved by an information sharing and action planning process at MARAC with case management and specialist support before, during and after the meeting provided by the Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA).

Lewisham MARAC is routinely cited by CAADA as an "example MARAC for best practice", with professionals from across the country attending to observe the Lewisham MARAC in operation. After every visit, the Chair and Coordinator of the Lewisham MARAC meet with the visiting professionals to share best practice procedures.

Lewisham MARAC has also recently been selected to participate with CAADA in a Home Office study on the support given to victims of domestic violence and abuse who are 16 and 17 year old and referred to the MARAC. The outcomes of this study will be shared on a national level, as well as with partners across the council.

¹² All offences within the Violence with Injury crime group to be included

Reducing rape and sexual violence

Rape and Sexual violence impacts significantly physically and psychologically and access to services is critical for victims. In the 2013 report *Beyond the Labels* women and girls commented on reasons that influenced their access to services which are an important focus for Lewisham in respect of this area:

- Fear and lack of information about services – not feeling confident about how to go about seeking help, potential violence repercussions, feeling trapped, isolation, self-blame, not being believed, and being judged.
- Coercion and pressure from family members and other individuals – additional impact of death threats, pressure, rejection and coercion
- Not recognising the violence – perception that violence had to be physical,
- Travelling out of the borough of residence
- Language
- Asylum and immigration

We will also continue to work with support services such as Havens and South London Rape Crisis Centre.

The success of the partnership's efforts will be evaluated by reductions in the following linked offences

- Violence against females¹³
- Rape and Sexual Violence incidents and offences

GOOD Practice

The Safe Domestic Abuse Training and Education (DATE) Project visits schools in Lewisham to deliver workshops on domestic and sexual violence awareness, as well as the warning signs on sexual abuse. This campaign is done in partnership with Lewisham Council's Neighbourhood Community Safety Service and aims to support young people by highlighting the extent of abuse in the society, and was to seek help and support.

Some of the topics covered by the Safe DATE Project are;

- Workshop discussion on relationships. Students are encouraged to express a word that describe a good or bad relationship
- Case studies which are in the public domain are used to illustrate specific aspects of abuse including same sex violence, male victims, honour based killing and teenage relationship violence.
- Each student is given a Safe DATE pack which includes information on where to get further help and advice.

With a new VAWG Plan, this area of work will be expanded to cover as many schools as possible but also ensuring referral pathways are clear and easily accessible.

¹³ All offences within the Violence with Injury crime group to be included

Tackling Sexual Exploitation, with particular focus on children

Following from the findings and recommendations made in the Rochdale Serious Case¹⁴ review in 2013, Lewisham has developed further understanding of the issues and delivering a comprehensive approach to tackling Child Sexual Exploitation.

Victims of CSE are not exclusive to females, but are the predominant group. The exclusivity is not only within gangs; however there is again some clear links where this does exist. Lewisham has started to develop a good intelligence picture and is beginning to work in a multi agency manner in improving reporting, improving support for the victims and tackling robustly the enforcement of perpetrators.

There are many links outside of the borough boundaries which is opening up a wider picture of the issues in South East London. There is also senior support for this area across children's and adult services provision, and Lewisham has piloted an approach to map networks and links called Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) Group.

The success of the partnership's efforts will be evaluated by reductions in the following linked offences

- Violence against females¹⁵
- Child sexual exploitation cases being brought to justice seeing an increase year on year.

GOOD Practice

CSE Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE)

Lewisham has been chosen as a pilot area on CSE by the Metropolitan Police which arose out of recognition that multiagency intervention in cases of child sexual exploitation needing to be radically overhauled following a highly publicised case in Rochdale. The pilot started on 7th May 2013. The pilot requires the police to set up specialised child sexual exploitation units. These units hold monthly interagency meetings attended by Children's Services such as Education, Children Social Care, Youth Offending Service and Sexual Health Services to share information on cases of CSE plan and track actions. This pilot will be evaluated in 2014.

¹⁴ <http://www.rbscb.org/UserFiles/Docs/YP1-6%20SCR%20RBSCB%2020.12.13.pdf>

¹⁵ All offences within the Violence with Injury crime group to be included

PART 5

Next Steps

The VAWG agenda cuts across a wide range of different operational service areas including health, housing and community safety. The VAWG agenda cannot be delivered in isolation and relies on a broad range of agencies working in partnership.

An initial VAWG action plan will be developed in partnership to reflect the priorities outlined and will form part of a mechanism of monitoring outcomes achieved year on year.

This action plan will be reviewed on a quarterly basis at the VAWG Operational Group, which will be newly established. It is also recommended that it is reviewed and reported on annually at the Safer Lewisham Partnership (SLP), with links being maintained to Boards such as the Children and Young Peoples Board, Lewisham Safeguarding Children's Board, Lewisham's Safeguarding Adults Board, and the Health and Well being Board. Also, the Domestic and Sexual Violence Forum will be converted into the VAWG Forum from April 2014, with the Chair and Vice Chair from the voluntary and community sector forming membership of the VAWG Operational Group, representing the Forum.

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PART 6

Finance and Resources

There are a number of significant changes in the funding and resourcing for all aspects of the Criminal Justice system both locally and regionally. These are likely to have an impact on the range of services and ability to deliver.

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 2014-2015.

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Further Information

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,
Laurence House,
Catford Road,
SE6 4RU

The Partnership is committed to ongoing improvements in the services we deliver. We would welcome any feedback, suggestions or proposals from individuals or organisations.

Email: communityservices@lewisham.gov.uk

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

www.crimereduction.gov.uk or www.lewisham.gov.uk/vawg

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>

APPENDIX A

The below are the questions asked in the borough;

1. What are the most important issues for the Safer Lewisham Partnership to address in tackling violence against women and girls in Lewisham? Please select all that are most important for women and girls in Lewisham.
 - a) Domestic violence and abuse
 - b) Rape and sexual violence
 - c) Stalking and harassment
 - d) Forced Marriage
 - e) Honor Based Violence
 - f) Female Genital Mutilation
 - g) Prostitution and trafficking
 - h) Sexual exploitation
 - i) Other – please use free-text box
2. How can the Safer Lewisham Partnership work more effectively to address the issues identified above? (Free-text box)
3. How can the Safer Lewisham Partnership provide better services for women and girls who have been victims of violence? (Free-text box)
4. How can the Safer Lewisham Partnership ensure better protection for women and girls who are at risk from violence? (Free-text box)
5. Do you have any other comments about violence against women and girls in Lewisham? (Free-text box)

Appendix B**Themes from the consultation**

Lewisham's Crime Reduction Service conducted a consultation with local residents and stakeholders between November 2013 and January 2014 regarding their views on whether shifting to a VAWG strategy would be welcomed in the borough. A total of 79 responses were received with a summary provided below.

The respondents comprised¹⁶:

- 10 male (13%) and 64 female (81%)
- People aged from under 18 to 69, with the majority in the 30 to 59 bracket
- Service users, residents, police, probation, housing providers, community and voluntary sectors, council and faith groups

Ethnicity:

African	8.86%	7
Any other Asian background	2.53%	2
Any other Black/ African/ Caribbean background	2.53%	2
Any other White background	10.13%	8
Caribbean	10.13%	8
English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	43.04%	34
Indian	1.27%	1
Irish	8.86%	7
Other ethnic group	2.53%	2
Pakistani	1.27%	1
White and Asian	1.27%	1
White and Black African	1.27%	1
White and Black Caribbean	2.53%	2

Religion:

None	46.84%	37
Christian (all denominations)	30.38%	24
Buddhist	2.53%	2
Hindu	0.00%	0
Jewish	1.27%	1
Muslim	3.80%	3
Sikh	0.00%	0
Any other religion/ belief	1.27%	1

¹⁶Some respondents did not answer all questions, or answered 'rather not say'.

Sexuality:

Straight/ heterosexual	70.89%	56
Gay/ lesbian	3.80%	3
Bisexual	3.80%	3
Other	2.53%	2
I'd rather not say	15.19%	12

“This is a social matter that affects not only the women and girls but this impacts on the lives of men and boys. Due to the cultural diversity in the borough, work will have to be done on how different cultures see the matter of violence against women

When asked what the most important issues are, the responses were:

Most important issues	% Total	Count
Domestic violence and abuse	15.07%	74
Rape and sexual violence	14.46%	71
Stalking and harassment	12.42%	61
Sexual exploitation	11.81%	58
Prostitution and trafficking	10.79%	53
Female Genital Mutilation	10.59%	52
Forced Marriage	10.39%	51
Honor Based Violence	10.39%	51

26 people (33%) said that for them other issues were also important and gave examples such as:

- Gangs
- Murder (domestic)
- Older women and domestic violence and abuse
- Lone working
- Support for male victims of these issues
- Online harassment

‘Gangs’ was the most commonly suggested topic, with 9 people putting this forward. Murder was mentioned by 2 people.

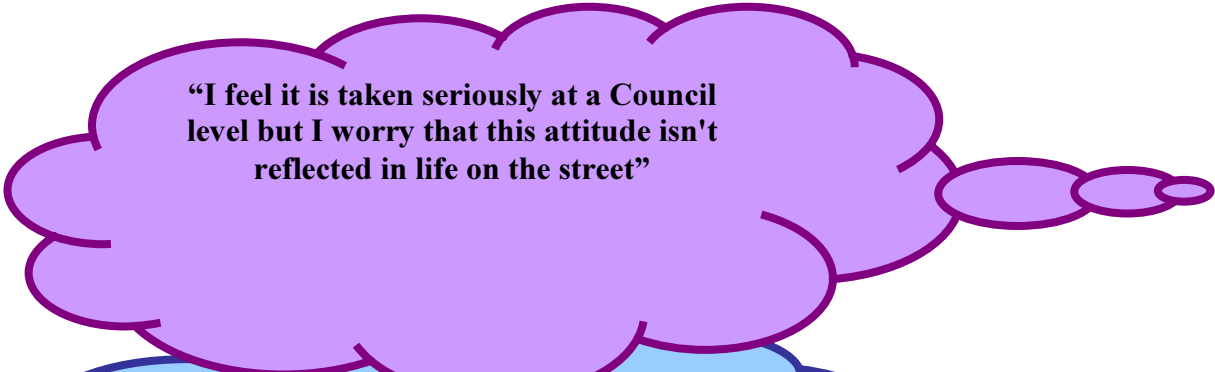
“I think education is the key - teaching younger females about gangs, consent, abuse. But finding ways to reach the vulnerable and at-risk people who are repeat victims and who will likely never break the cycle of abuse because there are so many other issues and problems

Addressing Issues - How can the Safer Lewisham Partnership work more effectively to address the issues identified above?

- Providing more information
- Extend SLP meetings to other agencies
- Lessons in school e.g. equality, unhealthy relationships
- Not being embarrassed by addressing 'cultural differences'
- Advertising e.g. Lewisham Life, safe havens or bus stops
- Multi agency work including training e.g. 'working with girls'
- Better communication between council departments such as adult social care and crime reduction
- Community engagement

Better Protection - How can the Safer Lewisham Partnership ensure better protection for women and girls who are at risk from violence?

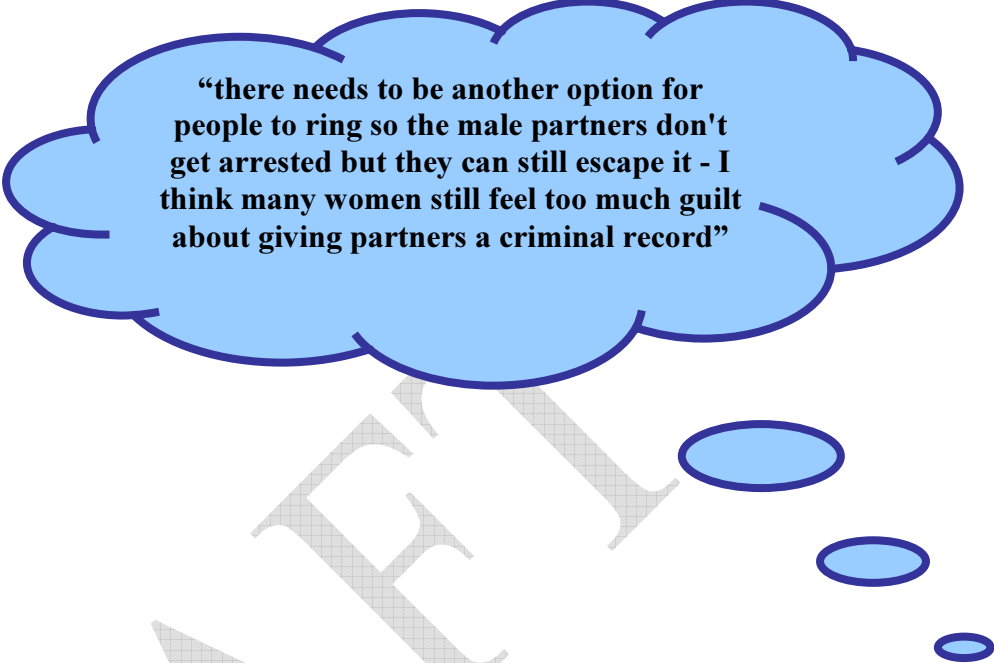
- Safe havens
- Communication & signposting
- Self esteem work shops
- Free phone help or emergency numbers, and numbers that don't show up on phone bills
- Professionals being aware of cultural issues
- Effective training on DV and diversity issues
- A broader programme for rehabilitating perpetrators
- Prompt police response, outreach by police so that women know it is being taken seriously
- 'Claire's Law' should be adopted



“I feel it is taken seriously at a Council level but I worry that this attitude isn't reflected in life on the street”



“Underage perpetrators are still children & need help as well a sanctions”



“there needs to be another option for people to ring so the male partners don't get arrested but they can still escape it - I think many women still feel too much guilt about giving partners a criminal record”

DRAFT

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee			
Title	DRAFT Safer Lewisham Plan 14-15		
Contributor	Executive Director for Community Services	Item	6
Class	Part 1 (Open)	Date	25 February 2014

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as amended by section 97 and 98 of the Police Reform Act 2002, places a requirement on Community Safety Partnerships (CSP), in Lewisham this is the Safer Lewisham Partnership, to develop a three year Crime and Disorder Strategy which sets out how crime and anti-social behaviour will be tackled – Safer Lewisham Strategy 2014-2017.

- An additional responsibility is also placed on Community Safety Partnerships to produce a Strategic Assessment to ensure emerging community safety trends are captured, and priorities are refreshed where necessary.
- The Annual Plan outlines the main priorities for the Safer Lewisham Partnership, which have been identified through the Strategic Assessment.
- The accompanying Strategic Action Plan sets out how the Partnership will work together over the next year to tackle crime and disorder priorities building on best practice around effective crime reduction and including clear objectives and outcomes to be achieved.

2. Policy Context

2.1 Lewisham's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-20 set the Local Strategic Partnership a goal of making Lewisham the best place in London to live, work and learn. Delivering on this depends on our success in creating a climate where: ***'People feel safe and live free from crime, anti-social behaviour and abuse'***.

2.2 Through effective partnership working and effective engagement with communities the Safer Lewisham partner agencies will work together to ensure they achieve measurable reductions in a range of victim based offences. They aim to deliver services smartly and focus on outcomes that have a clear impact on the daily lives of our residents.

3. Recommendation

3.1 Members of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee are asked to note the content of the draft Safer Lewisham Plan and the progress made against the Plan.

4. Background

4.1 The annual report which is attached as an appendix to this report, is required under legislation and seeks to pull together all available information in relation to Crime and Disorder, and set priorities for the Partnership to deliver against. There are also Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC) priorities which need to be considered alongside local ones.

4.2 The MOPAC Challenge

The challenge set by the MOPAC for the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) up to 2016:

'A Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) that becomes the UK's most effective, most efficient, most respected, even most loved police force'

The 20/20/20, 20/20/20 Challenge promises to:

- Cut crime by 20%
- Boost public confidence by 20%
- Cut costs by 20%
- Reduce court delays by 20%
- Increase compliance with community sentences by 20%
- Reduce reoffending by young people leaving custody by 20%

4.3 MOPAC 7 - MOPAC'S target for the MPS is to cut 7 key "neighbourhood" crimes by 20% by 2016:

- Violence with injury
- Robbery
- Burglary
- Theft of a motor vehicle
- Theft from a motor vehicle
- Theft from the person
- Vandalism (criminal damage)

4.4 The aim is to achieve an aggregate Metropolitan Police-wide reduction in these offences of 20% down on average levels seen in 2008-12. The stretch target is to have these reduce by 20% based on 2011/12 figures.

4.5 In summary, MOPAC both sets broad crime-reduction priorities and funds a portion of service activity at borough level. However, there is still a statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships to produce the annual strategic assessment, the aim of which is to analyse problems in the borough and identify strategic priorities.

4.6 The challenge for Safer Lewisham Partnership is to align the existing statutory requirements with the new governance and funding reality, while reflecting local needs and feedback from residents.

- 4.7 In order to achieve this, the Safer Lewisham Partnership will be guided by the following overarching principles:

Maximum Victim Impact

The Safer Lewisham Partnership has listened to the views of residents and placed the needs and concerns of victims at the forefront of the plan. The priorities need to be able to impact on a high volume of offending whilst supporting the needs of the majority of residents. Throughout its work the SLP will continue to prioritise the needs of victims and ensure it is accountable to local citizens.

Intelligence Led Prioritisation of Local Issues

The selection of priority areas is based on a detailed analysis of current crime and disorder trends in the borough. However the assessment is not solely reliant on police recorded crime data and wherever possible the latter has been cross-referenced with data from a range of additional sources.

Strategic Relevance

The Safer Lewisham Plan is also designed to take into account new government legislation and also key changes in how services are commissioned.

5. Safer Lewisham Partnership Priorities for 14-15

- 5.1 Working closely with MOPAC, informed by local data and in response to community concerns, the Safer Lewisham Partnership has identified the following priorities:

- The **First** priority will be to focus on reducing volume crime in Lewisham. Those crimes which account for the majority of the crime experienced in the borough each year. Targeting those known offenders in key locations across the borough will have a demonstrable effect on satisfaction and confidence of victims of these crimes. This also aligns with the MOPAC challenge, through intelligence-led efforts to reduce the 'MOPAC 7' crimes, as detailed in para 4.3.

- 5.2 In working to achieve a 20% reduction across these crime types, the SLP will seek to ensure that all public services work collaboratively and with voluntary groups and communities to prevent crime, support victims and reduce re-offending whilst improving confidence across all criminal justice agencies.

- 5.3 The **Second** priority will be to reduce key violent crime with particular focus on reducing 'Serious Youth Violence' (SYV) and 'Violence Against Women and Girls' (VAWG)

- The **Third** priority will be to ensure that the issue of greatest concern to residents, 'Anti-Social Behaviour' (ASB), is dealt with swiftly, proportionately and with the victim at the heart of the resolution.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The SLP currently monitors the spend in relation to the MOPAC funding resource allocation for tackling emerging issues, and this data will be reviewed and agreed at the Performance and Delivery Board or the SLP as required.

7. 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 Act 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. 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.

9. 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. **Environmental Implications**

- 10.1 The Council's lead for this is an advisor to the SLP and makes representations as appropriate in relation to impact. Environmental services are consulted about all agreed activity before proceeding.

11. **Conclusion**

- 11.1 The SLP will continue to review its practice and that of the sub groups to ensure that all activity in relation to crime and disorder and drugs and alcohol is in line with the Sustainable Community Strategy, and the Safer Lewisham Strategy as well as having links to the children's and young persons' board and the health and wellbeing board.

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

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Safer Lewisham Plan

2014 / 2015

DRAFT

INTRODUCTION

About This Document

- The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as amended by section 97 and 98 of the Police Reform Act 2002, places a requirement on Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) (In Lewisham, the Safer Lewisham Partnership) to develop a three year Crime and Disorder Strategy which sets out how crime and Anti Social Behaviour will be tackled – Safer Lewisham Strategy 2014-2017
- An additional responsibility is also placed on Community Safety Partnerships to produce a Strategic Assessment to ensure emerging community safety trends are captured, and priorities are refreshed where necessary.
- The Annual Plan outlines the main priorities for the Safer Lewisham Partnership, which have been identified through the Strategic Assessment.
- The accompanying **Strategic Action Plan** sets out how the Partnership will work together over the next year to tackle crime and disorder priorities building on best practice around effective crime reduction and clear objectives and outcomes to be achieved.

THE SAFER LEWISHAM PLAN
Community Safety Partnership Plan 2014- 2015

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PART ONE

Our Aim: A Safer Lewisham

Lewisham's Sustainable Communities Strategy 2008-20 set the Local Strategic Partnership a goal of making Lewisham the best place in London to live, work and learn. Delivering on this depends on our success in creating a climate where:

People feel safe and live free from crime, anti-social behaviour and abuse

Through effective partnership working and effective engagement with communities the Safer Lewisham partner agencies will work together to ensure we achieve measurable reductions in a range of victim based offences. We aim to deliver services smartly and focus on outcomes with a clear impact on the daily lives of our residents.

The Safer Lewisham Annual Plan outlines the main priorities for the Safer Lewisham Partnership, which have been identified through the Strategic Assessment. The accompanying **Strategic Action Plan** sets out how the Partnership will work together over the next year to tackle crime and disorder priorities building on best practice around effective crime reduction and clear objectives and outcomes to be achieved.

What Was Achieved in 2013-14?

Overall police recorded crime in the borough, has fallen significantly; the number of Total Notifiable Offences falling by 10.5% in the 12 months to February 2014.

It is difficult to compare the changes in Serious Violent offending in Lewisham, due a change in recording definitions. As a result, police statistics are showing large increases this year, but because of the new definitions 13/14 violence statistics are not comparable with previous years. The Safer Lewisham Partnership will use 13/14 Serious Violence statistics as the baseline comparator for future years, in line with other boroughs in London.

GOOD Practice

YOUTH MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) OFSTED REVIEW

An Ofsted Review of Lewisham's Victims of Serious Youth Violence MARAC was undertaken and published on the Ofsted website in May 2013 and highlighted the following:

"Representatives from the partnerships agree that overall the project represents excellent value for money. Successful outcomes from the establishment of this project are palpable. Young people are confident that they have been supported in achieving personal goals such as accessing education or finding alternative accommodation 'I don't know where I would be now without Youth MARAC' is a typical quote. Organisations across the borough confirm that the Youth MARAC has been successful in addressing some of the difficulties of working across different departments and organisations. Since the development of the Youth MARAC project, the team reports a 55% reduction in serious youth violence. Further benefits show that by reducing the number of serious incidents the financial cost on the criminal justice system, local businesses and health care services have also decreased".

The 'Violence With Injury' category has not been affected by the definition change and shows a minor increase of 2% over 12 months to February 2014.

Serious Acquisitive Crime (Robbery, Burglary, Shoplifting, Motor Vehicle Crime) the key volume indicator declined by 8.8% over 12months to February 2014.

GOOD Practice

Lewisham, Deptford and Catford responsible retailers lock up their knives

Businesses in Lewisham, Deptford and Catford have signed up to a **Responsible Retailers Agreement (RRA)** with Lewisham Council that has seen them remove larger, kitchen-type knives and blades from general sale and keep them securely locked.

The Responsible Retailers Agreement is a borough-wide campaign that puts the responsibility on

businesses to act responsibly when selling products such as knives, super-strength alcohol, tobacco and fireworks to the general public. Supported by the Council and Lewisham Police, businesses sign up and work in partnership to ensure that they are compliant with legal regulations and responsibilities, and also think about the social impact that their business can have locally.

The Agreement stresses the influence that businesses can have on the local community, by helping to deter anti-social behaviour and crime through being a responsible retailer.

Retailers and butchers shops have signed up to an Agreement that ensures knives, lighters and age-restricted toys such as 'BB' guns, that can be used in a dangerous manner or used to cause harm, are securely locked away and out of plain sight and are only accessible by staff.

TK Maxx in Lewisham has taken a step further and removed all large, kitchen-type knives and blades, such as arts and craft knives from sale in its Lewisham store, only selling boxed cutlery sets.

So far 32 businesses in Lewisham, Deptford and Catford have signed up to a Responsible Retailer Agreement for the sale of knives and officers (working with Lewisham Borough Business Against Crime LBBAC) continue working to encourage more businesses to join them. Other parts of the campaign have been aimed at tackling the restriction of the sale of super-strength alcohol and a clamp down on illicit tobacco sales will follow.

Responsible Retailers that sign up to the Agreement will display a window sticker to let people know that they are a Responsible Retailer.

Knife Enabled Crime remains largely unchanged from previous year, with a minor reduction of 1.4% and Personal Robbery has been reduced by 7%. These were key strategic objectives set by previous Strategic Assessment.

Less encouraging is the increase in Domestic Violence incidents by 10% despite a number of key programmes delivered over the past twelve months. These offences rose significantly over the calendar year following a consistent and significant decrease over the previous 4 years. The increase in Domestic Violence is in line with London trends, where on average reported incidents of DV rose by 10%.

GOOD Practice

Lewisham Domestic Violence Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

The DV MARAC aims to safeguard the highest risk victims of domestic violence and abuse as well as their children, whilst making links with other public protection arrangements in relation to perpetrators and vulnerable adults and to safeguard agency staff. This is achieved by an information sharing and action planning process at MARAC with case management and specialist support before, during and after the meeting provided by the Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA).

Lewisham MARAC is routinely cited by CAADA as an “example MARAC for good practice”, with professionals from across the country attending to observe the Lewisham MARAC in operation. After every visit, the Chair and Coordinator of the Lewisham MARAC meet with the visiting professionals to share best practice procedures.

Lewisham DV MARAC has also recently been selected to participate with CAADA in a Home Office study on the support given to victims of domestic violence and abuse who are 16 and 17 year old and referred to the MARAC. The outcomes of this study will be shared on a national level, as well as with partners across the council.

GOOD Practice

CSE Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE)

Having already developed good practice in multi agency casework on challenging issues, Lewisham has been chosen by the Metropolitan Police as one of the two pilot areas in London to lead on Child Sexual Exploitation. This pilot project arose from recognition that multiagency intervention in cases of child sexual exploitation needing to be radically overhauled following a highly publicised case in Rochdale. The pilot started on 7th May 2013. The pilot requires the police to set up specialised child sexual exploitation units. These units hold monthly interagency meetings in partnership with Children’s Services such as Education, Children Social Care, Youth Offending Service and also Crime Reduction and Sexual Health Services to share information on cases and locations of CSE, develop plans and track actions. This pilot will be evaluated in 2014.

With regards to Police measures of Ant-Social Behaviour, Lewisham’s performance against selected performance indicators presents a mixed picture – incidences of criminal damage, a key linked offence are down significantly by 7.5% but ASB CAD calls handled by the Metropolitan Police have increased; particularly in relation to Noise Nuisance, Youth disorder and Neighbour disputes. This increase in ASB related incidents could however in part be attributed to the work of the Police and Crime Reduction Service in undertaking exercises such as ‘Street a Week’, Community Contact Points, Increased surgeries in key locations and the introduction of ‘Grip & Pace’, the Police’s enhanced call handling and case allocation system.

GOOD Practice

Lewisham wins Gold and Bronze awards at the annual London Problem Orientated Partnerships (POP) awards.

The annual POP awards bring together the Metropolitan Police Service, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, Transport for London (TfL) and London Councils, to celebrate successful joint initiatives in making communities safer.

Lewisham Council's Crime Reduction Service and the Rushey Green Safer Neighbourhood Team won the bronze award in the Safer Communities category for its work to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in the area. Over a six-month period, these teams worked in partnership along with the Trident Gang Crime Command, to initiate a series of tactics to reduce crime in Rushey Green, including the issuing of ASBOs, regular weapons sweeps and outreach work in local schools.

Lewisham also won the Safer Travel Gold award for its Skate Safe initiative, which worked to tackle the issue of young people 'skitching' i.e., hitching a lift from moving vehicles while on skates. The Met Police Safer Transport Team and Lewisham Council's Crime Reduction Service, Youth Service, Road Safety and Parks Service, worked with a range of external partners including Transport for London, Lewisham Homes and L&Q Housing Association, to create a 12-month awareness campaign aimed at young people on how to 'skate safe'.

During the campaign, young people were shown how to enjoy safe recreational skating and were also made aware of the potential legal, safety and transport consequences of behaving irresponsibly while on skates, including the loss of their free-travel rights. The Lewisham team won the top award following a 72% reduction in reported 'skitching' incidents against their 30 per cent target and are now sharing this practice with other boroughs.

PART TWO

Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) Priorities

There have been significant changes in governance and funding flow for crime reduction related activity. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2012 abolished Police Authorities and introduced directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners.

The arrangements for London and Metropolitan Police area differ from the rest of the country – the 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.

Whereas previous funding arrangements were seen as disparate, complex and inefficient, MOPAC now provides resources for community safety and crime prevention programmes to boroughs across London.

MOPAC co-commissions activity with boroughs, drawing in local expertise and matched funding for programmes that can demonstrate their impact, meet local crime demands, and help generate a strong evidence base for what works in preventing and reducing crime. It aims to deliver value for money by piloting Payment by Results (PbR) schemes, and will provide boroughs the time and assurance needed to tackle complex and entrenched crime problems by giving them the opportunity to bid for longer term funding.

MOPAC Challenge

The challenge set by MOPAC for the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) up to 2016:
"A Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) that becomes the UK's most effective, most efficient, most respected, even most loved police force"

The 20/20/20, 20/20/20 Challenge promises to:

- Cut crime by 20%
- Boost public confidence by 20%
- Cut costs by 20%
- Reduce court delays by 20%
- Increase compliance with community sentences by 20%
- Reduce reoffending by young people leaving custody by 20%

MOPAC 7 - MOPAC'S target for the MPS is to cut 7 key "neighbourhood" crimes by 20% by 2016

Crime Types:

- o Violence with injury
- o Robbery
- o Burglary
- o Theft of a motor vehicle
- o Theft from a motor vehicle
- o Theft from the person
- o Vandalism (criminal damage)

The aim is to achieve an aggregate Metropolitan Police-wide reduction in these offences of 20% down on average levels seen in 2008-12, or even 20% down on 2011/12 (stretch target)

In summary, MOPAC both sets broad crime-reduction priorities and funds a portion of service activity at borough level. However, there is still a statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships to produce the annual strategic assessment – this document – the aim of which is to analyse problems in the borough and nominate strategic priorities.

The challenge for Safer Lewisham Partnership is to align the existing statutory requirements with the new governance and funding reality, while reflecting local needs and feedback from residents.

In order to achieve this, the Safer Lewisham Partnership will be guided by the following overarching principles:

Maximum Victim Impact

The Safer Lewisham Partnership has listened to the views of residents and placed the needs of victims at the forefront of this plan while also ensuring that the priorities chosen are those that demonstrate the greatest impact on victims concerns. The priorities need to be able to impact on a high volume of offending whilst supporting the needs of the majority of residents. Throughout its work the SLP will continue to prioritise the needs of victims and ensure it is accountable to local citizens.

Intelligence Led Prioritisation of Local Issues

Our selection of priority areas is based on a detailed analysis of current crime and disorder trends in the borough and has utilised a wide range of data sources. The assessment is not solely reliant on police recorded crime data and wherever possible the latter has been cross-referenced with data from a range of sources.

Strategic Relevance

The Safer Lewisham Plan is also designed to take into account new government legislation and also key changes in how we commission services.

Safer Lewisham Partnership Priorities for 14-15:

Working closely with MOPAC, informed by local data and in response to community concerns, the Safer Lewisham Partnership has identified the following priorities:

- The **First** priority will be to focus on reducing volume crime in Lewisham. Those crimes which account for the majority of the crime experienced in the borough each year. Targeting those known offenders in key locations across the borough will have a demonstrable effect on satisfaction and confidence of victims of these crimes. This also aligns with the MOPAC challenge, through intelligence-led efforts to reduce the 'MOPAC 7' crimes of:
 - Violence with injury
 - Robbery
 - Burglary
 - Theft of a motor vehicle
 - Theft from a motor vehicle
 - Theft from the person
 - Vandalism (criminal damage)

In working to achieve a 20% reduction across these crime types, the SLP will ensure all public services work collaboratively and with voluntary groups and communities to prevent crime, support victims and reduce re-offending while improving confidence across all criminal justice agencies.

- The **Second** priority will be to reduce key violent crime with particular focus on reducing 'Serious Youth Violence' (SYV) and 'Violence Against Women and Girls' (VAWG)
- The **Third** priority will be to ensure that the issue of greatest concern to residents, 'Anti Social Behaviour' (ASB), is dealt with swiftly, proportionately and with the victim at the heart of finding a resolution.

PART THREE

How will this be delivered?

The objectives set out above will be met with consideration of the following:

1. Performance
2. Crime Prevention and Victim Satisfaction
3. Reducing Reoffending

Priority 1 Reducing Volume Crime in Lewisham

Performance

The success of the partnership's efforts will be judged by reductions in the following linked offences:

- Violence with injury
- Robbery
- Burglary
- Theft of a motor vehicle
- Theft from a motor vehicle
- Theft from the person
- Vandalism (criminal damage)

Crime Prevention

Lewisham has seen fluctuations in these crime types (particularly burglary and robbery) over a number of years. Hotspots have been identified and a significant amount of multi-agency work has been put in over the past year, tackling issues through location based problem solving processes, services attending the Reducing Reoffending Panel to focus on key known offenders, improved working relationships with Housing, increased use of technology (Smart Water, CCTV and shortly Police body worn cameras) and progress in the use of post conviction ASBOs and injunctions for burglars.

Work continues to support specific vulnerable groups and communities and police and Council officers provide advice and information on crime prevention right across the borough. All public services agencies will continue to work together in delivering these key messages.

Programmes such as Neighbourhood Watch Schemes, City Safe Havens, Lewisham Borough Business against Crime (LBBAC) also support this support this work. Changes in the Local Policing Model will enable continued and greater focus on hotspots and partnership approaches to tackling issues in localities.

Reducing Reoffending

Most offending is repeat offending with a relatively small number of prolific offenders being responsible for the bulk of acquisitive crime.

Cutting reoffending rates is clearly a critical factor in driving down volume crime and last year the Partnership prioritised the development of an Integrated Offender Management model with the overarching objective of reducing reoffending rates amongst the borough's most prolific offenders. An important element of this strategy was the re-commissioning of the Drug Intervention Service provider on a payment by results basis and the setting up of the Repeat Offenders group to case manage offenders assessed to pose high risk of offending.

A whole system drug and alcohol treatment redesign is taking place, which will improve services and help tackle the issues of alcohol related violence and the harm caused to communities by drug abuse and levels of crime linked to this.

Work is currently underway to establish what improvements and further provisions need to be developed to ensure better health outcomes for offenders and those in vulnerable positions on the cusp of offending.

The Transforming Rehabilitation agenda will see a dramatic reorganisation of the Probation Service, with most local offender management activity commissioned out to a private sector: Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC). There will be one CRC for the whole of London. These changes are likely to take effect from late 2014 to 2015, and the SLP will work in partnership with the Ministry Of Justice, National Offender Management Service and CRCs in order to ensure the best possible outcomes for Lewisham offenders and residents.

Prioritising reducing reoffending for both young people and adults will allow the partnership to target a range of acquisitive crimes and link with the wider targets around Justice Reinvestment; working with the Ministry of Justice to reduce the demand on the Criminal Justice system as a whole.

Priority 2

Reduce violent crime with particular focus on reducing 'Serious Youth Violence' (SYV) and 'Violence Against Women and Girls' (VAWG)

Performance

The success of the partnership's efforts will be judged by reductions in the following linked offences:

- Serious Violence
- Violence with injury
- Domestic Violence and abuse.
- Rape and Sexual Violence.
- Sexual Exploitation with specific focus on children.

Crime Prevention

Serious Youth Violence - SYV

Activity to address Serious Youth Violence has been a key priority for the Safer Lewisham Partnership for the past six years, The Serious Youth Violence Strategic Action Plan has been developed to significantly reduce both the existence of youth gangs in Lewisham and the violence associated with and attributed to these gangs and street violence. The Plan sits beneath and informs the Safer Lewisham Strategy.

The principal aims of the Plan are:

- To identify, target and disrupt the most prolific perpetrators of serious violence in Lewisham;
- To identify those young people most at risk of becoming victims or offenders of violent crime at the earliest stage, so that appropriate interventions can be applied to reduce these risks;
- To ensure that all young people in Lewisham feel safe, healthy, valued and empowered to achieve their full potential in education, employment and in their community.

To achieve this, a number of evidence based programmes, initiatives and proactive tactics have been undertaken including Police enforcement of key gang nominals, activity by Lewisham's Anti-Social Behaviour Panel and ongoing prevention work with schools, youth clubs and voluntary community groups.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Lewisham Council has a long history of commitment to tackling domestic and sexual violence. This work is now supported by a comprehensive approach to tackling violence against women and girls through a systemic VAWG Plan. This first Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Plan for Lewisham has been developed as a result of the excellent partnership work over the last few years with individuals, organisations and victims of violence.

A needs assessment was undertaken in the summer of 2013 to look at the prevalence of VAWG locally and to determine what our priorities should be. We also consulted with our Council partners as well as residents and victims of VAWG.

The needs assessment identified gaps in local knowledge in a number of areas; and proposes 3 key strands for local focus and priority:

- Domestic violence and abuse
- Rape and sexual violence
- Sexual exploitation with particular focus on children

The VAWG Plan 2014-17 is Lewisham's first Violence Against Women and Girls Plan and aims to build on the existing work incorporated in the Council's Domestic and Sexual Violence Action Plan and supports the Mayor of London's Mayoral Strategy on Violence Against Women and Girls 2013-2017, which was launched November 2013 and informs this Plan. This pan-London strategy forms part of the London's Police and Crime Plan which demonstrates the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's commitment to reducing the prevalence of VAWG and improving confidence of victims in London.

The Plan sets out three important objectives for our borough;

- To develop a better understanding of VAWG and its impact in our borough;
- To ensure an improved access to the support and protection services offered to women and girls in our borough;
- To hold perpetrators to account.

Reducing Reoffending

Serious Youth Violence (SYV)

Since the creation of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), Lewisham submitted a bid for funds to tackle youth violence through a Multi-Agency Lewisham Serious Youth Violence team, an integrated mechanism that combines some of the enforcement and all the support features of services indicated in the Youth MARAC model. This funding will focus on the further reduction of Serious Youth Violence (SYV) across the Borough through the multi-agency Lewisham Serious Youth Violence team. The team will expand upon the established practice already delivered through Trilogy + and the Youth MARAC, whilst recognising the closer relationship that now exists between victim and perpetrator.

This has been highlighted through the Home Office Ending Gang and Youth Violence (EGYV) report as an area of strength to be developed further. These interventions were also praised for two consecutive years at the Joint Engagement Meetings (JEMs) held by the London Mayor's office.

This funding will allow the continued expansion of the partnership across the police, voluntary and statutory sector, with a clear focus on developing mental health referral and intervention pathways for gang/violence affected young people who have experienced serious trauma.

Violence Against Women Girls (VAWG)

Challenging the attitudes, behaviours and practices that allow VAWG to prevail is also key to this Plan, and this will be done in the context of a local, national and international commitment to eradicating violence against women and girls. Lewisham continues to offer a co-ordinated response to domestic violence and abuse, a strand of VAWG. We will ensure that Lewisham continues to demonstrate strong leadership in tackling violence against women and girls.

DV Perpetrator Programme

This programme (currently running in Lewisham) is available for any man who wants to end his abusive behaviour towards a female partner or ex-partner. The men's programme comprises group work sessions and individual counselling. TRYangle also offer a Women's Service for women whose partner or ex-partner is on the programme. The focus of the Women's Service is on safety planning. TRYangle also provide 1:1 counselling for both men and women.

The project has been independently evaluated by the Centre for Applied Social Research at the University of Greenwich (November 2012) and showed that "both perpetrators and victims attending and completing the Bromley pilot of the TRYangle programme evaluated it highly". Many male participants believed that what they learned as a result of attending the programme, had enabled them to change their behaviour for the better.

The Youth Offending Service also deliver one to one interventions with 16 and 17 year old perpetrators of domestic violence in line with the government's amended definition of domestic violence.

Domestic Violence Courts

Since January 2012, all domestic violence cases are reserved for Wednesdays at Bexley Magistrates Court. The MARAC & SDVC Coordinator attends the Domestic Violence Court at Bexley Magistrates court every Wednesday to get court outcomes on cases and update domestic violence services so that victims can be kept informed. The MARAC & SDVC Coordinator also coordinates the quarterly DV Court Operational Group meetings, which involves agencies across the four South East London areas – Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich and Lewisham.

Priority 3

Ensure that the issue of greatest concern to residents, 'Anti Social Behaviour' (ASB), is dealt with swiftly, proportionately and with the victim at the heart of finding a resolution.

Performance

The success of the partnership's efforts will be judged by reductions in the following linked offences:

- Police ASB CADS (Computerised Aided Dispatch)
- Incidents of Criminal Damage
- MOPAC 7 Component: Vandalism (criminal damage)

Crime Prevention

ASB casework and key hotspots have been identified and a number of multi-agency initiatives has been put in place to tackle these issues. These include creating the Lewisham ASB Victims MARAC, developing location based problem solving processes, increased use of technology (Smart Water, CCTV and shortly Police body worn cameras) and increased use of post conviction ASBOs and injunctions where needed. The multi agency 'Street a Week' programme has had a positive effect on community relations and has lead to increased reporting of ASB where used. Also, alongside the Borough wide Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) in place to tackle street drinking, the Partnership has also used Dispersal Zones as a tool to tackle ASB in town centres.

Crime Reduction Service Officers routinely present workshops in schools on topics from ASB and Knife Crime to Hate Crime and Cyber-Bullying and Police and Local Authority Officers meet the public at regularly held Crime Reduction roadshows throughout the borough. This is also underway through Police Contact Points.

The Crime Reduction Service has worked closely with the Home Office and Victim Support on the introduction of the New Victims Code and Lewisham launched a Victims Pledge last year. Partners are currently working on a strategy to better inform young people of their rights and responsibilities, particularly around Stop & Search, when they come into contact with the Police of Local Authority

Mental Health and ASB

London Councils have undertaken a survey and recently produced their findings in response to Community safety departments in London boroughs reporting that a significant proportion of anti-social behaviour (ASB) cases they are dealing with have a mental health dimension. That is to say that either or both the complainant and alleged perpetrator have mental health support needs. The need however may or may not be formally diagnosed and this is one of the many issues that make dealing with ASB of this kind particularly complex. Other issues include effective information sharing and partnership working between agencies.

London's boroughs recognise the detrimental effect ASB can have on communities, and are preparing for legislative changes, that include the Community Trigger and Community Remedy, which aim to bring a more victim-centred and restorative approach to tackling ASB. Boroughs are also focused on addressing the complex underlying causes of ASB. Where there is a mental health dimension, boroughs are continually striving to get the balance right in terms of prevention, support and enforcement.

The survey confirmed that mental health was recognised as an issue in relation to ASB by all respondents and many boroughs reported that it appears to have an increasing impact. A complicating factor is presented by the challenge of formally identifying mental health issues within the management of ASB cases. The survey also confirmed that boroughs are firmly committed to supporting individuals with mental health needs, as well as protecting communities and individuals from ASB.

Despite some areas of good practice, including Lewisham, there is much more that could be done to improve the response across London and an agenda for both pan-London as well local partnerships to consider. Partners in Lewisham will take this forward. Lewisham are also working very closely with NHS England in the development and commissioning of services for offender health agenda and look to develop this further.

Reducing Reoffending

The Government has committed to reform the powers available to deal with anti-social behaviour.

In response to this, a consultation document was published on 7 February 2011. The resulting Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill 2013-14 outlines proposals to radically streamline the toolkit available to tackle anti-social behaviour. It presented five key policy proposals which were as follows:

- The Criminal Behaviour Order
- The Crime Prevention Injunction
- The Community Protection Order
- The Directions Power
- The Community Trigger

In addition to the five key policy proposals the Home Secretary has recently announced intentions to introduce a Community Remedy. This Bill is currently being debated at the House of Lords with an outcome expected shortly

All areas require detailed consideration before implementation. The community trigger and remedy will be an area for further improving our work with communities

The Community Trigger is a process which allows members of the community to ask the Community Safety Partnership to review their responses to complaints of anti-social behaviour. Registered Housing Providers (social landlords) will also be included in the trial.

The Trigger is designed to ensure we work together to try and resolve any complaints about anti-social behaviour. We will do this by talking about the problem, sharing information and using our resources to try and reach an agreeable outcome.

The Trigger should be used if you believe your complaint has not been responded to. The Trigger **can not** be used to report general acts of crime, including hate crime

The Trigger does not replace the complaints procedures of individual organisations, or your opportunity to complain to the Local Government Ombudsman or Independent Police Complaints Commission

The Community Remedy consultation will gather knowledge, expertise and opinions of policing and criminal justice stakeholders and the public more widely, to ensure that the final policy takes account of the potential impact of the changes on all affected parties.

This would be a Mayor of London sponsored menu of community sanctions for low level crime and anti-social behaviour. It would be used as part of informal and formal out of court disposals. The aim is to help Mayor make community justice more responsive and accountable to victims and the public, with proportionate but meaningful punishments.

Some police forces currently use a community resolution to deal with low-level crime and anti-social behaviour – essentially a common sense approach where the offender agrees to make amends to the victim without the case going through the criminal justice system.

Dealing with low-level crime and anti-social behaviour informally is aimed at ensuring that victims get justice straightaway, and offenders have to face immediate consequences for their actions, so that they are less likely to reoffend in the future.

Supporting Victims.

Treating victims with dignity and respect should be at the heart of all criminal justice agencies. Surveys consistently show that victims in LONDON are less satisfied with the service they receive.

Victim Satisfaction has a significant impact on confidence in the police and the criminal justice agencies as a whole.

Delivering a reduction in Crime & ASB will require continued joint response by police, Local Authorities, Housing providers, London Fire Service, voluntary and community sector agencies and other key agencies with a combined robust enforcement against perpetrators with support for victims.

Home Office research estimates that as much as 75 % of ASB goes unreported owing partly to a lack of confidence in effective remedies and fear of reprisals. In such circumstances a lower number of complaints might reflect a worsening of the problem.

Repeat victimisation and dedicated support to victims of specific forms of crime continues to be of importance. The work of the Domestic violence and Youth MARAC (Multi Agency Referral and Assessment Conferences), public sector services and voluntary sector organisations working in this area are of key value.

PART FOUR

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 2014-15.

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. These have included a Public Consultation Event through the Lewisham Police and Community Consultative Group, an on-line Crime Survey and a stakeholder engagement programme. However, the Partnership is committed to ongoing improvements in the services we deliver. 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 advice and support in relation to drugs and alcohol problems, visit Frank at:

www.talktofrank.com

or call 0800 776600

For information on your local Safer Neighbourhood Teams please visit:

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

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Agenda Item 7

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee		
Title	Main grants update	
Contributor	Executive Director for Community Services	Item:
Class	Part 1	25 February 2014

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report updates Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee on the main grants programme. This review provides an analysis of the organisations that have been approved for main grant funding in 2014-15, including a breakdown of their main service users and activities. Information has been taken from the monitoring process which was undertaken in September and October 2013, and the organisations' application forms for 2014-15 which were submitted in the same time period.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee are recommended to note the content of this report.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1 Lewisham has a strong history of working with the third sector and empowering residents and communities.
- 3.2 The Sustainable Community Strategy sets out a commitment to creating a borough that is:

Empowered and Responsible: where people are actively involved in their local area and contribute to supportive communities.

- 3.3 This is reflected in Lewisham's Corporate priorities:

Community leadership and empowerment: developing opportunities for the active participation and engagement of people in the life of the community.

- 3.4 Lewisham is fortunate to have a strong and thriving third sector which ranges from very small organisations with no paid staff through to local branches of national charities. The third sector includes charities, not for profit companies limited by guarantee, faith organisations, civic amenity societies as well as social enterprises. What all these organisations have in common is their ability to bring significant additional value to the work that they do through voluntary support and raising funds from sources not available to other sectors such as charitable trusts.

4. Current organisations in receipt of Main Grants funding

- 4.1 The current main grant funding round started in 2011-12, and a commitment has been made to maintain the grant agreement through to the end of 2014-15. There are currently 70 organisations in receipt of main grant funding. The Investment Fund has supported some additional projects.

5. Analysis

- 5.1 Table 1 summarises the main user groups served by organisations in receipt of main grants funding. A large number provide services to users from many different demographic groups and have been recorded as serving the whole community such as the Albany. Whereas some organisations primarily focus on a particular demographic but may provide some services to other target groups. These organisations have been recorded under their primary user group i.e. Age Exchange do work with young people but their primary user group. Of the 70 organisations providing service user information, the largest single service user group (22 organisations) receiving support was Whole Community Services (31%), with the second largest falling under into the Vulnerable Adults category (16 organisations or 23%). Although all organisations are required to promote equality and diversity through the delivery of their provision, five organisations specifically provide services focused on the needs of BME communities.

Table 1: Groups served by main grants programme

	Number
BME groups	5
Childrens' services	6
LGBT group	1
Older people's services	7
Vulnerable adults' services	16
Whole community services	22
Youth services	13
Grand Total	70

It should be noted that when the 2011-14 grant programme was agreed, the grants were awarded according to agreed priority areas of activity, which were allocating funding as follows:

1	Building Social Capital	£1,315,000
2	Gateway Services	£1,135,000
3	Children and Young People	£1,142,000
4	Communities that Care	£841,000

These award categories are summarised as follows:

Building Social Capital includes support to infrastructure organisations, including Voluntary Action Lewisham and Lewisham Community Transport. It also includes support to organisations providing volunteering opportunities and promoting community cohesion and equalities. A further aspect of this category includes area-based community development which funds community development activity at a

neighbourhood level e.g. Bellingham Community Project and Ackroyd Community Association.

The principal organisations operating under the Gateway Services category provide advice and information services. This category also includes support to organisations providing employability support.

Children and Young People funding supports a range of specific organisations delivering services including youth theatre, youth projects, adventure playgrounds and music organisations. There are also some services for younger children such as Lewisham Opportunity Pre School.

Communities that Care includes a range of services, including those focused on working with older residents. It also includes support services to vulnerable adults.

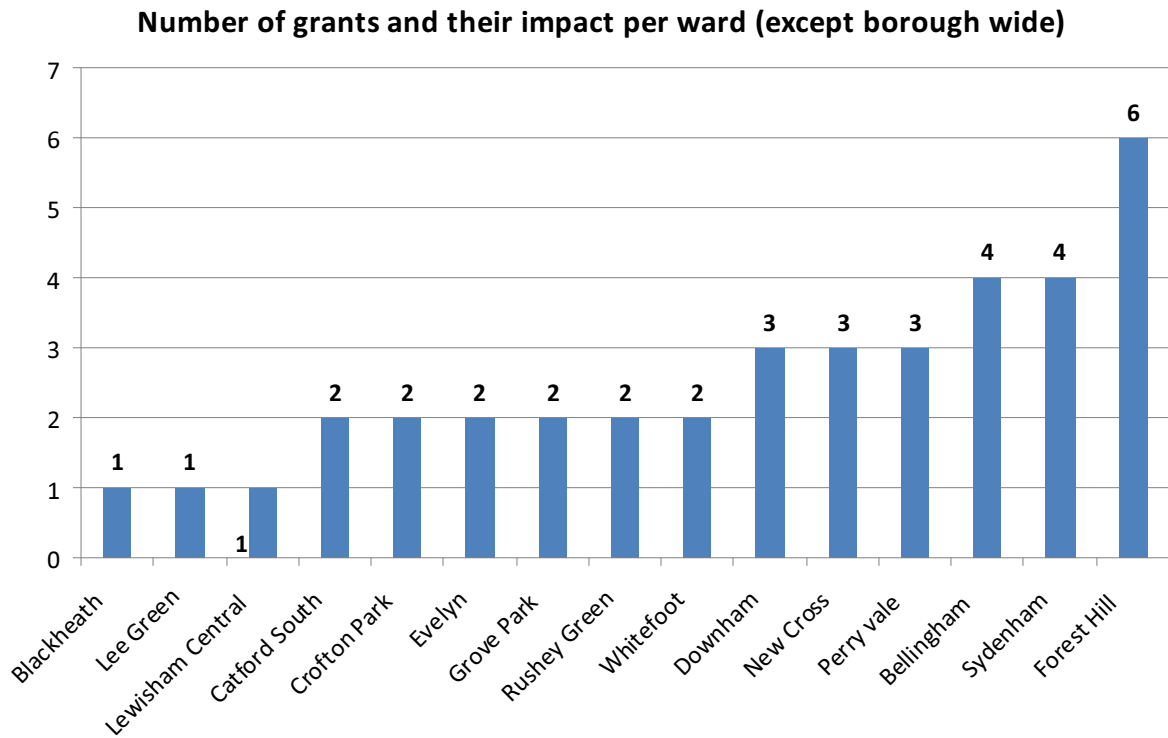
Although all the service user groups listed in Table 1 fall under one of the four above categories, it should be noted that a number currently bridge at least two of the categories.

- 5.2 Geographically speaking, the vast majority of organisations indicate that they deliver services on a borough-wide basis. However, analysis of provision on a ward-specific basis shows that a number of organisations consider their services to be focused on specific wards (in some cases, organisations have provided a return which shows them delivering across more than one named ward), as shown in Tables 2 and 3, with Table 3 further illustrating the services delivered by those organisations that target services at ward level. Six organisations show that their work particularly impacts in Forest Hill, whilst both Bellingham and Sydenham receive ward-specific services from four organisations each. Only Brockley, Ladywell and Telegraph Hill are not specifically designated as receiving ward-specific services.

Table 2: Services delivered by geographical location

Borough wide	55
Bellingham	4
Blackheath	1
Brockley	
Catford South	2
Crofton Park	2
Downham	3
Forest Hill	6
Evelyn	2
Grove Park	2
Ladywell	
Lee Green	1
Lewisham Central	1
New Cross	3
Perry vale	3
Rushey Green	2
Sydenham	4
Telegraph Hill	
Whitefoot	2

Table 3:



5.3 The Lewisham grants received by organisations represent a significant income for a number of groups. Grant awards range from £5,000 to almost £500,000. It is clear from analysis that the organisations for which the grant represents the highest percentage against overall income are those with an annual turnover of less than £1m, where the main grants programme represents an average of 20.3% of annual income. However, grants are also provided to a number of large organisations, including national organisations with annual income exceeding £10m, bringing the overall average of grant against income to 4.2%. If we exclude those working predominantly outside Lewisham, particularly national organisations, the average amount generated by organisations for every £1 invested amounts to approximately £4.

It should be noted that lead officers have worked closely with organisations to help them diversify their funding base and make them less reliant on funding from Lewisham. As a result of this, many organisations are accessing a broader range of funds. In a small number of cases, where organisations have been overly reliant on Lewisham main grants, targets for diversifying their funding bases have been included as a condition of grant aid.

5.4 Each main grant funded organisation has a designated Lewisham Lead Officer who works closely with the organisation in achieving agreed outputs and outcomes which are set annually. Progress against these is reported on quarterly. Lead Officers maintain contact with organisations throughout the contract year in supporting organisational development and maintaining communication between individual organisations and Lewisham Council. Each year, there is a full monitoring and evaluation programme for each organisation which analyses the key aspects of their governance, delivery and performance, including quality, financial management and equalities and diversity. As demonstrated above, the role of the Lead Officer can be key in ensuring value for money and organisational sustainability through, for

example, the achievement of diversification targets and in the early identification of potential future difficulties.

6. Financial implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

7. Legal implications

7.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

8. Conclusion

8.1 The Council's main grant programme will reach the end of its final year of current funding at the end of March 2015. Proposals for a new 3 year grants programme will be consulted on from July - September 2014. The programme will open to applications in Autumn 2014 for new awards to commence from 1 April 2015. Proposals for the new programme priorities will take account of existing main grants spend but will also seek to ensure that the grants programme complements other sources of third sector investment and takes into account changing local needs.

If there are any queries on this report please contact Winston Castello, Community Enterprise Manager, 020 8314 7729.

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Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee			
Title	Select Committee work programme		
Contributor	Scrutiny Manager	Item	8
Class	Part 1 (Open)	Date	25 February 2014

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide Members of the Select Committee with an overview of the work programme.

2. Summary

- 2.1 At the beginning of the municipal year each select committee is required to draw up a work programme for submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel. The Panel considers the suggested work programmes and coordinates activities between select committees in order to maximise the use of scrutiny resources and avoid duplication.
- 2.2 The meeting on 25 February is the last scheduled meeting of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee in the 2013-14 municipal year, as well as the last meeting of the 2010-14 Council administration. This report provides a brief overview of the Committee's work in the 2010-14 administration in preparation for the development of the 2014-15 Committee work programme.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Select Committee is asked to:
- note the completed work programme attached at **Appendix B**;
 - consider the core issues covered in the 2010-14 administration;
 - consider any matters arising that it may wish to suggest for future scrutiny.

4. Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee 2010-2014

- 4.1 The Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee has had an important role to play in the oversight and development of a number of key areas of Council responsibility, and community concern, over the last 4 years. The Committee has carried out four in depth reviews and made a number of recommendations for improvement, via referrals to Mayor and Cabinet/Council or partner organisations. The work of the Committee, and the evidence-based recommendations it has made, has had a direct impact on the development of both policy and service delivery in a number of areas. Below are some examples of the Committee's work:

4.2 Working with the community and voluntary sector

The Committee has carried out a range of work investigating and examining the changing role of Lewisham's community and voluntary sector. Evidence gathered for the Committee's community and voluntary sector review highlighted the diverse range of roles the sector has in the borough; offering sports participation, hobbies, local activism and social action, support for vulnerable people, as well as supporting (and enhancing the work of) other community and voluntary organisations.

The Committee also identified gaps in the capacity of the sector and set out some of the challenges facing the Council and its partners in ensuring the future sustainability and vitality of community and voluntary sector organisations. As a result of the Committee's work the Council has increased its efforts to bolster the capacity of the sector; working with the community to foster involvement and engagement in community and voluntary sector organisations.

The Committee has kept a strong focus on patterns of funding for the sector and as a result of this work the issue of funding for the community and voluntary sector remains a significant consideration in the Council's decision making processes. The Committee's work also ensures that interactions between areas of funding provided by the Council are subject to oversight and scrutiny.

4.2 Domestic violence

The Committee has reviewed actions being taken to prevent violence against women and girls throughout the 2010-14 administration. Building on previous scrutiny, the Committee also carried out an in-depth review of responses to domestic violence in the borough. It sought to investigate the issue from the perspective of commonly overlooked communities; focusing specifically on services for older people, the LGB&T community and the abuse of disabled people.

Alongside highlighting the effectiveness of specific interventions to deal with domestic violence in the borough, the Committee found that there was incomplete or insubstantial information available in a number of areas to understand patterns of domestic violence in Lewisham. The Committee's work has influenced the development of Lewisham's draft violence against women and girls strategy.

4.3 The emergency services review

The Committee played a key role in the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's emergency services review. The borough fire commander and the borough police commander both attended Committee meetings to answer questions about the potential impact of proposed changes to emergency services in Lewisham that were of real concern to local people.

As a result of the Committee's involvement, detailed information regarding the plans for local implementation of the changes was gathered by the direct questioning of senior officers in two of the borough's major emergency services. The Committee highlighted to the Commanders directly the importance of

communicating the potential impact of the changes to citizens in Lewisham, and made a series of recommendations to both services to improve their engagement with local people. Through their involvement and engagement with local people, the Committee enriched local understanding of the implementation of the local policing model.

4.4 Enhancing local assemblies and increasing community involvement

The Committee has taken a keen interest in the effective roll out of local assemblies and local democratic processes. Through its sense of belonging review the Committee recommended ways in which assemblies, events and ceremonies might help to further integrate citizens in local democratic life.

As a result of the Committee's work new information about assemblies is being provided at citizenship ceremonies, enabling new citizens to become involved in the democratic life of the borough. Furthermore, a greater number of Councillors have become involved in citizenship ceremonies, which it is hoped, will help to involve new citizens with local democracy and decision making.

4.5 Joint working with the Children and Young People Select Committee

The Committee has been actively involved in scrutinising the Council's plans for commissioning youth service provision to ensure an effective and engaging programme of youth provision remains available across the borough in spite of reduced funding being available to the Council to deliver youth services directly. The committees have held three joint meetings to scrutinise the commissioning process: at their first meeting the committees considered how the proposals for the service were intended to work; at the second meeting they reviewed the transition process from Council provision to the commissioning structure - and at their third meeting they assessed how the proposals for the allocation of funding had been made.

At each stage the committees referred their views to Mayor and Cabinet for consideration. As a result of the Committee's engagement detailed mapping of existing provision across the borough was undertaken and a strong focus on ensuring accessibility of the commissioning process to the local community and voluntary sector was maintained.

5. **Planning for the next administration**

5.1 A work programme report will be put forward at the first Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee meeting of the 2014-15 administration. The report will take account of the committee's previous work, and will draw on a range of sources for suggestions, as set out in the following sections.

5.2 The Committee has already indicated that there are matters it feels should be considered for further scrutiny, these are:

- the role of the Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Association;
- mapping of the Main Grants Programme;
- Community Connections project.

5.3 As with the development of all new work programmes, suggestions will also be incorporated by drawing on:

- matters arising as a result of previous scrutiny;
- issues that the committee is required to consider by virtue of its terms of reference;
- items requiring follow up from committee reviews and recommendations;
- issues suggested by members of the public;
- petitions;
- standard reviews of policy implementation or performance, which is based on a regular schedule;
- items that senior council officers feel are important for the committee to scrutinise;
- suggestions from officers;
- decisions due to be made by Mayor and Cabinet.

5.4 The Lewisham Future Programme

Through the Lewisham Future Programme the Council must save a further £95m from its £285m budget in the four years from 2014-15 to 2017-18. In order to achieve the savings, the Council has embarked on a series of thematic and cross-cutting reviews to fundamentally review the way it delivers services. This will mean that savings will be delivered over longer time periods and will need to be agreed and taken as and when they are identified. Officers have committed to regular interactions with Members in order to facilitate scrutiny of the specific savings proposals arising from the major change programmes. The Select Committees will need to retain capacity in its work programme to consider these as is necessary.

All select committees have a role to play in ensuring Lewisham's communities are involved in scrutiny, but over and above this the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee has an obligation to consider and recommend to the Executive, ways in which participation by disadvantaged and under-represented sections of the community might be more effectively involved in democratic processes. This might lead the Committee to consider ways in which the Council can communicate changes to citizens and reach under-represented sections of the community.

5.5 At the beginning of the new administration the Committee will be asked to agree a provisional work programme for the coming year for submission to Business Panel. Members are asked to review the completed work programme for 2013-14 as well as the core issues covered and put forward any matters arising that should be considered as part of the 2014-15 work programme.

6. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7. Legal Implications

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, all scrutiny select committees must devise and submit a work programme to the Business Panel at the start of each municipal year.

8. Equalities Implications

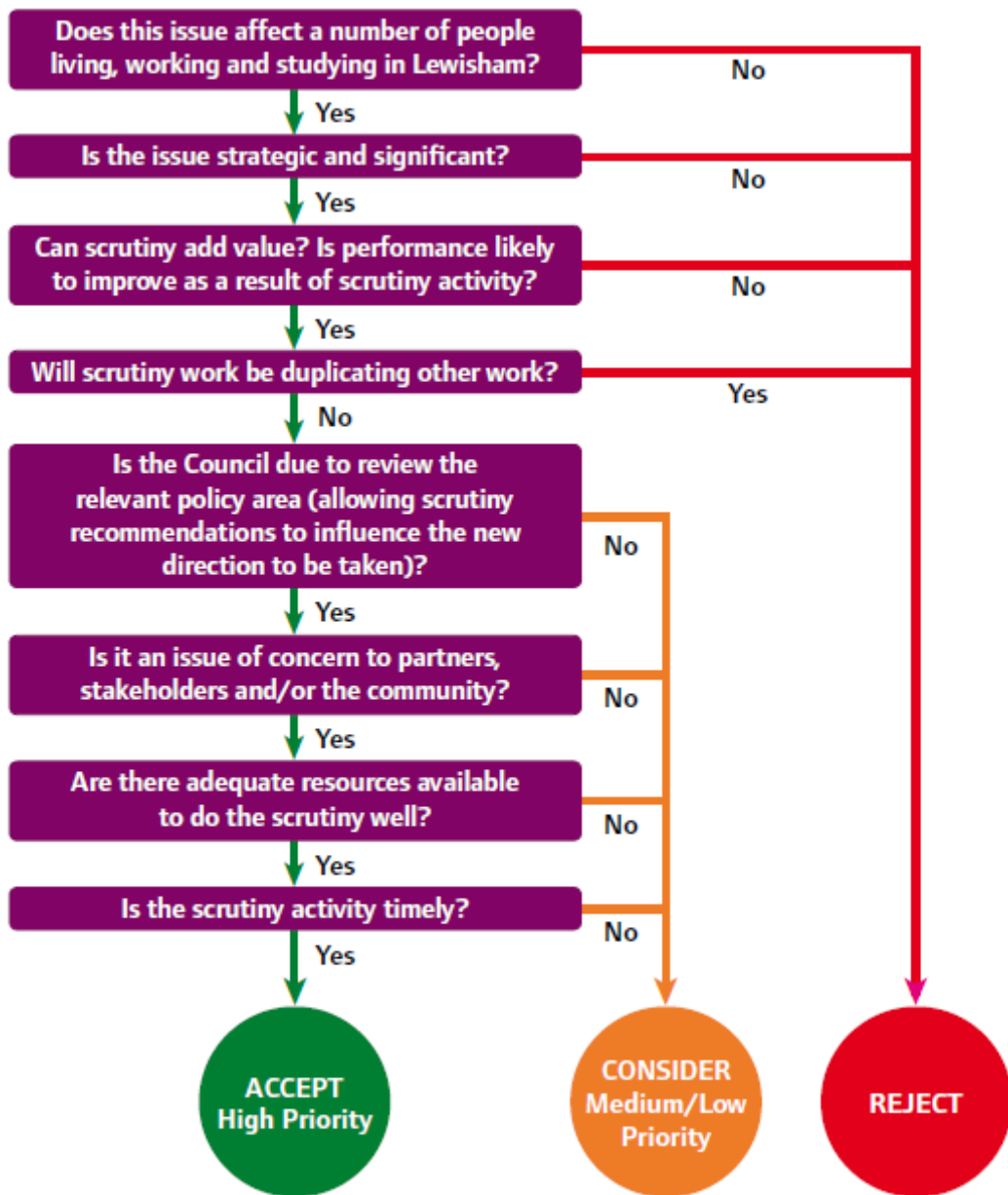
- 8.1 The Equality Act 2010 brought together all previous equality legislation in England, Scotland and Wales. The Act included a new public sector equality duty, replacing the separate duties relating to race, disability and gender equality. The duty came into force on 6 April 2011. It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 8.2 The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 8.3 There may be equalities implications arising from items on the work programme and all activities undertaken by the Select Committee will need to give due consideration to this.

Background Documents

Lewisham Council's Constitution

Centre for Public Scrutiny: the Good Scrutiny Guide

Scrutiny work programme – prioritisation process



Work Item	Type of review	Priority	Strategic Priority	Delivery deadline	10-Apr	08-May	29-Jul	03-Sep	22-Oct	29-Nov	21-Jan	25-Feb
Riots Communities and Victims Panel - final report	Standard Review	Medium	CP1/CP4/SCS2	Apr	Response							
Community premises policy	Standard Review	High	CP1/SCS2	Apr								
Communities that care	Standard Review	Medium	CP8/SCS6	Apr								
Emergency services in Lewisham review	Standard Review	High	CP4/CP10/SCS2	Sep	Scops	Fire	Police	Police				
Promoting a sense of belonging	In-Depth Review	Medium	CP1/SCS2	Jan		Response					Review	
Hate crime and domestic violence	Standard Review	High	CP4/SCS2	May								
Update on main grants programme funding	Standard Review	High	CP10/SCS6	Sep								
Reshaping youth services - joint scrutiny with CYP select committee	Standard Review	High	CP10/SCS7	Jul			Response					
Safer Lewisham Partnership Plan	Performance Monitoring	Medium	CP4/SCS2	Jul								
Probation service update	Performance monitoring	Medium	CP4/SCS2	Jul								
Working practices within the community and voluntary sector	Standard Review	Medium	CP1/SCS6	Sep								
Integration of refugees	Standard Review	Medium	CP1/SCS2	Oct								
Strategic Financial Review update and Savings Proposals for 2014/15 and 2015/16	Standard Review	High	CP10/SCS6	Nov								
Lewisham Race equality organisation update	Standard Review	High	CP1/SCS3	Oct								
Discretionary rate relief policy	Policy development	High	CP10/SCS6	Sep								
Local Assemblies review	Standard Review	Medium	CP1/SCS2	Jan								
Safer Lewisham Strategy - monitoring and update	Performance Monitoring	Medium	CP4/SCS2	Feb								
Comprehensive Equalities Scheme - monitoring and update	Performance Monitoring	Medium	CP1/SCS2	Feb								
Violence against women and girls	Standard item	Medium	CP4/SCS2	Feb								
Community asset changes	Standard Item	High	SCS6	Feb								

	Item completed
	Item ongoing
	Item outstanding
	Proposed timeframe
	Carried over from last year
	Item added

Meetings						
1)	Wed	10 April (dsp 02 April)	5)	Tue	22 Oct (dsp 10 Oct)	
2)	Wed	08 May (dsp 30 April)	6)	Fri	29 Nov (dsp 21 Nov)	
3)	Mon	29 July (dsp 18 July)	7)	Tue	21 Jan (dsp 09 Jan)	
4)	Tue	03 Sept (dsp 22 Aug)	8)	Wed	25 Feb (dsp 13 Feb)	

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