

<b>Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee</b>		
Title	Gang associated women and girls – prevention and awareness review: third evidence session	
Contributor	Scrutiny Manager	Item 4
Class	Part 1 (open)	10 March 2015

## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 15 July 2014, when deciding on its 2014/15 work programme, the Committee raised concerns about violence against gang associated women and girls.
- 1.2 Additional information about Lewisham’s violence against women and girls (VAWG) strategy was provided by officers at the Committee’s meeting on 10 September 2014. Following consideration of the information provided and questioning of officers, the Committee resolved to carry out a review into the issue of gang associated women and girls in the borough, which would focus on preventative work and early intervention.
- 1.3 At its meeting on 3 December 2014, the Committee heard from the Head of Crime Reduction and Supporting People about current awareness raising and prevention work taking place in the borough.
- 1.4 In February 2015 the Committee received a presentation from the Safer London Foundation about the Empower programme, which supports women and girls who are the victims of violence.
- 1.5 Members agreed that the third evidence session for the review should focus on work taking place in Lewisham schools to raise awareness of the issues and prevent violence against women and girls.

## **2. Recommendations**

The Select Committee is asked to:

- Review the information below about awareness raising and prevention activities in schools.
- Consider the verbal update from officers at the meeting about work in schools.

## **3. Key lines of inquiry for the review**

### **3.1 Review questions:**

- How do Lewisham and its partner organisations work to prevent women and girls from becoming associated with gangs?
- What could be done to enhance the effectiveness of work in this area?

In order to answer this question the Committee has resolved to establish the following:

- What data is available about the extent of issues affecting gang associated girls and women in Lewisham?
- What services exist to prevent women and girls from becoming associated with gangs?
- What is the pattern of take up of prevention services?
- What is the current level of resource for prevention services in Lewisham?
- Are there examples of effective practice in other areas?
- What are the future challenges to delivering successful prevention and awareness raising work?

#### **4. Timetable**

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to consider the outline timetable for the review as set out below.

3 December 2014

Data from the Police Service on the number of women and girls affected by gang violence;

Information from Council officers about prevention services in the borough.

3 February 2015

Invitation to third party organisations to share examples of best practice

10 March 2015

Update on prevention and awareness raising activities in schools.

April/May 2015

Recommendations based on evidence collected and final report for submission to the Safer Lewisham Partnership and Mayor and Cabinet.

#### **5. Further implications**

At this stage there are no specific financial, legal, environmental or equalities implications to consider. However, each will be addressed as part of the review.

#### **Background papers**

Available online at: <http://tinyurl.com/lwxd7wt>

Minutes of the meeting of Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee on 15 July 2015

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=189&MId=3336&Ver=4>

Report on Violence Against Women and Girls at the meeting on 10 September 2014

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=189&MId=3337&Ver=4>

Minutes of the meeting of Committee on 10 September 2014

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=189&Year=0>

Scoping report for violence against women and girls review November 2015

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s31856/Appendix%20D%20-%20girls%20and%20gangs%20review%20031114.pdf>

Officer report on current activity to prevent and raise awareness of violence against gang associated women and girls at the Committee meeting on 3 December 2014

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=189&MId=3339&Ver=4>

Minutes of the meeting of Committee on 3 December 2014

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=189&Year=0>

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# How to carry out an in-depth review

