

London Borough of
Tower Hamlets

**Violence against
Women and Girls
Strategy
2016-2019**

MAYORS FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the partnership's Tower Hamlets' Violence against Women and Girls Plan which highlights my Mayoral commitment to ending all forms of gender violence. The Plan provides the opportunity to make a positive change to everyone who lives in, works in or visits our wonderfully diverse and unique borough.

Over the past three years, extensive consultation and work has taken place with all our stakeholders, in particular our survivors of gender violence. This is the boroughs second Plan and aims to build on the good work that has already been achieved.

For the past fifteen years, we have led the way in developing a co-ordinated response to domestic violence. Community safety remains a key priority as all forms of violence have a devastating impact on victims of crime and their families, friends and community. This impact is often even greater when violence occurs within the home or is perpetrated by someone known to the victim, as is often the case with some forms of VAWG. This makes accessing support for victims all the more difficult and it is vital we encourage victims not to suffer in silence. The Strategy provides a foundation for continued partnership work across stakeholders and the community to challenge gender based violence for all.

The key objectives within the plan for our borough include ensuring support and protection for victims, intervening early to ensure violence is prevented wherever possible, holding perpetrators to account, and challenging the attitudes, behaviours and practices that allow Violence against Women and Girls to prevail.

The safety of the community can only be achieved through the kind of coordinated multi-agency approach that this Plan outlines, and I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this vital piece of work.

John Biggs
Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets

Contents

	Page
Introduction	5
Why have a VAWG Strategy?	5
Evaluating our work on VAWG	6
Outline of the VAWG Strategy	9
Theory of Change	15
Strategic Approach	18
Strategic Priority 1: Prevention and Early Intervention	19
Strategic Priority 2: Provision of Appropriate Support to Survivors	21
Strategic Priority 3: Protection from Abuse	23
Strategic Priority 4: Partnership Working across Statutory and Voluntary Agencies	25
Strategic Priority 5: Participation of Victim/Survivors to Inform Services	27
Strategic Priority 6: Perpetrator Accountability	28
Implementing the VAWG Strategy	30
Measuring Success	32
Appendix 1: Definition of the VAWG Strands	33
Appendix 2: Coordinated Community Response to VAWG	35
Appendix 3: Consultation Log	36
Appendix 4: Performance Matrix 2015/2016	42
Appendix 5: 'Whole School' approach	55
Appendix 6: Person Centred Approach	59
Appendix 7: List of Acronyms	60

Introduction

This is Tower Hamlets' second VAWG Plan. Tower Hamlets has had a Domestic Violence Team for over 15 years and a specific action plan for at least 10 years, aimed at tackling domestic violence against anyone who is experiencing abuse. In 2013, the borough launched an additional strategy, the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Plan, aimed at addressing the disproportionate impact of gender-based violence on female residents of the borough and linked to existing VAWG Strategies across London, nationally and internationally.

This current strategy outlines and highlights the commitment of the partnership to strengthen a coordinated multi-agency approach to tackling VAWG over the next three years and build upon the previous VAWG Plan. It is key to note that the strategy is a partnership document led through the Council and has cross cutting outcomes that are delivered and supported through a number of forums and boards such as the Domestic Violence Forum, Prevent Board, No Place for Hate Forum and Child Sexual Exploitation Group. The Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Team (DV&HCT) supports the development of co-ordinated community responses to hate crime. A threefold approach which includes ensuring support and protection for all victims and witnesses, ensuring enforcement action is taken against any identified perpetrators and partnership and raising awareness work focuses on prevention and reducing the harm these crimes cause to individuals, families and the community as a whole.

Why have a VAWG Strategy?

The aim of the VAWG Strategy is not to replace the existing work of the Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Team (DVHCT), within which the VAWG work sits, but to complement the team through a strategic approach to address all forms of gender-based violence. To that end, the structures of the DVHCT, including the Domestic Violence Action Plan and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Domestic Violence Forum (DVF) subgroup continued in their original form with the VAWG Steering Group and Plan forming an additional CSP subgroup area.

Addressing violence against women and girls is already recognised as a priority area regionally, nationally and internationally. The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women 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 and followed this with a refreshed strategy in 2013. 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. The Mayor of London's Policing and Crime Plan, launched in 2013 also has tackling VAWG as a key priority.¹ Tower Hamlets VAWG Plan takes a pro-active partnership approach to addressing this problem and makes a strong statement about the Council's commitment to safeguarding adults and children and pursuing gender equality.

Approximately 97% of all known victims of interpersonal violence in Tower Hamlets are female - a significant gender bias towards women. A Violence against Women and Girls approach sees the phenomenon of violence against women as both a cause and effect of fundamental inequalities

¹ The Policing and Crime Plan is currently in transition for 2016 and will be updated following consultation held by MOPAC in winter 2016. Our VAWG Strategy will be revised in light of any key changes.

between males and females. The Preamble to The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) states that *"violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women, and that violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men."*

It is important that Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) is not seen as a series of incidents or assaults which an individual experiences. VAWG describes violent and oppressive patterns of behaviour and practises, which achieve power and control over women and girls. It impacts on the physical safety, health and emotional well-being of individuals and impacts on families, carers, children and the community as a whole. As Alison Saunders, Director of Public Prosecutions has recently highlighted, *until it is no longer the case that the vast majority of these crimes are committed by men using power, coercion and violence against women, amending the title of VAWG would put the victims of these crimes back into the dark, where they have been kept for far too long.*²

Abuse can take place, however, regardless of gender, ethnicity, faith, sexuality or age. Whilst we recognise that the issues in the previous plan and this strategy have a disproportionate effect on women, we also recognise that boys and men are victims of violence too - 3% of all victims of interpersonal violence in Tower Hamlets. As a local area, we remain committed to providing support **for all victims of abuse** and the intention of this plan is to strengthen our response to responding to abuse rather than undermining this approach.

Evaluating our work on VAWG

Highlighting VAWG work to date

As outlined, we are developing our second VAWG Strategy. However, it is important to reflect upon the headline successes and challenges since 2013. Some of the key outcomes are outlined below:

- Almost £1,000,000 funding raised from external sources including MOPAC, DfE and DCLG
- Recruitment of over 150 VAWG Champions from organisations across the borough, ensuring that our champions represent the full diversity of communities in the borough.³
- Development of a multi-agency training programme and the Training and Awareness Officer post
- Development of a partnership approach to prostitution including a 'prostitution MARAC'
- Tower Hamlets is one of only 5 boroughs to participate in a MOPAC and DfE funded pilot to tackle 'harmful practices'
- VAWG network of over 500 participants
- Over 1800 young people have received lessons
- Nearly 2000 professionals have received training
- 'Whole School' approach to prevention developed and implemented in schools across the borough

² Saunders, A. (2015) 'Some violence is targeted at women and girls – we can't ignore that', Alison Saunders, Director of Public Prosecutions in The Guardian Newspaper, 28.07.15

³ We have recruited champions from different communities across Tower Hamlets. Additionally, we have champions who represent LGBT residents and who represent disabled residents in the borough.

- MARAC referrals for all strands of VAWG have increased, highlighting increased awareness by professionals
- Change in working practice around harmful practices where Tower Hamlets is now seen as a best practice borough across London
- Increase in men working to tackle VAWG – VAWG is not just seen as a ‘women’s issue’ and men are championing the work around gender equality.
- Increase awareness through training regarding exploitation and radicalisation and the use of social media
- Police reporting across all strands except dowry related abuse increase (dowry abuse is expected to have been subsumed within wider ‘domestic abuse’ flags).
- Development of a strong multi-agency partnership approach across all strands
- Increased awareness of VAWG across the wider community including recruitment of VAWG Community Champions. This project recruits local volunteers to go out into the community utilising their unique skill set to ensure One Tower Hamlets messages are far reaching. Accredited “hate crime leadership” training is also being planned for 2016-17. The programme empowers local people to play their part in promoting community cohesion including targeting members from across all areas of the community to take part.
- No Place for Hate Campaign promotes increased public awareness of hate crime through a range of publications. The campaign is high profile communicated through outreach, billboards, advertisements and local media including at key LGBT events such as IDAHO and Pride and the national 16 days of action campaign.
- No Place for Hate Pledge aims to encourage all individuals who live, work or visit the borough to make a united stand against prejudice and discrimination. This public condemnation aims to send a strong message to offenders that Tower Hamlets is No Place for Hate and discrimination. It also encourages organisations to sign up to the Pledge committing them to ensuring their organisation is equipped to respond to hate incidents effectively.
- Community project delivered through the Prevent Programme which have focused on social media and exploitation, raising awareness of safe messages and risks and recognising abuse. This covers areas of bullying to radicalisation. This has been delivered through both primary and secondary schools in 2015-16 and funding has been secured to deliver this to further schools in 2016-17 and further support sessions for parents and carers planned.
- The International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia – Hatred Hurts All Conference aimed at those who work with victims of hate crime and was delivered in May 2016. This brought together all partner agencies and communities with the pledge to tackle and promote the no tolerance to any form of hate crime in the borough and outline support and services that are available for those wishing to report any issues/incidents and to victims.
- The borough has continued to deliver on the Hate Incident Panel which provides a coordinated response by partners on hate incidents.

Areas for Development

Our consultation for the development of the current strategy⁴ has highlighted that there are areas that we are currently working on (including all of the above) that should be maintained and there are areas that we need to develop during the 2016-2019 period.

⁴ Our consultation process ran from October 2015 - February 2016 to ensure that we consulted with as many people as possible. The consultation methodology was varied to allow for different stakeholders to contribute to our Strategy. A consultation questionnaire was launched in October and individual meetings and focus groups started in November 2015. (A paper version of the questionnaire was also available). A report to accompany the consultation is available with key recommendations that fed into the development of the strategy. An executive summary of the report is available in Appendix 3.

The key areas for development included:

- innovation of services;
- increased multi-agency working to reduce resource costs and improve responses;
- renewed focus on No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), perpetrators and victims experiencing multiple disadvantage and prioritising prevention work with young people;
- increased awareness and intervention in regards to on line exploitation and grooming.
- Increased need to look at intervention services, continuation of the whole schools approach and working with families and communities to understand abuse across all forms and mainstreaming a safeguarding approach.

Key Challenges and how to mitigate them

What about men?

One of the key challenges in providing a VAWG approach is the belief that our work does not include men and boys. However, the aim behind providing a VAWG approach is the recognition that 97% of victims of interpersonal violence in Tower Hamlets are female. Any victim of violence and abuse deserves to access support and help: the Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Team (within which VAWG sits) will support anyone presenting regardless of gender or sexuality – we recognise that men also experience domestic violence and this is explicit in all the work of the team. However, the VAWG strategy reflects that gender based violence is predominately a pattern of behaviour perpetrated by men against women. We will continue to support all victims regardless of gender and further support and services for victims of abuse can be found in the Domestic Violence action plans produced each year.

Welfare reform and austerity

Another key challenge to providing our work on VAWG is the difficulties that welfare reform coupled with austerity has on the survivors we work with and also the organisations providing specialist support services. Women are disproportionately affected by all of the reforms and victims of VAWG are further victimised through high levels of financial control. We have sought to mitigate some of the impacts through development of the partnerships, the champion programme as well as external funding meaning that our VAWG work can be developed without huge levels of additional resourcing.

Competing priorities

Given the difficulties of prioritising funding in a climate of cuts, VAWG has diminished in some areas as a priority focus. We have sought to mitigate this through close working with priority areas – for example we have developed workshops around the links between extremism and gender-based violence.

New Legislation

A new area which will provide a key challenge to our new Strategy is the introduction of coercive control legislation, which came into force in December 2015. This new criminal offence, with a renewed emphasis on protecting people from abuse, will provide a challenge to existing resources of police, the council and also our partners across the VAWG area. We are also awaiting the new Police and Crime Plan which is currently in consultation. This will also inform in regards to

priorities on the broader areas of work in regards to victims of abuse across a range of services including VAWG and DV and Hate Crime.

Sustainable Funding Streams

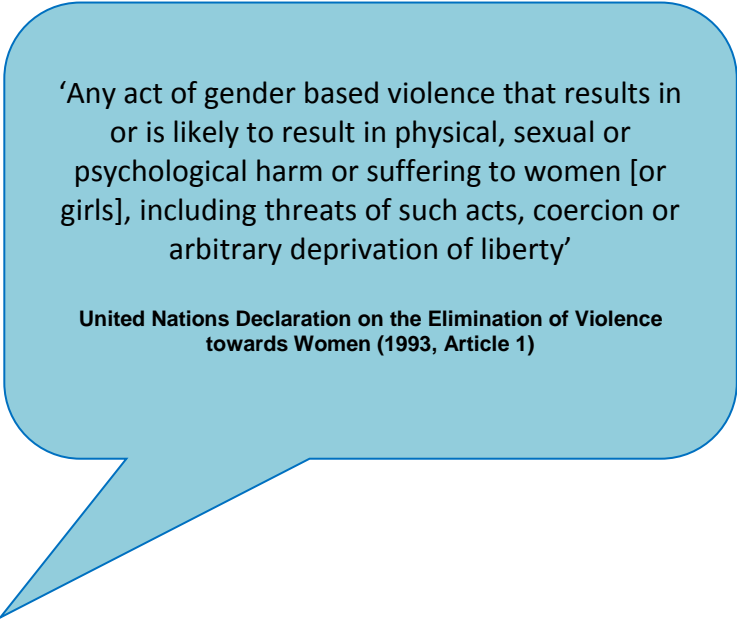
A key area of challenge for all of the work on VAWG is the sustainability of funding. A lot of the work around VAWG is funded externally, either through different departments within Tower Hamlets or by external funders. There is a risk that once the discrete projects (including FGM, Harmful Practices Pilot, Training and Awareness Officer Post and Youth Campaign) finish that there will not be funding to continue the VAWG Strategy work. There is also a risk to projects funded and delivered externally that are subject to the same pressures and cuts to local authority funding, including the IRIS domestic violence project that works in GP surgeries.

Outline of the VAWG Strategy

To address all of the forms of VAWG experienced by women in Tower Hamlets, our Strategy takes a multi-agency approach, recognising that no one agency can support all the victims of VAWG. As outlined above, in developing this strategic approach we worked with a range of organisations to hold stakeholder discussions with female victims of VAWG and women accommodated in refuge and other provision across the borough to ensure that our proposal is survivor led and that it also meets the needs of the diverse range of victims in our borough, including BME women, women with NRPF and women who experience multiple disadvantages.

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. As outlined above, locally we have adopted the United Nations Declaration on Elimination of all forms 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)

Violence against Women and Girls includes violence that is targeted at women or girls because of their gender or affects women and girls disproportionately. Examples of the types of violence included are⁵:

⁵ See Appendix 1 for definitions of the VAWG strands

- Sexual Violence
- Domestic Violence
- Trafficking
- Prostitution
- Child Sexual Exploitation including in a gang context
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Forced Marriage
- So-called 'Honour' Based Violence
- Dowry Related Abuse
- Stalking and Harassment

We propose to maintain all ten strands but to also explicitly recognise that the internet and social media have facilitated a huge range of online and offline abuses and that this has escalated rapidly over the past three years since we published our first VAWG Plan.

Given that we have successfully bid to the DCLG for a pilot and also the commitment from respondents, it is vital to also have a real focus in the VAWG strategy on women with no recourse to public funds and a renewed focus on women who experience multiple disadvantages (homelessness, mental health, prostitution and drugs and alcohol misuse).

Cost of VAWG in Tower Hamlets

Safe Lives, formerly CAADA, estimated that it costs £20,000 in preliminary support costs during one year per victim before being discussed at Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). They estimate that for every pound spent on MARAC, six pounds of public money are saved. Their analysis shows that MARACs save £6,100 of the £20,000 cost per victim discussed.⁶ **This would mean for Tower Hamlets that the MARAC saves £2,519,300 per annum based on 413 cases year.**

Trust for London and the Henry Smith Charity⁷ have estimated that the total cost to Tower Hamlets of domestic abuse (the wider definition which includes most of the strands of VAWG covered within our Strategy) is £31.7 million pro-rated by population of the borough. This figure does not include the human and emotional costs, which they have estimated as £54.6 million. To break the £31.7 million figure down further, they have estimated that the costs are as follows:

Table 1: Costs of VAWG in Tower Hamlets

Service	Cost (£ million)
Physical and Mental Health care	9.5
Criminal Justice	6.9

⁶ CAADA (2010) *Saving Lives, Saving Money: MARACs and high risk domestic abuse*, London: Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA)

⁷ The spreadsheet, *Costs of domestic violence per local area*, uses the available estimates for the costs of Domestic Violence (Professor Sylvia Walby 2009) to calculate an estimated cost for each local authority area, based on the size of the 16-59 year old population. (This is the age range that is targeted by the Crime Survey for England and Wales, formerly British Crime Survey, from which national estimates of domestic violence prevalence are obtained). It uses the Office for National Statistics 2009 mid-year population estimates.

Social Services	1.6
Housing and refuges	1.1
Civil legal services	2.1
Lost economic output	10.5

Current Prevalence

This strategy has drawn upon a wide range of data sources to establish prevalence which includes a comprehensive consultation process with partners, survivors and organisations across the borough. Despite this, it is widely acknowledged that all strands of VAWG are underreported⁸ and many survivors do not come to the attention of services. This coupled with lack of awareness of professionals around individual strands, means that true prevalence data is not obtainable. However, a major part of the work of the VAWG agenda has been to boost reporting across each priority area and there has been an increase across the majority of strands since 2013.

Borough profile

Tower Hamlets is the 6th smallest London Borough and it is also the 4th most densely populated with a population of 287,100 usual residents.⁹ The population is also extremely diverse with the single largest ethnic group being Bangladeshi (32%) with White British at 31%.¹⁰

Tower Hamlets also has one of the youngest populations in London and has the lowest median age in the country at 29 (the same as Newham) and 74.3% are aged between 16 and 64, with 48% aged 20-39 (19.9% are aged under 16).¹¹

Tower Hamlets has a very mixed demography where there is a mixture of affluent and very deprived areas. Tower Hamlets has two of the richest and four of the poorest wards in London. According to the Multiple Deprivation Index (MDI)¹², Tower Hamlets is now the 24th most deprived boroughs in the country although is 3rd when ranked on the 'extent' measure.¹³

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a significant problem in the borough. The Violence Indicator Profiles for England (VIPER) show that Tower Hamlets has the sixth highest number of

⁸ See for example: Home Office (2013) *Ending Violence Against Women and Girls*, London: Home Office; Palermo, T., Bleck, J. and Peterman, A. (2014) 'Tip of the Iceberg: Reporting and Gender Based Violence in Developing Countries', *American Journal of Epidemiology*, 179(5), pp.602-612; Allnock, D., Radford, L., Bunting, L., Price, A., Morgan-Klein, N., Ellis, J. and Stafford, A. (2012) 'In Demand: Therapeutic Services for Children and Young People who have Experienced Sexual Abuse', *Child Abuse Review*, 21, pp.318-334; Kimmel, M. (2002) "'Gender Symmetry" in Domestic Violence: A Substantive and Methodological Research Review', *Violence Against Women*, 8(11), pp.1332-1363; Dragiewicz, M. and DeKeseredy, W.S. (2012) 'Claims about women's use of non-fatal force in intimate relationships: A contextual review of Canadian research', *Violence Against Women*, XX(X), pp.1-19; Lea, S. and Lynn, N. (2012) 'Dialogic Reverberations: Police, Domestic Abuse, and the Discontinuance of Case', *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, XX(X), pp.1-24

⁹ GLA (2015) *London Borough Profiles*

¹⁰ Tower Hamlets (2013) *Ethnicity in Tower Hamlets: Analysis of 2011 Census*

¹¹ *Ibid*

¹² DCLG (2015) *The English Indices of Deprivation 2015, Statistical Release*, London: Department for Communities and Local Government. Tower Hamlets has become relatively less deprived since 2010 when it was the 7th most deprived borough in the country and was ranked 3rd in both the 2004 and 2007 indices.

¹³ Tower Hamlets has become relatively less deprived since 2010 when it was the 7th most deprived borough in the country and was ranked 3rd in both the 2004 and 2007 indices. 54% of all neighbourhoods in Tower Hamlets rank in the top 10% nationally and it is top in both the older people index and the young people index for the highest proportions living in an income deprived household.

recorded sexual offences in England and the third highest in London, ranking 322 out of 326.¹⁴ In 2014/2015, Tower Hamlets had the 9th highest prevalence in London for Rape and 16th for sexual offences. This is not disaggregated by borough size or population.¹⁵

Tower Hamlets consistently has one of the highest rates of reported domestic abuse across London. Between November 2014 and November 2015 there were 2773 domestic crimes reported which is a 13.3% on the previous year and means that Tower Hamlets had the third highest rates of reporting in London (after Croydon and Greenwich).¹⁶

VAWG Profile

The demographics of Tower Hamlets means that there are relatively high levels of vulnerability within the borough's population including high numbers experiencing mental health and substance misuse issues as well as those with language support needs and disabilities (physical and learning). Women with additional vulnerabilities find it most difficult to seek help and are therefore often most at risk from abuse. We have found that coupled with No Recourse to Public Funds, women are often living for many years with abuse across the spectrum of gender-based violence. Prostitution is also still a significant issue for the borough – particularly the on-street trade. From our work on VAWG over the past 3 years, we have found that those involved in prostitution are increased risk of violence and abusive behaviour, including sexual exploitation and being sexually assaulted and yet often have housing needs. In addition to this, the ethnic profile of the borough suggests that 'culturally' specific forms of violence such as forced marriage, 'honour' based violence and female genital mutilation are key issues for the borough, although these forms of violence, despite a vast increase in reporting through our coordinated approach, are not always well reported to local agencies.

In Tower Hamlets, over the past year alone, we have had 10 cases to the domestic violence MARAC where single women with no recourse to public funds have been referred. Women who are also victims of forced marriage or trafficking for the purposes of forced marriage have been forced to flee from abusive homes but have been unable to access any adequate accommodation. Some women have been supported to return to their countries of origin but this does not mean that they are necessarily safer and this is a real safety concern for us, especially as the numbers of women identified are increasing.

Table 2: High Risk Adult victims referred to MARAC by VAWG Strand from April 2014 – March 2015

Strand	Female	Male
Domestic Violence	382	31
Sexual Violence	83	3
Forced Marriage	2	0
So-called 'honour' based violence	6	2
Stalking & Harassment	143	12

¹⁴ Violence Indicator Profiles for England Resource (VIPER), available at: www.eviper.org.uk (last accessed 17.12.13)

¹⁵ Metropolitan Police Crime Mapping, available at: <http://maps.met.police.uk/tables.htm> (last accessed 11.01.16)

¹⁶ Metropolitan Police Crime Figures, available at: <http://www.met.police.uk/crimefigures/> (last accessed 11.01.16)

Dowry Related Abuse	0	0
Female Genital Mutilation	0	N/A
Prostitution/ Sexual exploitation	0	0
Trafficking	0	0

Note 1: The figures for domestic violence will sum to 100% as the main referral reason under the 2012 definition which includes all strands except Prostitution/Sexual Exploitation, Dowry related abuse (explicitly) and Trafficking.

Note 2: The figures for all strands apart from domestic violence have been monitored individually from June 2014 and were not previously disaggregated.

Note 3: Despite high numbers of cases to MARAC, this is not representative of the full numbers of victims of VAWG in Tower Hamlets due to underreporting or no recognition of abuse.

Note 4: No victim was referred explicitly on the basis of prostitution or exploitation. Although some victims had been sexually exploited, they were referred on the basis of domestic abuse.

LGBT

Research suggests that there are similar levels in LGBT relationships as in heterosexual relationships: here it is clear both men and women can be victims and perpetrators.¹⁷ In 2014/2015, there were 9 gay men, 2 bisexual women and 1 transgender man referred to the Domestic Violence MARAC.¹⁸

Disability

Research has consistently found that disabled women are twice as likely to experience domestic violence as non-disabled women are.¹⁹ The same research has shown that disabled men are also more at risk, although at a rate of about 1.5 times non-disabled men. In 2014/2015 there were 23 disabled victims (20 female and 3 male victims) referred to the domestic violence MARAC.

¹⁷ Donovan, C., Barnes, R. and Nixon, C. (2014) *The Coral Project: Exploring Abusive Behaviours in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and/or Transgender Relationships*, Interim Report September 2014, available at: http://www.rapecrisisScotland.org.uk/workspace/publications/Coral-Project-Interim-Report-Sept-2014_FINAL-VERSION2.pdf (accessed 13 July 2015); Bowen, E. and Nowinski, S. N. (2012) 'Partner violence against heterosexual and gay men: Prevalence and correlates', *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, volume 17 (1), pp36-52; Goldberg, N. & Meyer, 'Sexual orientation disparities in history of intimate partner violence results from the California Health Interview Survey', *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 28(5), pp.1109-1118.

¹⁸ MARAC is the Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference, which is a bi-monthly meeting where professionals meet to discuss, and safety plan high risk cases of domestic violence.

¹⁹ Khalifeh, H., Howard, LM., Osborn, D., Moran, P., Johnson, S. (2013) 'Violence against People with Disability in England and Wales: Findings from a National Cross-Sectional Survey', *PLoS ONE* 8(2); Chang, J., Martin, S., Moracco, K., Dulli, L., Scandlin, D., Loucks-Sorrel, M., Turner, T., Starsoneck, L., Neal Dorian, P. and Bou-Saada, I., (2003) 'Helping Women with Disabilities and Domestic Violence: Strategies, Limitations, and Challenges of Domestic Violence Programs and Services' *Journal of Women's Health*, 12(7), pp. 699-708; Hague, G., Thiara, R., Magowan, P. and Mullender, A. (2008) *Making the Links: Disabled Women and Domestic Violence*, Bristol: Women's Aid; Thiara, R., Hague, G., Bashall, R., Ellis, B. and Mullender, A. (2012) *Disabled Women and Domestic Violence: Responding to the Experience of Survivors*, London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers; Coker, A., Smith, P. and Fadden, M. (2005) 'Intimate Partner Violence and Disabilities among Women attending Family Practice Clinics', *Journal of Women's Health*, 14(9), pp.829 -838; Mays, J. (2006) 'Feminist disability theory: domestic violence against women with a disability', *Disability and Society*, 21(2), pp147-158 and Mirrlees-Black, C. (1999), *Op. Cit.*, footnote 7, pages 32-33.

Children

Each year up to 750,000 children in the UK experience domestic violence.²⁰ Most children who live in families where there is abuse are aware of the abuse that has been taking place and a meta-analysis of research studies estimated that in 30 -60 percent of domestic violence cases, the abusive partner was also abusing children in the family meaning that it is the most serious safeguarding issue for children.²¹ Children's social care estimates that around 70-80% of all contacts to the Integrated Pathways and Support Team (IPST)/Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Team involve domestic abuse (using the wider definition). In 2014/2015 there were 467 children involved in the cases referred to MARAC.

Young People

The highest risk age for all forms of VAWG is those under the age of 24.²² In 2014/2015 there were 101 victims referred to MARAC aged 24 and under which represents almost a third of all victims. 17 of those victims were aged between 16 and 18.

Unmet need

We know that there is unmet need within our borough – both from people fleeing domestic abuse but also an increase in cases of No Recourse to Public Funds and complex needs cases. In many instances, these women are being turned away from refuge provision as there is no space. Research conducted by UK Refuges Online (UKROL) has shown that in the 18 months to March 2015, 21 women with no recourse to public funds were turned away from refuge provision in Tower Hamlets. We have also noted an increase in single women needing refuge provision who are BME with complex needs and are unable to be accommodated either because of a lack of specialist support or because they have no recourse to public funds. There is also a significant proportion of women who currently reside in Tower Hamlets who need to flee but who are unable to do so due to the numbers of children they have²³ or who have no recourse to public funds and are unable to be accommodated anywhere in London.

It is difficult for us to forecast how many refuge spaces will be needed in the future but we are anticipating a large increase due to a combination of welfare reform and also an increased awareness of professionals about complex needs and wider harmful practices, especially the highest needs cases.²⁴ We are also working across sectors, with drugs and alcohol services, mental

²⁰ DH (2002) *Women's Mental Health : Into the Mainstream*, London: Department of Health

²¹ Edleson, J (1999) 'Children Witnessing of Adult Domestic Violence', *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 14:4. For a detailed discussion of the impact of domestic violence on children see Hester et al (2007) op cit., Wolfe, D., Crooks, C., Lee, V., McIntyre-Smith, A., and Jaffe, P., (2003), 'The effects of children's exposure to domestic violence: a meta-analysis and critique', *Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review*, 6(3), Kitzmann, K., Gaylord, N., Holt, A. and Kenny, E., (2003), 'Child Witnesses to Domestic Violence: A Meta-Analytic Review', *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 71(2) and Evans, S., Davies, C. and DiLillo, D. (2008), 'Exposure to Domestic Violence: A meta-analysis of child and adolescent outcomes', *Aggression and Violence Behavior*, 13(2).

²² See for example: Schutt, N. (2006), *Domestic violence in adolescent relationships: Young people in Southwark and their experiences with unhealthy relationships*, London: Safer Southwark Partnership; Sugar Magazine Poll (2005); End Violence Against Women (EVAW) (2006) UK Poll of 16-20 Year Olds. November 2006. ICM; Barter, C., McCarry, M., Berridge, D. and Evans, K. (2009) *Partner exploitation and violence in teenage intimate relationships*, London: NSPCC and Beckett, H. et al (2012) *Research into gang-associated sexual exploitation and sexual violence: interim report*, Luton: University of Bedfordshire; Berelowitz, S. et al (2012) "I thought I was the only one. The only one in the world." The Office of the Children's Commissioner's inquiry in to child sexual exploitation in gangs and groups: interim report, London: Office of the Children's Commissioner and Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) (2011) *Out of mind, out of sight: breaking down the barriers to child sexual exploitation: executive summary*, London: CEOP.

²³ 28% of households in Tower Hamlets have 3 or more children which has an impact for victims of VAWG in being able to access refuge provision. ONS (2013) 'Family Size in 2012', Newport, *Office for National Statistics*

²⁴ There are currently 34 total bedspaces in Tower Hamlets. We have a specialist refuge for BME women and children with 4 family spaces (3 (3 for a woman and 2 children, 1 for a woman and 1 child) and 1 single room accommodating

health teams and the voluntary sector on supporting women with complex needs/multiple disadvantages who are also victims of VAWG and anticipate a large increase in need once the professionals across the borough are equipped with the knowledge about how to identify women at risk as we have seen with all awareness raising over the past 3 years. UKROL's report found that just over two-fifths (41.6%) of women (where n=208) presenting for refuge in Tower Hamlets are able to be accepted into the refuge, either due to lack of space or because of complex needs or NRPF.

19 in total. We also have provision for an additional 32 bedspaces with floating support. A further 72 women experiencing domestic abuse were accepted as homeless in the past 12 months (to October 2015).

Theory of Change

In developing our updated VAWG Strategy, we have applied a theory of change model to our current work on VAWG.²⁵ The model, which has been used since the late 1980s, is ‘a systematic and cumulative study of the links between activities, outcomes and contexts of the initiative’²⁶. The model has been used extensively in recent years by Department for International Development (DFID) to evaluate work in developing countries on VAWG²⁷ and the systematic review highlights both the successful outcomes of our existing VAWG work but also shows where there needs to be additional focus for our strategic approach moving forwards.



A Theory of Change (TOC) model is depicted as a linear model to be read from the bottom up (See below) but should not be interpreted as such given the complexity of VAWG. Using a linear outline enables the key milestones and concepts to be outlined which, when combined with a coordinated community response model highlights the need for better multi-agency, multi-sector working to tackle VAWG.

Stage 1: Problem

The base of the TOC model is the problem which is the overarching issue to be overcome in order to work towards a borough that is free from VAWG. In the case of Tower Hamlets, the problem is that gender-based violence violates the rights of women and girls in the borough and both constrains their choices and affects their ability to participate as equal actors in society.

Stage 2: Barriers

The next level in a TOC model is identification of key barriers. In Tower Hamlets, the key barriers to prevention, provision and protection are:

- Attitudes of members of the community that condone violence
- Need for continued and committed political will at a senior level to tackle VAWG
- Inadequate or inappropriate support for victims of VAWG
- Lack of awareness of VAWG amongst professionals that impacts on responses to victims
- Absence of prevention with younger people leads to concerning attitudes and impacts on future support needs of young women

²⁵ For information on using a theory of change for work on VAWG, please see: Fancy, K. and McAslan Fraser, E. (2014) *DFID Guidance Note on Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in Education Programmes – Part A*, London: VAWG Helpdesk; Lindley, H. (2014) ‘Reflections on Womankind Worldwide’s experiences of tackling common challenges in monitoring and evaluating women’s rights programming’, *Gender and Development*, 22(2), pp. 271-289; Gains, F. and Lowndes, V. (2014) ‘How is Institutional Formation Gendered, and Does it Make a Difference? A New Conceptual Framework and a Case Study of Police and Crime Commissioners in England and Wales’, *Politics and Gender*, 10(4), pp.524-548

²⁶ Connell, J.P. and Kubisch, A. C. (1998) ‘Applying a Theory of Change Approach to the Evaluation of Comprehensive Community Initiatives: Progress, Prospects, and Problems’ in Fulbright- Anderson K, Kubisch A.C. and Connell J.P., (eds). *New approaches to evaluating community initiatives: theory, measurement, and analysis*. Washington, DC: Aspen Institute

²⁷ Our Theory of Change model is based on Lockett, K. and Bishop, K. (2012) *A Theory of Change for Tackling Violence against Women and Girls*, Violence Against Women and Girls: CHASE Guidance Note Series: Guidance Note 1, London: DFID

Stage 3: Interventions

Appropriate interventions address the key barriers and support the creation of an environment that facilitates work on VAWG and work with the whole community to tackle VAWG. The key interventions are outlined in the Coordinated Community Response which highlights our 6 strategic objectives designed to provide a long term solution to gender-based violence.

Stage 4: Outputs

Each intervention leads to a range outputs and each area is cross-cutting – for example, good quality prevention work can lead to better perpetrator accountability. Outputs are in essence the extremely short term outcomes of the interventions but which contribute towards an overall systems change. Examples of this include: Training 100 VAWG Champions who then deliver messages to 15 staff members each at a team meeting extending the reach to 1500 professionals in the borough.

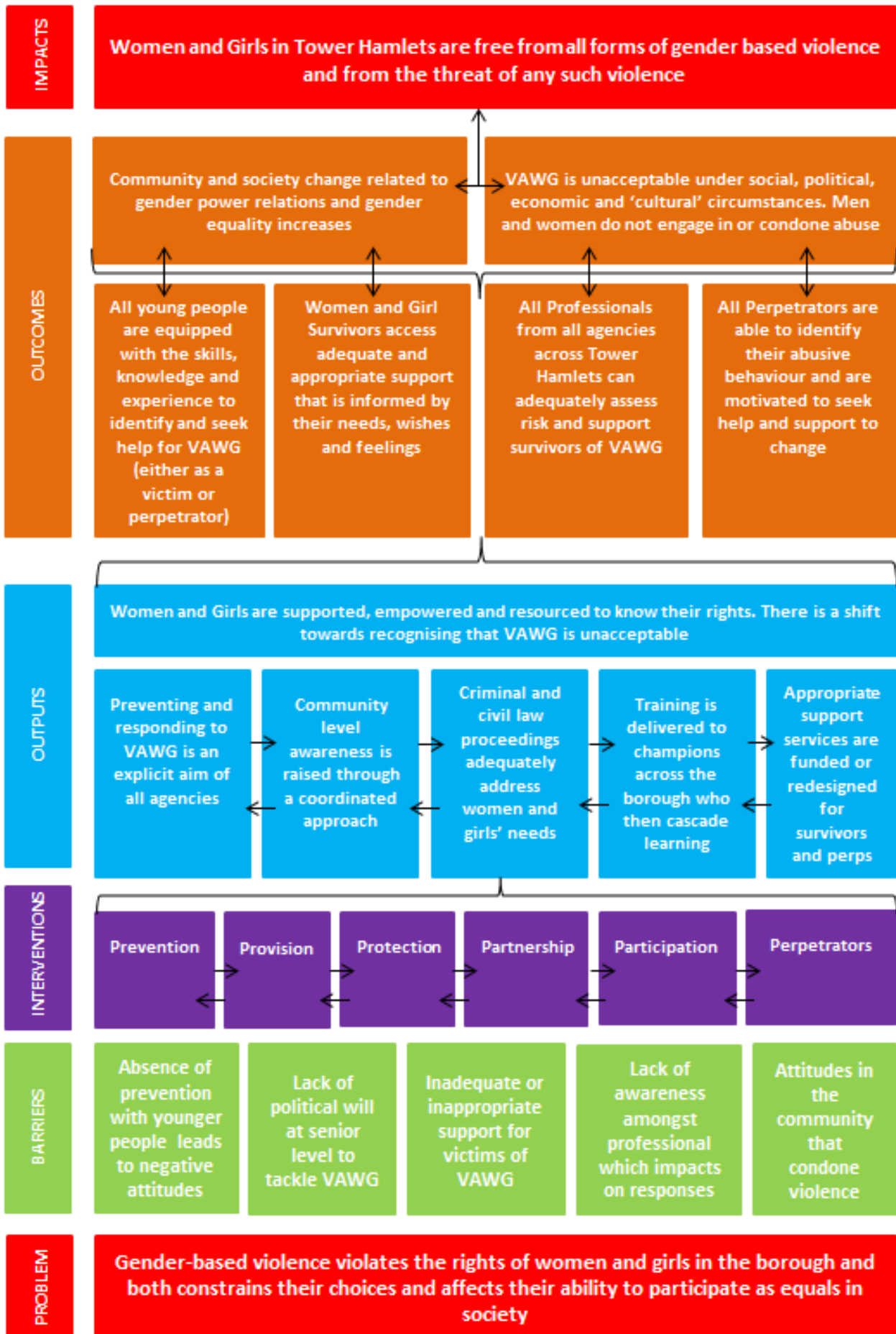
Stage 5: Outcomes

Given the linear depiction of the model – the outputs should lead to fulfilment of outcomes in a successful VAWG programme. Outcomes can be seen as the medium term successes the programme – a highlight of the areas that are recorded and monitored within our action plans and performance matrix (See Governance section, page 29)

Stage 6: Impacts

The key impact, the top of the TOC model or the area of change essentially tries to ensure that the problem established in Stage 1 has been addressed and eradicated. For a Tower Hamlets model that would be the achievement of our strategic vision for the borough where all women and girls are free from all forms of gender-based violence and from any threat of such violence.

Figure 1: VAWG Theory of Change Model



Strategic Approach

Evaluation of our current work and the findings of the VAWG consultation process to date has shown that we should continue to work towards a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) (See Appendix 2)²⁸ as we have been doing since 2013. A CCR approach to VAWG ensures that all relevant organisations effectively respond to these issues both within their own agencies and in collaboration with other partners to prevent harm, reduce risk and increase immediate and long-term safety for people across the borough. The approach recognises the cross-cutting nature of VAWG whereby it links to and impacts on a range of areas including: homelessness, drugs and alcohol misuse, child abuse, unemployment, crime and health. We recognise that VAWG impacts on all services across Tower Hamlets including community safety, housing, police, children and adult services, health, probation, criminal justice, civil courts, school, voluntary and community organisations and want to ensure that our approach is multi-agency and multi-faceted to tackle all areas.

We propose to use a 6P approach to develop the strategic priorities, ensuring that the learning from our work to date, as well as the theory of change model and CCR, are incorporated:

- **Strategic Priority 1: Prevention and Early Intervention**
- **Strategic Priority 2: Provision of Appropriate Support to Survivors**
- **Strategic Priority 3: Protection from Abuse**
- **Strategic Priority 4: Partnership working across Statutory and Voluntary Agencies**
- **Strategic Priority 5: Participation of victim/survivors to inform services**
- **Strategic Priority 6: Perpetrator Accountability**



²⁸ The CCR diagram has been adapted from Kelly, L. and Coy, M. (2012) *Action Plan for Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls in Thurrock*, London: CWASU, London Metropolitan University.

Strategic Priority 1: Prevention and Early Intervention

There is a growing recognition throughout research into prevention²⁹ that experiencing violence in their home lives or their own relationships can have a significant impact on young people's ability to participate fully in school life and achieve academically³⁰. Furthermore, children and young people are the next generation of potential victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse and wider forms of VAWG.

The current safeguarding legislation, policies, procedures and guidelines tend to be reactive, rather than proactive, yet by working with children and young people now; we can prevent VAWG in the future.

Based on recognition of the key importance of early intervention and prevention work with young people and the population profile of Tower Hamlets, whereby a fifth of the population is aged 16 and under as well as recognising the high levels of violence against young people in the borough coupled with the unhealthy attitudes that cause it, we have developed our young people programme to tackle VAWG.

However, working with schools and other youth settings is just one element of prevention. There is a need to embed longer term messages across the whole community through an integrated approach. The goal is to challenge attitudes that condone and underpin VAWG across the whole borough through a coordinated approach with all agencies.

Objective(s)

- All young people are aware of services available for support in the borough including specialist VAWG services for young people
- All young people are provided with an opportunity to become youth champions to provide peer support
- All young people received key messages about gender equality, human rights and respectful relationships
- Residents across the borough are provided with the opportunity to engagement with awareness raising sessions on VAWG
- Young people who have experienced or perpetrated abuse feel confident and supported to disclose and get support
- Young people understand what abuse looks like within the family, including harmful practices, and where to get support for disclosures
- Highlight the role that faith leaders, community champions and councillors can play in prevention and early intervention

²⁹ See for example: Phipps, A. and Smith, G. (2012) 'Violence Against Women Students in the UK: Time to take action', *Gender and Education*, 24(4) pp.357-373; De Koker, P., Mathews, C., Zuch, M., Bastien, S. and Mason-Jones, A. (2014) 'A Systemic Review of Interventions for Preventing Adolescent Intimate Partner Violence', *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 54(1) pp.3-13; Banos-Smith, M. (2011) *A Different World is Possible: Promising Practices to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls*, London: EVAW and Stein, N. (undated) *Gender Violence in Elementary and Secondary Schools*, available at:

www.musc.edu/vaw/prevention/research/nan_stein.html (last accessed 16.04.14)

³⁰ Prevention work is also vital when working in other youth settings including: youth clubs; short-stay schools (formerly pupil referral units) and youth offending teams.

Actions

- Continued development of the 'whole school' approach programme (See Appendix 5) including work with parents
- Promoting and developing the 'youth campaign' and evaluation of prevention launch
- Work with the healthy lives team to ensure VAWG is embedded within health
- Promoting specialist support services that provide therapeutic, emotional and psychological support to young people across the borough in mainstream education and other youth provision
- Additional development of the youth champion programme to ensure access to peer support
- Creation of a network of community champions to support local communities
- Development of a public awareness raising communications plan that supports key dates on an annual basis – '16 Days of Action', Zero tolerance to FGM, CSE Awareness Day etc.
- Distribution of the youth VAWG leaflet to all youth settings in the borough
- Continued community engagement with BME organisations and communities, especially around 'harmful practices'.

So to address that issue, I mean you can't get them one-on-one. Some boys don't have their parents to look up to when it comes to talking about sexual matters. So when you talk about having 'the talk' I mean, none of us had 'the talk' because we come from a certain background or certain family where that kind of stuff is not usually talked about. And a lot of the boys come from similar backgrounds. I mean the majority do. I don't know if that's changing or not. From what I can tell I don't think it is. Now if no one's addressing these issues, regardless of it being a success or failure, now the boys go out when they do need to find such information. They'll be listening to such music and they'll be watching certain movies and so on and so forth and then all their information will come from that, and that's not good.

[Consultation with Bow Boys' School]

Education is the way forward for everything, whether it's to address racism or sexism. Education is the key; you have to root it into their minds when they're young. So they grow up to believe it's the right way rather than them being fed [sic] the opposite information from a young age.

[Consultation with Bow Boys' School]

Strategic Priority 2: Provision of Appropriate Support to Survivors

Research has shown that specialist and non-specialist, formal and non-formal support can improve health and safety outcomes and are vital to help survivors rebuild their lives. What is highlighted is the need for individualised, appropriate support that is developed with the survivor and meets their needs.³¹ (See Appendix 6 for Person Centred Approach diagram)

The key for provision is to help women and girls to continue with their lives through effective provision of services - specialist services and support, emergency and acute services and universal services.

Objective(s)

- Provide empathetic specialist and non-specialist support services for all victims of VAWG in Tower Hamlets
- Services in Tower Hamlets promote empowerment for survivors to move on from the abuse they have suffered
- Services in Tower Hamlets provide individualised support packages
- Ensure equal and fair access to services for all survivors regardless of age, sexuality, disability, ethnicity, religion or sexuality
- Ensure services are equipped with the skills, knowledge and experience to support the most vulnerable victims, including older women, those with disabilities, those experiencing multiple disadvantages and those with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)
- Ensure services can respond effectively and appropriately to LGBT victims of VAWG
- Maintain and develop provision of services through internal and external funding
- All agencies are aware of the importance of respecting and advocating the views and opinions of the service user (where appropriate).
- VAWG survivors are supported to make informed choices about the VAWG services they receive and feel that their needs are fully recognised.
- Increasing the extent to which victims of violence feel well supported by agencies, including measuring key outcomes
- Increase victim satisfaction at court

Actions

- Continued provision of specialist services across all areas
- Publicising and promoting additional pan-London or cross-borough provision of services
- Improved communication and accessible information about services to victims through champions' programmes
- Creation of safe spaces for survivors to disclose, working with key locations across the borough
- Continue to support and promote the Domestic Violence IRIS model³²

³¹ See for example: Evans, M. and Feder, G. (2015) 'Help-seeking amongst women survivors of domestic violence: a qualitative study of pathways towards formal and informal support', *Health Outcomes*; Jenson, R., Peterson-Beese, J., Fleming, L., Blumel, A. and Day, A. (2015) 'Accessibility and Responsiveness Review Tool: Community Agency Capacity to respond to survivors with disabilities', *Faith and Community Health*, 38(3), pp. 206-215 and Rehman, Y., Kelly, L. and Siquiqui, H.(eds) (2013) *Moving in the Shadows: Violence in the lives of minority women and children*, Surrey: Ashgate.

³² IRIS or Identification and Referral to Improve Safety is a training and support programme targeted at primary care clinicians (primarily GPs) and administrative staff to improve referral to specialist domestic violence agencies and record identification of women experiencing abuse. In Tower Hamlets, IRIS is funded by Public Health and the CCG to work with all GP practices across the borough and is commissioned to Victim Support.

- Continue to support and promote the East London Rape Crisis Service
- Publicising and promoting redeveloped referral pathways and training through established awareness raising programmes
- Continued development of the 'One Stop Shop' providing wrap-around support for VAWG survivors by a number of key agencies to enable multiple needs met to be met under one roof.
- Continued provision of a multi-agency training programme which covers all strands of VAWG
- Improved responses for older women working in conjunction with adult services
- Work with partners to ensure all VAWG multi-agency guidelines are embedded into each service area
- Improving responses for child to parent violence and elder abuse including learning and recommendations from DHRs and Serious Case Reviews.
- Review and development of the VAWG Champions programme to ensure that there is representation from each agency working explicitly or implicitly on VAWG across the borough
- Ensuring information about help seeking and support is provided in locations across the borough, including at Third Party Reporting Centres.

"As someone who has needed specialist services in the past, it's really important that the services are maintained. Every day you hear about services closing or the numbers of people who are turned away. I think even during austerity we need to keep the provision of services at the same or even higher level"

"Provision of appropriate services leads to or creates access to the other priorities"

Strategic Priority 3: Protection from Abuse

A strategic approach to protection must cover all aspects of protection – that is protection must be available across all strands of VAWG and be accessible to all victims.³³ Protection covers both short term and long term protection: immediate safety as well as prevention and early intervention to stop abuse before it starts as well as longer term safety. As Coy *et al* have stated ‘Protection is not just about immediate safety but also a deeper sense of safety and human security.’³⁴

Provision of appropriate high quality support through specialist support services is a key route to protection as they are adept in providing crisis intervention (short term protection) and also longer term emotional and practical support to enable survivors to remain safe.

As MOPAC has highlighted, Domestic Homicide Review research has shown that often victims are not known to statutory services but neighbours and other services may have some awareness.³⁵ Research conducted by ROTA into girls affected by violence has also highlighted the difficulty in disclosing to statutory services and that often young people in particular fear that professionals are not adequately equipped to deal with disclosures.³⁶ Additionally, research into disclosure of VAWG over the past ten years has shown that often victims will disclose to friends, family and community members rather than to services.³⁷ Taking this all together further emphasises the need to protect victims through engagement across the community.

Objective(s)

- Survivors feel confident in reporting VAWG and taking police action against perpetrators (where appropriate)
- Embed multi-agency and VAWG work into each team’s training including police, children’s social care, housing, adults’ social care and health
- Ensure all agencies are aware of their role in protecting survivors of VAWG
- Empower the community to protect their friends and family members
- Faith based organisations are engaged and supported to support victims of VAWG
- Embed VAWG awareness into all safeguarding training

³³ See for example: Garcia-Moreno, C., Hegarty, K., Lucas D’Oliveira, A., Koziol-Maclain, J., Colombini, M. and Feder, G. (2014) ‘The health-systems response to Violence against Women’, *Violence Against Women and Girls Briefing Paper 2*, November 21st 2014; Patterson, D. and Tringall, B. (2014) ‘Understanding how advocates can affect sexual assault victim engagement in the criminal justice process’, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 30(12) pp. 1987-1997; McGarry, J., Simpson, C. and Hinsliff-Smith, K. (2012) ‘Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse: An Intersection for Future Policy and Practice Development’, *Journal of Care Services Management*, 6(4) pp156-160 and Jewkes, R. (2014) *What works to prevent violence against women and girls: Evidence review of the effectiveness of response mechanisms in preventing violence against women and girls*, Annex H., London: DFID

³⁴ Coy, M., Lovett, J. and Kelly, L. (2008) *Realising Rights, Fulfilling Obligations: A Template for an Integrated Strategy on Violence Against Women for the UK*, London: End Violence Against Women (EVAW) Coalition

³⁵ MOPAC (2013) *Mayoral Strategy on Violence Against Women and Girls*, London: Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime, p.21

³⁶ Firmin, C. (2010) *Female Voice in Violence Project: A Study into the Impact of Serious Youth and Gang Violence on women and girls*, London: Race on the Agenda (ROTA) and Firmin, C., (2011) *‘This is it. This is my life...’: Female Voice in Violence Final Report*, London: ROTA

³⁷ See for example: Hagemann-White, C. and Bohn, S. (2007) *Protecting Women Against Violence: Analytical Study on the Effective Implementation of Recommendation on the Protection of Women Against Violence in Council of Europe Member States*, Strasbourg: Council of Europe and Kelly, L. (2005) ‘Inside outsiders: Mainstreaming violence against women into human rights discourse and practice’ *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, 7(4)

Actions

- Development of services for victims that are appropriate to needs and level of risk
- Partnership working with police to implement measures including DVPOs, DVPNs and measures to tackle FGM, Forced Marriage and Harmful practices
- Work closely with the SDVC and family courts to improve survivor access to justice
- Development of Third Party reporting centres to support disclosures from victims unable to access specialist services
- Continued development of MARAC to support wider forms of VAWG
- Continued provision of IDVAs and Violent Crime Caseworkers
- Continued provision of the Sanctuary scheme to ensure victims can be protected to remain in their own homes safely
- Development of 'Safe havens' for victims to be protected on a short term basis
- Continued development of the community and professional VAWG Champions programme to ensure that victims can feel empowered to disclose abuse
- Ensure that safeguarding procedures include all VAWG referral pathways and procedures, ensuring professionals and victims are aware about how to access support to signposting.

Strategic Priority 4: Partnership working across Statutory and Voluntary Agencies

The benefits and potential pitfalls of multi-agency working to tackle VAWG have long been recognised with the overarching conclusion that despite differences in working practices, a coordinated approach works best for survivors.³⁸

Working in partnership is key to delivering effective VAWG work in Tower Hamlets. No one agency can be responsible for our vision of ending gender based violence. Work in partnership will ensure that we can obtain the best possible outcomes for victims in Tower Hamlets including agreeing and achieving consistent services.

Objective(s)

- Improve and increase joint working to ensure more work with less funding
- Strengthen relationships between services
- Ensure VAWG outcomes embedded into other service areas and organisations
- Strengthen relationships between specialist VAWG services and children's and adults' social care to prevent VAWG in the future and support families
- Recommendation and support for agencies commissioning VAWG services to ensure a consistent response across the borough
- Develop improved data monitoring across services to accurately record VAWG outcomes
- All professionals understand safeguarding and referral mechanisms for all strands of VAWG and can identify risk and need
- Ensuring senior level buy-in and commitment from across statutory and voluntary organisations in the borough to embed work on VAWG
- Ensuring survivors of VAWG are viewed as key partners in all approaches

Actions

- Improve referral pathways across services in the borough ensuring that all professionals are aware of risk and referral mechanisms in Tower Hamlets
- Continued development of multi-agency training programmes available to all professionals in the borough
- Work with partners to embed local, national and international campaigns
- Continued development of the VAWG champions programme to cascade information and training
- Development of a 'Train the trainers' programme for VAWG Champions, including guidance on legislation and policy
- Incorporate any learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) and Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) to increase best practice working across agencies
- Development of Good Practice Guidelines for professionals on dealing with VAWG
- Continued partnership and engagement with schools to embed work on VAWG across the 'whole school'
- Coordinate approaches across different service areas related to VAWG – for example the linkages between grooming for sexual exploitation and extremism under PREVENT

³⁸ Robinson, A. (2006) 'Reducing Repeat Victimization Among High-Risk Victims of Domestic Violence: The Benefits of a Coordinated Community Response in Cardiff, Wales' *Violence Against Women*, 12(8), pp.761-788; Wills, A. with Jacobs, N., Montique, B. and Croom, L. (2011) *Standing Together Against Domestic Violence: A Guide to Effective Domestic Violence Partnerships*, London: Standing Together

- Review membership of multi-agency forums including DV forum, MASE etc. to ensure adequate and active participation and representation from all agencies
- Update the Domestic Violence directory to ensure that all VAWG services are included

“The key for me is multi-agency working and skilling up all professionals to address VAWG. I feel like there could also be work done on spaces where people are likely to disclose - friends and family, medical context. While the focus on police and reporting is important this does not reflect how survivors access help”

“If there’s more focus on partnership working, agencies can provide support and information to victims and collectively work together to provide skills to prevent violence and protect victims”

Strategic Priority 5: Participation of victim/survivors to inform services

*The involvement of...survivors is clearly a difficult and sensitive issue, however, and needs to be carried out not just as a formality, but as a process which has practical effects and which leads to policy change and action.*³⁹ Research has shown that it is crucial to recognise that survivors' voices are fundamental to ensuring that services commissioned to work on VAWG, and indeed any approach to tackle VAWG, are successful.⁴⁰ Tower Hamlets firmly support this approach – our VAWG approach could not be successful without real input from survivors. Our approach is not just survivor-centred but also survivor-led acknowledging that they are the experts in their own empowerment and recovery from abuse.

Objective(s)

- Ensure that the voices of survivors input into all work on VAWG
- Develop an SVIP Model of Survivor engagement⁴¹
- Reduction in costs to services of providing inappropriate services and programmes for survivors

Actions

- Development of continued feedback mechanisms to monitor VAWG outcomes
- Continued development of the Community Champions programme to allow survivors to participate in VAWG work.
- The community are made aware that Tower Hamlets is a place that does not tolerate VAWG and can support friends, family and neighbours to access services
- Development of community engagement mechanisms on VAWG through projects and programmes
- Utilise spaces for community engagement to consult residents to feel more supported to disclose
- Young survivors encouraged to get support and discuss VAWG in safe spaces
- Development of training and leaflets informed by survivors' experiences
- Work towards development of a peer support scheme for survivors including training through the community champions' programme to provide group and one-to-one support
- Review policies, procedures and services to ensure that they are open to survivors participation and input
- Survivors to partner with existing services to access schools' and parent groups
- Facilitate bi-annual survivor workshops to ensure that consultation informs policies and actions within the VAWG Strategy (See Governance Section p.29)
- Ensure that the SDVC satisfaction surveys are utilised to ensure that victims accessing court are best supported

³⁹ Skinner, T., Hester, M. and Malos, E. (2013) *Researching Gender Violence*, London: Routledge, p.163

⁴⁰ See for example: Kulkami, S., Bell, H. and McDaniel Rhodes, D. (2012) 'Back to Basics: Essential Qualities of Services for Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence', *Violence Against Women*, 18(1) pp. 85-101; Hague, G. and Mullendar, A. (2006) 'Who listens? The Voices of Domestic Violence Survivors in Service Provision in the UK', *Violence Against Women*, 12(6) pp. 568-587

⁴¹ The Survivors' Voices Inclusion Project (SVIP) Model of survivor engagement is a tool to meaningfully engage women survivors of abuse and violence in the work to end violence against women developed in Canada. The goal is to improve access and quality of services for women and children transitioning to violence free lives.

Strategic Priority 6: Perpetrator Accountability

Research into effective work with perpetrators to change and reduce rates of VAWG has consistently shown that a multi-pronged approach to support works best – an approach that provides criminal justice interventions coupled with support for perpetrators to change their behaviour.⁴² In the wider context of VAWG, perpetrators can be both intimate partners but also wider family members, especially in cases of ‘harmful practices’ where they are often carried out by wider family members and with collusion from the community. Tower Hamlets wants to move to an approach where perpetrators are held accountable by a range of interventions that decrease risks to victims and their wider family members, provide appropriate penalties, provide clear messages that abuse is not acceptable and provide specialist support to identify and change behaviour

Objective(s)

- Ensure that family mediation is not seen as a solution to ‘family violence’, especially in the context of so-called ‘honour’ based violence or forced marriage
- Improve responses to perpetrators with multi-disciplinary working in multi-agency to combine skills, knowledge and experience
- Increase in reporting of incidents to police and to other statutory services
- Increase in the percentage of successful criminal justice outcomes for survivors especially through the Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC)
- Develop processes to address young perpetrators and female perpetrators
- Ensure linkages between perpetrator and family services are strengthened to ensure more effective multi-agency working around perpetrator accountability.
- Identify positive male role models to support young men around masculinity to prevent perpetrators in the future

Actions

- Perpetrators are given an opportunity to change their behaviour through a coordinated approach between services
- Focus on work with young people to challenge future perpetrators
- Development of training for all services on how to appropriately work with perpetrators and identify risk
- Work with professionals to avoid ‘charm bias’ of perpetrators, especially in family court and child protection proceedings
- Specialist support for perpetrators to prevent future victimisation
- Develop appropriate and considered criminal justice initiatives that place onus on perpetrators rather than victims to change behaviour
- Development of multi-agency working protocols between agencies around perpetrators who have been convicted of offences relating to VAWG, in order to keep the survivor safe
- Increase the focus on prevention through the ‘whole school’ approach (See Strategic Objective 1) to develop work on gender equality and address privilege

⁴² See for example: Brooks, O., Burman, M., Lombard, N., McIvor, G., Stevenson-Hastings, L. and Kyle, D. with assistance from Thomazi, A., (2014) *Violence Against Women: Effective Interventions and Practices with Perpetrators – A Literature Review*, Scotland: The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research, Report No. 05/2014 and Westmarland, N., Thorlby, K., Wistow, J. and Gadd, D. (2014) *Domestic violence: evidence review*, N8 Policing Research Partnership

- Deliver and/or support training for criminal justice agencies, including magistrates and district judges

“We have to prosecute offenders to show we are serious about not tolerating VAWG. The only way we are really addressing it is in the long term i.e. for future generations.”

“It’s vital for us to support perpetrators to change rather than just going down the criminal justice route. For me, the key element is ensuring that perpetrators of all forms of abuse are given information on their behaviour and an opportunity to change”

Governance of the VAWG Strategy

The VAWG Strategy 2016-2019 will fall under the governance of the VAWG Steering Group which was set-up in 2014 with senior representation from statutory, voluntary and community organisations working to tackle VAWG. The VAWG Steering Group is a subgroup of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). Domestic abuse continues to be a separate subgroup and is responsible to the multi-agency Domestic Violence Forum. Prostitution is also a separate strand of the CSP but also falls under the auspices of the VAWG Steering Group and elements fall under the ASB subgroup. Child Sexual Exploitation continues to be the responsibility of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). There is sideways accountability for the remainder of the VAWG strands to the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB).

The VAWG Steering Group will:

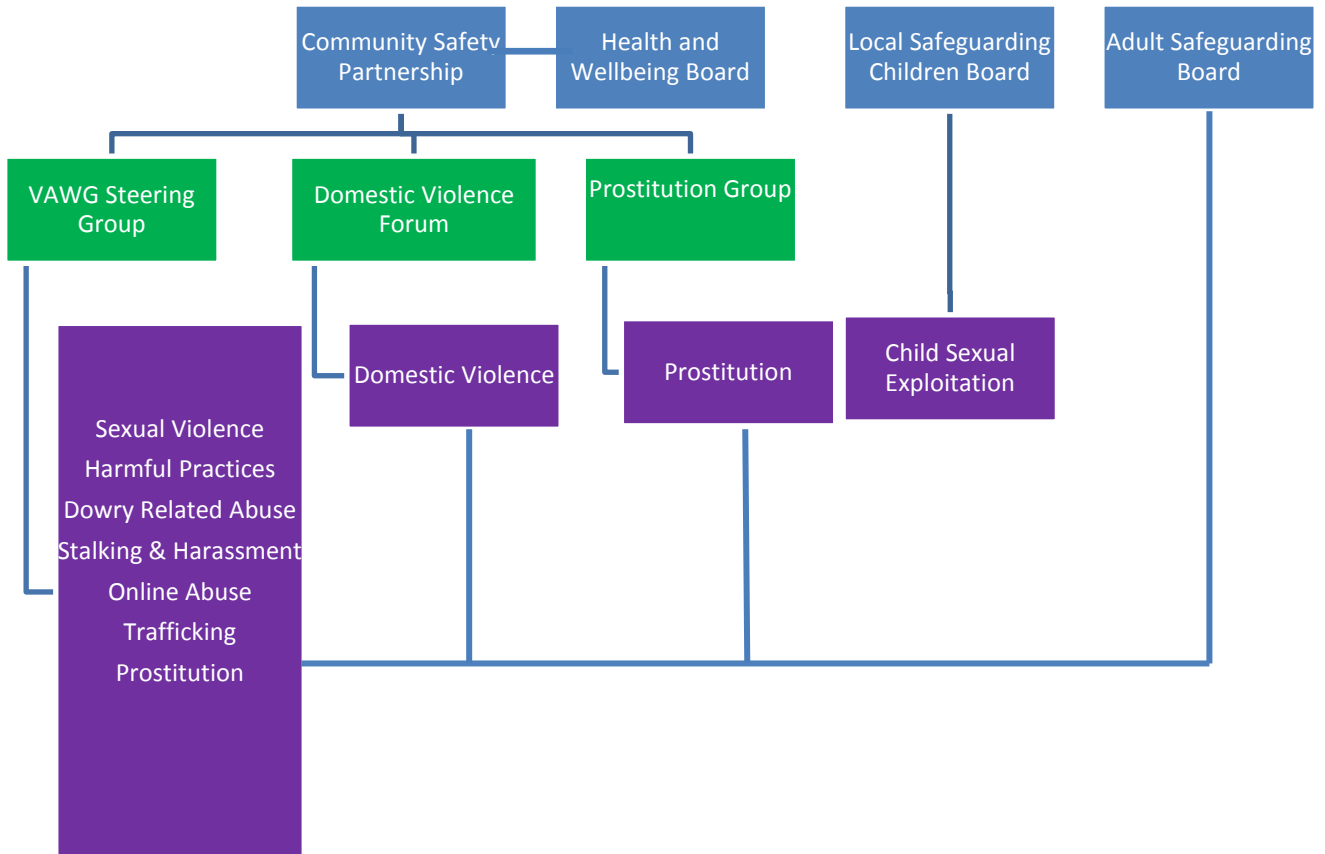
- Set and monitor the targets within the VAWG performance matrix and assess whether outcomes are being met
- Report quarterly to the CSP and provide reports on indicators for the Strategic Assessment on an annual basis
- Ensure learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews, including relevant recommendations, are incorporated into VAWG actions
- Promote multi-agency working across all sectors to ensure VAWG is included in all business areas
- Ensure survivors' voices and experiences are reflected throughout the VAWG Strategy and action plans
- Ensure any new policy, practice or legislation is fully included within the VAWG performance matrix and is embedded in all VAWG work across the borough

Objectives of the VAWG Steering Group

- Strategic oversight of VAWG Action Plans
- Reducing duplication of effort, and providing greater efficiency and consistency
- Improving accountability and ensuring quality assurance
- Better communication and transparency amongst agencies
- Improving sharing of good practice and lessons learnt
- Providing long term direction and vision for the area, including prioritisation of workstreams
- Performance management
- Identifying and resolving area wide issues
- Monitoring and reviewing voices of survivors of all forms of VAWG

The VAWG Steering Group is chaired by the Head of Community Safety and membership includes senior officers from: Police; Children's Social Care; Adults' Social Care; Public Health; Mental Health; Supporting People; Housing; Health; Youth and Community Services; Probation and Specialist VAWG organisations.

VAWG Governance Structure



Action Plans

Individual strands or combined areas (namely harmful practices which includes forced marriage, so-called ‘honour’ based violence and female genital mutilation) have action plans which are monitored on a regular basis. FGM also has a cross-borough Action Plan which is developed and monitored by the North East London FGM Group. There is also an overarching performance matrix which is overseen by the VAWG Steering Group, as outlined above, on a quarterly basis. Each action plan and the performance matrix are reviewed and evaluated on an annual basis.

Survivor Input

Initial evaluation of the VAWG Plan (2013-2016) and results from the consultation process highlighted the need for more explicit survivor input into the VAWG Strategy. As a result a VAWG survivor group will be established to ensure that robust consultation informs policies and action plans relating to the VAWG strands. The group will meet at least bi-annually, with the first group in April 2016.

Measuring Success

As with all strategic areas of systemic change, many of the changes in VAWG are long term outcomes. However, as can be seen from the 'Theory of Change' model, there are short term 'wins' that can have a real impact. We are currently evaluating that work of our first VAWG Plan (See page 6 for highlights) and have already seen a real shift in partnership working, training and awareness over the past three years. The coordinated community approach has meant that there has been a big increase in reporting and in cases being identified as VAWG. We view this as a positive as more victims are being supported and hopefully, in conjunction with the other strategic objectives, will mean that we will see a decrease in VAWG in the future until we reach our ultimate goal of eradicating gender-based violence in Tower Hamlets.

Outcomes

The key outcomes of the VAWG Strategy will be developed and monitored by the VAWG Steering Group as outlined above. The RAG rated performance matrix is monitored and reviewed on a quarterly basis.⁴³ The aim is not to duplicate the work of any one agency represented but to have a streamlined approach to measuring outcomes.

Data measurement

Again data measurement will not be the responsibility of one agency. The overarching aim of the VAWG Strategy is to improve multi-agency working and accountability and data will be measured across the partnerships by both commissioned services as part of their SLA and through other services on a voluntary basis.

Ongoing needs assessment

Ongoing needs assessment will be conducted in conjunction with the survivor group above as well as collectively through the Joint Strategic Need Assessment (JSNA) conducted by Public Health. We will also use other local, national and international evidence to assess areas that need to be re-designed or developed.

Reporting and accountability

Most of the elements of delivery will be reported to the VAWG Steering Group (the DV forum in the case of DV and the LSCB CSE Subgroup in the case of CSE) on a quarterly basis. Some outcomes will be reported to the Community Safety Partnership on a quarterly basis and to the Strategic Assessment on an annual basis. Performance and activity are also monitored on an annual basis through the Strategic Assessment which assesses the subgroup's performance against strategic priorities set by the CSP.

Overall accountability, as outlined above, will be to the Community Safety Partnership with sideways accountability to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

⁴³ The performance matrix is RAG rated on a quarterly basis. The version outlined in this strategy does not include the RAG rating but can be provided on request for the previous two quarters.

Appendix 1: Definitions of the VAWG Strands

Sexual Violence and Abuse

The World Health Organization (WHO) has defined sexual violence as “any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person’s sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work.”⁴⁴ It includes rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment/ bullying, sexual exploitation (coercion and exploitation in the sex industry), and trafficking.

Domestic Violence and Abuse

The cross-Government definition of domestic violence was changed in September 2012 (and was implemented in March 2013). The definition was widened to ‘domestic violence and abuse’ and also to include those aged 16-17 and coercive control for the first time.

The definition of domestic violence and abuse now states:

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

- *psychological*
- *physical*
- *sexual*
- *financial*
- *emotional*

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

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

This definition, which is not a legal definition, includes so-called ‘honour’ based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

So-called ‘Honour’ Based Violence

So-called ‘honour’ based violence is a term used to describe violence committed against a woman where her family or the community feels that she has not followed what they believe is acceptable behaviour and has brought dishonour or shame to the family. It is based on the belief that women are commodities and the property of male relatives and women’s bodies are the repositories of the family’s honour.⁴⁵

⁴⁴ WHO (2002) *World Report on Violence and Health*, Geneva: World Health Organization, page 149

⁴⁵ For a wider discussion of so-called ‘honour based violence see: for example: Brandon, J. and Hafez, S., (2008), *Crimes of the Community: Honour-Based Violence in the UK*, London: Centre for Social Cohesion; Watts, C. and

Forced marriage

'A forced marriage is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used. It is an appalling and indefensible practice and is recognised in the UK as a form of violence against women and men, domestic/child abuse and a serious abuse of human rights.'⁴⁶

Female genital mutilation (FGM)

Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises "all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons."⁴⁷

Prostitution, Trafficking and Exploitation

Women are forced, coerced or deceived to enter into prostitution and/or to keep them there. Trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation and exploitation of women and children for the purposes of prostitution and domestic servitude across international borders and within countries ('internal trafficking').

Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse in which children are sexually exploited for money, power or status. Children or young people may be tricked into believing they're in a loving, consensual relationship. They might be invited to parties and given drugs and alcohol. They may also be groomed online. Some children and young people are trafficked into or within the UK for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Sexual exploitation can also happen to young people in gangs.⁴⁸

Sexual harassment and sexual bullying

Sexual harassment is usually defined as any unwanted sexual attention, requests for sexual favours or unwanted verbal or physical behaviour of a sexual nature. It can take many forms including sexually explicit remarks, flashing, obscene and threatening calls and online harassment. It can take place anywhere, including the workplace, schools, streets, public transport and social situations.

Stalking and Harassment

Although harassment is not specifically defined it can include '*repeated attempts to impose unwanted communications and contacts upon a victim in a manner that could be expected to cause distress or fear in any reasonable person.*'⁴⁹ Again, there is no strict legal definition of stalking but the Protection from Harassment Act (as amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012) sets out what examples of what can constitute stalking: 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.

Zimmerman, C. (2002), 'Violence against women: global scope and magnitude', *The Lancet*, 359; Welchman, L. and Hossain, S. (2005), *'Honour': Crimes, Paradigms, and Violence against Women*, London, Zed Books and Terman, R. (2010), 'To specify or single out: Should we use the term "Honor Killing"?'', *Muslim World Journal of Human Rights*, 7(1)

⁴⁶ FCO and Home Office (2015) 'Forced Marriage', available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forced-marriage> (last accessed 24.02.16)

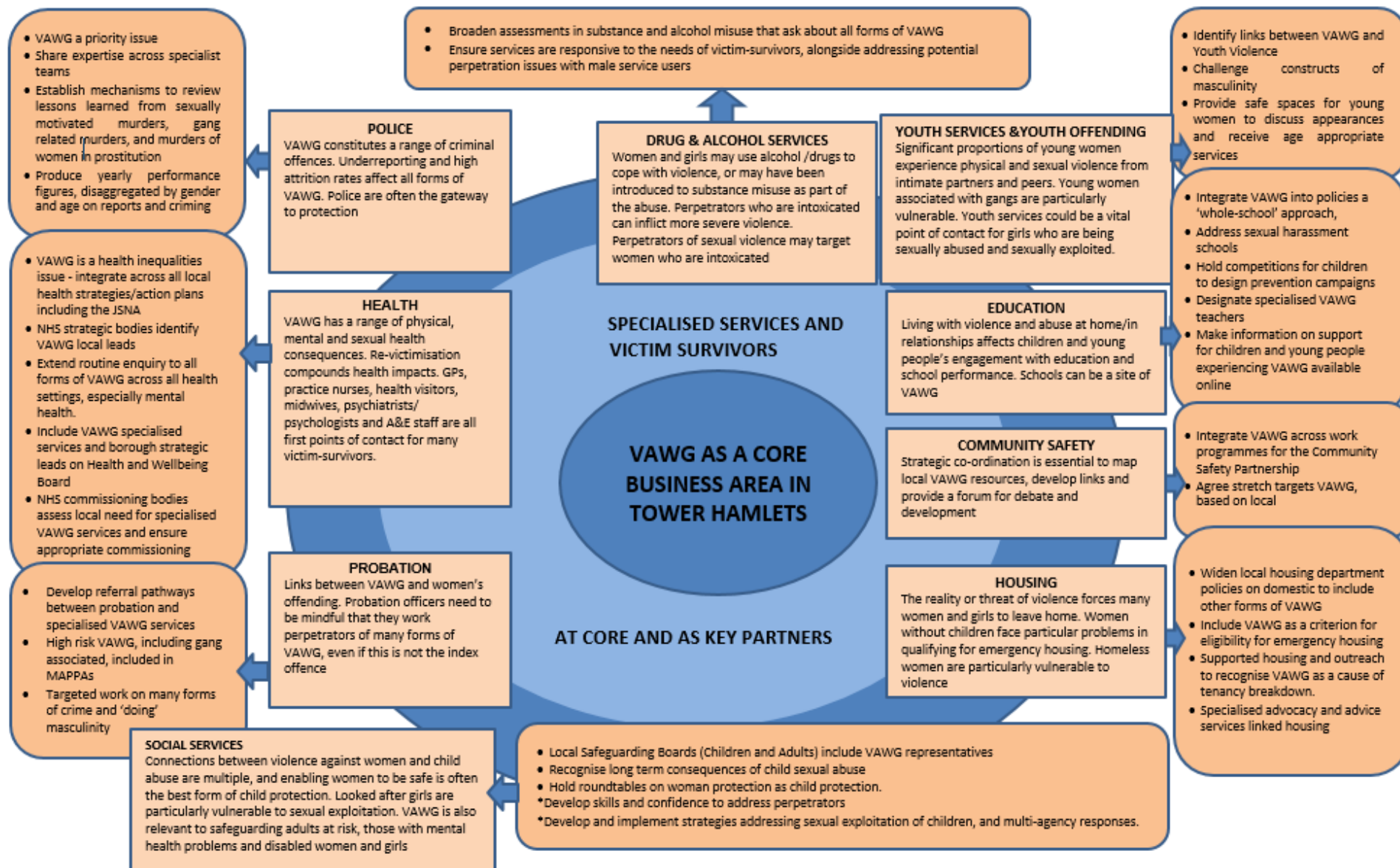
⁴⁷ WHO, (2010), Female Genital Mutilation, World Health Organization Fact Sheet No. 241, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/lvsjl> (last accessed 24.02.16)

⁴⁸ NSPCC, 'Child Sexual Exploitation', available at: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/child-sexual-exploitation/what-is-child-sexual-exploitation/> (last accessed 24.02.16)

⁴⁹ CPS (2012) *Stalking and Harassment: Guidance for Prosecutors*, London: Crime Prosecution Service

Appendix 2: Coordinated Community Response to VAWG

TRAIN FRONT LINE PROFESSIONALS ON HOW TO IDENTIFY AND RESPOND TO ALL FORMS OF VAWG



ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL MULTI-AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

Appendix 3: Consultation Log

We started our consultation process in October 2015 and continued until February 2016 to ensure that we could consult with as many people as possible. The consultation methodology is varied to allow for different stakeholders to contribute to our Strategy. A consultation questionnaire was launched in October and individual meetings and focus groups started in November 2015. (A paper version of the questionnaire is also available). As outlined above, a report on the consultation is available for perusal.

Table 3: Consultation Timeline

Action	Date
Launch of VAWG Consultation Questionnaire	October 2015
16 Days of Action	November 2015
Interviews with key stakeholders	November 2015 – February 2016
SMT	December 2015
DMT	February 2016
VAWG Steering Group	January 2016
DV Forum	January 2016
Community Safety Partnership	January 2016 (final presentation April 2016)

A Stakeholder analysis was conducted to ensure that the correct agencies have been consulted. Consultation with a range of key professionals from the agencies listed in Table 4 will continue until end February.

Table 4: Key Stakeholders

Stakeholder	VAWG Strand
'A' Team Arts	All
Barts Health NHS Trust (community and acute services)	All
Citizens Advice	All
City Gateway	All
Community Mental Health Teams	All
Community Safety Partnership members	All
Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Team	All
Domestic Violence Forum	All
East London Foundation Trust	All
East London Harmful Practices Steering Group	Harmful practices
East London Rape Crisis	All, especially sexual violence and 'harmful practices'
Faith Regan Foundation	All
Head Teachers	All
Hestia	All
Hostel Providers	All
LBTH Adults' Safeguarding Board	All
LBTH Adults' Social Care	All
LBTH Attendance and Welfare Service	All
LBTH Children's Centres	All

LBTH Children's Safeguarding Board	All
LBTH Children's Social Care	All
LBTH Domestic Violence Team Services –The MARAC Steering Group, the LBTH 'One Stop Shop', the Homeless Person's Unit (HPU) drop-in service and the Barkantine Medical Centre	All
LBTH Housing Department – Housing Options and Support Team (HOST) and Homeless Families Service	All
LBTH IARP (Identify, Assess, Referral Programme)	All, especially prostitution and sexual violence
LBTH Idea Stores	All
LBTH MASE Group	CSE
LBTH Parent and Family Support Service	All
LBTH Public Health	All
LBTH Supporting People	All
LBTH THEOs	All
LBTH Youth Offending Service	All
LBTH Youth Services	All
London Black Women's Project (formerly Newham Asian Women's Project)	All
London Fire Brigade	All
London Muslim Centre and Maryam Centre	All
Look Ahead	All
Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC)	All
Metropolitan Police	All
NIA Project	All
North East London FGM Group	FGM
NSPCC Protect and Respect	Child Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Violence
Ocean Somali Community Association	All, especially FGM
Open Doors	All, especially Prostitution and Sexual Violence
Partnership for Ending Harmful Practices (PEHP)	All, especially harmful practices
PRAXIS	All
Probation (Community Rehabilitation Company and National Probation Service)	All
Registered Social Landlords	All
Step Forward	All
The Haven	Sexual Violence
The Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC)	All
Tower Hamlets Volunteer Centre	All
TV Edwards	All
VAWG Champions	All
VAWG E-Group Members	All
VAWG Steering Group members	All
Victim Support	All
Women's Health and Family Services	All, especially FGM
'A' Team Arts	All

Consultation Report: Executive Summary

Introduction

Violence against women and girls issues form part of our local partnership approach to improving safety in the borough. Tackling VAWG is a priority within the 2015 Community Plan's *A Safe and Cohesive Community* strand.⁵⁰ Currently the oversight of violence against women and girls initiatives sits within the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) with sideways accountability to the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB). Leadership locally is provided by the Community Safety Partnership.

Tower Hamlets has had a Domestic Violence Team for over 15 years and a specific action plan for at least 10 years, aimed at tackling domestic violence against anyone who is experiencing abuse. In 2013, the borough launched an additional strategy, the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Plan, aimed at addressing the disproportionate impact of gender-based violence on female residents of the borough and linked to existing VAWG Strategies across London, nationally and internationally. This consultation report relates to the updated VAWG Strategy 2016-2019, which will be launched in late 2016.

Between October 2015 and February 2016, a comprehensive consultation process was undertaken across the borough to influence the development of the second Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Plan which will be published in Spring 2016.

This report outlines the key learning from the consultation process and:

- Looks at the prevalence of various forms of violence against women and girls within the borough
- Looks at the experience of female survivors of violence and provides an overview of what we currently know about local needs
- Provides an overview of the national and regional context of work on addressing violence against women and girls
- Provides an assessment of our current approach to tackling violence against women and girls in Tower Hamlets
- Highlights proposals made during the consultation on the way forward for tackling VAWG in Tower Hamlets

The violence against women and girls consultation involved:

- Consultation with professionals and partners through our local VAWG professional networks
- An on-line consultation
- Individual interviews with key stakeholders
- A series of focus groups held with local groups of survivors, women and young people
- Presentations at meetings including the LSCB
- Feedback from boards including DV Forum, CSP and Adults and Childrens Safeguarding Boards

⁵⁰ Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2015, available at:

http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ignl/community_and_living/community_plan/community_plan.aspx

(last accessed 10.02.16)

Highlights from the consultation process

Awareness

Our consultation has shown that the vast majority of people consulted are aware of VAWG services in the borough. Almost 80% of respondents across all of the groups consulted have some awareness of the work and all of the individuals interviewed know about the work. This represents a large increase from the consultation held in 2013 for the first VAWG Plan.

Strands

All respondents believe that we should continue to prioritise the existing VAWG strands and are in agreement that there needs to be more work focussing on online methods used to abuse victims. The internet has increased as a facilitator of abuse since our first VAWG Plan and there is a need to recognise this.

Barriers

Barriers to disclosure differed depending on the consultation group but there was a cross-cutting barrier around people not disclosing as they did not understand what constituted abuse meaning that there is greater need to provide training and awareness to all residents and professionals in Tower Hamlets. For professionals the greatest barrier to disclosure for victims of VAWG was the increased complexity that women experiencing multiple disadvantage (mental health, complex needs, drugs and alcohol, homelessness and No Resource to Public Funds) as well as a marked fear of institution identified. For young people, the greatest barrier was a feeling of shame or embarrassment on disclosure of abuse and the feeling that professionals do not fully understand their experiences of VAWG.

Challenges

The two areas that respondents feel would have the biggest impact in the current economic climate are: prioritising prevention work and strengthening multi-agency links across all services in the borough. One of the comments includes: *The key for me is multi-agency working and skilling up all professionals to address VAWG. I feel like there could also be work done on spaces where people are likely to disclose - friends and family, medical context. While the focus on police and reporting is important this does not reflect how survivors access help.*

Current gaps in services

The main gap that has been identified is the lack of multi-agency working of some statutory and voluntary organisations in the borough. The other key areas that respondents feel is currently missing is support for women with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) (especially single women) and also women with multiple disadvantage. These are two new priority areas for development of our new strategy. For survivors it was a need to have survivor led spaces combined with a two pronged approach of crisis-support and ongoing emotional and practical support as risks reduced.

Recommendations

The recommendations across the 3 groups – survivor and community consultation, young people and professionals had cross-cutting similarities but also nuanced difference pertaining to the individual group. There was consensus to build upon the work of the previous VAWG Plan but to expand in some areas, particularly prevention and community engagement and to develop other areas, especially around NRPF and complex needs.

It is obvious from consultation as well as evaluation through Strategic Assessments that there has been a change in Tower Hamlets since 2013 in terms of identifying, recording and supporting victims of VAWG. Recording has increased across the majority of strands (it is thought that dowry-related abuse continues to be subsumed under domestic abuse figures) and responses by professionals have improved although there is still a staggering need for more training to all professionals.

Survivor and Community Recommendations

- Prevention should be a key priority within the VAWG Strategy
- A multi-agency approach to delivering services for survivors is the best approach
- Multi-pronged, individual approach is needed to best support survivors
- Perpetrators should be given support to understand the consequences of their behaviour
- Hold a public awareness campaign to help women members in the community understand that experiencing abuse is not their fault
- Delivery of training to professionals on how to support survivors of VAWG with an empathetic approach
- Peer support methods, including group sessions, should be implemented
- The community champions programme should be expanded

Young people's Recommendations

- Focus on providing young people with information about all of the strands of VAWG and where they can get help and support
- Develop the work in schools to ensure that all young people are getting the right messages about what is acceptable and what is not acceptable
- Development the youth champions programme, recognising that young people will often disclose to other young people
- Work with parents so that they understand the issues that young people face and can support their children
- Work with young people so that they can recognise that pornography and the media send out the wrong messages to young people about what healthy relationships look like.

Professionals' Recommendations

- Prevention should be a key priority in a climate of welfare reform and cuts. Continuation and expansion of work with young people, starting from reception is vital
- Links between competing priorities and VAWG should be made more explicitly – for example countries where FGM is emerging due to the increase in radicalisation and the increase in threat of extremism as a factor in child arrangement orders in the family courts

- Maintain the four objectives from the previous VAWG Plan but expand to highlight the need for better partnership working and participation by survivors
- Develop work across sectors, including having a renewed focus on women experiencing multiple disadvantage and work with older and disabled women
- Develop a survivors' forum which will be a peer support group for survivors of all forms of VAWG
- Commission services for young people experiencing VAWG as they often fall through gaps between children's and adult services and existing services are predominantly funded externally
- Develop links with some of the large employers in the borough to highlight the impact of VAWG on their staff
- The key barriers to disclosure are faced by women experiencing multiple disadvantage and a fear of institutions. These need to be a key focus of the VAWG Strategy
- There is broad based support for the existing strands but there needs to be a focus on the internet as a facilitator of abuse

Appendix 4: VAWG Performance Matrix 2015/2016

Performance Indicators

The indicators for each strand are outlined below. Due to the overlapping nature of the strands of VAWG, there is some necessary overlap between indicators. To this end, only individual indicators are included within each area. This can be highlighted through the examples below⁵¹ and is highlighted throughout our VAWG work:

- The Health Service is in a unique position in that virtually every woman will use the health care system at some point. Health professionals treat injuries from physical and sexual violence, including female genital mutilation and deal with the longer term impacts on health and mental health, especially with respect to adult survivors of child sexual abuse.
- Teachers and education welfare officers are in daily contact with girls who are living with: domestic violence and/or sexual abuse; violence in their own relationships; sexual exploitation; threats of forced marriage, FGM and/or 'honour-based' violence, which may include girls and young women being missing from school.
- Social services, missing persons units, educational welfare officers, PREVENT officers and LSCBs are often all involved in support and intervention, but may not be making connections with threats or realities of violence.
- Significant proportions of referrals to Social Services involve some form of VAWG: domestic violence; child sexual abuse; adult survivors of child sexual abuse; sexual exploitation and trafficking; risk of FGM; forced marriage and so-called 'honour' based violence. In complex cases it will be the compounding disadvantage of multiple forms of VAWG.
- Substance misuse services are working with women who use drugs and alcohol as self-medication to cope with violence and abuse and with perpetrators (NOTE: alcohol does not 'cause' VAWG, most assaults take place when individuals are sober, but it is associated with heightened levels of injury).
- Police are often first responders to incidents of VAWG, and devote considerable resources to investigating sexual offences, domestic violence and sexual exploitation of women and girls.
- Escaping violence and abuse is a significant reason for leaving home. Homeless women, especially those who are young, are particularly vulnerable to violence, the impacts of which add to their support needs.
- Many women offenders have experienced some form of violence/abuse, including those in caseloads of probation services.

⁵¹ Adapted from Kelly, L. and Coy, M. (2012) *Building Blocks: A Strategy and Action Plan for Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls in Thurrock*, London, CWASU: London Metropolitan University

Assumptions

- ➔ There is an expectation that there is a training and awareness element linked to all action plans for professionals, young people and the community. The training will be multi-agency but led by the Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Team (unless explicitly stated otherwise)
- ➔ There is an expectation that there is an increase of referrals to the multi-agency risk assessment conferences (MARACs) both the prostitution and domestic violence MARACs
- ➔ There is an expectation that, due to the expansive definition of domestic violence contained within the action plan, legal remedies (civil and criminal) for issues including: coercive and controlling behaviour, forced marriage, harmful practices, FGM and stalking and harassment are included. Therefore they are not explicitly contained within the plans below
- ➔ There is an expectation that the police will work closely with all agencies to tackle the perpetrators of all forms of VAWG.
- ➔ There is an assumption that appropriate information sharing agreements (ISAs) are in place across each strand which address data sharing and intelligence, confidentiality and client records.
- ➔ There is an assumption that where the action plans are not within the remit of the VAWG Steering Group, that the VAWG Strategy Manager will seek to influence those action plans to include the wider VAWG agenda. For example, DV Action Plan, CSE Action Plan etc.
- ➔ There is an assumption that the members of the VAWG Steering Group will seek to proactively encourage their agency to respond appropriately and holistically to all forms of VAWG.

1. Domestic Violence

Tower Hamlets consistently has one of the highest rates of reported domestic abuse across London. Between November 2014 and November 2015 there were 2773 domestic crimes reported which is a 13.3% on the previous year and means that Tower Hamlets had the third highest rates of reporting in London (after Croydon and Greenwich).⁵²

Tower Hamlets has developed a coordinated response to domestic violence that includes:

- Multi-agency reporting and referral procedures
- A multi-agency risk assessment process which includes the MARAC
- The partnership campaign 'Domestic Abuse No Excuse'
- Domestic Violence One-Stop-Shop
- Specialist Domestic Violence Court
- Specialist information and advice surgeries at the Housing Options Team and at the Barkantine Medical Centre

Our partnership response to tackling domestic violence is overseen by the Tower Hamlets Domestic Violence Forum which is an umbrella body for organisations working with families experiencing domestic violence in the borough. The Forum is responsible for the annual Domestic Violence Action Plan which sets out our commitment to address four key objectives:

- Safe choices for adult victims of domestic violence
- Improving safety of children affected by domestic violence
- Holding perpetrators accountable
- Challenging social tolerance to domestic violence

⁵² Metropolitan Police Crime Figures, available at: <http://www.met.police.uk/crimefigures/> (last accessed 11.01.16)

Domestic Violence is not subject to the scrutiny of the VAWG Steering Group as a separate Action Plan exists under the auspices of the Domestic Violence Forum (outlined above) which meets quarterly and reports to the Community Safety Partnership. The DV Action Plan is reviewed on an annual basis. The DV Action Plan can be provided for reference purposes to this group.

	Outcome	Key Agencies	Indicator	Means of Verification
Domestic Violence	N/A	DV Forum	<i>See DV Action Plan</i>	DV Action Plan

2. Sexual Violence

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a significant problem in the borough. The Violence Indicator Profiles for England (VIPER) show that Tower Hamlets has the sixth highest number of recorded sexual offences in England and the third highest in London, ranking 322 out of 326.⁵³ In 2014/2015, Tower Hamlets had the 9th highest prevalence in London for Rape and 16th for sexual offences. This is not disaggregated by borough size or population.⁵⁴

Table 1: Rape and Sexual Offences reported to the Police (2014-2015)

Offences	Number
All Rape offences	167
Other serious sexual offences	330

⁵³ Violence Indicator Profiles for England Resource (VIPER), available at: www.eviper.org.uk (last accessed 17.12.13)

⁵⁴ Metropolitan Police Crime Mapping, available at: <http://maps.met.police.uk/tables.htm> (last accessed 11.01.16)

Sexual Violence Performance Indicators

Outcome	Key Agencies	Indicator	Means of Verification
Victims of historical or current sexual violence are encouraged to report	Police (SC and O2)	Reported rates of sexual violence	Increased reporting of sexual violence to the police
3 rd party reporting sites for sexual violence are fully operational	3 rd party reporting centres	3 rd party reporting sites available for reports	Increased reporting of sexual violence from 3 rd party reporting sites.
Agencies across all sectors in Tower Hamlets feel equipped to provide support or make appropriate referrals to support services	LBTH DV and Hate Crime Team SV Forum Health (CCG, Public Health, ELFT, BARTS Health) Adult and Child Safeguarding Boards Housing Specialist support services Education	Increased referrals to sexual violence support services by professionals in TH Professionals across TH access sexual violence training Increased referrals to MARAC	Figures from HAVEN, ELRC and Police Training evaluation forms (including pre and post questionnaires) MARAC referral figures
Victims of sexual violence are able to access timely, appropriate support (health and psycho-sexual support)	HAVEN East London Rape Crisis (ELRC) Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (Open Doors and Respond) Victim Support Violent Crime Caseworkers	Increased referrals to sexual violence support services	Reports from the sexual violence services

Victims of sexual violence (especially in domestic abuse situations) are able to access support through GP and sexual health settings	Public Health Sexual Health Providers GP Practices IRIS implementation group	Increased referrals received by non-traditional sexual violence support	IRIS evaluation Increased referrals to MARACs
Victims of sexual violence report satisfaction and confidence in the service they receive from the police	Metropolitan Police	Increase in victim satisfaction	Victim Satisfaction surveys

Note: Sanctioned detection figures will also be included for information only, not as an outcome target.

3. Prostitution

There are no conclusive figures on the levels of sex working in Tower Hamlets. The case management service which has been tendered to Open Doors established a baseline early in 2014 in conjunction with the Vice Team. The Vice Team, which was part of the Police Partnership Taskforce Team 2 (PTF2) and now Team 3 (PTF 3), has identified approximately 70 individual women engaged in street based prostitution in Tower Hamlets.

In terms of trafficking, the National Referral Mechanism has identified 5 Tower Hamlets women who have been trafficked in 2014/2015. Of these, all 5 had been internally trafficked.

Prostitution Indicators

Outcome	Key Agencies	Indicator	Means of Verification
Development of multi-agency coordination and accountability for prostitution	Tower Hamlets Prostitution Partnership (THPP)	Tower Hamlets' Prostitution Partnership established	4 meetings per annum with continued and increasing membership from across statutory and voluntary sector

Women with 'red flag' indicators are supported to reduce their risk	Tower Hamlets Prostitution Partnership (THPP)	MARAC meetings created to support women engaged in prostitution where 'red flag' identified	Numbers of women referred to prostitution MARAC Numbers of women re-referred to prostitution MARAC
Women engaged in prostitution are offered holistic support across health, housing, education and criminal justice	Tower Hamlets Prostitution Partnership (THPP) DIP Case Management Service Vice	Increased mandatory drug testing on arrest Reduction in criminal justice involvement Case management outcomes (see separate actions)	DIP Reports Criminal Justice involvement Numbers of arrests Case management indicators
Agencies across Tower Hamlets feel supported to support women engaged in prostitution	Tower Hamlets Prostitution Partnership (THPP) LBTH DV and Hate Crime Team	Increased training to professionals across TH	Pre and Post Evaluation questionnaires
Residents are engaged in partnership work to reduce prostitution related ASB	Tower Hamlets Prostitution Partnership (THPP)THPP LBTH DV and Hate Crime Team Residents	Increased support from residents towards supporting sex workers to address ASB	Hopetown Community Meetings LIFT campaign meetings Other resident meetings, including walkabouts in 'hot spot' areas
Men who buy sex are targeted with police actions including letters deterring them from TH	Police	Decrease in demand for prosecution	Numbers of letters sent to men Police Vice returns

4. Child Sexual Exploitation (including related to groups, peers and gangs)

The Office of the Children’s Commissioner’s Interim Report of their Inquiry into Sexual Exploitation due to Groups and Gangs identified that across England there were 2409 confirmed victims of child sexual exploitation, and 16,500 young people at risk of the same. This included 533 cases of gang-associated child sexual exploitation⁵⁵

Currently there is a multi-agency response to Child Sexual exploitation in Tower Hamlets. Children under 18 cannot consent to any form of commercial sexual activity and, as such, Tower Hamlets’ considers any cases of individuals under the age of 18 who are engaged in commercial sexual activity as child sexual exploitation (as does legislation in England and Wales)⁵⁶. Referrals to Children’s Social Care will be immediately made. Tower Hamlets’ Safeguarding Children Board Child Sexual Exploitation sub-group has developed Tower Hamlets’ approach to CSE, including protocols and actions plans.

The MASE meeting (Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation Meeting) is now a strategic level meeting with a practitioners’ forum which is a MARAC style meeting. Protocols and Information Sharing Guidelines are available from Children’s Social Care.

	Outcome	Key Agencies	Indicator	Means of Verification
Child Sexual Exploitation	N/A	LSCB CSE Sub-Group	See CSE Action Plan	CSE Action Plan

⁵⁵ OCC (2012) *I Thought I was the Only One, The Only One in the World. The Office of the Children’s Commissioner’s Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups* London: OCC for England

⁵⁶ Tower Hamlets’ consideration precedes the removal of all references to the outdated ‘child prostitute’ in the Serious Crime Act 2015.

5. Female Genital Mutilation

There are no accurate figures of women who have undergone or are at risk of FGM in Tower Hamlets although prevalence data based on the 2011 census has been published by City University and Equality Now. Data collection and research are one of the key tasks of the FGM multi-agency group moving forward. The East London FGM Group which is mapped to the VAWG Plan is currently working on updating the figures for FGM as they are out of date.

Tower Hamlets' is taking a partnership multi-agency approach to tackling FGM. The FGM group was set up to explore a multi-agency approach. The approach moving forward will focus on three key areas of work:

- Improving data collection and research in Tower Hamlets
- Improving safeguarding and health for women who have undergone FGM and protecting those at risk
- Highlighting the importance of prevention

Female Genital Mutilation Indicators

Outcome	Key Agencies	Indicator	Means of Verification
Realistic prevalence figures for FGM are established in TH	North East London FGM Group City University Barts Health	Prevalence figure for TH established	FGM figures
Women and Girls in the community who have undergone FGM or who are at risk are supported with health and psycho-sexual needs	Barts Health Education North East London FGM Group	Health and psycho-sexual counselling services are made available	Referral pathway and protocol established across health and education

Health services develop routine enquiry for FGM as well as training for frontline health professionals	Barts Health Education Health Children's Social Care	Increased numbers of girls and young women established through routine enquiry	Barts Health midwifery figures School nursing figures Children's Social care figures from cases referred to the FGM social worker (from August 2015)
A comprehensive training programme for professionals and young people is developed with the aim of raising awareness and working towards prevention of FGM	North East London FGM Group LBTH Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Team	Training package developed and delivered	Pre and post evaluation questionnaires

6. Harmful Traditional Practices

Tower Hamlets' has a multi-agency partnership approach to tackling So-called harmful practices (HP) including: 'honour' based violence (HBV) and forced marriage. Female Genital Mutilation should also be considered under harmful practices but there is a separate action plan which includes health so it is dealt with separately. The strands are considered together as they are all linked to cultural notions of 'honour' and are part of the harmful practices pilot Tower Hamlets is running with MOPAC.

Prevalence of 'honour' based violence reported to the Police

Prevalence	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015
	7	11	12	6	6

Prevalence of forced marriage reported to the Police (2014/2015)

6 cases of Forced Marriage were reported to the police in 2014/2015

As can be identified from the figures above, the reported rates of both HBV and Forced Marriage are extremely low. It is believed that there is massive underreporting of these crimes for a variety of reasons. Although we have tried to establish the prevalence of dowry related abuse, there appear not to have been any reports to the police or to voluntary sector agencies in Tower Hamlets.

Harmful Practices Indicators

Outcome	Key Agencies	Indicator	Means of Verification
Realistic prevalence figures for HP are established in TH	HP Group DVHCT Police	Prevalence figure for TH established	HP figures

<p>Women and Girls who have experienced or are at risk of any form of HP are provided with appropriate support</p>	<p>HP Group Health (Barts Health, CCG and ELFT as well as other community health)</p>	<p>Increased referrals to health agencies of HP</p>	<p>Referral pathways and protocol established across health and education Referral figures for health for HP</p>
<p>Joint working with faith groups and community groups is developed for all forms of HP, including FGM</p>	<p>Faith leaders Community leaders Health DVHCT</p>	<p>Faith and community leaders feel more supported to engage their faith communities on HP</p>	<p>Pre and post evaluation questionnaires Focus groups</p>

7. Stalking and Harassment

According to the 2010/11 Crime Survey for England and Wales, 18% of women had been subject to stalking or harassment at some point in their lifetime.⁵⁷ Using the Home Office VAWG Ready Reckoner tool, it is estimated that in Tower Hamlets over 10,000 women will have been subjected to stalking in the past 12 months.⁵⁸ In 2014/2015 there were 155 cases to MARAC which involved some form of stalking and harassment, 143 female and 12 male.

Stalking and Harassment Indicators

Outcome	Key Agencies	Indicator	Means of Verification
Stalking and harassment are recorded as separate crimes rather than an element of domestic violence	Police LBTH DV and Hate Crime Team (through DV1 forms)	Increased numbers of individual crimes of stalking and harassment are recorded	Metropolitan police figures DV Database figures IDVA reports
Women who experience stalking and harassment are supported with housing (including sanctuary)	Housing Sanctuary	Women who have experienced S&H have accessed appropriate support	DV Database figures Sanctuary scheme figures
Women and girls who have experienced S&H are supported to develop appropriate support plans which are reviewed regularly	IDVA service Floating Support	Individual support plans are developed by appropriate support services	Women report increased support IDVA and Floating support reports
Women and girls who have experienced are supported to ask for prohibitive orders including: non-molestation orders	OSS VS	Increased use of orders	Numbers of non-molestation orders applied for

⁵⁷ Chaplin, R., Flatley, J. and Smith, K. (Eds.) (2011) Crime in England and Wales 2010/11 Findings from the British Crime Survey and police recorded crime (2nd Edition), Home Office and ONS.

⁵⁸ Home Office, VAWG Ready Reckoner,

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100104215220/http://crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/domesticviolence/domesticviolence072.htm> (last accessed 19.02.12).

Appendix 5: 'Whole School' approach to Tackling VAWG

What is a whole school approach?

Schools can create an environment which both promotes their belief and commitment that all forms of VAWG are not acceptable, and that they are willing to discuss and challenge it. A 'whole school' approach involves embedding key messages about gender equality, human rights and child protection across the whole school environment – taking both a 'top down' (institutional level) and a 'bottom up' (students taking a lead on the issues) approach to tackling VAWG. There has been recognition by researchers and practitioners that one-off lessons or assemblies, whilst extremely valuable first steps in awareness raising of the issues, have limited impact if the key messages are not supported by other initiatives and made part of the school's ethos.⁵⁹

We want to see **schools** take a 'Whole-School Approach' to VAWG through:

Policy/Institutional Level

- Explicit inclusion of VAWG within safeguarding and bullying policies (i.e. bullying policies should include sexual bullying and harassment and child protection policies should include specific reference to female genital mutilation, child sexual exploitation and domestic abuse)
 - Staff leadership of VAWG agenda
 - Link to priority areas such as attainment, good behaviour, child protection, anti-bullying and social inclusion
 - Explicit inclusion within Governors' role
 - Curriculum review
 - Ensuring students have access to specialist VAWG support services in the community
- ➔ Not just seen as a token notion but embedded within the school ethos

Work with Students

- Inclusion of VAWG in PSHE lessons
 - Peer education training programme developed
 - Young people engaged in a campaigning role on VAWG
 - Group work with young women and young men
 - Group work on cyber bullying and sexual bullying
 - Inclusion of a VAWG sub-group of the student council
- ➔ Enabling young people to develop their own language and lessons

Work with Staff

- Training on VAWG awareness and response
- Development of staff resources
- Identification of a VAWG champion as point of contact for other teaching and non-teaching staff (can be child protection lead)
- VAWG addressed throughout the curriculum, including Personal Social Health and Economic (PSHE) education, Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) and Citizenship classes. This should

⁵⁹ See for example Maxwell, C., Chase, E., Warwick, I. and Aggleton, P. with Wharf, H. (2010), *Preventing Violence, Promoting Equality: A Whole School Approach*, London: Institute of Education, University of London for Womankind Worldwide and Banos Smith, M. (2011) *A Different World is Possible: Promising Practices to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls*, London: EVAW

include teaching sexual consent, building healthy relationships and addressing all forms of VAWG including harmful practices, as well as gender stereotypes, media literacy and women's equality.

- Ensuring teachers receive ongoing training on understanding and dealing with all forms of VAWG, including handling disclosures and delivering lessons on prevention.
- ➔ Sensitive, responsive support for staff to equip them with the resources to make appropriate referrals and to deal effectively with child protection issues linked to wider forms of VAWG

Work with Parents

- Working with parent support workers to increase confidence
- Work with parents to identify risk factors for VAWG
- Deliver training to both parents and parent support workers
- Develop leaflets for parents to help to support them
- ➔ Parents engaged as a key partner to ensure young people are better supported and parents feel confident about helping their children

Aims of the schools' young people programme?

- Develop a shared understanding of domestic abuse and healthy relationships that is relevant for all young people across Tower Hamlets.
- Develop a shared definition of domestic abuse and healthy relationships that can be used across all schools in Tower Hamlets
- Develop school into a safe space where young people feel confident to disclose abuse and know where to go for appropriate support
- Provide young people with the skills to help other young people learn about the issues and help to protect themselves in the future
- Develop routes for support for young people who are at risk of, or are experiencing abuse (after safeguarding procedures have been followed).

Outcomes

➔ **The key outcome of the programme is that young people feel confident about understanding what a healthy relationship is and know how to get appropriate support.**

Other outcomes include:

- Standardised approach to delivering PSHE education on VAWG in Tower Hamlets
- Staff members report increased confidence to identify and appropriately respond to VAWG
- Increase in appropriate referrals through the use of simpler, clearer referral pathways
- Young people involved in the programme will report improved emotional health and improved relationships
- Increase in education professionals involved in strategic forums
- Parents report increase confidence to identify and appropriately respond to VAWG

Figure 2: 'Whole School' Approach to Tackling VAWG

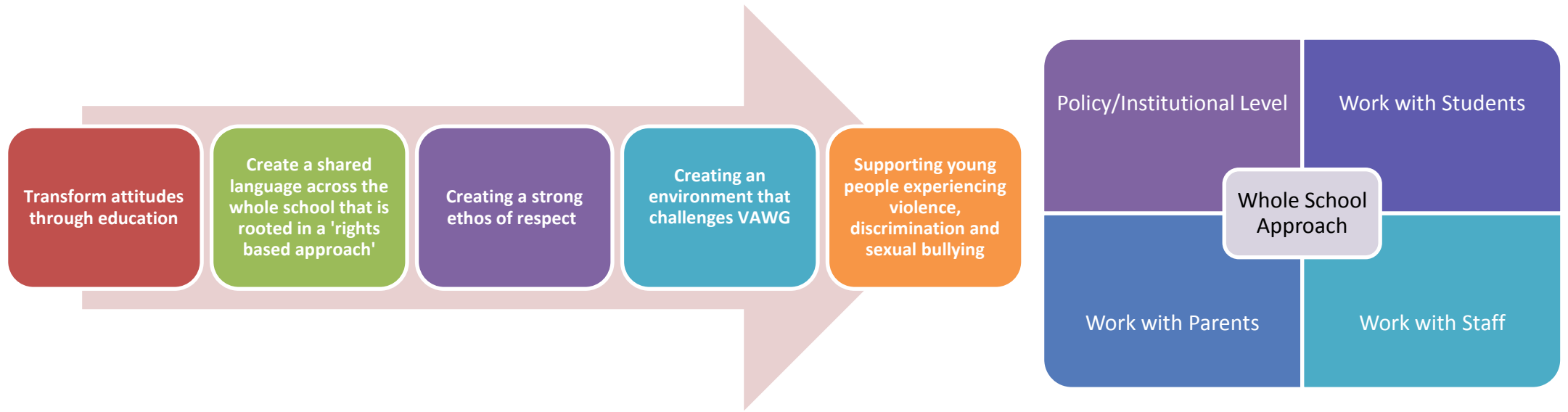
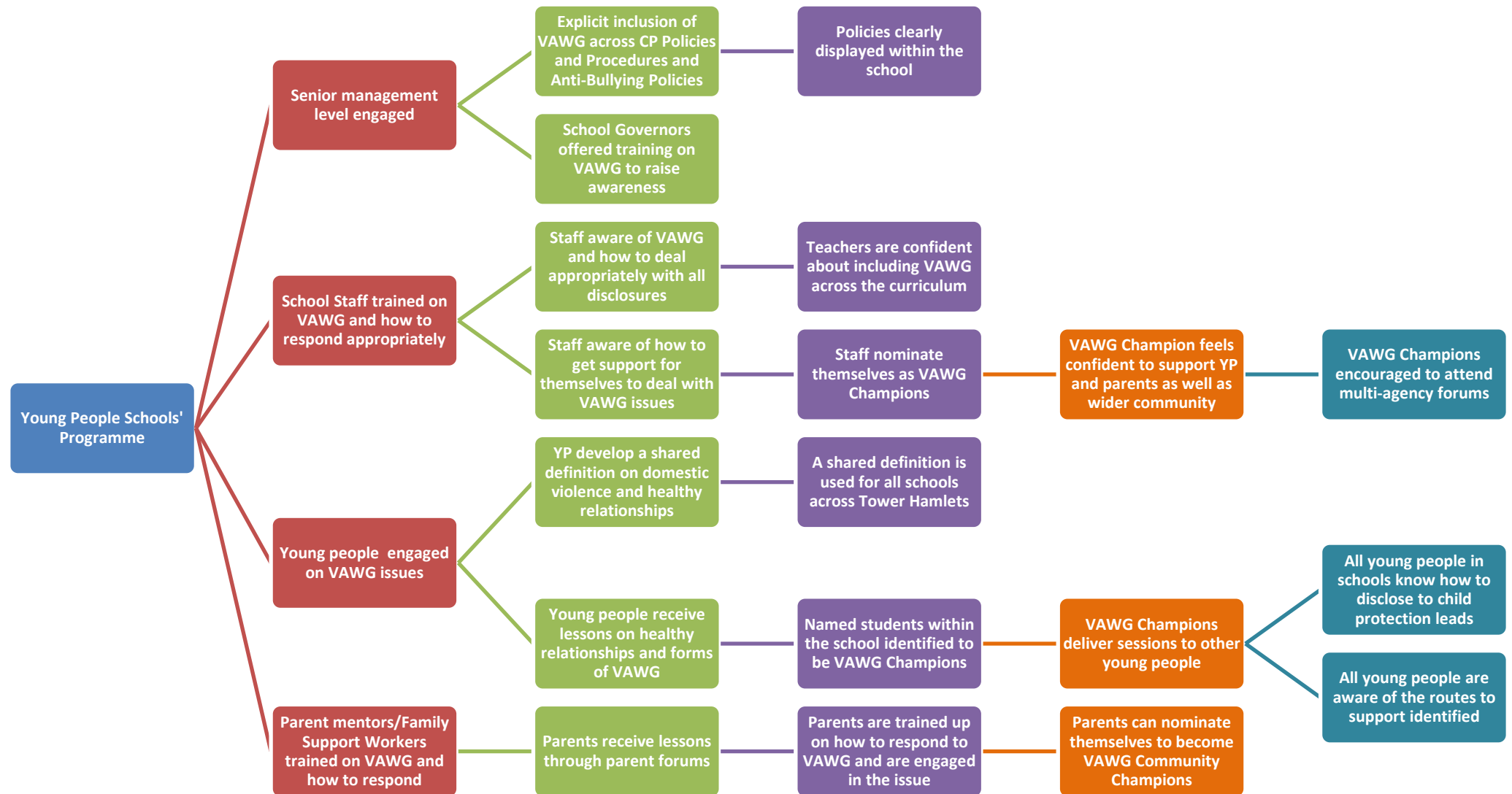
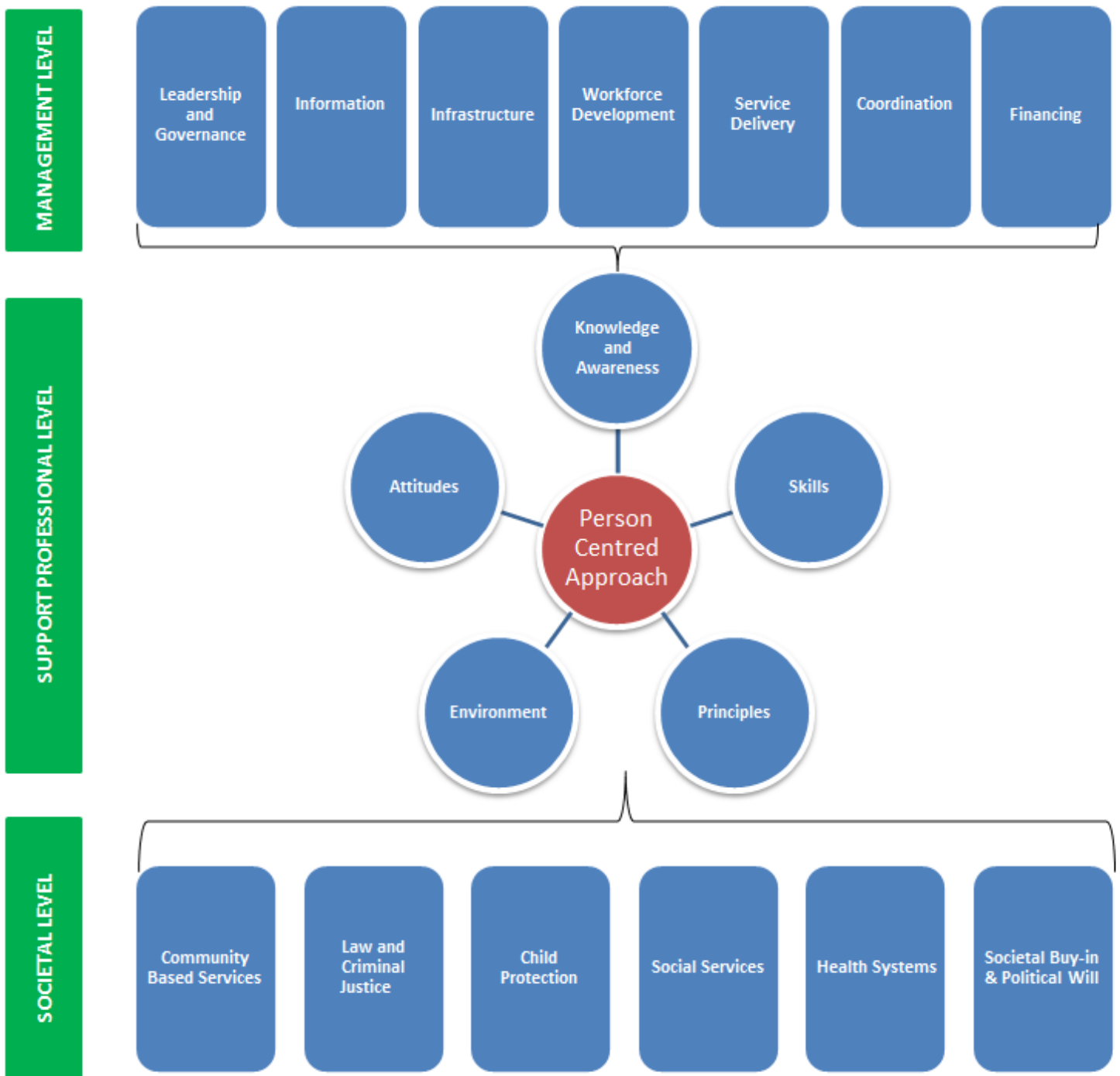


Figure 3: 'Whole School' Approach Pathway Model



Appendix 6: Person Centred Approach



Source: Adapted from 'Figure 2: Elements of the health system and health-care response necessary to address violence against women' in Garcia-Moreno *et al, op. cit.* footnote 30, page 4

Appendix 7: List of Acronyms

ASB	Anti-social Behaviour
BME	Black and Minority Ethnic
CAADA	Coordinated Action against Domestic Abuse (Now Safelives)
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CCR	Coordinated Community Response
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DFID	Department for International Development
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review
DVF	Domestic Violence Forum
DVHCT	Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Team
ELFT	East London Foundation Trust
ELRC	East London Rape Crisis
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FM	Forced Marriage
HBV	So-called 'honour' based violence
HWB	Health and Wellbeing Board
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Adviser
IPST	Integrated Pathways and Support Team
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MASE	Multi-agency Sexual Exploitation Meeting
MASH	Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub
MDI	Multiple Deprivation Indices
MOPAC	Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime
NRPF	No Recourse to Public Funds
OSS	One Stop Shop
PSHE	Personal Social Health and Economic Education
RAG Rating	Red Amber Green Rating

SCR	Serious Case Review
SDVC	Specialist Domestic Violence Court
SRE	Sex and Relationships Education
SVIP	Survivors' Voices Inclusion Project
TOC	Theory of Change
UKROL	UK Refugees Online
UN	United Nations
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VIPER	Violence Indicator Profiles for England

