



Title of Report	Update on the Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Community Engagement Pilot to end Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in Haringey
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Purpose of Report	For Information – To update the Community Safety Partnership Board on the changes to the CCR Community Engagement Pilot Model and Delivery Plan
Board	Community Safety Partnership Board

1. Background

1.1 Developing a Coordinated Community Response (CCR), where agencies and the community work together has been recognised within Haringey’s 10-year Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2016-2026¹ as the only effective and sustainable way to end all Violence Against Women and Girls. It is one of the Strategy’s four key priorities. Working together with communities is a key element of the Borough Plan as well as all Governmental (national and London level) VAWG strategies.

1.2 Haringey’s Coordinated Community Response (CCR) involves engaging all levels of the community, statutory, and non-statutory agencies to ensure they are working together holistically and effectively to support victim/survivors, hold perpetrators to account, and prevent Violence Against Women and Girls.

1.3 We know that working with the wide range of community organisations, community centres, libraries, faith communities, and informal support networks of mutual support in a coordinated way will mean the best outcomes for victim/survivors. To ensure that we are working with our communities in a coordinated and impactful way, Haringey’s Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Team have developed a Community Engagement model as part of our Coordinated Community Response (CCR).

¹ https://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/vawg_strategy.pdf

- 1.4 The key elements of the CCR Community Engagement model include identifying and training Safe Spaces and Community Initiatives, recruiting and training VAWG Community Champions, and coproducing a Communications Campaign with key partners in the CCR.
- 1.5 The model was developed with the intention of being piloted in the following three areas of Haringey: Hornsey Ward, Northumberland Park/White Hart Lane Wards, and a model for young people that would be borough-wide.
- 1.6 The initial delivery plan for the CCR Community Engagement model aimed for the pilot to be rolled out in 2020, however, this work was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. COVID-19 Impact and Response

- 2.1 When the UK government announced the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions in March 2020, many community spaces and group work activities had to shut down or drastically change and reduce the ways in which they operated. Although some community spaces and initiatives were still able to function in some capacity, many were pulling all of their resources to focus on crisis response in the community.
- 2.2 As the CCR Community Engagement pilot is designed to operate in collaboration with community spaces and initiatives, it became clear that the work would not be able to be carried out as intended during this time. As a result, the VAWG Team made the decision to temporarily delay the delivery of the pilot and focus on adapting the CCR work to respond to the immediate crisis and meet the evolving needs of victim/survivors of VAWG as they emerged.
- 2.3 The VAWG Team identified access to support as a major concern during this time. There are a number of reasons and barriers to demonstrate why a victim/survivor may not seek support from the police or access a specialist VAWG support service directly. The new COVID-19 restrictions seriously exacerbated existing barriers, making access to support more difficult, and drastically increasing the risk of VAWG to victim/survivors.
- 2.4 Research and community consultations demonstrate that many victim/survivors might be much more likely to disclose or display signs of abuse to those closer to them in their communities such as faith leaders, colleagues, family, friends, teachers, and various other community members and volunteers. As a result, we feel it is paramount to ensure that all levels of the community are equipped with the knowledge and resources to know how to spot signs of abuse and know how to safely and appropriately respond and signpost victim/survivors to help.
- 2.5 To address this, the VAWG Team developed a free two-hour webinar session on How to Identify and Respond to Signs of Domestic Abuse in the Context of COVID-19.

2.6 This webinar has been delivered 12 times between May and December and has delivered to 172 people.

2.7 Among those trained includes staff or volunteers from Haringey Citizens Advice Bureau, Community Cook-Up, Haringey Children's Centres, Home Start Haringey, Mind in Haringey, Christians Against Poverty, Bridge Renewal Trust, Homes for Haringey, Reach and Connect, Connected Communities, BEH Mental Health Trust, Haringey Adult Social Services, Haringey Children and Young People's Services, Haringey Shed, Haringey Migrant Support Centre, Insightful Families Project Haringey, and Living Under One Sun, to name a few.

2.8 Slightly adapted sessions have been delivered to Haringey Adult Learning Service (HALS) Learners and one was delivered in December 2020 for Haringey Community Pharmacists.

2.9 This webinar is currently being delivered on a monthly basis as we resume focus on the pilot delivery plan.

2.10 Though the pilot has been on hold, the VAWG Team have also continued the work of partnership building during this time and have continued to build relationships within the community in order to engage partners for the project.

2.11 The VAWG Team have been regularly attending the Haringey Multi-Faith Forum since March to build up the profile of VAWG and have managed to secure two faith leaders from the forum to be representatives on the CCR Steering Group. The VAWG Team have also been regularly attending Community Enablement meetings and the Voluntary and Community Sector Forum meetings organised by the Bridge Renewal Trust.

3 Resuming Focus on the CCR Community Engagement Pilot

3.1 The VAWG Team originally made the decision to temporarily delay the delivery of the CCR Community Engagement Pilot with the intention of rolling out the pilot once all government restrictions were lifted and community work had returned to 'business as usual'. We did not expect it to last this long.

3.2 Despite the ongoing pandemic and government restrictions, the VAWG Team have assessed the situation and made the decision to resume the delivery of the Community Engagement pilot.

3.3 Though we have not returned to 'business as usual', many community spaces and initiatives have demonstrated phenomenal resilience and are adapting to new ways of working.

3.4 In order for the work of the CCR Community Engagement Pilot to be successful, it must be significantly adapted to reflect these new ways of working as well as the constraints and impacts of the current public health crisis.

4 Changes to the Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Community Engagement Pilot Model

4.1 The updated CCR Community Engagement Pilot Model is no longer limited to the three areas listed above. The pilot will be borough-wide though it will continue to incorporate an approach specific to young people across the borough.

4.2 The lockdown restrictions have caused many services and community spaces to close or operate in much limited or different ways. In order for the CCR to be most effective, it must engage a range of partners from different sectors. It has become evident that in order to achieve this in the current situation, it is necessary to remove the ward boundaries. Additionally, as many services and initiatives are operating remotely, they are able to reach a wider range of residents from outside the immediate ward.

4.3 The updated CCR Community Engagement Pilot Model includes a specific approach to partnerships which takes into consideration the recommendations made from the VAWG and Black, Asian, Ethnic Minority, and Refugee (BAMER) Community forum held by the VAWG Team in May 2020 to better understand the needs of women and girls from BAMER communities, particularly those communities most disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4.4 The training materials for the CCR Community Engagement Pilot Model will be adapted to be delivered online to adhere to government guidance on social distancing. The material will also be adapted to reflect the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown measures on VAWG. It will include additional guidance on how to safely support survivors of VAWG remotely.

4.5 The mapping process for the updated pilot model will largely target many of the same areas but it will also include engaging Safe Spaces and Community Initiatives which are operating remotely, online, and over telephone and will provide additional guidance around safety in these settings.

4.6 The CCR Community Engagement pilot model seeks to engage all areas of the community including:

- schools and education services
- children's centres
- libraries
- community centres/venues/hubs (such as Jackson's Lane, Alexandra Palace, Selby Centre, etc)
- community support services (Food banks, Job Centres, Insight Platform, HAGA, etc)
- community groups and initiatives (such as local coffee mornings, fitness groups, gardening clubs, etc)

- local women's groups
- faith groups and places of worship

4.7 Changes to spending and the budget are expected to be minimal as there will be some minor cost saving due to not needing to pay for a venue to deliver training as training will take place virtually. The pilot has a budget of £15,000 which will be spent on initial training delivery as well as future specialist VAWG training for partners to continue their knowledge and develop their skills, developing guidance and materials for partners, developing resources to be displayed in Safe Spaces, supporting victim/survivors to access community initiatives, developing targeted communications campaigns to support the work of the CCR and raise awareness around VAWG tailored to the community groups we are supporting.

5 Updated Delivery Plan

5.1 The Delivery Plan for the CCR Community Engagement Pilot has been updated to reflect the delay caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the time necessary to adapt the model, materials, and resources.

5.2 The pilot is currently at the stage of recruiting partners for all three areas: VAWG Community Champions, Safe Spaces, and Community Initiatives

5.3 Training for partners is expected to take place between February and April 2021 with the possibility of adding additional training dates if necessary.

5.4 Full programme roll out is expected by the 1st of May 2021 and the pilot will be completed by February 2022. Initial learning will be shared in March 2022 although monitoring will continue after the pilot's completion.